The Korean National Commission for UNESCO (KNCU) has launched this year’s Increasing Capacities of National Commissions (ICoN) Programme and Website Development Project, with support from the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Korea. This year KNCU is implementing Joint Projects with two National Commissions in the Asia-Pacific region through the ICoN Programme, and is collaborating with four National Commissions in the Central American and Caribbean regions for the Website Development Project.

**Increasing Capacities of National Commissions Programme**

KNCU has carried out the ICoN Programme since 2011 with the aim of supporting fellow National Commissions in the Asia-Pacific region to enhance their human, operational and networking capacities by helping them implement much needed projects of their choice. This year KNCU is partnering with the Bhutan and the Cook Islands National Commissions to implement Joint Projects.

A nominated participant from each partnering National Commission participated in a Study Visit in Korea from 9-20 March. During their stay, the project coordinators experienced the daily workings of KNCU and learned about its operations, while also developing their Joint Projects. The National Commissions will be implementing these projects in their respective countries until the end of November. During this time, KNCU will provide technical and financial support, allowing the participating National Commissions to successfully carry out the projects.

Bhutan’s Joint Project is titled “Global Citizenship Education for International Understanding for a Peaceful and Sustainable World: National Capacity Building Workshop for Educators in the Field.”, and the Cook Islands’ Joint Project is titled “Establishment of a Living Human Treasures System for the Cook Islands”.

(Tupuna Rakanui of the Cook Islands National Commission speaks during the Study Visit in Seoul, Korea in March.)