

## INTRODUCTION

Vietnam is a country with 54 ethnic groups, each of whom has a treasure trove of heritage both tangible and intangible, abundant in forms and genres, diverse in values, rich in untapped potential. The existing policy on international integration from the 90s of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Vietnam has developed various national dossiers on cultural heritage for submission to UNESCO to be registered in the list of World Heritage and Heritage of Humanity, in accordance with the Convention for the Preservation of World Natural and Cultural Heritage, adopted by the UNESCO General Assembly in November 1972, as well as the Convention for the Preservation of Intangible Cultural Heritage adopted by the same Assembly in November 2003.

In the field of intangible cultural heritage, at the time of writing, Vietnam has had 13 intangible cultural heritages honored by UNESCO as intangible cultural heritages representative of humanity and 2 intangible cultural heritages deemed in need of urgent preservation.

As part of my work responsibilities, since 2003, I and colleagues at VICAS have developed built national dossiers to submit to UNESCO for submission to UNESCO to be registered as intangible cultural heritage representative of humanity. Among them are: *The Space of Gong in the Central Highland of Vietnam*; *Quan ho Bac Ninh Folk Songs*; *Giong Festival of Phu Dong and Soc Temples*; *Worship of Hung Kings in Phu Tho*; *Vi and Giam folk songs of Nghe Tinh*; *Practices related to the Viet beliefs in the Mother Goddesses of the Three Realms*; *The Tug of War (as a multinational heritage)*.

Furthermore, I was entrusted by the Ministry of Culture and Information, formerly the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Sports, to lead research on the collection and preservation of the intangible cultural heritage of 54 ethnic groups in Vietnam, in the national target program on culture.

Therefore, over the past years, I have presented a fair number of essays on the intangible cultural heritage of different ethnic groups in

Vietnam at many international scientific conferences, as well as published in various specialized academic journals in Vietnam and overseas.

In review of released scientific works, I publish the book entitled A Study on Vietnamese Intangible Cultural Heritage with 17 selected projects, concentrating on the 3 following issues:

- Intangible cultural heritage of ethnic groups, such as: Gong culture in the Central Highlands, Quan ho Bac Ninh Folk Songs, Giong Festival of Phu Dong and Soc Temples, Chinese cuisine arts in the South, the role of Community in Water worship practices and eco-tourism, etc.
- Marine cultural heritage in Vietnam
- The preservation and promotion of intangible cultural heritage in Vietnam

Throughout the research process, I fortunately received continuous encouragement from Vietnamese social scientists in the Vietnamese National Cultural Heritage Council, whose chairman is Professor, Doctor of Science, Luu Tran Tieu, scientists-colleagues at the Institute of Culture & Arts (Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism), Associate Professor Nguyen Ngoc Tho (National University at Ho Chi Minh City), as well as international social scientists such as Professor, Dr. Tokumaru (Japan), Associate Professor Satomi (Japan), Professor, Dr. Park Yeon Kwan (South Korea), Professor Zheng Xiao Yun (China), Professor, Dr. Hy Van Luong (Canada), Associate Professor Lauren Meeker (USA)... In this joyous occasion of publication, I hereby express my deepest gratitude.

Research on the intangible cultural heritage of Vietnamese ethnic groups is a major scientific field, and my own projects are but a drop in this ocean, the personal musings of an individual that certainly welcomes readers' feedback, commentary, and advice.

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