

KOREAN

NATIONAL

COMMISSION
FOR

UNESCO

UNITED
NATIONS
EDUCATIONAL,
SCIENTIFIC AND
CULTURAL
ORGANIZATION

UNESCO

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, more commonly known as UNESCO, is a specialized agency of the UN founded in 1945. It aims to foster peace by promoting international cooperation in education, the sciences, culture, and communication & information. UNESCO serves as a laboratory of ideas for innovation and policy advice, sets international norms and standards, and helps Member States strengthen intellectual cooperation and knowledge sharing. As of July 2021, the Organization comprises 193 Members and 11 Associate Members. Uniquely among the UN specialized agencies, UNESCO has a network of National Commissions. These are national bodies in each Member State that function as coordinators between UNESCO and the government in the Member State, helping to promote UNESCO's ideals and programmes on the ground.

Foundation	16 November 1945 (the date that the UNESCO Constitution was signed)
Location	Paris, France
Functions	Serving as a laboratory of ideas and generating innovative proposals and policy advice in its fields of competence Developing and reinforcing the global agenda in its fields of competence through policy analysis, monitoring and benchmarking Setting norms and standards in its fields of competence and supporting and monitoring their implementation Strengthening international and regional cooperation in its fields of competence, and fostering alliances, intellectual cooperation, knowledge sharing, and operational partnerships Providing advice for policy development and implementation, and developing institutional and human capacities
Member States	193 Members and 11 Associate Members



KOREAN NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR UNESCO

The Republic of Korea joined UNESCO in 1950, just 11 days before the start of the Korean War. The Korean National Commission for UNESCO (KNCU) was established nearly four years later, on January 30, 1954, shortly after the war. Despite the turbulence of the postwar period, South Korea saw the value of cultivating international exchanges and cooperation to fuel its reconstruction and development, and in 1963, its National Assembly passed the “Act on UNESCO Activities” to give a national legal basis to KNCU’s work. For decades as South Korea developed, KNCU served as the conduit for much of the international aid and knowledge that flowed into the country in the fields of education, science, and culture. KNCU also incubated a number of key public institutions, such as today’s Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), that later became powerful tools to help other economies grow, as South Korea moved from being a recipient of aid to being a donor country. Today, KNCU acts as a focal point for many UNESCO-related activities in South Korea.

Headed by the Minister of Education, and made up of a 60-member General Assembly supported by a Secretariat, KNCU undertakes a wide range of activities in each of UNESCO’s fields of competence. It is one of the largest National Commissions for UNESCO in the world and, in addition to its work within South Korea, takes a leading role in driving regional and global cooperation among National Commissions, as well as other members of the UNESCO family.

Foundation	30 January 1954
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Location	Seoul, Republic of Korea
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Legal Basis	UNESCO Constitution (Art. 7) and South Korea’s Act on UNESCO Activities
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Functions and Roles	<p>Ensuring that South Korean government departments, local authorities, other relevant organizations, and individuals participate actively in UNESCO activities.</p> <hr/> <p>Researching and reviewing policies and international agreements relating to UNESCO and any other matters referred to KNCU by the South Korean Government, and providing advice to the South Korean Government on such matters.</p> <hr/> <p>Considering and reviewing proposals to be submitted and delegations to be sent to UNESCO’s General Conference, and providing proposals and advice to the South Korean Government on such matters.</p> <hr/> <p>Examining resolutions decided at UNESCO’s General Conference and other international meetings and inviting the responsible government departments to develop implementation plans in the national context.</p> <hr/> <p>Cooperating with other organizations and institutions to implement UNESCO-related projects and activities.</p>
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EDUCATION

KNCU is the focal point for implementation of the global Education 2030 agenda (Sustainable Development Goal 4) in South Korea, and has established the Education 2030 Committee to coordinate efforts across the country. The Committee promotes national implementation of SDG 4 by supporting research and providing platforms to give a diverse range of stakeholders the opportunity to share their knowledge and opinions. KNCU also participates in UNESCO's efforts to promote Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) through its operation of the Korean National Committee on ESD. At the field level, we oversee the domestic network of schools that are part of UNESCO's Associated Schools Project (ASPnet schools), which aim to put UNESCO's ideals into practice by incorporating them into their curricula and extracurricular activities. KNCU also encourages cities across South Korea to join UNESCO's Global Network of Learning Cities (GNLC), where they can build global partnerships to advance the concept of lifelong learning.

