

**TOUR REPORT OF DR. RAMESH C. GAUR, HOD(KN) TO REPUBLIC OF SOUTH KOREA FROM 28<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER TO 2<sup>ND</sup> OCTOBER, 2018 TO ATTEND THE SECOND EXPERT CONSULTATION MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR DOCUMENTARY HERITAGE (ICDH) OF UNESCO AT CHEONGJU CITY, SOUTH KOREA**

As approved by the Competent Authority, IGNCA, I visited the Republic of South Korea from 28<sup>th</sup> September to 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 2018 to attend the Second Expert Consultation Meeting of the International Centre for Documentary Heritage (ICDH) of UNESCO. I was invited to participate in the meeting as one of the Experts by the South Korean National Commission for UNESCO. All the expenses related to my travel, boarding, lodging, etc., in respect of this tour, were borne by the Organizers and hence there was no financial implication on the part of IGNCA.

I arrived in the Republic of South Korea on 28<sup>th</sup> September, 2018. On the 29<sup>th</sup> September, 2018, I attended the Second Expert Consultation Meeting of the International Centre for Documentary Heritage (ICDH) of UNESCO. This was organized at the Cheongju City Arts Centre. The ICDH is an UNESCO category II institutions being set up at Cheongju City, South Korea. During the meeting, various issues such as aims and objectives of the Centre, mission and vision, scope, activities, governance and other related issues were discussed and finalized. An action plan to start ICDH in 2019 was also discussed. As a Member of the Committee, I provided various suggestions during the discussions. The meeting of the Expert Group further continued on September 30, 2018. In the second half of 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2018, the members of the Committee visited an old Buddhist Temple.

On the 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2018, the Members of the Committee visited earlier Printing Museum in Cheongju City. After this visit, the Members viewed the Jikji Festival organized on the occasion of Jikji Award Ceremony. The Jikji Award is given to an institute working for the preservation and conservation of cultural heritage. Jikji Award 2018 was given to an Organization in Male for preservation of manuscripts. The Award Ceremony was organized by the Mayor of the Cheongju City, which was attended by eminent personalities from UNESCO, Government of South Korea, etc. Later, a dinner was hosted by the Mayor of the Cheongju City.

Outcome :

- (i) International Centre for Documentary Heritage (ICDH) is one of its kind and will also preserve documents submitted to UNESCO Memory of World International Register and Regional Register. India is also one of the participating countries into it.
- (ii) With vast cultural heritage in India, this Centre can help in preservation of, and access to, Indian Cultural Heritage.
- (iii) IGNCA can organize joint training and awareness programmes and other activities in collaboration with ICDH.
- (iv) Various issues related to UNESCO Memory of World programme were also discussed during the meeting, which will help in planning National Committee and National Register in India.

Overall, my participation in the meeting was extremely beneficial in the light of the activities in the Kala Nidhi division, especially with the proposed implementation of the UNESCO Memory of World Programme in India at IGNCA.

( Ramesh C. Gaur )

Head of Division(Kala Nidhi)