

## Foreword

Jang Sang-hoon



This year marks a significant milestone with the publication of the 20th volume of the *International Journal of Intangible Heritage*. Since its inaugural issue in 2006, the Journal has served as a vital international platform for sharing knowledge and expanding discourse on intangible heritage. Over the past two decades, 1,010 scholars from around the world have submitted a total of 755 manuscripts, of which 214 were selected for publication. The editorial process has been supported by the dedication of 74 experts who have served as members of the Governing and Editorial Boards, and by more than 1,000 peer reviewers who have generously contributed their expertise. Thanks to this broad and sustained engagement from the academic community, the *International Journal of Intangible Heritage* has been indexed in six academic databases, including the Arts & Humanities Citation Index (A&HCI). In 2023, the Journal achieved recognition as a Q1 (top 25%) journal in the SCImago Journal Rank (SJR), affirming its status as a leading publication in the field. I extend my sincere gratitude to all who have contributed to the growth and success of the Journal over the years.

This 20th volume is specially curated to commemorate the ICOM General Conference being held in Dubai in 2025. The central theme of the conference, 'The Future of Museums in Rapidly Changing Communities,' includes 'Intangible Heritage' as one of its sub-themes. This marks a significant return of intangible heritage to the forefront of international discourse, following its first inclusion as a central theme at the 2004 ICOM General Conference in Seoul. The *International Journal of Intangible Heritage* was born out of the discussions held during the 2004 Seoul conference. In recognition of this origin and the renewed global focus, this commemorative volume presents a special contribution reflecting on the achievements made in the field of intangible heritage within the museum, and exploring future directions for its continued integration and development.

Following careful deliberation by nine editorial board members and 52 peer reviewers, 12 articles were selected for publication from among 152 submissions. The articles in this volume explore how intangible heritage interacts with landscapes, communities, social institutions, and youth engagement, offering diverse perspectives on how intangible heritage continues to generate new meanings in contemporary society. In addition, this volume includes three book reviews that examine the relationship between museums and intangible heritage. I hope that this issue will serve as a meaningful reflection on the contemporary significance and value of intangible heritage, and contribute to shaping the future direction of global discourse in the field.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to His Excellency Zaki Anwar Nusseibeh and Professor Bae Kidong for their outstanding special contributions to this volume, and to the editorial board and reviewers for their dedicated efforts throughout the publication process. In particular, I extend my heartfelt appreciation to Roslyn Russell, Editor-in-Chief, and Robyn Flemming, Copy editor, for their unwavering commitment and invaluable work in ensuring the highest standards of this journal. Finally, I wish to convey my deep thanks to the International Council of Museums (ICOM) and ICOM-Korea for their continued support and collaboration in the publication and ongoing development of the *International Journal of Intangible Heritage*.

Director General  
National Folk Museum of Korea

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