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## NARRATIVE REPORT

**Project title:** *Capacity Building in designing, implementing and evaluating the Intangible Cultural Heritage Projects in Vietnam Nam*

**Contract No:** 4500183315

The project is implemented by Vietnam Institute of Culture and Art Studies (VICAS), Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism in collaboration with the Institute of Culture Studies (ICS), Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences and Humanities. The project aims to equip cultural managers at all levels and master practitioners in local communities with better awareness and skills to design, implement and evaluate ICH projects, and thereby facilitate the implementation of the UNESCO 2003 Convention and the amended Vietnam Law on Cultural Heritage 2009.

The project started in October, 2012. Within the scope of 14 months, 4 experts from VICAS and ICS with support from UNESCO Hanoi Office and cultural managers from Department of Cultural Heritage, Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism have been carried out the project with the following activities:

1. Review the relevant literature, 2003 Convention and Law on cultural heritage to draw up the guiding principles in any ICH safeguarding and promotion activities.
2. Develop a set of steps, including concrete forms for users to apply those guiding principles in the design, implementation and evaluation of ICH projects.
3. Discuss with local members who play an active role in the safeguarding of the Gong element, Quan ho folk songs, Giong Festivals, the worship of Hung Kings and other expressions in Vietnam on the project on safeguarding measures of ICH.
4. The team members work together to draft the toolkit with key principles of gender equality, results-based management, human rights-based approach, and

logical framework approach to developing, implementing and evaluating an ICH project.

5. The draft toolkit was given to senior experts from Department of Cultural Heritage, Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourist, the Program coordinator from UNESCO office in Hanoi for their comments, feedback, and adjustments and other experts on ICH.

6. Organize workshops with the participation of 60 ICH experts and local community members to gather their ideas, corrections, and inputs.

7. Finalize the toolkit by refining the principles, adding a number of forms for an ICH project and selecting photos for the printing of the toolkit.

In order to have the final toolkit, the draft of the toolkit has been worked out carefully with the experienced experts on ICH and have a wide range of ideas and comments from other experts on ICH and local community members and cultural managers, cadres. It is toolkit with a number of indexes, pictures for the friendly-use. The toolkit has met its objectives, including:

1. To facilitate the implementation of the 2003 Convention and the amended Law on Cultural Heritage in Vietnam
2. To foster the coordination among different stakeholders in the safeguarding and promotion of ICH in Vietnam

In fact, the toolkit help cultural managers and practitioners have a better understanding of guiding principles in designing, implementing and evaluating ICH projects. This lets the toolkit ensure the sustainability development in ICH field.

The toolkit is relied on the guiding principles by Law on Cultural Heritage and 2003 Convention. The toolkit serves as a principle guideline in designing, implementing and evaluating ICH-safeguarding. The toolkit is available for researchers, local cultural managers and representative community members who can use in their ICH safeguarding activities.

- In addition to the principles, the toolkit is developed with number of evidences, information from other safeguarding projects in Vietnam
- The toolkit different impacts on various groups in term of gender, ethnicity, religion, status.

- During the process of drafting the toolkit, the experts from VICAS and ICS work together and with consultation of local managers and community members.

The project has strong multiplier effects, because VICAS as well as ICS have access to a nation-wide network of policy makers and practitioners in culture and other fields. The project's toolkit allows VICAS to raise their awareness on (i) the social and economic contribution of ICH to development and (ii) the need for and approaches to investing in ICH. Awareness-raising on ICH is necessary because ICH is a relatively new area in Vietnam, and there are diverged understandings to why investing in this area. Since the toolkit is designed in a user-friendly manner, it is also expected that non-culture agencies and local communities are able to adopt this toolkit when designing, implementing and evaluating activities related to ICH.

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