

National Roundtable Meeting on the Development of the Creative Sector in Mongolia

As the “Creative Industries Development for the Diversity of Cultural Expressions” project is coming to an end, UNESCO organized a National Roundtable Meeting on 20 October 2017 to present the results obtained following the **development of a strategy and action plan for the advancement of the creative sector at the national level.**



At the presence of Mr N. Bold, Head of the Culture and Art Policy Department of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Science and Sports of Mongolia, Mr Shin Sang Kyun, First Secretary of the Embassy of the Republic of Korea to Mongolia and Mr G.Erdenebat, Director of the Government Implementing Agency Culture and Arts Authority, the project team had the opportunity to present findings and results of the two-year project and bring them to the attention of the highest responsible authorities. Two representatives from all 21 provinces and 9 districts of Ulaanbaatar city were also invited to be sensitized to the topic and bring insights from their own perspective.

The event was divided into three sessions: firstly the team leader presented the research and data collection results for the development of a practical framework for cultural and creative industries in Mongolia; this was followed by an introduction to the Quadrennial Periodic Report submitted by Mongolia in 2016 as obligation under the **2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions**; finally participants discussed and adopted a set of policy recommendations organized around the following themes: (i) reform of the legal framework, (ii) development of cultural statistics in line with international practices, (iii) capacity-building of human resources, (iv) development of creative industries in cultural and arts institutions, (v) copyright protection, (vi) enabling financial and fiscal environment, (vii) promotion of Mongolian cultural and creative industries in the international arena, (viii) and reform of the role and mandate of relevant cultural authorities.



A UNESCO international expert from the Expert Facility established under the framework of the 2005 Convention followed the research process and was invited to the meeting to provide further guidance and suggestions for the sustainability of outcomes beyond the scope of the project.

As the data collected demonstrate, **the cultural and creative industries account for 0.6% of the total GDP**. “This is still a very small portion of the national economy compared to countries at a similar stage of development” commented Prof J. Erkhemtugs, Dean of the Cultural Industry Department at the Mongolian State University of Arts and Culture. **“The understanding of the contribution of culture to the economic development of the country is still rather low”** pointed out Mr Z. Bayanzul, Senior Officer, Arts and Culture Policy Department, Ministry of Education, Culture Science and Sports of Mongolia. It is the aim of this project to raise the awareness on this issue and provide inputs for evidence-based policy making that rely on sound statistic and data on the economic contribution of cultural and creative industries. Creative industries, moreover, are not only capital assets for alleviating poverty and boosting economic development, but also a vital source for socio-cultural development and sustainable human development in preserving the diversity of cultural identities.



The “Creative Industries Development for the Diversity of Cultural Expressions” project led by UNESCO and with the financial assistance of the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism of the Republic of Korea stemmed from the observation that cultural and creative industries in Mongolia were gradually developing, in particular with the spread of new media and technology across the country. The main objective of this project was to establish a practical framework for the sustainable development of cultural and creative industries in Mongolia, and raise awareness about the contributions of those industries to sustainable development.



Following capacity-building training workshops, and framework data collection for evidence-based policy-making which were achieved throughout the different phases of the project, the national roundtable meeting presented the outcomes of the project to the Mongolian authorities with the aspiration to raise awareness and prompt future implementation of policy recommendations. The project will conclude with the publication of several awareness-raising materials, including a video-clip to be disseminated among relevant stakeholders and the general public.



It was the first time in Mongolia that an interdisciplinary cross-sectorial group worked on this topic including governmental agencies, NGOs and academia from the fields of culture, national development, finance, industry, commerce, intellectual property, communication and information technology and statistics.

The event was made possible by the joint cooperation of UNESCO Beijing Office with the Mongolian National Commission for UNESCO, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Science and Sports of Mongolia, and the Government Implementing Agency Culture and Arts Authority. The project was financed in its three phases since 2008 by the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism of the Republic of Korea under a Funds-in-Trust that supports activities also in Vietnam and Uganda.



A small awarding ceremony was held at the conclusion of the event for a creative photography contest organized under the project for young artists under the theme “creativity and the diversity of cultural expressions”. The three best pictures were selected to be featured on awareness-raising poster produced by UNESCO in cooperation with Mongolian partners, to be widely disseminated in public spaces.

