



Tokyo National Museum

As Japan's representative museum in the humanities field, Tokyo National Museum collects, preserves, manages, and displays cultural properties from across Japan and other Asian regions, while also conducting research and providing educational programs.



ZENIYA Masami
Executive Director
Tokyo National Museum

Tokyo National Museum was established in 1872 and has the longest history among all museums in Japan. Our collection contains more than 114,000 items, including many National Treasures and Important Cultural Properties. We collect, preserve, restore and display tangible cultural properties from across Japan and other Asian regions. We also conduct research into these properties and promote understanding of them through educational activities.

At Tohaku (our nickname for the Tokyo National Museum), April 2014 saw the opening of the Main Gate Plaza, as part of the redevelopment of the area around the museum's main entrance. The Main Gate Plaza incorporates an information desk, ticket counters, a museum shop and a nursing room; this new facility presents a warm welcome to visitors.

In the regular exhibitions, Rooms 15-19 in the Honkan building have had new cases installed with special high-transmission, low-reflectance glass, which makes it possible to view the exhibits more clearly, creating an enhanced exhibition environment. In addition, special self-guided tours are now available using the museum's "Tohaku Navi" guide application, along with various other new measures to help improve the visitor experience.

Besides its exhibitions and displays, the museum also offers a wide range of different programs including hands-on activities, guided tours, and workshops. Our hands-on art-making workshops for school parties help students develop a more in-depth understanding of cultural treasures.

The museum's special exhibitions for 2014 include "The 800th Memorial of Yosai Roots of Zen: Yosai and the Treasures of Kenninji," "Mural Paintings of the Kitora Tumulus," "Treasured Masterpieces from the National Palace Museum, Taipei," "National Treasures of Japan," "Buddhist Statues from the Michinoku Region," and the first ever joint special exhibition organized by national museums of Japan, China, and Korea: "East Asian Elegance: Masterpieces of Ceramics."

Tohaku will continue its efforts to ensure that everyone who visits the museum, including both children and adults, and overseas visitors from throughout the world, will have an enjoyable, rewarding experience. We sincerely look forward to welcoming you to our museum!

Exhibitions

●Regular Exhibitions

The regular exhibitions comprise the core function of the museum's exhibition activities, displaying works from the museum collection as well as objects on loan to the museum. Exhibits are rotated periodically, with an approximate total of 300 rotations annually. In the fiscal year of 2014, 7,500 objects are scheduled for display. The regular exhibition galleries are outlined as follows:

HONKAN (Japanese Gallery): Features the *Highlights of Japanese Art* exhibition, which occupies the 2nd floor, providing an overview of Japanese art in chronological order from the Jomon to the Edo period. Exhibitions on the 1st floor are categorized by genre and include sculpture and ceramics as well as thematic exhibitions.

TOYOKAN (Asian Gallery): With exhibits on the theme of "A Tour around East Asian Art," the gallery displays works of art and archaeological artifacts from East Asian countries (excluding Japan).

HEISEIKAN: Includes the Japanese Archaeology Gallery (1st floor), which features archaeological objects such as bronze bells and *haniwa* clay ornaments from the Paleolithic to the Edo period, as well as a Thematic Exhibition Room (1st floor), which houses thematic and educational displays. Closed for renovation work between December 2014 and March 2015.

The Gallery of Horyuji Treasures: Exhibits are selected from over 300 cultural properties donated to the Imperial family by Horyuji temple in Nara.

HYOKEIKAN: In recent years, this gallery has been used as an occasional venue for special exhibitions. The building has been mostly closed since January 2012.

Kuroda Memorial Hall: This building commemorates one of the most renowned modern Japanese painters, Kuroda Seiki. The building has been closed since April 2012 for earthquake resistance enhancement renovation, and is scheduled to reopen in January 2015; it will showcase exhibitions of works by Kuroda Seiki.

