

Intangible Cultural Heritage Working Group

Working Group Report for the year 2015

Wednesday 9th September 2015, 11:30am – 1:00pm.

Venue: Conference Hall, National Museum Institute, National Museum, New Delhi

Coordinator: Dr. Manvi Seth <sharma.manvi@gmail.com>

The CIDOC Intangible Cultural Heritage Working Group (CIDOC ICH WG) was set up in Dresden, Germany during the annual conference of CIDOC 2014. Its aim is to work towards greater documentation, easy retrieval, access and communication of ICH.

ICH WG conducted one meeting during CIDOC 2015.

The meeting was attended by the following:

Chilala Habeenzu

Keletso Sethabi

Golnaz Golsabahi

Parissa Andami

Mohammad Hekmat

Shubhra Devi

Nawang Jinpa

Chang Pangyen

Manvi Seth



The meeting started with a recap of the meeting held in Dresden and proceeded to chalk out strategy for 2015-16. Discussions were held around terms and terminology related to ICH. It was decided that a comprehensive list for ICH related terms is required. An attempt made by Manvi Seth to find meanings of some ICH terms in other Indian languages was also discussed. It was deliberated that how some terms and terminology have different connotations for different communities. It was decided while voluntarily members of ICH WG may continue to work on regional language variations of ICH terminologies, a structured work in this area can only be taken after a broad list is in place. It was decided to work on preparing an extensive list of terms and terminology for ICH. The list will be useful not only academicians, scholars working on ICH but also will create greater understanding of the terms amongst community members. The methodology for preparing such list should be through participatory approach of involving the community. One of the objectives discussed during the WG meeting was to bring change in the methodology of documentation of ICH by heavy participation from the community right from the start and at every step. As decided in ICH WG first meeting at Dresden The focus of ICH WG is to explore the diversity of terminology as per the practice and understanding of various communities and cultures related to ICH around the world.



It was further deliberated to develop case studies to place concrete examples of ICH elements from different cultures. These elements are to be associated and grouped under existing ICH domains given by UNESCO. For every ICH element selected, the tangible expression and manifestation of these ICH elements as objects is also to be documented. The aim of these two exercises – making a draft list of terms and terminologies related to ICH; and to look for ICH examples and elements in different cultures across to be placed under ICH domain categories, is to develop a deeper understanding of the need, role and process of ICH documentation. The process of reaching the object or a collection through ICH may throw some new light on the methodology of documentation of cultural heritage.

Dr. Manvi Seth