

The Undertakings of the National Institutes for Cultural Heritage include:

1 Preservation and Transmission of Tangible Cultural Properties, and Utilization of Cultural Properties to Disseminate Japan's History and Traditional Culture Nationally and Internationally

(1) Collection and Preservation of Tangible Cultural Properties, and Transmission of Tangible Cultural Properties to Future Generations

As core institutions involved in the preservation and transmission of history and traditional culture, each museum collects objects according to its own individual collection policy to ensure that the accumulation of objects is systematically and historically balanced.

We also work closely with the Agency for Cultural Affairs to actively promote donations and long-term loans from private owners, utilizing the System of Enrolled Art Objects, for example, or improving the inheritance tax system to make donation of objects easier.

Japan's cultural properties are the precious assets of the Japanese people. In order to pass on this heritage to future generations, we implement thorough management of items in the collections, and make efforts to improve the environments for these items while working systematically to conserve them, with those requiring urgent treatment given priority. This work is carried out through the coordinated efforts of NICH's conservators and professionals of conservation science as well as specialists (both internal and external) in the fields of conservation science and restoration technology, using both traditional techniques and modern scientific methods. Conservation studios and other facilities also consider the need to protect cultural properties from natural disasters, and are working with the government to make further preparations.

■ Acquisition

We continually strive to collect cultural properties through purchases and donations with the aim of: (1) accumulating collections that are both systematically and historically balanced, and (2) preventing the dispersion of private collections and the export of tangible cultural properties from Japan.

Furthermore, the four museums each accept long-term loans from temples, shrines, and private collectors in order to further enhance their own distinctive regular exhibitions.

Number of Works in the Museum Collections

(Entries)

Total			Tokyo National Museum			Kyoto National Museum			Nara National Museum			Kyushu National Museum		
Total	National Treasures	Important Cultural Properties	Total	National Treasures	Important Cultural Properties	Total	National Treasures	Important Cultural Properties	Total	National Treasures	Important Cultural Properties	Total	National Treasures	Important Cultural Properties
127,453	132	983	117,190	88	636	7,794	28	198	1,886	13	112	583	3	37

Nara National Research Institute holds 8 Important Cultural Properties.

(Figures as of March 31, 2017)

Number of Works on Long-term Loan to the Museums

(Entries)

Total			Tokyo National Museum			Kyoto National Museum			Nara National Museum			Kyushu National Museum		
Total	National Treasures	Important Cultural Properties	Total	National Treasures	Important Cultural Properties	Total	National Treasures	Important Cultural Properties	Total	National Treasures	Important Cultural Properties	Total	National Treasures	Important Cultural Properties
12,127	195	1,189	3,075	55	258	6,189	86	620	1,958	52	299	905	2	12

(Figures as of March 31, 2017)

■ Conservation and Restoration

Tangible cultural properties preserved in museum collections need to be restored approximately once every 100 years. The Institutes carry out two levels of conservation work: minimal treatments for general display and storage when necessary; and full-scale treatments, performed on a schematic basis in response to the condition of the object.

(2) Exhibitions

We disseminate information both nationally and internationally to promote understanding of the history and traditional culture of Japan and other Asian regions. For this purpose, we hold attractive exhibitions and high-quality displays that reflect both visitor needs and the latest academic trends, while also taking into consideration the needs of international cultural exchange.

In addition, we are constantly striving to make our museums more visitor-friendly by extending museum hours and creating multilingual and accessible environments, with extensive information for visitors to enhance the overall museum environment. We are also making improvements to museum management in response to visitor feedback.

■ Exhibitions

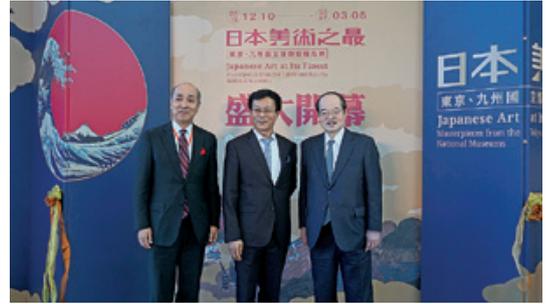
Each museum holds its own distinctive regular and special exhibitions to provide opportunities for visitors to engage with traditional art and archaeological objects, including National Treasures and Important Cultural Properties. We also collaborate with overseas museums to hold exhibitions which introduce our respective cultures.

■ Number of Visitors (FY 2016)

Total	Tokyo National Museum	Kyoto National Museum	Nara National Museum	Kyushu National Museum
3,663,777	1,907,647	384,340	449,322	922,468



Nara Buddhist Sculpture Hall—Exhibition from the Permanent Collection: "Masterpieces of Buddhist Sculpture" (Nara National Museum)



Masterpieces of Japanese Art: Selected Items from the Collections of the Tokyo National Museum and Kyushu National Museum (National Palace Museum, Southern Branch, Taiwan) (December 10, 2016-March 10, 2017)

(3) Education

To promote understanding of the history and traditional culture of Japan and other Asian regions, we provide a variety of educational programs, such as lectures and workshops, in cooperation with schools and other educational institutions.

Furthermore, we work with universities to provide professional training and support volunteer activities with the aim of further improving our educational programs. We also implement training programs for museum professionals, conservators, and others.

In addition, we utilize the internet to disseminate information about cultural properties, and publicize our exhibitions and educational activities through the collection, publication, and display of various types of information.