●Thematic Exhibitions

Thematic exhibitions focus on specific themes and are held as part of the museum's regular exhibitions. The following are examples of thematic exhibitions scheduled for the fiscal year of 2014:

- *Map of Japan created by Ino Tadataka* (June 24-August 17, 2014)
- *Copies of the Illustrated Scrolls of Kasuga Shrine I: The Beautiful Scenery at Kasuga* (July 23-August 31, 2014)
- *Zhao Zhiqian's Artworks and the Stele Inscriptions of Northern Wei Dynasty* (July 29-September 28, 2014)



Room 18, Japanese Gallery



The 800th Memorial of Yosai
Roots of Zen: *Yosai and the Treasures
of Kenninji* (March 25-May18, 2014)



Specialist working on full
restorations of folding screens

●Special Exhibitions

Special exhibitions are held to present the outcome of our research activities and to meet visitor demands. The following are examples of special exhibitions scheduled for the fiscal year of 2014:

- The 800th Memorial of Yosai *Roots of Zen: Yosai and the Treasures of Kenninji* (March 25-May 18, 2014)
- *Mural Paintings of the Kitora Tumulus* (April 22-May 18, 2014)
- *Treasured Masterpieces from the National Palace Museum, Taipei* (June 24-September 15, 2014)
- Joint Special Exhibition of the National Museums of Japan, China and Korea, 2014: *East Asian Elegance: Masterpieces of Ceramics* (September 20-November 24, 2014)
- *National Treasures of Japan* (October 15-December 7, 2014)
- Touring Exhibition: *Cultural Treasures Affected by the Great Eastern Japan Earthquake of 2011* (provisional title, January 14-March 15, 2015)
- *Buddhist Statues from the Michinoku Region* (January 14-April 5, 2015)

●Overseas Exhibitions

- *Remaking Tradition: Modern Art of Japan* (February 16-May 11, 2014, The Cleveland Museum of Art, United States of America)
- *Ink and Gold: Art of the Kano* (February 12-May 10, 2015, The Philadelphia Museum of Art, United States of America)

■Collection, Preservation, and Restoration

To systematically introduce the cultures of Asia, with a focus on Japan, we strive to collect cultural properties by purchase, donation and loan. We also carry out a variety of measures to allow cultural properties that have become fragile over time to be safely exhibited in the future. These measures include improving the environments in our galleries and storage facilities, improving our methods of exhibiting and transporting objects, checking the conditions of cultural properties, as well as performing about 100 full restorations and 1,000 emergency treatments of works annually. We call these activities clinical conservation.

■Educational Outreach

As a core museum in Japan, we plan and execute educational programs that serve as models for other museums. In cooperation with schools and volunteers, we also create a variety of educational opportunities.

- Cooperation with schools: School programs (art appreciation programs, work experience programs and programs for schools for the visually impaired)
 - Teacher training (training sessions organized for the *Zenkoubikouken* (the national association for high school art and craft education research), etc.)
- Partnerships with universities:
 - Campus Members System and internship programs for students
- Providing opportunities for learning
 - Lectures, gallery talks, workshops, and exhibition-related events
- Displays for educational outreach "Family Galleries"
- Volunteer activities
 - Assistance with educational and public programs and events; visitor information
 - Guided tours of the museum
 - Assistance for barrier-free access



School Program: "At the Lecture Room - My First TNM Experience"

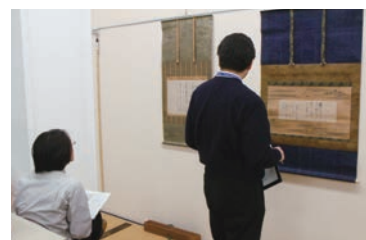


Tactile map operated by volunteers to provide visitor information

■Research

We conduct systematic research on cultural properties originating in Asia, with a focus on Japan. Research outcomes are reflected in the museum's collection, preservation and exhibition activities. Research is partially supported by Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research and other grants for cultural activities. Research conducted in 2014 includes the following:

- Comprehensive research project on painters appointed by the Edo Shogunate, with a focus on the Itaya family
- Research on the digital archiving of cultural treasures held in museum collections
- Special research projects on calligraphy and decorative art



Special Research Project: "Calligraphy"

Brief History

- 1872: Opened as the Museum of the Ministry of Education, on the occasion of Japan's first public exposition held by the ministry in the Yushima Seido, Tokyo.
- 1875: Transferred to the Ministry of the Interior. The museum had eight exhibition categories at this time: natural products, agriculture & forestation, industrial technology, art, history, education, religion, and army and navy.
- 1882: Moved to the present location, a site formerly occupied by the headquarters of Kan'ei-ji temple.
- 1889: Reorganized as the Imperial Museum under the supervision of the Imperial Household Agency.
- 1900: Renamed the Tokyo Imperial Household Museum.
- 1909: Hyokeikan established.
- 1923: Former Honkan building destroyed in the Great Kanto Earthquake.
- 1925: Natural history collections transferred to the Tokyo Museum of the Ministry of Education (present-day National Science Museum) and other institutions.
- 1938: Present Honkan building opened.
- 1947: Transferred to the Ministry of Education and renamed the National Museum.
- 1952: Renamed the Tokyo National Museum.
- 1964: The Gallery of Horyuji Treasures (inaugural building) opened.
- 1968: Affiliated with the Agency for Cultural Affairs. Toyokan opened.
- 1999: The Gallery of Horyuji Treasures (current building) and Heiseikan opened.
- 2001: Became the Independent Administrative Institution National Museums, Tokyo National Museum.
- 2007: Integrated into the Independent Administrative Institution National Institutes for Cultural Heritage as the Tokyo National Museum.

