

International Partnership Programme for Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage  
“Training Course for Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage”  
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## Country Report: Viet Nam

### Governmental Mechanism and the Role of the Central Government for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH)<sup>1</sup>

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1. **Ministry of Culture and Information**<sup>2</sup>: According to the Decision 63/2003/ND-CP of 2003 (Article 1), the Ministry of Culture and Information is the government organization responsible for state management in the fields of culture and information, covering cultural heritage, performing arts, cinema, fine arts, and so on. In the field of cultural heritage, the Ministry is required to submit for decision by the Prime Minister: (a) a master plan for the museums network; (b) proposals to establish national museums and special museums; (c) proposals to classify or withdraw classification from historical sites and to establish protective areas around special national sites; (d) proposals to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) that representative examples of the Vietnamese cultural heritage be recognized as World Cultural Heritage; the World Natural Heritage, and the Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage.
2. **Principal institutions under the auspices of the Ministry of Culture and Information**
  - 2.1. **Department of Cultural Heritage (DCH)**: The DCH has responsibility, on behalf of the Minister, for the management of safeguarding ICH, conservation and museums sector throughout the country. It provides professional guidance to Provincial and Municipal Conservation and Museum Departments, and also directly oversees activities of national museums. Understanding the importance of safeguarding ICH, the Government decided to establish the ICH division as part of the DCH in 2003. In addition, the *Di sản văn hóa (Cultural Heritage)* Magazine is published quarterly by the DCH.
  - 2.2. **Vietnam Institute of Culture and Information (VICAS)**: VICAS has responsibility for collecting, studying and appreciating ICH and making recommendations regarding the preservation of that of Vietnam. VICAS collects and makes database on national cultures and art heritage of Vietnam, including ICH. The Institute has two branch offices in Thua Thien Hue Province and in Ho Chi Minh City.
  - 2.3. **Museums**: Among many museums under the auspices of the Ministry of Culture and Information, the following museums have activities related to ICH: *the Vietnam Museum of Fine Arts, the Vietnam Museum of Ethnic Cultures, and the Vietnam Museum of History.*

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<sup>1</sup> Some/Most of materials used in this report come from the publication *Visiting Arts South East Asia*

<sup>2</sup> The Ministry of Culture and Information, the General Department of Sports and the General Department of Tourism have been integrated into the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism.

- 2.4. **Vietnam Institute of Musical Studies:** This is a specialized agency in charge of collecting, conserving, studying and disseminating the traditional and popular music of Vietnam, both within and outside the country.
3. **Ministry of Foreign Affairs** is a government organization responsible for state management in the fields of international relations. The Department of Foreign Cultures and UNESCO carries out activities related to ICH through the Vietnam National Commission for UNESCO.
4. **Vietnamese Academy of Social Sciences** is a research institution under the government. It has the task of identifying, organizing and conducting short-term and long-term research projects, taking part in the planning of development strategies for the national social sciences and humanities. Some institutes under this Academy have their works related to ICH as the following:
- 4.1. **Institute of Cultural Studies:** This Institute has the mission of conducting fundamental folklore research and co-coordinating folklore studies all over the country. The Institute conducts surveys and collects data of representative phenomena in folklore, and coordinates its activities with those of related organizations at national and provincial levels in surveying and preserving the folkloric heritage of the country. The Institute issues various publications on folk culture.
- 4.2. **Vietnam Museum of Ethnology (VME):** Under the auspices of the Vietnamese Academy of Social Sciences, the VME is involved in a wide range of different undertakings. It collects, classifies, assesses, preserves, restores and displays artifacts representing the Vietnam's 54 ethnic groups. In parallel, it carries out scientific research on Vietnamese nationalities and trains staff in ethnographic museology.
- 4.3. **Institute of Hán-Nôm Studies:** The Institute's principal functions are to collect and maintain *Hán-Nôm* documents throughout the country, organize research, translation and publication of *Hán-Nôm* documents, and to train researchers in *Hán-Nôm* studies. The Institute's library holds an important collection of Nguyễn Dynasty Court documents in *chữ Hán* (classical Chinese scripts, also known as *chữ Nho*), in *chữ Nôm* (the ideographic scripts devised for transcribing spoken Vietnamese) and the Romanized scripts known as *quốc ngữ*.
5. **Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development:** The Department of Agricultural, Forest Products and Salt Processing is responsible for making policies on preserving and promoting the development of traditional crafts.
6. **Local Governments:** Whilst the Municipal and Provincial People's Committees constitute the principal arms of local governments in Vietnam, each of the country's five municipalities and 64 provinces has a dedicated Department of Culture and Information (*Sở Văn hóa-Thông tin*) which is directly responsible for the management of culture and information within its municipal or provincial borders. The Department is responsible to establish offices specializing in ICH. At present, some Provincial Departments of Culture and Information already have offices carrying out ICH projects.
- 6.1. The **Municipal or Provincial Department of Culture and Information** belongs directly to the Municipal or Provincial People's Committee, but this Department has a direct

