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Intangible Cultural Heritage

Representative List

ICH-02 – Form

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REPRESENTATIVE LIST OF THE INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF HUMANITY

**Deadline: 31 March 2023
for possible inscription in 2024**

*Instructions for completing the form are available at:
<https://ich.unesco.org/en/forms>*

A. State Party or States Parties

The Kingdom of Thailand

B. Name of the element

B.1. Name of the element in the languages and scripts of the community(ies) concerned

ต้มยำกุ้ง

B.2. Name of the element in English

Tomyum Kung

C. Name of the communities, groups or individuals concerned

The following communities, groups or individuals are identified:

- (i) Agricultural and river-based communities in Central region, such as in Ang Thong, Ayutthaya, Bangkok, Pathum Thani, Nonthaburi, Samut Pakran and etc.;
- (ii) Practitioners and professionals such as chefs and restaurant owners in provinces where the element is widely practiced and appreciated;
- (iii) Experts and agencies connected with traditional knowledge related to river environment sustainability, freshwater prawns preservation and tropical medicinal plants;
- (iv) Educational institutes, teachers, researchers, and students relating to the element;
- (v) Journalists and mass media who are concerned with the element;
- (vi) Civil Society, Non-Governmental Organizations concerned in natural environment, conservation and entrepreneurs, such as those in food safety and health, and in food industry.

1. General information about the element

For Criterion R.1, States shall demonstrate that 'the element constitutes intangible cultural heritage as defined in Article 2 of the Convention'.

1.1. *Provide a brief description of the element that can introduce it to readers who have never seen or experienced it.*

Not to exceed 200 words

"Tomyum Kung" consists of three central Thai words: "Tom" (soup boiling), "Yum" (mixing together) and "Kung" (prawn or shrimp). In preparing the Tomyum Kung, prawns are boiled with herbs, including lemongrass, kaffir lime leaves, galangal, and shallot; and seasoned with local condiments. The product of such cooking is a sense-pleasing soup, recognizable by its aromas, vibrant colors, and graceful balance of contrasting but complimentary flavors: sour, salty, chili-hot, sweet, light-creamy, and faintly bitter.

"Tomyum Kung" is a culinary wisdom of the riverside communities in the Central Plains of Thailand, a plentiful region that for centuries has been the main food production area of the nation's food. These communities, mainly agricultural and Buddhists, traditionally avoided killing big animals and preferred naturally abundant freshwater prawns, that can be bloodlessly prepared. This tradition, combined with their local knowledge about medicinal herbs, has led to this tasty and healthy dish, that helps enhance rice consumption for the energy needed, and promote people's wellness especially during the monsoon season.

The element had neither written history nor prescriptive forms until modern time. It rather started from a local recipe, practiced and transmitted verbally for generations through family members, before becoming popularly appreciated nationwide and internationally.

1.2. *Who are the bearers and practitioners of the element? Are there any specific roles, including gender-related ones or categories of persons with special responsibilities for the practice and transmission of the element? If so, who are they and what are their responsibilities?*

Not to exceed 100 words

The bearers and practitioners are:

- i) agricultural and waterfront families in central Thailand;
- ii) chefs and restaurant owners;

iii) teachers, community leaders, and the media in the main communities identified in C (i) above.

Women, men and children have equal opportunity to practice and safeguard the element.

Their roles are:

- a) practicing, safeguarding and transmitting;
- b) awareness promoting;
- c) education, research and dissemination;
- d) dialogue and respect of diversity promotion.

1.3. *How are the knowledge and skills related to the element transmitted today?*

Not to exceed 100 words

Today, the knowledge and skills related to the element include the cooking skills, the knowledge of quality herbs and ingredients and the conservation of natural environment. They are transmitted as follows;

- a) Informally, through socialization including family and social gatherings, media information, apprenticeship and assistance in the family or in the communities, or in all types of restaurants featuring the element;
- b) Formally, through schools, college education and private agencies concerned;
- c) Non-formally, through training courses organized by chef associations, Thai culinary arts associations, and other concerned NGOs such as district and provincial cultural councils in Central Thailand.

1.4. *What social functions and cultural meanings does the element have nowadays for the communities concerned?*

Not to exceed 100 words

Tomyum Kung represents local abundance, good health and happiness.

The element reflects Thai Buddhist farmers' attitude of simplicity and mercy, a perception that food does not necessitate killing of big animals. The traditional knowledge about river prawns' life-cycle and plant diversity resources enables communities to be self-supporting and sustainable in their consumption lifestyles.

