

Knowledge and Practices Concerning Nature and the Universe



Oral Traditions and Expressions



Social Practices, Rituals and Festive Events

Traditional Craftsmanship



Performing Arts

Visit the IRCI website for more information on its activities:
<https://www.irci.jp>



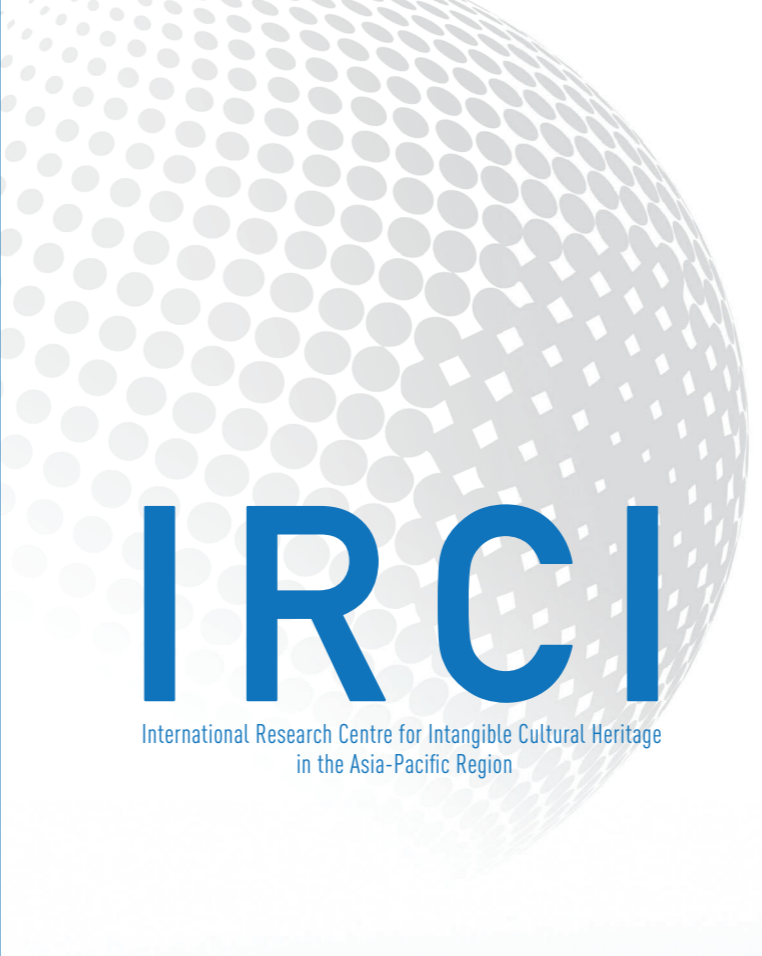
Where IRCI is

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What is ICH ?

Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) is part of our everyday lives. It encompasses a variety of living traditions, including oral traditions and expressions, performing arts, social practices, rituals, and festive events, along with traditional knowledge, practices, and craftsmanship. Although it transforms over time, it is transmitted from one generation to the next and gives us cultural identity and richness. For ICH to be kept alive, it must be constantly recreated within communities and passed on to the future generation.



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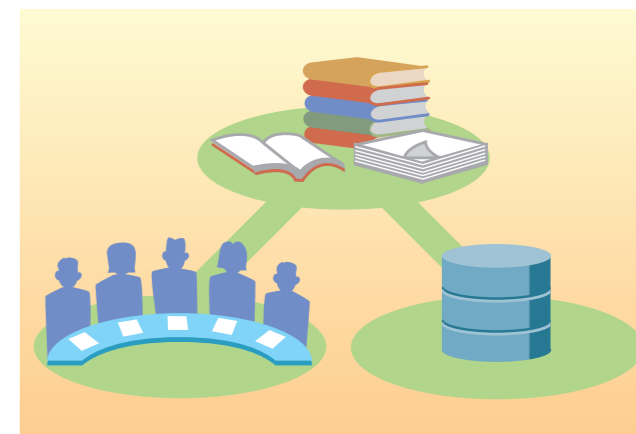
IRCI was established as a UNESCO Category 2 Centre with two objectives: (1) to promote the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage and its implementation, and (2) to enhance the safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) through instigating and coordinating research in the Asia-Pacific region. In recent years, many elements of ICH have become endangered throughout the world. To ensure cultural diversity for future generations and to contribute to building a sustainable society, IRCI works closely with UNESCO, local communities, and institutions around the world such as universities, research institutions, museums, government organisations, and NGOs.

IRCI is contributing to building a sustainable society through implementing various research activities to **safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH)** in the Asia-Pacific region



Research Mapping

Mapping studies have been conducted to collect and analyse data pertaining to research for the safeguarding of ICH. A variety of data is collected through the literature survey and disseminated through the IRCI research database. The issues revealed in these surveys are brought to IRCI international meetings, where they are discussed by ICH experts.



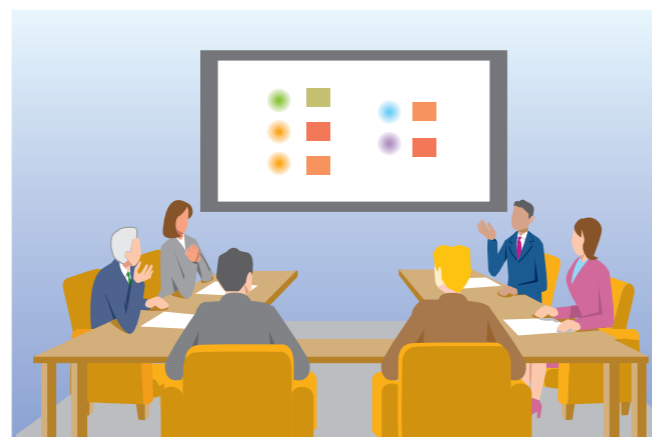
Contributing to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Multi-disciplinary study explores ways that ICH can contribute to SDGs, as part of a universal push to make the world more sustainable and resilient. In this study, special attention is paid to Goal 4, 'Quality Education'. The aim here is to integrate ICH elements into educational curricula in both formal and non-formal education, thereby bringing an ICH perspective to SDGs.



Researchers Forums· International Meetings·Symposiums

Researchers forums and international meetings strengthen the network of ICH researchers and experts, while providing a foundation for research into safeguarding ICH. Meanwhile, symposiums raise awareness and understanding of ICH in the Asia-Pacific region and promote ICH to the broader public.



Protection of ICH in Conflict-Affected Countries

A research project has been initiated as part of an effort to provide emergency protection for ICH on the verge of extinction in conflict-affected countries such as Afghanistan, East Timor, and Sri Lanka. The project looks at the current status of ICH in those locations and explores ways of protecting it. It also seeks to revitalise ICH by developing a variety of potential safeguarding measures.



Natural Hazards and ICH

Another research project is investigating ICH in connection with various natural hazards in disaster-prone countries such as Fiji, Myanmar, the Philippines, Vanuatu, and Viet Nam. While assessing the impact of natural hazards on ICH, the research also highlights the role played by traditional local knowledge (an aspect of ICH) in reducing the risk of disasters.

