



CIOFF® NEWSLETTER

SPECIAL EDITION

Entre Nous

CIOFF® - UNESCO

2012

CIOFF® - Official Partner of UNESCO

The year 2012 marked an important achievement for CIOFF®, as it has become a non-governmental organization (NGO) in Official Partnership with UNESCO .

At the 42nd CIOFF® World Congress in Paris in November 2012 UNESCO Director-General Irina Bokova addressed the Congress delegates via a specially recorded video message, in which she stated:

“Our two organizations share the same goal: to promote the diversity of cultural expressions and raise their potential for human development.

The UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage will soon celebrate its 10th anniversary. 145 member states have ratified it.

The concept of "intangible heritage" has emerged as a key element of cultural heritage, with the recognition of its value and the need to save it.

Civil society plays a leading role in this effort, and today I wanted to acknowledge the contribution of your organization to accomplish this task.

Your educational network, your workshops and seminars on traditional dance, music, crafts gather annually energies of over 600,000 people - mostly children and young people.

Young people now represent half of the world population and if we want to keep our heritage alive, it is to them that we must pass priority taste for culture, and the desire to develop it.

We guarantee all the dynamism of knowledge, customs and traditions.

Each of us is a link in the great chain of heritage and each of us can contribute to making stronger and more united.

For all these reasons, I assure you of the full support of UNESCO, and I wish you every success for the World Congress.”

CIOFF®
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Commission

**CIOFF® Cultural
Conference in
Paris**

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UNESCO Director-General
Irina Bokova



Irina Bokova, UNESCO Director-General

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CIOFF® ICH ACCREDITATION

During UNESCO meeting in PARIS on June 7, CIOFF® has been officially accredited by the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage as a non - governmental organization to provide advisory services to the Committee.

This is great news for CIOFF®, which, in fact, opens new possibilities for CIOFF® activities in the field of Intangible Cultural Heritage and thus strengthens our cooperation with UNESCO.

For all the CIOFF® Members this means that, as they are part of an international organization, accreditation status automatically transfers to all the CIOFF® National Sections!!!

The new level of the partnership between CIOFF® and UNESCO is also very exciting as it opens new opportunities for National Sections

on the National level, especially for countries where the relationships between CIOFF® National Section and the National Commission of UNESCO were, so far, difficult or non-existent.

The CIOFF® Intangible Cultural Heritage accreditation will also give National Sections new exciting opportunities to work and engage experts in this field .

Following the accreditation, CIOFF® Representative to UNESCO Magdalena Tovornik attended the 7th Session of the Intergovernmental Committee of ICH in Paris in December 2012. During this meeting an NGO Forum of more than 50 NGOs was very active and presented a Resolution on how to give more possibility to NGOs to play an advisory role obtained by this Committee. Magda-



Magdalena Tovornik,
CIOFF® Representative to UNESCO

lena Tovornik also participated in the International NGO Conference in Paris and took part in the elections of a new UNESCO - NGO Liaison Committee, where all UNESCO regions are represented.

UNESCO PARTONAGE OF CIOFF® EVENTS 2012



42nd CIOFF® World Congress and General Assembly and CIOFF® Youth Forum, which took place in Paris between 7th and 17th November 2012, and CIOFF® World Folkloriada in Anseong, South Korea, which was held in October 2012, all received UNESCO High Patronage.

This is a great endorsement and recognition of the CIOFF® work and input in safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage and the work of CIOFF® Youth.

The new CIOFF® status at UNESCO will also give National Sections a possibility of applying for UNESCO high patronage on National level.



CIOFF® CULTURAL CONFERENCE 2012

Safeguarding and Viability of Intangible Cultural Heritage

The CIOFF® Cultural Conference, an integral part of the World Congress, took place November 15 and was dedicated to the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage.



*Cecile Duvelle, UNESCO Chief,
Intangible Cultural Heritage Section*

In her presentation “responsibility & Viability: Point of View of UNESCO”, Cecile Duvelle, UNESCO Chief, Intangible Cultural Heritage Section, underlined the meaning of “Safeguarding” - ‘to ensure the long-term viability of intangible heritage within communities and groups and what it includes:

- Inventories – to identify and document. Identify and define the ICH with the participation of communities, groups and relevant non governmental organizations
- Preservation and protection
- Promotion and recognition
- Enhancement of transmission (formal and informal education)
- Revitalization

Taking actions to reactivate, restore and strengthen ICH practices and expressions that are weakened and likely to disappear.

She stressed that transmission of ICH is the key of safeguarding, allowing ICH to be sustainably maintained by the communities, groups or individuals concerned and providing future generations the

knowledge, skills and practices inherited from past generations.

Cecile Duvelle paid particular attention to the role of communities, groups and individuals in identifying and safeguarding the ICH.