Visitors to Kyoto National Museum enjoy an educational talk by one of the Museum's "Cultural Property Sommelier" volunteers



Gamelan Workshop at the Kyushu National Museum

(4) Research on the Collection, Preservation, and Exhibition of Tangible Cultural Properties (Namely fine and applied arts), and Educational Activities

We conduct surveys and research relating to the collection, preservation, and exhibition of tangible cultural properties, as well as educational activities, on a systematic basis; organize international symposiums to which leading researchers are invited; arrange for NICH staff to work at overseas research institutes and attend international conferences; and conduct research while accumulating the latest information.

The results obtained in our surveys and research are publicized using a variety of different methods, including publications and the internet, thereby contributing to the transmission of cultural properties to the next generation and to the continued enhancement of Japanese culture.



Research of *Illustrated Biography of Prince Shotoku* funded by Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research

(5) Contribution to Museum-related Activities in Japan and Abroad

We proactively loan items from our collections to museums both in Japan and abroad, while taking due account of the state of preservation of the items in question, so that they may be viewed more widely by both domestic and international audiences. We are also actively engaged in providing guidance and advice to other museums and in the exchange of information, as well as working to build a disaster response network for cultural properties.



International Symposium "Exhibiting Japan: Renewal and Renovation of Japanese Art Galleries" (Jan. 28-29, 2017)

2 Implementing Research and Collaborative Projects for the Protection of Cultural Properties and Overseas Cultural Heritage

We undertake the following types of surveys and research to contribute to the formation of the framework of knowledge and techniques required to facilitate the transmission of priceless cultural properties to future generations.

(1) Research Leading to New Ideas

We are engaged in undertaking fundamental and systematic research relating to cultural properties (including collaborative research and research-related exchange with other organizations, both in Japan and overseas) and also surveys and research

that contribute to the preservation and effective utilization of cultural properties. The results achieved by these surveys and research have led to an increase in the amount of basic data available, facilitated the accumulation of academic knowledge, and provided the basic information needed to support designation as cultural properties, while also contributing, at individual and collective levels, to the planning and establishment of cultural property preservation measures by national and local government bodies, as well as the evaluation of cultural property.



Mr. OKOCHI Masanobu, maker of hand-carved bridges for shamisen



Mortar joint examination in progress at the former Tomioka Silk Mill (a Designated National Treasure)

(2) Basic Research for the Improvement of Research and Development Utilizing Science and Technology

We undertake the following types of research and development to support the development of research on the value and preservation of cultural properties:

- ① We contribute to the enhancement of the accuracy and effectiveness of cultural property survey methods through the promotion of R&D work such as the application of science and technology. We also contribute towards the clarification of the background (cultural, historical, and natural environment) against which cultural properties came into being, and the process of change in this background over time.
- ② As a core research center for research relating to cultural property preservation science and restoration techniques, restoration materials, and production techniques, we work for the development of new techniques for cultural property research, making use of the latest scientific and technological developments, and promote cutting-edge surveys and research with the aim of fostering joint research and research-related exchange with other institutions both in Japan and overseas.



Investigation on brick cultural heritage using portable X-ray diffraction analyzer

(3) International Collaboration Relating to the Preservation of Cultural Heritage

We promote the acquisition and analysis of information from abroad regarding cultural heritage, and also promote cooperative programs for the protection of this heritage. Additionally, we create human resources development and technology transfer programs for the conservation and restoration of cultural properties. These programs involve training and the dispatch of specialists. All of the aforementioned endeavors—which are pursued while utilizing the knowledge, technology, and experience that Japan has for the protection of cultural heritage—are contributions of international importance. Moreover, through cooperation with researchers and other specialists in the Asia-Pacific region, we conduct research for the protection of intangible cultural heritage endangered by natural disasters and other threats, and promote protection of this heritage on an international scale. Through such activities for the protection of humanity's shared assets, we contribute to cultural exchange between countries and to mutual understanding.



International Experts Meeting of Mapping Project

(4) Collecting and Collating Information Relating to Cultural Properties, and Publicizing and Utilizing the Results of Surveys and Research

We are working to promote the digitalization of information relating to cultural properties and expand related specialist archives, as well as organizing public lectures and international symposiums, and expanding the content included on the websites of the individual facilities that make up the NICH, with the aim of furthering the collection, collation and preservation of information relating to cultural properties and of ensuring that such outcomes are widely publicized and disseminated. We are also working to expand the displays of survey and research results held at the Nara Palace Site Museum, Exhibition Room of Fujiwara Imperial Site, and Asuka Historical Museum of the Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, so as to provide the general public with a more in-depth understanding of related areas.



Presentation at the 11th public lecture

(5) Provision of Training for, and Collaboration with, Local Government Authorities in Relation to Cultural Properties

While contributing to the enhancement of knowledge and techniques through the implementation of training tailored to the needs of local government authorities by making effective use of the results obtained in past surveys and research, we also undertake cultivation of core human resources that will play key roles in the preservation of Japan's cultural properties in the future, through collaborative education projects in conjunction with university graduate schools. After the Great East Japan Earthquake of 2011, we played a central role in activities conducted to rescue cultural properties at the request of the Agency for Cultural Affairs. Making effective use of this experience, we are also undertaking research projects and human resources cultivation projects aimed at putting in place a nationwide system for communication and coordination so as to build a network for safeguarding and rescuing cultural properties in the event of future large-scale disasters such as major earthquakes.



"Geo-archeological Surveying Training Course" in progress