

# **Asia-Pacific Council for International Intangible Cultural Heritage (APCIICH)**

## **2024 Communication on Engagement (COE)**

Submission to the UN Global Compact

### 1. Statement of Continued Support by the Chairman

As the Chairman of the Asia-Pacific Council for International Intangible Cultural Heritage (APCIICH), I, John Jackson, reiterate our organization's steadfast commitment to the United Nations Global Compact and its Ten Principles. Over the past two years, we have actively integrated these principles into our organizational practices, particularly focusing on preserving intangible cultural heritage while promoting sustainable and ethical development. In 2024, we aim to strengthen our contribution to global cultural diplomacy, human rights, and environmental sustainability through expanded partnerships and strategic initiatives.

### 2. Description of Actions Taken to Implement the Global Compact Principles

#### - Human Rights (Principles 1 and 2):

APCIICH has been instrumental in raising awareness about cultural rights and safeguarding the rights of indigenous communities in the Asia-Pacific region. Through workshops, digital storytelling, and community engagements, we ensure that marginalized voices are heard, and their intangible heritage is preserved. This aligns with our goal of protecting the cultural expressions of vulnerable groups and ensuring equal access to cultural resources.

#### - Labor Standards (Principles 3, 4, 5, and 6):

Our engagement with cultural artisans and practitioners strictly adheres to fair labor practices. APCIICH ensures that all partners and employees

receive fair wages, work under safe conditions, and are free from any form of forced or child labor. We promote gender equality in all cultural programs, ensuring that women have equal opportunities in leadership roles and decision-making processes related to cultural heritage preservation.

- Environmental Responsibility (Principles 7, 8, and 9):

APCIICH is committed to the environmental sustainability of the cultural heritage sector. In 2023, we launched a “Green Cultural Heritage” initiative that integrates eco-friendly practices into cultural preservation efforts. We advocate for using sustainable materials, reducing carbon footprints in heritage-related activities, and promoting awareness about the environmental impact of cultural practices. Our collaborations with environmental organizations further emphasize this commitment.

- Anti-Corruption (Principle 10):

Transparency is at the core of our operations. We have implemented strict anti-corruption policies, ensuring that all financial transactions, partnerships, and sponsorships are conducted with full accountability. By maintaining ethical standards, we foster trust among stakeholders and safeguard the integrity of our mission.

### 3. Measurement of Outcomes

- Human Rights:

Over the past two years, APCIICH has successfully organized over 50 cultural events promoting the rights of indigenous communities and has impacted more than 10,000 participants globally.

- Labor Standards:

We have conducted regular audits to ensure compliance with fair labor practices in all projects. These efforts have resulted in a 100% adherence to labor rights guidelines across all activities.

- Environmental Impact:

Our "Green Cultural Heritage" initiative has led to a 20% reduction in waste production during cultural events and activities. Additionally, we have partnered with 10 environmental organizations to raise awareness about sustainable cultural heritage.

- Anti-Corruption:

APCIICH has implemented a comprehensive anti-corruption training program for all staff and partners. Our financial audits in 2023 showed no instances of malpractice, reflecting our robust governance structure.

#### 4. Future Plans and Strategic Commitments for 2024-2026

In the upcoming years, APCIICH is committed to scaling our impact across the Asia-Pacific region through the following initiatives:

- Expanding partnerships with global and local stakeholders to support sustainable cultural heritage projects.
- Continuing our focus on human rights and the preservation of intangible cultural heritage, with particular emphasis on vulnerable and indigenous groups.
- Strengthening our "Green Cultural Heritage" initiative by implementing more sustainable practices and further reducing the environmental impact of our activities.
- Enhancing our governance and transparency efforts by integrating more advanced anti-corruption measures and maintaining full compliance with the UN Global Compact's principles.

#### 5. Conclusion

APCIICH remains dedicated to the values and principles of the United Nations Global Compact. Through our actions, we aim to contribute meaningfully to sustainable development, while protecting and promoting the rich cultural heritage of the Asia-Pacific region. We look

forward to deepening our engagement with the UN Global Compact and its network to continue advancing global goals for human rights, labor, environment, and anti-corruption.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Jackson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

John Jackson

Chairman

Asia-Pacific Council for International Intangible Cultural Heritage (APCIICH)