

Congratulatory Remarks

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Congratulatory Remark

Dear distinguished participants, ladies, and gentleman,
On behalf of the Hoi An Center for Cultural Heritage Management and Preservation, I would like to thank the International Information and Networking Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region under the auspices of UNESCO (ICHCAP) for inviting me to deliver congratulatory remarks for the webinar on Maritime Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) with the theme *Maritime Living Heritage: Building Sustainable Livelihood and Ecosystems in the Asia-Pacific Region*.

For the past few years, as we have witnessed from Vietnam, ICHCAP has been exhibiting great efforts in organizing many seminars to promote intellectual exchange and research between communities in the region and all over the world. The expert meeting for maritime ICH is one of these great efforts, and it challenges us to think further about sustainable development as both an objective and a framework for the safeguarding of ICH in coastal communities, in areas where there's abundant marine resources, among people who have a strong connection to the sea, river, and other bodies of water.

In 2019, ICHCAP partnered with Hoi An Center for Cultural Heritage Management and Preservation to conduct a seminar entitled *Maritime Traditional Beliefs and Practices* in Hoi An city, Quang Nam province, Vietnam. Many researchers and experts from Vietnam and all throughout the Asia-Pacific region participated in the event. Through the seminar, a significant quantity and quality of valuable scientific discussions around maritime traditional beliefs, practices, and knowledge systems was brought forth, which significantly contributed to approaches and implementation of maritime ICH safeguarding and promotion programs not only in Vietnam, but also in neighboring countries in the region. In addition, the outcome of this seminar has had solid impact and improved our awareness of maritime ICH research in Hoi An.

This year, ICHCAP and UNESCO Apia Office are co-organizing this important seminar entitled *Maritime Living Heritage: Building Sustainable Livelihoods and Ecosystems in the Asia-Pacific Region*, which evolves around two sessions namely *Traditional Maritime Skills and Knowledge for Inclusive Social and Economic Development* and *Traditional Maritime Skills and Knowledge for Environmental Sustainability and Resilience*. With this new initiative from ICHCAP, a

wonderful opportunity indeed, I hope that researchers and experts will provide new scientific information on traditional maritime skills and knowledge for building sustainable resilience and ecosystems. I also hope that we get to reflect more one role of different stakeholders in raising awareness of marine ecosystems of communities, especially, the safeguarding of the sea and island sovereignty of Vietnam in particular and countries of the region and the world generally towards sustainable development in the future.

I wish the webinar a great success. Thank you.

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