SCIENCES

To encourage nature conservation and sustainable use of natural resources, KNCU works with local authorities and other members of its networks to promote activities for UNESCO's natural science programmes, such as the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme, the Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme (IHP), the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), and the International Geoscience and Geoparks Programme (IGGP). A representative example of this work is our support and promotion of the East Asian Biosphere Reserve Network (EABRN). We support UNESCO's work on bioethics and ethics on science and technology by translating key documents into Korean and ensuring the participation of Korean experts in these activities. We are also focusing currently on the emerging issues of ethics of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and open science. Finally, in recognition of the geopolitical reality of the Korean Peninsula, we are working to foster the concept of Global Citizenship as an inclusive discourse that can benefit South Korean society, which is rapidly changing into a multicultural society, even as it remains divided from North Korea.

3rd SDG4 - Education 2030 Forum (2019)



Capacity Building Workshop for Managers of Internationally Designated Areas (2019)





2018 UNESCO Memory of the World Training Workshop for the Asia & Pacific Region



2019 International Conference on Media and Information Literacy

CULTURE

KNCU recognizes that heritage is about more than just preservation - it is also about how we interpret, make use of, and develop heritage respectfully and appropriately for the sustainable benefit of all, in the present and the future. International conferences on World Heritage interpretation, training workshops to encourage participation by underrepresented countries in the Memory of the World Programme for documentary heritage, and the maintenance of a public database in Korean on UNESCO designations are some of the ways we work to promote greater understanding of heritage, from a multitude of perspectives. We also work to increase awareness and discussion on cultural diversity in the Korean context, conducting research and publication activities, and organizing conferences on the 2005 Convention for the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions. In addition, we coordinate the domestic implementation of UNESCO's various heritage conventions and support the Creative Cities Network in South Korea, to further UNESCO's aim of using culture creatively to build better, more sustainable societies.

COMMUNICATION & INFORMATION

Information & Communication Technology (ICT) has led to unprecedented developments for humanity, but has also brought serious challenges for the world to tackle. KNCU aligns with UNESCO in its focus on the importance of Media & Information Literacy (MIL) to address issues such as disinformation, hate speech, and fake news. Together with UNESCO, KNCU co-hosted the 2020 Global MIL Week Feature Conference and Youth Agenda Forum to explore ways to fight the current "disinfodemic." We plan to continue such efforts through field research, dissemination of UNESCO publications, and other domestic projects in cooperation with related government ministries and institutions. The Republic of Korea is also a member of the Intergovernmental Council of the Information for All Programme (IFAP), and KNCU actively follows up on the council's activities and ensures that its goals are advanced in Korean society.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

As a National Commission for UNESCO, KNCU maintains a close partnership with not only UNESCO itself but also other National Commissions around the world. As the policy consultant in the Republic of Korea's official delegation to the governing bodies of UNESCO, KNCU reviews and analyzes the agenda items for the meetings of UNESCO's main governing bodies, the General Conference and the Executive Board, and advises the South Korean government on policy. We also attend the Interregional, Regional and Subregional Meetings of National Commissions for UNESCO, and work on various initiatives with National Commissions from around the world, including joint projects and research in the fields of competence of UNESCO

BRIDGE PROGRAMME

The Bridge Programme, begun in 2010, is a major development cooperation project launched by KNCU to provide lifelong-learning opportunities for educationally marginalized communities in developing countries, aiming to empower them to become self-sufficient and thus contribute to the achievement of SDG 4. In Phase I of the programme (2010-2020), we provided support for the building of Community Learning Centers in local communities in the Sub-Saharan African region and the Southern Asian region, to create safe spaces for continuing education, including literacy education, vocational education, and teacher training. Based on the achievements and experiences of Phase I, Phase II of the programme was launched in 2020, and comprises 5-year advanced programmes in four countries: Bhutan, Laos, Timor-Leste and Malawi. We are also in the process of launching and implementing an additional programme, the Bridge Sejong Programme, to support the winners of the UNESCO King Sejong Literacy Prize to further develop their notable work in literacy education from 2021.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Building peace requires team effort. This is why KNCU engages in active public relations campaigns on and offline to publicize UNESCO activities and sow the seeds of team spirit for advancing UNESCO's objectives within South Korea. Every month, we publish a monthly magazine titled "UNESCO News," featuring a rich variety of stories about people and events related to UNESCO. We publish Korean versions of UNESCO documents, and also publish our own research on UNESCO issues. In addition to the conventional channels of media representation, we work hard to communicate with the public on social media, including on Instagram, Twitter, Facebook, and YouTube.