professional relation with the State's Ministry of Culture and Information in Hanoi, which enables the latter to provide guidance on both policies and practices relating to local culture and information.

6.2. **Museums, Centers for the Preservation of Heritage and Boards of Monuments Management:** Besides national museums, these organizations have the mission to study, document, preserve and promote ICH at different levels.

7. **Vietnam Union of Literature and Arts Associations:** Whilst the Ministry of Culture and Information is responsible for the state management of arts and culture, the welfare of artists and the development of their work is the direct concern of the Vietnam Union of Literature and Arts Associations.

7.1. **The Vietnam Association of Folklorists** comprises a membership of almost 1,000 members whose task is to survey and collect data on the folk arts of Vietnam's 54 ethnic groups. To date, the Association has conducted 15,000 research projects on five major themes: terminology of folk art, fine arts, performing arts, customs and practices and traditional rites and festivals.

7.2. **The Vietnam Association of Ethnic Minority Cultures** was established in 1991. It draws its membership from ethnic minority cultural activists involved in collecting and researching, developing, publicizing, disseminating and teaching cultural values with a view to facilitating the development of an advanced Vietnamese culture imbued with national identity. It currently has more than 400 members throughout the country.

7.3. **The Vietnam Association of Cultural Heritage** is a social and occupational association that assembles Vietnamese organizations, individuals operating occupation or having ardor favor for cultural heritage in order to take part in protecting and promoting cultural values, meeting the people's cultural increasing demand in building and developing the advanced culture deeply stamped with national character of Vietnam, and contributing to the World Cultural Heritage treasure, in enhancing state administration efficiency, improving the People's responsibilities to take part in protecting and promoting cultural values.

7.4. **The Center for the Preservation and Development of Ethic Arts** organizes the activities and publishes learned works aimed at developing an advanced culture imbued with ethnic identity. Its areas of interest cover a variety of different art forms.

