
Editors' Remarks

Byung-hoon Jeong
Editor-in-Chief

Since being selected as a new member city of UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN) in October of 2019, the city of Jinju has been planning to publish the *International Journal of Crafts and Folk Arts*. This journal aims to achieve cultural diversity and sustainable urban development by sharing knowledge, experience, and practices of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network member cities in the field of crafts and folk art.

We organized an editorial committee for the journal with experts from related academic societies, research institutes, the Korea-UCCN Advisory Council, and from the UCCN cities. I express my gratitude to many local and overseas scholars and activists for their participation as members of the Editorial Board. We have been communicating with the focal points of creative cities in our network, and posted "Call for Papers" on UCCN website. Many creative cities thankfully responded to our proposal, seven of which submitted short papers about their culture heritages and activities. Four scholars participated in the discussion of the topic "Arts and Cultural Activities under the Pandemic: Problems and How to Solve Them." I really thank these scholars for their participation and submitting their responses to many important questions that we ask in this discussion.

We also have five academic papers in this issue. Some papers are revised work from the presentations at the International Conference on Creative City which was annually held in Jinju City from 2017 to 2019. I especially thank Professor Woralun Boonyasurat, Director of Social Research Institute (SRI) at Chiang Mai University, for participating in this journal in various ways, by serving as a member of the Editorial Board, submitting an academic paper as well as a short article, and also being a discussant.

I strongly believe this journal will contribute to strengthening international cooperation between cities and to facilitating studies, research and evaluations on the experience of the creative cities. I also hope that this journal ultimately contributes to implementing the core objectives of the UCCN Mission Statement at both national and international levels.

The journal will continue to include academic papers that cover various topics, such as creative transmission of intangible heritages in crafts and folk arts, and

ways to promote creative industries for sustainable urban development. It will also offer scholarly debates on current and future issues, interviews, book reviews, and presentation of new practices and events in member cities in the crafts and folk art sector. We invite creative cities to participate in this journal by submitting academic papers, short articles, reviews, and news related to crafts and folk arts.

Finally, I would like to extend my gratitude to Ms. Ernesto Ottone R., Assistant Director-General for Culture of UNESCO, and Kwangho Kim, Secretary-General of Korean National Commission for UNESCO, for their congratulatory statements, Professor Masayuki Sasaki for his cultural criticism as a review article, and Kyoo-il Jo, Mayor of Jinju City, for his financial and moral support for this journal.

Congratulatory Message

Kyoo-il Jo
Mayor of Jinju City

I am very pleased to publish the International Journal of Crafts and Folk Arts and I sincerely congratulate the publication of its first issue, which will contribute to promoting international cultural exchanges as we share the knowledge and experiences among the UNESCO Creative Cities.

In addition, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the national and international editors of the journal, all the creative city officials who participated in the event, and Dr. Byung Hoon Jeong, the Chairman of the UNESCO Creative City Promotion Committee, for all of their support and efforts.

Jinju City has been designated as a UNESCO Creative City of Crafts and Folk Art in 2019. Since the ancient times, Jinju has been a city with outstanding creative assets, particularly in education as well as international exchanges of cultural heritage. Crafts and folk arts have always shaped the city's identity, and Jinju is home to various folk arts such as Jinju Geommu and Jinju Ogwangdae, traditional crafts such as wood furniture making, ornamental knife making and metal craft, and traditional festivals such as Jinju Namgang Yudeung Festival, Gaecheon Art Festival, and Jinju Nongae Festival.

Building on such distinguished history, we now aim to promote the creativity and cultural industry of the city as well as raise the value and awareness of traditional knowledge, as we establish and implement action plans at the international level.

Therefore, I look forward that this first issue will serve as a valuable first step in the development and prosperity of the cultural arts, by drawing specific feasible measures based on the shared cultural experiences and knowledge among the creative cities. Also, I hope that this issue will be widely read by many people to enrich the discourse and practice of sustainable urban development.

Once again, congratulations on the publication of the journal and I would like to send my gratitude to all of you for your continuous interest and support.

Thank you.

Congratulatory Note

Ernesto Ottone R.
Assistant Director-General for Culture of UNESCO

Crafts and folk art are all around us. They are an essential component of culture and creativity, connecting us with the past, enriching our daily lives, and supporting the sustainable development of communities. Not only do crafts and folk art embody invaluable know-how, skills and living heritage, they also enable young people and learners of all ages to think creatively by bringing together their minds, hands and hearts.

The UNESCO Creative Cities Network brings together 246 cities dedicated to leveraging the potential of culture and creativity to support sustainable urban development process at the city level. Amongst them, the Network's 49 Creative Cities of Crafts and Folk Art utilize the unique potential of crafts and folk art to encourage and catalyse the preservation, transmission and development of culture, which is essential for promoting sustainable and resilient cities and societies.

UNESCO commends the commitment of the city of Jinju, a UNESCO Creative City of Crafts and Folk Art, for initiating this annual journal that will support cities in celebrating, protecting and reinventing crafts and folk art. I have no doubt that it will further support the international community in conserving crafts and folk art—an essential component and contributor to sustainable urban development.

Congratulatory Statement

Kwang-ho Kim

Secretary-General of Korean National Commission for UNESCO

I would like to offer my warm congratulations to the city of Jinju on the publication of its new global journal, the International Journal of Crafts and Folk Arts.

The international community is currently striving to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the current global development agenda that seeks to end poverty and other deprivations through improvements to health and education, the reduction of inequality, and the promotion of sustainable economic growth. Culture and creativity have a huge part to play in achieving the SDGs, in particular SDG 11, to “make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.”

The UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN) is a network for cities that have recognized creativity as a strategic factor in the sustainable development of safe, resilient urban environments, and offers a highly effective way for such cities to learn from each other how to leverage their culture and creativity.

The UCCN was launched in 2004 and now has 246 member cities in 85 UNESCO member states. Jinju joined the network in 2019, becoming one of 49 members in the craft and folk art field, and is now launching this new global journal for the craft and folk art creative field.

The International Journal of Crafts and Folk Arts will be a valuable new platform for sharing best practices in the UCCN, and offers a vital connection among Creative Cities particularly in this difficult time of COVID-19, when barriers have been raised in so many places.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Jinju for the launching of this new journal and I look forward to seeing it become the go-to magazine for the craft and folk art field and the UCCN.