

the conservation field is one of them. In addition, the private sector and individual conservators are reluctant to talk about the problems of their work to a government body in case their opinion becomes an official comment. Another barrier is the authoritarian or passive attitude of the government and private sector towards initiating and implementing new ideas and policies. Such attitudes have developed during the last 60 years of conservation history in Korea.

In order for NRICH to tackle the problems, it is necessary to establish an efficient communication channel to share common goals and outcomes between government and the private sector based on the recognition of equal responsibility and involvement in the project. The style of seminars and discussion meetings should be carefully designed in terms of audience groups at different sessions, selecting a working methodology of discussion (open discussion or subject-focused discussion), etc. In addition it will be more constructive to have a series of talks and meetings rather than one single meeting. The series of meetings for one group needs to include a three-step process:

1. an informative session to provide overall information on the code of ethics and its positive aspects;
2. a discussion session to exchange ideas and current problems in conservation practice;
3. an education session to encourage the application of the code of ethics as a self-regulated tool for rational decision-making.

Establishing ethical guidelines for rational decision-making is an emerging and shared responsibility, but also a challenging task in Korea. Asian countries could share their similar needs in order to establish principles which can be applied to their culturally distinctive social practices. Although they have been exposed to international principles and guidelines, it is necessary for them to establish culturally- and locally-accepted principles. Establishing local principles requires a functioning government-private partnership and their way of working together should be carefully designed, and based on an understanding of the social and historical contexts of their society.

Note

1. Ethical guidelines adopted by the American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works (AIC) and European Confederation of Conservator-Restorers' Organizations (ECCO) are such examples.