8. **ICH Organizational Management Chart (See Annex)**

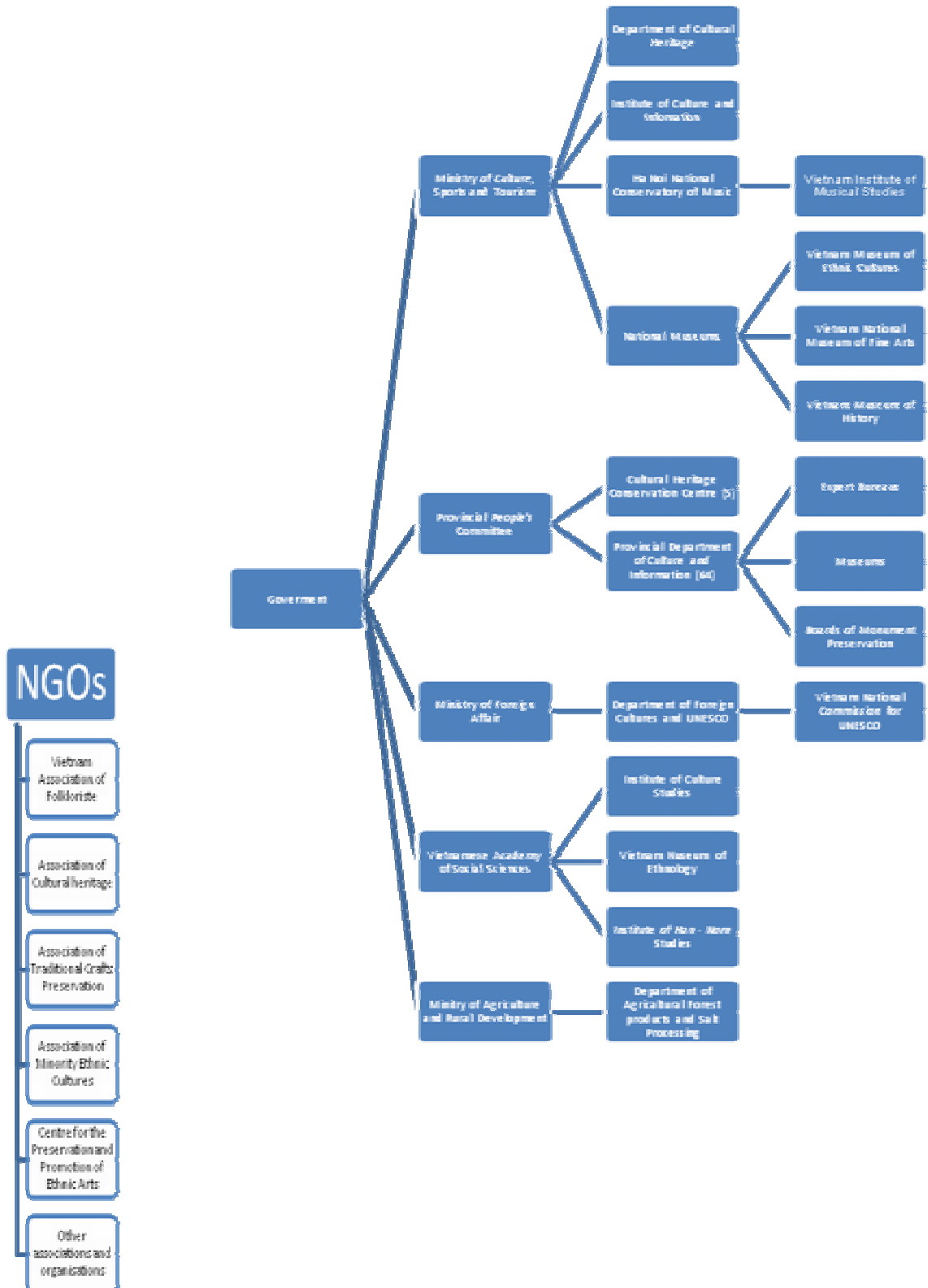
9. **Address of intututions and organisations. (See Annex)**

## II/ Community Participation in Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage.

1. Pursuant to the Law on Cultural Heritage of Vietnam and the guidance in the Decree, since 1996, a National Target Program for cultural heritage management has been conducted. 405 projects have been actively implemented by various governmental as well as private organizations or institutions and gained remarkable results. However, most of these projects are for research, collections and documentations (An ICH data bank has been set up at the Institute of Culture and Information and at the Vietnam Institute of Musical Studies).

2. Whilst carrying out these projects, Institutes and Provincial Departments of Culture and Information work together with the local communities to identify and decide the revival of traditional crafts. These activities are aimed to enhance the community's understanding of the safeguarding of ICH. The community participates in this process in various projects and result in different good and bad experiences. Recently, the Department of Cultural Heritage, in collaboration with the UNESCO Hanoi Office, has organized an evaluation workshop on community participation in safeguarding ICH. The report of this workshop will be attached to ACCU for reference.
3. The Department of Cultural Heritage's strategic plan towards the national policy on safeguarding ICH is to carry out activities within the framework of UNESCO 2003 Convention, to continue making inventories of ICH by using new approaches to prepare for the Two Lists of ICH (Representative List and Urgent List); to enhance the revival and transmission of ICH, and to promote ICH that are closely attached to life and the development of sustainable tourism.
4. The Vietnamese Association of Folklorists is among NGOs that links effectively the safeguarding of ICH with its activities through its network of members, who are local communities. In general, such associations have close relations with the Ministry of Culture and Information at the state level and Departments of Cultures and Information at the provincial level.
5. The Vietnam Museum of Ethnology is one of the museums that promotes the local people's roles and voices and that has effective methodologies to work with communities. Many projects carried out by this museum could be considered good examples in safeguarding ICH.