She also specifically talked about the “Viability”, which includes continued transmission of ICH, addressing threats and anticipating risks.

The meaning of Intangible Cultural Heritage covers the practices, representations, expressions and knowledge, skills that communities, groups and, in some cases, individuals recognize as part of their cultural heritage, which is transmitted from generation to generation, constantly recreated by communities and groups in response to their environment, their interaction with nature and their history, providing them with a sense of identity and continuity.

ICH Covers the following domains:

- Oral traditions and expressions including language as a vehicle of the intangible cultural heritage
- Performing arts
- Social practices, rituals and festive events
- Knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe
- Traditional craftsmanship

The objectives of ICH are:

- Safeguard ICH
- Ensure respect for ICH
- Raise awareness
- International cooperation and assistance

To achieve the ICH objectives on National Level it is necessary to:

- Identify and safeguard ICH
- Adopt a general policy
- Involve one or more competent bodies
- Carry out scientific research, education and raising awareness
- Involve communities, groups and individuals.

Cecile Duvelle also stated that the “recognition by UNESCO means CIOFF® is doing meaningful and important work.” She further supported CIOFF®’s mission, saying that educating communities puts a value on Intangible Cultural Heritage.



Anthropologist Chiara Bortolotto’s, Université Libre de Bruxelles, presentation covered the subject “Responsibility and Viability: The Convention in the “Letter” and in the “Spirit”

The case study—“Contributing to the Assertion of Indigenous People’s Cultural Identity—a Latin American Field Prospective” was presented by Diego Gradis, Lawyer, past president of “Traditions for Tomorrow” and Member of the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee.

The second part of the conference also included presentation by Jean Audouze, President of French National Commission for UNESCO covering The French National Commission for UNESCO involvement in the Field of Culture.

Mario Garcia Siani, President of CIOFF® Paraguay and Ramiro Mansutti, Chairman of CIOFF® Youth Coordination Committee and acting Chairman of the CIOFF® Cultural Commission, presented case studies illustrating cooperation between CIOFF® and UNESCO.

Magdalena Tovornik, CIOFF® Representative to UNESCO and Guy Landry, CIOFF® Honorary Member, moderated the discussions following the presentations.

CIOFF® CULTURAL CONFERENCE 2012

CASE STUDY

CIOFF® Youth collaboration with UNESCO



In the frame of the Cultural Conference 2012, held in Paris, the Chairman of the Youth Coordinating Committee made a brief presentation of the results of the World-wide Programme on Traditional Games (WPTG) created and developed by the youth movement since 2007.

The main objective of the WPTG has been the safeguarding of an important intangible heritage: the game. More specifically, the traditional game, understood as the oral knowledge passed on from generation to generation. Globalization is



the revolution of our days. The digital era is definitively installed in the world and, in spite of the wonderful advantages in terms of communication; the global village has also a dark side, 'The onslaught of global mass culture raises the question of whether valuable traditions, practices, and forms of knowledge rooted in diverse societies would survive the next generation.

Traditional games, for instance, have felt the irresistible influx of video games, and Internet has helped to start a process that put the games

aside, at least in the big cities. The WPTG has put emphasis on the idea of safeguard, but not only from a technical point of view that could be the elaboration of written documents with the rules and elements used during the games, but also from a more emotional way, promoting the dialogue between generations and, in the particular case of our organization, a dialogue that put the respect for cultural diversity at the top.

CIOFF® Youth Commissions have been implementing the WPTG in different senses: in rural and urban



areas, with seniors and children, with aboriginal communities, in International and national Folk Festivals, in schools, in universities, organizing workshops and lectures, etc. Even more, since 2009 the YCC prints a magazine called "Playing Together" that is a summary of all these activities and it is printed in English, Spanish and French. During the recent CIOFF® Folkloriada, it was also printed in Korean.

The most remarkable activity done in the frame of the WPTG occurred in the biennium 2008-2009 when CIOFF® Youth presented the project as a UNESCO Participation Programme. The proposal, which was accepted by UNESCO, consisted of the realization of two specific activities in France and Argentina. The French experience consisted of the preparation of a big photograph exhibition that shows traditional games from all over the country and also from some other countries. The exhibition was shown in many CIOFF® events such as the World Congress in



Cuba and International Festivals in France. In Argentina, the Youth Commission undertook a three weeks experiment with aboriginal communities from different sites in the country: Mapuche in Patagonia, Qom in Formosa and Omahuacas in Jujuy. The elaboration of a video with interviews and the preparation of written material are the best demonstration of the success of the experience that also made possible an approach with this communities and the exchange of experiences with enriching results.

