

20th Session of the Intergovernmental Committee
For the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage
Speech by H.E. Mr KANO Takehiro (Japan)

Mr. Chair,

On behalf of the Government of Japan and all concerned local communities, I am honoured to express my sincerest gratitude for the inscription, on an extended basis as a national extension of “Washi, craftsmanship of traditional Japanese hand-made paper”, on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

The technique of making Echizen Torinoko Ganpi paper, the newly added element to the list, is a traditional craft that has been transmitted through generations in Echizen City, Fukui Prefecture, in northern part of Central Japan. Smooth and glossy, it embodies the artisan’s skills and requires highly sophisticated techniques. This tradition has been preserved thanks to the tireless efforts of the local community, including voluntary training through workshops conducted by the artisans, as well as collaborative initiatives to address various challenges such as securing raw materials.

I would also like to take this opportunity to pay my deepest respects to the artisans and their community in Echizen city, who have devoted themselves to carrying on this tradition.

We also appreciate the Evaluation Body’s recognition of our proposal for this extension, acknowledging its ethical and transparent approach that

truly reflects the spirit of the Convention.

This inscription will serve as an opportunity to further highlight the efforts to transmit this element to future generations, to raise greater interests in it, and to promote the safeguarding and transmission of Intangible Cultural Heritage more broadly throughout Japan.

Thank you very much.