Facilities

					(m ²)
Land Area	120,270 (including the Kuroda Memorial Hall and the Yanase Villa)				
Buildings	Building Area	22,398	Gross Floor Area	72,192	
Exhibition Buildings				Exhibition Area Total	18,199
				Repository Area Total	7,836
Honkan	Building Area	6,602	Gross Floor Area	22,416	
	Exhibition Area	6,573	Repository Area	4,028	
Toyokan	Building Area	2,892	Gross Floor Area	12,531	
	Exhibition Area	4,250	Repository Area	1,373	
Heiseikan	Building Area	5,529	Gross Floor Area	19,393	
	Exhibition Area	4,471	Repository Area	2,119	
The Gallery of Horyuji Treasures	Building Area	1,935	Gross Floor Area	4,031	
	Exhibition Area	1,462	Repository Area	291	
Hyokeikan	※Currently Closed				
	Building Area	1,130	Gross Floor Area	2,077	
Kuroda Memorial Hall	Exhibition Area	1,179	Repository Area	0	
	※Closed from April 8, 2012				
Others	Building Area	724	Gross Floor Area	1,996	
	Exhibition Area	264	Repository Area	25	
Others		Building Area	3,586	Gross Floor Area	9,748

Kyoto National Museum

Kyoto National Museum collects, preserves, manages, and displays cultural properties, while also conducting research and providing educational activities. The focus is on cultural properties from the Heian period to the Edo period, a time when Kyoto was the capital of Japan.



SASAKI Johei

Executive Director
Kyoto National Museum

Kyoto served as Japan's Imperial capital for over one thousand years, from the relocation of the capital in 794, which marked the beginning of the Heian period, right through to the Meiji Restoration. During this long period, the culture of the Imperial city of Kyoto was, effectively, the mainstream culture of Japan. The Kyoto National Museum showcases numerous cultural assets that testify to the glory of the city's cultural heritage, and presents Japan's traditional culture to the world through various activities. We will continue to work towards the realization of its great mission of spreading awareness of Japanese traditional culture throughout the globe. To this end, the museum works to encourage people in all walks of life to take an interest in and to visit the museum. Our aim is to create a "people-centric museum." We would like our museum to be a place for education, a place where people can relax, a place for lifelong learning, and also a place that will attract both domestic and overseas tourists.

Our long-awaited new Collections Hall for exhibitions of the museum's holdings, the Heisei Chishinkan Wing, has been completed and is set to open in September 2014. We anticipate that, when combined with the museum's Special Exhibitions Hall constructed in 1895, the new facilities and functions that the Heisei Chishinkan provides will help to make the Kyoto National Museum even more popular with visitors.

■ Exhibitions

● Regular Exhibitions

The Collections Hall has been reconstructed as the Heisei Chishinkan Wing, and is set to open on September 13, 2014.

● Special Exhibitions

The following special exhibitions will be held in the Special Exhibition Hall, now renamed as Meiji Kotokan:

- *Pilgrimage through Minami Yamashiro: Early Buddhist Art of Southern Kyoto* (April 22–June 15, 2014)
- *Masterpieces of Kōsan-ji Temple: Commemorating the Restoration of the National Treasure Scrolls of Frolicking Animals and Humans* (October 7–November 24, 2014)



Kano Sanraku and Sansetsu
(March 30–May 12, 2013)



Play (July 13–August 25, 2013)



Heisei Chishinkan



Captivating Qing-dynasty Ceramics
(October 12–December 15, 2013)

■ Collection, Preservation, and Restoration of Cultural Properties

Since the museum's establishment, numerous treasures from historical temples and shrines have been entrusted to the Kyoto National Museum. Meanwhile, the number of cultural properties in the collection has increased yearly through purchases and donations, with a focus on art or archaeological items related to Kyoto culture. These cultural properties must be restored and preserved appropriately so that they may be enjoyed and appreciated by future generations. The Conservation Center for Cultural Properties, the first comprehensive restoration facility of cultural properties in Japan, was established in 1980 to meet that need.



