**Press Release**

**[15. June 2020]**

Office in Charge: King Sejong the Great Heritage Management Office, Royal Palaces and Tombs Center

Officer in Charge: Song Bong-gyu(Deputy Director, 031-880-4702) and Park Hyeon-ju (Researcher, 031-880-4712)

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| Intangible Cultural Heritage Webinar Series to Start on 18 June 2020 |

The COVID-19 pandemic has seriously caused public disruption manifesting in different forms such as places on lockdowns, untimely shutdown of schools, cancellations of mass gatherings, and temporary closure of businesses. As the field of intangible cultural heritage (hereinafter, ICH) contends with the effects of the pandemic, International Information and Networking Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region under the auspices of UNESCO (hereinafter, ICHCAP) and UNESCO Bangkok Office are organizing sessions of interlinked online seminars dubbed as *ICH Webinar Series* to tackle important issues around ICH safeguarding in the time of COVID-19 and the future ahead of it. This event is sponsored by Cultural Heritage Administration of Korea. While the first couple sessions of the series will hear reports and studies about the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on ICH safeguarding, the series itself is conceived to be a platform of ideas relevant to key areas in ICH Safeguarding such as information-sharing, networking, and cooperation among stakeholders in the ICH field.

The first session of the ICH Webinar Series will assess how COVID-19 pandemic has affected the cultural lives of peoples in the Asia-Pacific region and identify possible roles ICH might take in crisis. In light of the many vulnerabilities the pandemic has exposed in ICH communities, the session will hold a discussion of innovative solutions for ICH safeguarding and transmission. Slated on 18 June 2020 at 17:00 (KoreaStandard Time), the first session will feature presentations from Juliette Hopkins (Living Heritage Entity, UNESCO), Anna Yau (The University of Hong Kong), Yeo Kirk Siang (National Heritage Board, Singapore) and Professor Eric Zerrudo (University of Santo Tomas).

The ICH Webinar Series aims to fosterpublic participation in discussions about living heritage. Questions are welcome from the public. The concept noteof the first session is accessible through this [link](https://www.unesco-ichcap.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/ICH-Webinar-Series_Session-1_Concept-Note-2.pdf). Those interested to join the conversation are advised to write their questions in this [pre-registration form](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeqHrLBbXU7FEOvoqQK_aPVXFK40BPVGgHp27ElqMmpBgobiQ/viewform?fbzx=-9115965707399868270) (<http://bitly.kr/aqYrvpbRzn>).

**Session 1: Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage and the COVID-19 Pandemic in the Asia-Pacific Region**

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| **Welcoming Remarks****Opening Remarks**(17:00-17:10) | Keum Gi Hyung, Director-General, ICHCAPDuong Bich Hanh, Head, Culture Unit, UNESCO Bangkok Office |
| *The programme is moderated by Dr. Saifur Rashid.* |
| 17:10-17:25 | **UNESCO Online Survey Results on Living Heritage Experience and the COVID-19 Pandemic**Juliette Hopkins, Living Heritage Entity, UNESCO |
| 17:25-17:40 | **Reviving the Living Landscape System of Lai Chi Wo for Urban Sustainability**Anna Yau, Project Manager, The University of Hong Kong |
| 17:40-17:55 | **Living Heritage Experiences in the Context of the COVID-19 Pandemic in Singapore**Yeo Kirk Siang, Director, Heritage Research and Assessment, National Heritage Board of Singapore |
| 17:55-18:10 | **Disaster as Opportunity**Christopher Ballard, Professor, The Australian National University, Australia |
| 18:10-18:25 | ***Te-er/Tengao*: The Significance of the Compulsory ‘Rest’ Day of the Bontoks in Mt. Province in the Context of COVID-19 Pandemic**Eric Zerrudo, Professor, University of Santo Tomas University, Philippines |
| 18:25-19:00 | **Q&A** |

**Upcoming Webinars (July to August)**

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| Dates  | Themes |
|  2 July 2020 (Thursday)17:00-19:00 | Teaching and learning heritage-related disciplines during COVID-19 Pandemic |
| 30 July 2020 (Thursday)17:00-19:00 | Higher Education Network for ICH Safeguarding during Pandemic- Cases in Europe, Africa, Latin America and the Asia-Pacific |
| 13 August 2020 (Thursday)17:00-19:00 | Sharing Experiences and Challenges in Developing ICH Curriculum and Education Models – Cases of Uganda and Belgium※This session is a part of UNESCO Capacity Building Workshop  |

**This schedule is subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances.**