Annex I

Developing Technical Capacity in the Asia-Pacific Region through Tertiary Education Networking

Objective

To encourage the development of post-graduate intangible cultural heritage (ICH) programmes in universities in the Asia-Pacific Region

Rationale

Universities are important institutions to build and produce quality candidates to work in the cultural sector to implement and support ICH safeguarding activities. Whilst there has been an increase in post-graduate heritage education in the Asia-Pacific Region in the past decade, there is a clear lack of programmes that focus on the intangible cultural heritage. It has also been noticed that professionals in the cultural heritage sector tend to have received their training from educational programmes which emphasize on the management of tangible heritage (conservation, architecture and archaeology) rather than intangible heritage. Therefore, this activity aims to encourage universities in the Asia-Pacific Region to establish and develop post-graduate programmes in the ICH.

Symposium participants

The symposium is targeted to have a total of 35-40 participants, representing high-level executives and decision makers of high-ranking universities in the Asia-Pacific Region which are active or interested in developing post-graduate studies in ICH.

In addition to representatives from the above universities, expert(s) from ICH field with expertise in ICH and ICH education will be invited to join the symposium to contribute to the plenary discussion.

The symposium

Within the framework of the Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage, a two-day symposium on the technical capacity development in the Asia-Pacific Region through tertiary education networking will provide a platform for universities in the region to benefit from the discussion and exchanges of knowledge, resources and experiences for the development of ICH programmes in their institutions. This symposium will help foster their knowledge base on methodologies and resources of ICH as well as promote the relationship among the participants and UNESCO for future collaboration on ICH educational programmes.

Proposed activities

Activity 1: Mapping and situational analysis of post-graduate studies on ICH offered by universities in the Asia-Pacific Region

- Through research and UNESCO’s network, identify universities in the Asia-Pacific Region that are offering or interested in opening post-graduate programmes on ICH.
Activity 2: Regional symposium on the development of post-graduate degrees focusing on ICH

High-level executives and decision makers of universities identified in Activity 1 will join the regional symposium for discussion on the technical capacity development in the Asia-Pacific Region through tertiary education networking. Potential themes include:

- Sharing of experiences in the establishment or management of post-graduate ICH programmes
- Identification of necessary support for post-graduate ICH program development
- Identification of methodologies and entry point for ICH integration in post-graduate ICH programmes
- Development of ICH subject benchmark (curriculum outline design) for post-graduate ICH programmes
- Integration of key principles of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in ICH studies at post-graduate level

Draft regional symposium agenda overview

Day 1

- Welcome speech
- Overview on regional symposium agenda and objectives
- Introduction of symposium participants
- Presentations on situational analysis on the need for professionals in cultural heritage sector based on the survey conducted prior to the symposium
- Presentations by universities active in post-graduate ICH programmes (experience-sharing)
- Plenary thematic session

Day 2

- Plenary thematic sessions
- Identification of high-priority action items
- Closing plenary

Expected outcomes

- Post-graduate programmes emphasizing on ICH are developed and implemented in the Asia-Pacific Region
- An academic networking of universities teaching ICH in the Asia-Pacific Region is established for long-term alliance and support

Date and venue

The symposium, to be organized by UNESCO Office Bangkok, will be held in Bangkok, Thailand, on 2-3 November 2015.

Please note that the dates, agenda, activities and potential themes are subject to change.