The Conservation Center for Cultural Properties

■ Educational Activities

We undertake a variety of activities via our exhibitions, our website, and in schools, in order to help people learn more about the museum's exhibitions and the exhibits included in them, and to stimulate interest and concern for cultural properties.

○ Activities held to enhance understanding of exhibition contents and exhibits

- The museum holds lectures and seminars including the Saturday Lectures and Commemorative Lectures, and organizes guided tours for elementary school and junior high school students (the Museum Children's Club), as well as distributing worksheets and explanatory sheets (the "Museum Dictionary") to elementary school and junior high school students visiting the museum.

○Activities held to stimulate interest in cultural properties

- the museum organizes summer lectures, symposiums and other lecture events, as well as arranging visits to elementary schools and junior high schools in Kyoto by "Cultural Property Sommeliers" making use of high-resolution digital reproductions of important works of art (Cultural Heritage Familiarization Classes), and organizing work-shops.

○The museum works closely with educational institutions, organizing collaborative events.

- The collaboration between the museum and the university sector includes the Campus Members System, the giving of lectures on historical, cultural and sociological topics by our curators at the Graduate School of Human and Environmental Studies, Kyoto University, and the training of "Cultural Property Sommeliers" (instructors who help people learn about the cultural properties in the Kyoto National Museum collection).



The Museum Children's Club "Let's Have Fun with Art" activity
(August 6 and August 9, 2013)



"Cultural Property Sommeliers" making use of high-resolution digital reproductions of important works of art (Cultural Heritage Familiarization Classes)
(November 11, 2013)

Research

Since 1979, the museum has been implementing an ongoing, comprehensive survey of cultural assets owned by shrines and temples in Kyoto and the vicinity, with the researchers of the museum's Curatorial Board playing a particularly active role. In 2012-13, we conducted a survey of traditional Buddhism and Buddhist art in the Zenjōji Temple in Ujitawara Town, and the Juhōji Temple and Shūonan (Ikkyūji Temple) in Kyotonabe City, as part of the Research Project on the History and Buddhist Culture of the Minami-Yamashiro District, with government funding support in the form of a Grant-in-aid for Scientific Research. The results of the survey have been published in a report, as well as being showcased in a special exhibition - Pilgrimage through Minami-Yamashiro: Early Buddhist Art of Southern Kyoto - from April to June 2014.

We have also made use of Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research funding to undertake a number of other research projects, including "The history of Kyoto *makie*", "Investigation into the demand for Qing ceramics in Japan during the period of national seclusion" and "Archival research in the medieval *Issai-kyō* (complete Buddhist scriptures)."

Some of the results of the research work undertaken by the curators are published in the *Kyoto National Museum Bulletin*.



Surveying artworks at Shūonan Temple



Rakugo at the Museum



Outdoor concert (*Ontouge*)

Other Activities

○Rakugo at the Museum

As part of the museum's efforts to create a "people-centric museum", Kyoto National Museum has launched the "Rakugo at the Museum" project whereby performances of rakugo (traditional comic storytelling which originated in Kyoto) are held several times a year, highlighting seasonal themes. Other concerts are also being planned.

Brief History

1889: Established as the Imperial Museum of Kyoto under the supervision of the Imperial Household Agency
1897: First exhibition held
1900: Renamed as the Imperial Household Museum of Kyoto
1924: Donated to Kyoto City; renamed as the Imperial Gift Museum of Kyoto
1952: Transferred to the national government; renamed as the Kyoto National Museum
1966: Establishment of The Collections Hall
1968: Affiliated with the Agency for Cultural Affairs
1969: The Special Exhibition Hall, Main Gate, ticket booth and fences are designated as an Important Cultural Property under the name of the Former Imperial Museum of Kyoto
1973: The Saturday lecture series starts
1980: The Conservation Center for Cultural Properties established
2001: The South Gate constructed as part of the 100th Year Anniversary Hall construction project (tentative name)
2001: Transformed into the Independent Administrative Institution National Museum, Kyoto National Museum
2007: Integrated into the Independent Administrative Institution National Institutes for Cultural Heritage, as Kyoto National Museum
2009-Reconstruction begins on the former Collection Hall
2013-Construction of Heisei Chishinkan Wing (new Collection Hall) is completed in August
2014-Heisei Chishinkan Wing is scheduled to open in September