**Annex 1**  
**Intangible Cultural Heritage Organizational Management Chart**



## ANNEX 2

### 1. Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Sports (MOCST)

Street address: 51-53 Ngô Quyền, Quận Hoàn Kiếm, Hà Nội, Việt Nam

Telephone: 84 (0) 4 943 8231 , 84 (0) 4 943 9232-3

Fax: 84 (0) 4 943 9009

Website: <http://www.cinet.gov.vn/default.aspx>

### 2. Department of Cultural Heritage (DCH)

Street address: Bộ Văn hóa Thông tin, 51-53 Ngô Quyền, Quận Hoàn Kiếm, Hà Nội, Việt Nam

Telephone: 84 (0) 4 943 8231 ext 103, 84 (0) 4 943 4443

Fax: 84 (0) 4 943 9929

Website: [www.dch.gov.vn](http://www.dch.gov.vn)

### 3. Việt Nam Institute of Culture and Information Studies

Street address: 32 Phố Hào Nam, La Thành, Phường Ô Chợ Dừa, Quận Đống Đa, Hà Nội, Việt Nam

Telephone: 84 (0) 4 856 9160 , 84 (0) 4 856 9162

Fax: 84 (0) 4 851 6415

E-mail: [vncvhnt@fpt.vn](mailto:vncvhnt@fpt.vn)

### 4. Việt Nam History Museum

Bảo tàng Lịch sử Việt Nam

Street address: 1 Phạm Ngũ Lão, Quận Hoàn Kiếm, Hà Nội, Việt Nam

Telephone: 84 (0) 4 825 7753 , 84 (0) 4 825 2853

Fax: 84 (0) 4 825 2853

E-mail: [btlsvn@hn.vnn.vn](mailto:btlsvn@hn.vnn.vn)

Website: [http://www.thudo.gov.vn/bansac\\_vanhoava/ditich/baotang.html](http://www.thudo.gov.vn/bansac_vanhoava/ditich/baotang.html)

### 5. Việt Nam Fine Art Museum

Street address: 66 Nguyễn Thái Học, Quận Ba Đình, Hà Nội, Việt Nam

Telephone: 84 (0) 4 823 3084 , 84 (0) 4 825 2830

Fax: 84 (0) 4 734 1427

### 7. Museum of the Cultures of Việt Nam's Ethnic Groups, Thái Nguyên

Street address: 359 Bắc Cạn, Phường Trung Vương, Thành Phố Thái Nguyên, Tỉnh Thái Nguyên, Việt Nam

Telephone: 84 (0) 280 855781 , 84 (0) 280 857442

Fax: 84 (0) 280 752940

E-mail: [baotangvh@hv.vnn.vn](mailto:baotangvh@hv.vnn.vn)

### 8. Việt Nam Academy of Social Sciences

Street address: 36 Hàng Chuối, Quận Hai Bà Trưng, Hà Nội, Việt Nam

*Asia/Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO (ACCU)*

Telephone: 84 (0) 4 971 9067-8  
Fax: 84 (0) 4 971 2247, 84 (0) 4 971 9071

**9. Institute of Cultural Research**

Street address: 27 Trần Xuân Soạn, Quận Hai Bà Trưng, Hà Nội, Việt Nam

Telephone: 84 (0) 4 978 4868 , 84 (0) 4 978 3212  
Fax: 84 (0) 4 972 5903  
E-mail: [folklorevn@fpt.vn](mailto:folklorevn@fpt.vn)

**10. Việt Nam Museum of Ethnology**

Street address: Nguyễn Văn Huyền, Dịch Vọng, Quận Cầu Giấy, Hà Nội, Việt Nam

Telephone: 84 (0) 4 756 2193 , 84 (0) 4 836 0352  
Fax: 84 (0) 4 836 0351  
E-mail: [vme18@hn.vnn.vn](mailto:vme18@hn.vnn.vn)

**11. Institute of Hán-Nôm Studies**

Street address: 183 Đặng Tiến Đông, Quận Đống Đa, Hà Nội, Việt Nam

Telephone: 84 (0) 4 857 3194  
Fax: 84 (0) 4 857 0940  
E-mail: [manh@netnam.org.vn](mailto:manh@netnam.org.vn)

**12. Việt Nam Folk Arts Association**

Street address: E1, Ngõ 29, Tạ Quang Bửu-Bách Khoa, Quận Hai Bà Trưng, Hà Nội, Việt Nam

Telephone: 84 (0) 4 869 3280 , 84 (0) 4 868 2608  
Fax: 84 (0) 4 868 2607

**13. Việt Nam Ethnic Minorities Culture Association**

Street address: Nhà 3, Dãy D1 TT4, Khu Đô thị mới, Bắc Linh Đàm, Huyện Thanh Trì , Hà Nội, Việt Nam

Telephone: 84 (0) 4 641 1198 , 84 (0) 4 641 1206  
Fax: 84 (0) 4 641 1206  
E-mail: [dth@hn.vnn.vn](mailto:dth@hn.vnn.vn)