

ICHO LAW

Law on the statute of Iranian Cultural Heritage Organization (ICHO)

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No: 3487- S

Article 1 - Definition: Cultural heritage consists of relics which indicate man's historical progress and serve as a basis for a better knowledge of human identity and their path of cultural progress, thus providing for Man's admonition.

The Iranian Cultural Heritage Organization established by virtue of the law approved on Jan 30, 1986 and hereinafter referred to, as "Organization" in this Statute, shall be managed according to the regulations thereof.

Article 2 - Objective: To learn from man's cultural progress, and to preserve and elevate the cultural identity of the society,

Article 3 - Duties of the Organization: The duties of the Organization - concerning cultural heritage - including research, supervision, conservation, revitalization and presentation are as the following:

- 1 - Designing and performing research plans on the remnants from the past;
- 2 - Surveying and exploring historical sites, hills, buildings and complexes; and building up their comprehensive inventory and the archeological map of the country;
- 3 - Performing archeological researches and scientific excavations;
- 4 - Undertaking anthropographical surveys, anthropological and bio-anthropological researches, and acquaintance of vernacular cultures in different parts of the country;
- 5 - Researching on traditional arts, and providing the condition for preservation, revitalization and growth of these arts,
- 6 - Registering the country's movable and immovable properties of cultural-historical significance in the National List for Cultural Heritage and other relevant lists,

7 - Having exclusive standing to perform all legal affairs concerning cultural heritage, and initiating penal actions against the violators of the regulations regarding the country's cultural heritage, as accuser or private plaintiff according to the case,

8 - Taking necessary measures to identify and restitute Iran's cultural properties, at national and international levels, by referring to the pertinent authorities,

9 - Identifying and taking possession of all properties considered as cultural heritage which are of outstanding cultural and historical value, confiscated by other governmental organizations,

Note - All courts, customs, police forces and other governmental organizations, which under any title confiscate such properties, shall be obliged to transfer the properties of cultural-historical value to the Iranian Cultural Heritage Organization.

10 - Designing and implementing plans to safeguard, preserve, repair, restore and revitalize the works, buildings and complexes which are of cultural and historical value,

11 - Giving opinions concerning all development comprehensive and master plans for cultural and historical zones, and making final decisions about valuable sites, fabrics and places in those zones, and protecting them against any kind of destruction,

12 - Delineating the protected areas for registered historical buildings, complexes, sites and hills; and formulating specific regulations for architecture and design inside the protected areas,

13 - Presenting works of cultural and historical value through museums, exhibits, and the like,

14 - Establishing, developing and administering the museums of the country,

15 - Establishing a Documentation-Center for Cultural Heritage of the Country (to keep documents like scientific reports, maps, photos of buildings, etc.) in order to provide scientific and research services in this regard,

16 - Publicizing the values of the country's cultural heritage - at national and international levels - by publication of performed studies and researches, with the aid of audio-visual equipments and through the mass media,

17 - Compiling and publishing the encyclopedia of Iranian historical works and monuments,

18 - Developing research activities on various fields of cultural heritage, and encouraging researchers, artists and craftsmen,

19 - Designing and implementing educational programs to train personnel efficient for the activities concerning cultural heritage, with the co-ordination of relevant organizations,

20 - Encouraging the community to participate in the activities related to exploration, conservation, and revitalization of cultural heritage, which shall be supervised by the Organization,

21 - Establishing and expanding associations for cultural heritage throughout the country,

Note - Method of establishment and the extent of duties and powers imposed and entrusted to these associations shall be determined by the Council of the Organization.

22 - Establishing communications and scientific / cultural exchanges with relevant institutions and organizations at national and international levels, especially Islamic and regional countries; planning and organizing congresses and periodic seminars as necessary,

23 - Co-operating with the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance on national and international tourism,

24 - Providing consultative, investigative, technical and educational services; selling cultural products; collecting entrance and admission fees of monuments, sites, museums and exhibits; and also receiving and accepting contributions, donations and the like,

Article 4 - Constituents of the Organization:

The Organization has 2 constituents:

1 - Council of the Organization, and

2 - Head of the Organization

Article 5 - Council of the Organization: For further co-ordination in the activities concerned with cultural heritage of the country, a Council of the Organization to be composed of the 8 following members shall be convened:

- 1 - Minister of Culture and High Education (Head of the Council);
- 2 - Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance;
- 3 - Minister of the Interior;
- 4 - Minister of Justice;
- 5 - Minister of Foreign Affairs;
- 6 - Minister of Housing and Urban Development;
- 7 - Managing Director of Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting Organization (IRIB);
- 8 - Head of the Organization (Secretary of the Council).

Note 1 - If the vote is equally divided, the Head of the Council shall have the casting vote.

Note 2 - On a regular basis, meetings of the Council shall be held at least twice a year.

Following the recommendation of the Head of the Organization, it shall be the duty of the Minister of Culture and High Education to call a meeting of the council, and to preside over the sessions.

Note 3 - The Council may call upon persons whose presences in the sessions seem - by some means - necessary. These persons do not have the right to vote.

Note 4 - In each meeting of the Council, 5 members shall constitute a quorum, and the decisions of the Council will be valid by the vote of at least 4 present members.

Article 6 - Duties of the Council: The duties of the council are as follows:

- 1 - Defining strategies and general policies based on the law on establishing the Iranian Cultural Heritage Organization, and the Organization's Statute;
- 2 - Examining the reports on the Organization's activities, and expressing opinions about the reports.

Note - All the approvals of the council to be communicated shall be signed off on by Minister of

Culture and High Education.

Article 7 - Head of the Organization: Minister of Culture and High Education shall appoint The Head of the Organization.

Article 8 - The units of the Organization throughout the country: According to situational demands and upon approval of the State Organization for Administrative and Employment Affairs, the Organization shall - with the favorable opinion of the Minister of Culture and High Education - establish its units any where in the country as it may deem proper. On the basis of the Organization's Statute and according to its approvals, these units shall be responsible for the affairs regarding cultural heritage in their respective territories of activity, under supervision of the Head of the Organization.

Article 9 - Upon the approval of this Act, all inconsistent laws and regulations shall be repealed.