Facilities

				(m ²)
Land Area				53,182
Buildings		Building Area	13,517	Gross Floor Area 31,828
Exhibition Buildings		Exhibition Area Total		5,657
		Repository Area Total		5,421
Special Exhibition Hall	Building Area	3,015	Gross Floor Area	3,015
	Exhibition Area	2,070	Repository Area	803
The Collections Hall	Building Area	5,568	Gross Floor Area	17,997
	Exhibition Area	3,587	Repository Area	2,710
Administration Building	Building Area	590	Gross Floor Area	1,954
Materials Building	Building Area	414	Gross Floor Area	1,125
Conservation Center for Cultural Properties	Building Area	728	Gross Floor Area	2,856
Technical Materials Center	Building Area	101	Gross Floor Area	304
East Repository	Building Area	1,084	Gross Floor Area	1,996
			Repository Area	1,412
North Repository	Building Area	310	Gross Floor Area	682
			Repository Area	496
Others	Building Area	1,707	Gross Floor Area	1,899

Nara National Museum

Nara National Museum collects, preserves, manages and displays cultural properties, while also conducting research and providing educational programs. The focus is on Buddhist art and the cultural properties of Nara.



YUYAMA Ken'ichi

Executive Director
Nara National Museum

Since its opening in 1895, with the cooperation of temples and shrines of the Nara region, the Nara National Museum has been engaged in collecting, preserving, and conducting research and educational programs on cultural properties mainly associated with Buddhism. Through these activities, the museum has introduced to the public the high artistic value and historical background of Japanese Buddhist culture, unique in its fusion with indigenous beliefs. Keeping in mind that various cultural properties are tied together in an organic whole with the historical and cultural landscape of Nara, we will continuously strive to promote the museum's international activities and the more effective use of information technology in order to reach a wide range of people as a conveyor of Nara's culture.

■ Exhibitions

● Buddhist Art Exhibitions

As well as special exhibitions and feature exhibitions, the museum also exhibits distinguished masterworks of Buddhist art including many designated as National Treasures and Important Cultural Properties. The Nara Buddhist Sculpture Hall features "Masterpiece Exhibition," which displays exceptional Buddhist statues representative of the history of Japanese sculpture from the Asuka to the Kamakura period, dating from around the 7th century to the mid-14th century. The West Wing houses "Masterpiece of Buddhist Art" which introduces the essence of Japanese Buddhist art through selected items of painting, decorative art, calligraphy and artifacts. In addition, thematic exhibitions from the permanent collection are occasionally held for themes that lie outside a specific genre.

● Feature Exhibitions

Feature exhibitions are medium-scale exhibitions organized to explore a specific theme.

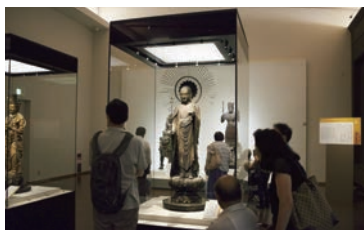
- *On-Matsuri and the Sacred Art of Kasuga* (December 9, 2014-January 18, 2015)
- *Treasures of Todaiji's Omizutori Ritual* (February 7-March 15, 2015)

● Special Exhibitions

- *The Buddhist Icons of Kamakura: Realism and Exoticism* (April 5-June 1, 2014)
- Special Exhibition: Commemorating the National Treasure Designation of 70,000 Historic Documents and Sacred Texts of Daigoji Temple *The Universe of Daigoji-Esoteric Buddhist Imagery and Sacred Texts* (July 19-September 15, 2014)
- *The 66th Annual Exhibition of Shōsō-in Treasures* (Late October-Early November, 2014) (Tentative)



Special Exhibition: Yearning for the Pure Land Paradise: *The Faith and History of Taimadera Temple* (1250th Anniversary of the Weaving of the Taima Mandala) (April 6-June 2, 2013)



Special Exhibition: Faith in Form and Figure: *Encountering Buddhist Images* (July 20-September 16, 2013)



Special Exhibition: *The 65th Annual Exhibition of Shōsō-in Treasures* (October 26-November 11, 2013)

■ Collection, Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Properties

We strive to collect tangible cultural properties, which are valuable assets for the people of Japan, by purchase, donation and loan.