Urbanization and modernization have changed. Family structure, lifestyles, natural resources, river landscape and food attitude have also changed. Regular family gatherings still remain, and cultural events observed, bringing families together for social interactions and rekindling of bonds, where the element is shared as a meaningful cultural practice.

1.5. *Can the State Party or States Parties confirm that nothing in the element is incompatible with existing international human rights instruments?*

Not to exceed 50 words

No part of the element that is incompatible with existing international human rights instruments. On the contrary, it is served to promote sharing and social cohesion.

1.6. *Can the State Party or States Parties confirm that nothing in the element could be perceived as not compatible with the requirement of mutual respect among communities, groups and individuals?*

Not to exceed 50 words

No part of the element is incompatible with mutual respect among communities, groups and individual. Since the ingredients of the element are plentifully available in the tropical climate and river-based communities in Thailand, the element is commonly appreciated and is widespread without any restrictions or prejudices.

1.7. *Can the State Party or States Parties confirm that nothing in the element could be perceived as not compatible with the requirement of sustainable development?*

Not to exceed 50 words

Tomyum Kung is totally compatible with the requirements of sustainable development. Healthy, nutritious and tasty, requiring low-cost or no-cost in cooking, it is environmentally friendly, nurturing cultural bonds and social cohesion and economically beneficial to the communities concerned.

1.8. *Are there customary practices governing access to the element? If yes, describe any specific measures that are in place to ensure their respect.*

Not to exceed 100 words

There are no customary practices governing access to the element which has always been accessible to families and communities across generations. In modern time, it has become a widespread knowledge and practice across countries, supporting international creativity and collaboration.

1.9. *Audiovisual materials about the element*

- 10 recent photographs in high definition are submitted
- Form ICH-07-photo is attached to grant rights for the 10 photos submitted
- A video is submitted
- Form ICH-07-video is attached to grant rights for the video submitted

2. Contribution to visibility, awareness, dialogue and sustainable development

For **Criterion R.2**, the States shall demonstrate that 'Inscription of the element will contribute to ensuring visibility and awareness of the significance of the intangible cultural heritage and to encouraging dialogue, thus reflecting cultural diversity worldwide and testifying to human creativity'. In addition, States are encouraged, with reference to Chapter VI of the Operational Directives, to recognize the interdependence between the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage and sustainable development.

Given its extensive nature, criterion R.2 will be assessed based on the information provided in the nomination file as a whole including the answers provided in this section.

Do communities concerned consider that the element contributes to the following?

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Food security
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Health care
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Quality education
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender equality
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Inclusive economic development
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Environmental sustainability including climate change
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Peace and social cohesion
<input type="checkbox"/> Others (please specify):

Provide explanations in support of the statement(s) made above, as appropriate.

Not to exceed 200 words

<p>The nomination of Tomyum Kung is not only about the food in the narrow sense, but more directly about the safeguarding and promoting the practices and knowledge that have sustained the Thai communities both, culturally and socially for centuries in the past.</p> <p>In so doing, therefore, integrated and inter-sectoral policies and implementations are required, especially in connection with food security, health care and quality education which are interrelated in nature.</p> <p>In the process of nomination, Ministry of Agriculture, Departments of Fisheries, Department of Thai Traditional and Alternative Medicine, Departments of Basic Education and Non-formal Education as well as local agencies and stakeholders were invited to take part, including men, women, young people, local chefs and cooking schools, families and restaurants located by the waterways. Environmental safeguarding and climate change were discussed and multiple recommendations were made to the government. Furthermore, the importance of the family bonds in the face of urbanization and villages-to-cities migration were also discussed and increased awareness of family gathering and eating freshly and simply cooked food as Tomyum Kung were cited as a good example to promote the family warmth and social cohesion.</p>

States are encouraged to submit audiovisual materials that convey the communities' voice in support of the statements made above.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Materials (written, audio-visual or any other way) are submitted
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3. Safeguarding measures

For Criterion R.3, States shall demonstrate that 'safeguarding measures are elaborated that may protect and promote the element'.

What safeguarding measures are put in place to protect and promote the element? Include in your answer the communities' role in the planning and implementation of measures described.