UNESCO Document: Museum International 221/222, Intangible Heritage

<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0013/001358/135852s.pdf>

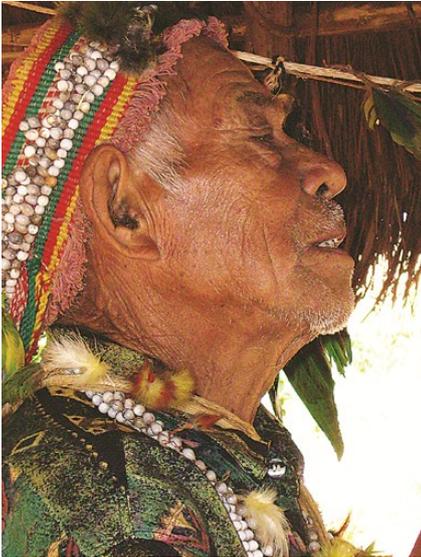
RAMIRO MANSUTTI
Acting Chairman
Cultural Commission



CIOFF® CULTURAL CONFERENCE 2012

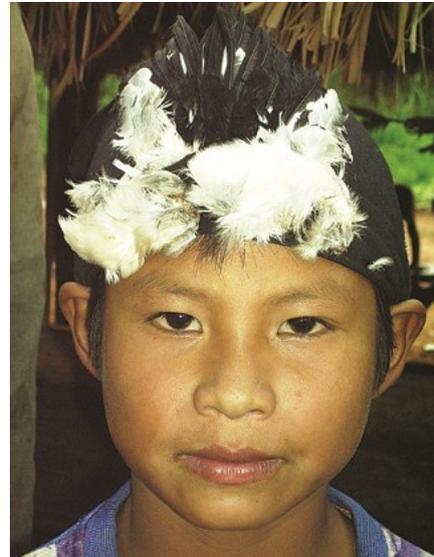
CASE STUDY

The Ava Guarani, their rites, beliefs, customs and dramatic reality



It is fairly important to express our deep gratitude to CIOFF® and to UNESCO for making possible the realization of our work of investigation on memory, rituals and feelings, daily life of the indigenous brothers "Ava Guarani"! The work brought us to the local community called Paso Cadena, in Itakyry district, Alto Paraná Department in the Republic of Paraguay. We have centralized our work in that real community, thanks to its characteristics and the conditions in which inhabitants live in it. All this has been explained very well in the book titled "Ajeápy" and in the six DVDs which contain all essential

information. The people, who have been involved in this mission want to express gratitude for this opportunity, which allow us to show to a very qualified public the great experience that we have shared with Ava Guarani. Ava Guarani is one of the original tribes of Paraguay and a big part of South America. They were free and they moved through the big and rich jungle of a huge territory which includes part of Brazil, Argentina, Bolivia, and Paraguay. They belong to the Linguistic Family of Guarani, together with Mbya, Pa'itavyterã, Aché, Guaraní ñandéva and western Guarani. These last two live in Chaco of Paraguay, the others in the eastern region. The situation of all these people is very similar. It is dramatic. I am here to tell you that our indigenous brothers live in a bad situation. Very bad. They live in inhuman conditions. They are malnourished, sick, almost forgotten. And with the conscience to be marginalized in a land which, long time ago, has been their kingdom, their paradise, their "good land". They lost their jungle in which they could find food and medicines. They had everything in the jungle, including peace and freshness where they could enjoy life. And much more: the jungle was the house of all ancestral spirits and a big stage of its



culture, of their "reko". All this has been taken away and today they feel like caged animals. Big multinational societies took their territories, not only: they destroyed the woods and closed their "properties". All of this forces them to convert themselves into full time workers, low paid and with a grave conscience that they are losing their own culture.

*Mario Garcia Saini,
President CIOFF® Paraguay
Department of Culture ,
Ministry of Itakyry*

10th ANNIVERSARY OF UNESCO ICH CONVENTION

Ten years after the adoption of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage by the General Conference of UNESCO, the international community is celebrating its 10th anniversary in 2013. A significant number of activities are planned by States Parties and various international and local stakeholders involved in the safeguarding of intan-

gible cultural heritage.

More information about all the events and activities around the World can be found on :
<http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich>



30 States Parties in 2006 (Convention enters into force)
145 States Parties today

CIOFF® PRESENTATION NIGHT AT UNESCO HEADQUARTERS



Udomsak Sakmunwong, CIOFF® President and Philippe Beaussant, CIOFF® Secretary General

The 42nd CIOFF® World Congress and General Assembly culminated in a CIOFF® Presentation Night at the UNESCO Theatre on 17th November 2012, attended by 1200 people, including Permanent Representatives of numerous countries to UNESCO.

The CIOFF® President, Udomsak Sakmunwong (Thailand), made a short presentation of CIOFF®, which was followed with a concert by the newly established CIOFF® France Music and Dance Ensemble, presented by CIOFF® France President Anne Marie Cioffi .



Anne Marie Cioffi, CIOFF® France President



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