We work to maintain the environment for our collections with meticulous care, by constantly controlling the temperature and humidity in our exhibition and storage areas.

Most Japanese cultural properties are made of extremely fragile materials such as paper and wood. Therefore, the museum must take proactive steps to preserve these objects for future generations. For this reason, in 2002 we established the Conservation Center for Cultural Properties to handle restoration projects.



Conservation of lacquer by restorers

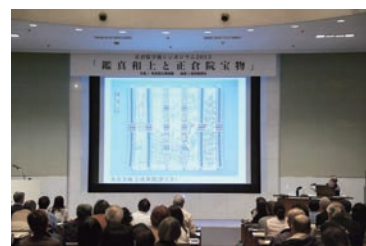
Educational Programs

We promote a variety of educational programs to increase the understanding of the importance of cultural properties.

- ①Collection and distribution of information and materials concerning cultural properties
- ②Programs for students Ex: World heritage classes for fifth graders in Nara City schools and educational lectures for teachers
- ③Lectures and seminars Ex: Public lectures, Sunday museum talks, summer seminar series, the Shōsō-in academic symposium, and international symposia
- ④Cooperation with universities and colleges Ex: Campus Members System, internship programs, interview classes at the Open University of Japan, and joint lectures with Nara Women's University and Kobe University
- ⑤Promotion of volunteer activities



Volunteer guided tour in the Museum garden



Shōsō-in Academic Symposium



Research activities



Photography of cultural properties

Research and International Activities

We consider research into cultural properties to be the most important activity supporting the foundations of the Nara National Museum as a research institution. Reflected in the museum's masterpiece exhibitions and special exhibitions, the results of research are utilized in our exhibition activities. In fiscal year 2014 the Nara National Museum will conduct the following thematic research:

- ①Research on collection items, items on loan to the museum, and related items
- ②Research on Buddhist paintings using advanced optical technologies for the creation of reproductions
- ③Comprehensive research on the Heian period Great Perfection of Wisdom Sutra
- ④Comprehensive survey of Buddhist arts and crafts
- ⑤Research on artifacts excavated from kofun tumuli and from ancient tombs
- ⑥Research to accompany special exhibitions, etc.
- ⑦Research on the art of sculpture in ancient and medieval Nara
- ⑧Research on Buddhist art using optical technologies, conducted in collaboration with the National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo.
- ⑨Research into the effects on cultural properties of storage area environments, exhibition spaces and display cases
- ⑩Research on collections and objects loaned to the museum, from the perspective of cultural asset restoration
- ⑪Research on collections and objects loaned to the museum, from the perspective of conservation science
- ⑫Research to contribute to educational programs in history and traditional culture.
- ⑬Theoretical and practical research into the formation of cultural heritage archives

Brief History

1889: Established as the Imperial Museum of Nara under the supervision of the Imperial Household Ministry
 1895: First exhibition held
 1900: Renamed as the Imperial Household Museum of Nara
 1914: Establishment of the Shōsō-in Department
 1947: Supervision transferred to the Ministry of Education
 1950: Affiliated with the National Commission for the Protection of Cultural Properties
 1952: Renamed as the Nara National Museum
 1968: Affiliated with the Agency for Cultural Affairs
 1972: Completion of the West Wing
 1980: Establishment of the Buddhist Art Library
 1995: Celebration of the museum's centennial anniversary
 1997: Completion of the East Wing and the lower level passageway
 2000: Completion of the Conservation Center for Cultural Properties
 2001: Becomes the Independent Administrative Institution National Museum, Nara National Museum
 2007: Integrated into the Independent Administrative Institution National Institutes for Cultural Heritage, as the Nara National Museum

Facilities

				(m ²)
Land Area				78,760
Buildings				
	Building Area	6,769	Gross Floor Area	19,116
Exhibition Buildings				
			Exhibition Area Total	4,079
			Repository Area Total	1,558
Nara Buddhist Sculpture Hall	Building Area	1,512	Gross Floor Area	1,512
	Exhibition Area	1,261		
Ritual Bronzes Gallery	Building Area	341	Gross Floor Area	664
	Exhibition Area	470		
East Wing	Building Area	1,825	Gross Floor Area	6,389
	Exhibition Area	875	Repository Area	1,394
West Wing	Building Area	1,649	Gross Floor Area	5,396
	Exhibition Area	1,473		
Buddhist Art Library	Building Area	718	Gross Floor Area	718
Conservation Center for Cultural Properties	Building Area	319	Gross Floor Area	1,036
Lower Level Passageway	Gross Floor Area	2,152	Repository Area	164
Others	Building Area	405	Gross Floor Area	1,249



Kyushu National Museum

Kyushu National Museum collects, preserves, manages and displays cultural properties, while also conducting research and providing educational programs. The focus is on cultural properties related to Japan's cultural exchanges with other Asian regions.