Not to exceed 500 words

A. Past and current efforts:

a) Environment-related measures:

- (i) River revitalization initiatives by riverside communities, and civil society organizations;
- (ii) Research and development projects by Department of Fisheries which have resulted in the proliferation of freshwater prawn in natural habitats, and increased farming productivity in recent years. An action plan for the development of freshwater prawns (2019 - 2022);
- (iii) Cataloguing of local herbs by Department of Agriculture;
- (iv) Agricultural products export control and certification by Department of Agriculture to provide quality and safety assurance;

b) Protection, promotion and transmission of traditional knowledge and Thai culinary wisdom

c) Thai food promotion campaigns for both domestic and international market

B. Future measures:

1. Upstream measures:

- a) Environmental management programs, including protecting, maintaining, and improving the quality of natural water sources
- b) Research and development projects concerning freshwater prawn and shrimp farming, as well as promotion of organic and chemical-free cultivation of culinary herbs

2. Midstream measures:

- a) Strengthening and promoting local wisdom and culinary knowledge, involving several state agencies such as the Office of the Basic Education Commission, the Office of Private Education Commission, the Office of the Vocational Education Commission, as well as the Department of Skill Development
- b) Research, development and innovation of food and agricultural products to ensure the best possible preservation of nutritional quality and value, as well as their access for everyone

3. Downstream measures:

Awareness raising and safeguarding promotion involving government agencies such as Department of Health, Department of Thai Traditional and Alternative Medicine, Department of Business Development, Department of International Trade Promotion, National Food Institute of Ministry of Industry, Ministry of Education, Department of Community Development of Ministry of Interior, Ang Thong Inland Aquaculture Research and Development Center of Department of Fisheries.

C. Future plan of actions recommended by focus group meetings of stakeholders:

a) Through the Ministry of Culture

- Promote and preserve Thai cuisine and food culture against outside influences
- Encourage creation and production of quality television programs about Thai culinary wisdom

b) Through the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Labor

- Foster quality education for the transmission of Thai culinary art, including Tomyum Kung,

through curriculum development, certification system and capacity-building programs

c) Through the Ministry of Public Health

- Educate people on food safety, food choice and dietary behavior, including healthy Thai dishes

- Promote research and scientific studies on medicinal values and health benefits of Tomyum Kung and other Thai herb-based dishes

d) Through the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, and other networks from private sector and civil society

- Protect and revitalizing rivers, canals and their contributing area, through legal measures and multi-sector partnership

e) Through the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives

- Conserve freshwater prawns in their natural habitats along the Chao Phraya River, as well as freshwater prawn aquaculture and farming

4. Community participation in the nomination process and consent

For Criterion R.4, States shall demonstrate that 'the element has been nominated following the widest possible participation of the community, group or, if applicable, individuals concerned and with their free, prior and informed consent'.

4.1. *Describe how the communities, groups or individuals concerned have actively participated in all stages of the preparation of the nomination.*

Not to exceed 300 words

In 2019-2020, the preparation process of nomination included the following main activities;

1. A consultation was organized by Ayutthaya Provincial Cultural Council involving all stakeholders to discuss the possibility of nomination, the social functions and cultural meanings of the element and its current status and viability in this modern context.

2. Another consultation was held in Bangkok with Thai cuisine professionals and teaching staffs from well-known academic institutions, cooking schools and training centers. Tomyum Kung was recommended as a Thai cultural heritage and culinary wisdom, to be safeguarded in the face of current challenges and threats.

3. The Provincial Cultural Council of Pathum Thani organized a focus group meeting involving 14 provincial cultural councils in Central region along the Chao Phraya River as well as relevant entrepreneurs in food industry, including aquaculture farmer associations, and relevant government agencies. Numerous suggestions were proposed for the safeguarding of Tomyum Kung as an important food culture.

4. An expert meeting was organized by the Department of Cultural Promotion with participation of National ICH experts in 3 domains: oral traditions and expressions, social practices and knowledge about nature and the universe. Academic and technical information and advice were given to the Department.

5. Bangkok Cultural Council and the Department of Cultural Promotion conducted the series of field trips to several agricultural, riverside and canal-based communities of the Chao Phraya River and related waterways. Information collection and interview with local families, groups and individuals engaged in practicing and transmitting Tomyum Kung were conducted. Also information about the 2003 convention was provided during the activities.

6. A public hearing was conducted by Bangkok Cultural Council and the Department of Cultural Promotion to review the information and recommendations of the past activities, and to officially give consent to nominate the element to UNESCO.