Follow us on Twitter for more updates



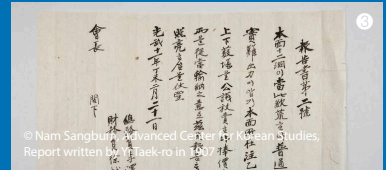
LIST OF KOREAN HERITAGE AND SITES DESIGNATED BY UNESCO



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World Heritage

- Haeinsa Temple Janggyeong Panjeon, the Depositories for the Tripitaka Koreana Woodblocks (1995)
- Jongmyo Shrine (1995)
- Seokguram Grotto and Bulguksa Temple (1995)
- Changdeokgung Palace Complex (1997)
- Hwaseong Fortress (1997)
- Gochang, Hwasun and Ganghwa Dolmen Sites (2000)
- Gyeongju Historic Areas (2000)
- Jeju Volcanic Island and Lava Tubes (2007)
- Royal Tombs of the Joseon Dynasty (2009)
- Historic Villages of Korea: Hahoe and Yangdong (2010)
- Namhansanseong (2014)
- Baekje Historic Areas (2015)
- Sansa, Buddhist Mountain Monasteries in Korea (2018)
- Seowon, Korean Neo-Confucian Academies (2019)
- Getbol, Korean Tidal Flat (2021) ❶

Intangible Cultural Heritage

- Royal Ancestral Ritual in the Jongmyo Shrine and its Music (2001)
- Pansori Epic Chant (2003)
- Gangneung Danoje Festival (2005)
- Yeongsanjae (2009)
- Namsadang Nori (2009)
- Jeju Chilmeoridang Yeongdeunggut (2009)
- Ganggangsullae (2009)
- Cheoyongmu (2009)
- Gagok, Lyric Song Cycles Accompanied by an Orchestra (2010)
- Daemokjang, Traditional Wooden Architecture (2010)
- Falconry, a Living Human Heritage (2010)
- Weaving of Mosi (Fine Ramie) in the Hansan Region (2011)
- Taekkyeon, a Traditional Korean Martial Art (2011)
- Jultagi, Tightrope Walking (2011)
- Arirang, Lyrical Folk Song in the Republic of Korea (2012)
- Kimjang, Making and Sharing Kimchi in the Republic of Korea (2013)
- Nongak, Community Band Music, Dance and Rituals in the Republic of Korea (2014)
- Tugging Rituals and Games (2015)
- Culture of Jeju Haenyeo (Women Divers) (2016)
- Traditional Korean Wrestling (Ssirum/Ssireum) (2018)
- Yeondeunghoe, Lantern Lighting Festival in the Republic of Korea (2020) ❷

Memory of the World

- The Hummin Chongum Manuscript (1997)
- The Annals of the Choson Dynasty (1997)
- Seungjeongwon Ilgi, the Diaries of the Royal Secretariat (2001)
- Baegwon hwasang chorok buljo jikji simche yojeol (vol.II), the second volume of "Anthology of Great Buddhist Priests' Zen Teachings" (2001)
- Uigwe: The Royal Protocols of the Joseon Dynasty (2007)
- Printing woodblocks of the Tripitaka Koreana and miscellaneous Buddhist scriptures (2007)
- Donguibogam: Principles and Practice of Eastern Medicine (2009)
- Ilseongnok: Records of Daily Reflections (2011)
- Human Rights Documentary Heritage 1980 Archives for the May 18th Democratic Uprising against Military Regime, in Gwangju, Republic of Korea (2011)
- Nanjung Ilgi: War Diary of Admiral Yi Sun-sin (2013)
- Archives of Saemaul Undong (New Community Movement) (2013)
- Confucian Printing Woodblocks (2015)
- The Archives of the KBS Special Live Broadcast "Finding Dispersed Families" (2015)
- Royal Seal and Investiture Book Collection of the Joseon Dynasty (2017)
- Documents on Joseon Tongsinsa/Chosen Tsushinshi: The History of Peace Building and Cultural Exchanges between Korea and Japan from the 17th to 19th Century (2017)
- Archives of the National Debt Redemption Movement (2017) ❸

Biosphere Reserves

- Mount Sorak (1982)
- Jeju Island (2002)
- Shinan Dadohae (2009)
- Gwangneung Forest (2010)
- Gochang (2013)
- Suncheon (2018)
- Gangwon Eco Peace (2019) ❹
- Yeoncheon Imjin River (2019)

Global Geoparks

- Jeju Island (2010)
- Cheongsong (2017)
- Mudeungsan (2018)
- Hantangang River (2020) ❺

Creative Cities Network

- Icheon (2010, Crafts & Folk Art)
- Seoul (2010, Design)
- Jeonju (2012, Gastronomy)
- Busan (2014, Film)
- Gwangju (2014, Media Arts)
- Tongyeong (2015, Music)
- Bucheon (2017, Literature)
- Daegu (2017, Music)
- Jinju (2019, Crafts & Folk Art)
- Wonju (2019, Literature)



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© Hantangang River Geopark



United Nations
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Cultural Organization



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