MIWA Karoku
Executive Director
Kyushu National Museum

Kyushu, the westernmost main island of Japan, which is situated close to continental Asia, has been the stage of vibrant exchanges of people and objects since ancient times. Delegations from overseas were welcomed at the Dazaifu Government Office, which was situated near the museum's current location. This historical background, and the aspirations of the people of Kyushu, led to the establishment, in 2005 in Dazaifu City, Fukuoka, of a national museum that focuses on the development of Japanese culture in relation to the surrounding Asian regions. Next year, Kyushu National Museum will celebrate the 10th anniversary of its founding.

The Museum has been visited by more than 10 million people, with particularly rapid growth in the number of visitors from China and Korea in recent years. We will continue our efforts to further mutual understanding between Asian cultures through research and other activities, while interacting with the local community as a "living museum."

Exhibitions

● Cultural Exchange Exhibitions (Regular Exhibitions)

In order to provide our visitors with opportunities to experience new works each time they visit, the Cultural Exchange Exhibitions rooms hold thematic exhibitions which change periodically. We also strive to create more dynamic and in-depth exhibitions through the usage of videos and hands-on displays.

● Feature Exhibitions (Thematic Exhibitions)

We also feature creative displays based on regionally specific themes in the Cultural Exchange Exhibition Rooms. Thematic exhibitions scheduled for fiscal year 2014 are as follows:

- *Masterpieces of Early Modern Painting from the Kyushu National Museum* (February 25- April 6: April 8- May 18, 2014)
- *Seeking enlightenment to the truth — Journey of Mumu Issei in China* (May 27-July 6, 2014)
- *All-Japan High School Archaeological Legacy* (July 15 -September 23, 2014)
- *Dainehan: Paintings of Great Nirvana* (January 14-February 15, 2015)
- *KAKIEMON-Tradition of technique and beauty-* (a tentative name) (March 3-May 10, 2015)

● Special Exhibitions

Special exhibitions are based on themes approached from various viewpoints through distinguished objects from Japan and around the world. As a place to admire beauty and enjoy the learning experience, our aim is to provide exhibitions that both newcomers and experts can enjoy alike. Special exhibitions scheduled for fiscal year 2014 are as follows:

- *Precious Treasures of the KONOE Family* (April 15-June 8, 2015)
- *Admired from Afar: Masterworks of Japanese Painting from The Cleveland Museum of Art* (July 8-August 31, 2014)
- *Treasured Masterpieces from the National Palace Museum, Taipei* (October 7-November 30, 2014)
- *The Age of Dramatic Interaction in East Asia- Between Ancient Japan and Baekje.* (January 1-March 1, 2015)

Collection, Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Properties

● Collection

We collect objects from the fields of art, archaeology, history and ethnology to provide an advanced overview of how cultural exchange between Japan and Asian countries occurred.

We proactively seek donations and loaned objects to enhance the quality and quantity of our exhibits.

● Preservation

The museum's storage area is located in the center of the building within a large double-layered box, the structure of which prevents exposure to the outer environment. The thermo-hydrostat air-conditioning system keeps the temperature and humidity levels constant. In addition to mechanical technologies, the facility uses locally procured cedar panels and humidity-controlling materials for the walls and ceiling to keep humidity levels highly stabilized.

The museum building is engineered to protect both cultural properties and human lives from earthquakes. The quake-absorbing structure installed on the ground surface prevents direct transmission of seismic shocks to the building itself, which consequently reduces the effects of tremors and protects cultural properties from damage.

● Restoration

The six conservation and restoration facilities at the museum (respectively specializing in: the production of paper and other materials used for repair; historical materials, calligraphy and documents; paintings; sculpture; archaeological artifacts; and lacquerware) work in collaboration with the museum's Science Division, combining traditional methods with scientific research technology. The staff, well experienced in the restoration of Japan's designated cultural properties, conduct projects actively through discussions with curators from fields such as history, art, decorative arts, archaeology and other related areas. The latest technological equipment such as fluorescent X-ray analyzing devices and X-ray CT scanners are also utilized in the scientific analysis of cultural properties to be restored.