- Consent (written, audio-visual or any other way) to the nomination of the element from the communities, groups or individuals concerned is attached in support to the description above

4.2. Community organizations or representatives concerned

Contact person for the communities:

Title (Ms/Mr, etc.): Mrs.

Family name: Pimpan

Given name: Jirapan

Institution/position: President of Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya Provincial Cultural Council

Address: Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya Provincial Hall, Asia Road, Khlong Suan Plu Sub-District, Mueang District, Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya Province, 13000

Telephone number: +6635 336 881

Email address:

Other relevant information:

- Contact information for main community organizations or representatives, non-governmental organizations or other bodies concerned with the element are attached, and their details can be published on the website of the Convention as part of the nomination

5. Inventory

For Criterion R.5, States shall demonstrate that the element is identified and included in an inventory of the intangible cultural heritage present in the territory(ies) of the submitting State(s) Party(ies) in conformity with Articles 11 and 12 of the Convention.

5.1. Name of the inventory(ies) in which the element is included

The National Inventory of Intangible Cultural Heritage

5.2. Name of the office(s), agency(ies), organization(s) or body(ies) responsible for maintaining and updating that (those) inventory(ies), both in the original language and in translation when the original language is not English or French

กรมส่งเสริมวัฒนธรรม กระทรวงวัฒนธรรม

Department of Cultural Promotion, Ministry of Culture

5.3. Reference number(s) and name(s) of the element in the relevant inventory(ies)

No. 1.1.2, titled "Tomyum Kung" (meaning Thai Spicy shrimp soup), food and nutrition category, the domain of knowledge about nature and the universe

5.4. Date of the element's inclusion in the inventory(ies)

On September 2, 2011, Tomyum Kung was included in the National Inventory of Intangible Cultural Heritage published in Royal Thai Government Gazette.

Is the information concerning the updating and periodicity of the inventory(ies), as well as the participation of communities, groups and NGOs concerned to the inventorying process, included in the periodic report on the implementation of the Convention?

- Yes, the information is included in the periodic report. Specify in the box below the year in which that report was submitted

No, the information is not included in the periodic report. Provide information in the box below

Not to exceed 200 words

Tomyum Kung was included in the National Inventory in 2011, based on field research carried out nationally and locally by ICH experts appointed by the Department of Cultural Promotion, in consultation with local communities, local academic institutions and provincial administrators.

This National Inventory has been periodically updated. As of 2023, a total of 368 elements have been included in the inventory.

Currently, on-going studies by local and national experts contribute to the regular updating of the information contained in the inventory, at least every three years.

After the promulgation of the national registration on the Promotion and Safeguarding of National Intangible Cultural Heritage Act in 2016, a new system of management of Intangible Cultural elements has been put in place, involving the provincial ICH committees headed by the provincial governor, in the updating and extending the ICH lists in the national inventory. In addition, provincial ICH inventory are being promoted and developed by the provincial ICH committees as a preparatory states of inventorizing the element in the National Inventory.

The National Inventory of ICH elements include textual information and photograph of the elements.

An extract of inventory(ies) in English or in French and in the original language, if different, is submitted

6. Correspondence and signature

6.1. Designated contact person

Provide the contact details of a single person responsible for all correspondence concerning the nomination. For multinational nominations, provide complete contact information for one person designated by the States Parties as the main contact person for all correspondence relating to the nomination.

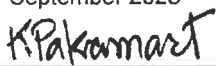
Title (Ms/Mr, etc.):	Mr.
Family name:	Pakamart
Given name:	Kowit
Institution/position:	Director-General of Department of Cultural Promotion
Address:	14 Thiamruammit Road, Huay Khwang, Bangkok 10310 Thailand
Telephone number:	+6622470013 ext.4302
Email address:	safeguard.ich@gmail.com
Other relevant information:	

6.2 Other contact persons (for multinational nomination only)

Provide below complete contact information for one person in each submitting State, other than the primary contact person identified above.

Title (Ms/Mr, etc.):
Family name:
Given name:
Institution/position:
Address:
Telephone number:
Email address:
Other relevant information:

6.3 Signature on behalf of the State Party or States Parties

Name:	Mr. Kowit Pakamart
Title:	Director-General of Department of Cultural Promotion
Date:	20 September 2023
Signature:	

Name(s), title(s) and signature(s) of other official(s) (for multinational nominations only).

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