Cultural Exchange Exhibition
(Regular exhibition)



Science in Edo Period -The Path of Western Studies in Takeo-
(April 16-July 7, 2013)



The Great Story of Vietnam (April 16-June 9, 2013)

Education and Exchange Activities

●Education

- ① Interactive Learning Center for Asian and European Culture: "AJIPPA" AJIPPA offers educational experiences of various ethnic cultures that have historically enjoyed interaction with Japan. We Develop educational kits and visitor experience programs as well as programs in collaboration with other educational institutions.

- ② Educational programs in association with special exhibitions and Cultural Exchange Exhibitions (regular exhibitions)

- Programs to improve exhibition understanding
- Conducting of workshops
- Production of guidebooks

- ③ Loans of "Kyu-Packs" - educational kits to be used in secondary schools

- ④ Campus Members System to strengthen ties with universities and other higher education institutions

- ⑤ Educational activities based on "Kyu-haku picture books" for children

- ⑥ Supporting volunteer activities

We encourage various volunteer activities at the museum in areas including exhibit explanations, educational programs, guided tours (including behind the scenes "Backyard Tours"), the environment, events, and organizing research materials.



Volunteer Program: Kyushu National Museum Children's Festival

●Exchange Activities

- ① Implementing exchange projects in cooperation with local enterprises for more effective utilization of museum facilities.

- ② Promoting exchange among Asian museums

- Conclusion of cultural exchange agreements with the Buyeo National Museum (Korea), the Gongju National Museum (Korea), The Korea National University of Cultural Heritage, the Nanjing Museum (China), the Museum of Inner Mongolia (China), Chinese Center for Cultural Exchange, the Vietnam National Museum of History, the Fine Arts Department of the Ministry of Culture (Thailand)

- ③ Hosting international symposia

- Symposium: Falling in Love with Vietnam (October 5, 2013)



Research studies

Research Studies

The results of research concerning our main theme of "Cultural Exchange between Japan and Asian Countries" and scientific research on conservation and restoration of cultural properties are actively utilized for our collection, preservation and exhibition activities. Part of our research is financially supported by the government-funded Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research (KAKENHI) and other private grants for cultural activities.

- Technical and structural analysis of bronze vessels, sculpture and lacquer ware etc. through X-ray CT scanner data
- Research on the preservation and effective utilization of underwater archeological sites
- Research on cultural exchanges between Japan and Asian countries
- Basic research on building a Citizen-cooperative IPM system as a means to Museum Risk Management

Publications

The museum produces publications to promote a wider understanding of our activities.

- i) *Tofu-seisei* (Research Bulletin): Research achievements of the Kyushu National Museum are compiled in a booklet (published annually)
- ii) *Asiage* (Visual guide): A guide providing information on Cultural Exchange Exhibitions (regular exhibitions) in an accessible format
- iii) *Asiage* (Quarterly magazine): An information magazine focusing on Cultural Exchange Exhibition and special exhibitions (published four times a year)
- iv) Kyuhaku Picture Book Series: The museum produces original picture books for children about Japanese history and culture written in an accessible format to encourage understanding and familiarity.

Brief History

1994: The Agency for Cultural Affairs (ACA) organizes the Committee to Investigate the Establishment of a Museum Based on a New Concept ("the Committee").

1996: ACA decides the new museum should be established as the Kyushu National Museum (provisional title) in Dazaifu City, Fukuoka Prefecture.

1997: The Committee draws up the Basic Statement of Policy for the Kyushu National Museum.

1999: The Committee formulates the Basic Plan for the Kyushu National Museum.

2000: ACA, Fukuoka Prefecture, and the Kyushu National Museum Promotion Foundation ("the Foundation") jointly formulate the Basic Construction Design for the museum.

The Experts Conference for the Establishment of the Kyushu National Museum, set up jointly by the ACA and Fukuoka Prefecture, formulates the Regular Exhibitions Plan.

2001: ACA, Fukuoka Prefecture and the Foundation complete the Basic Exhibition Design.

The Independent Administrative Institution National Museum ("the National Museum") establishes a preparatory office for the establishment of the Kyushu National Museum.

2002: ACA, Fukuoka Prefecture and the Foundation start joint construction work (the first year of a three-year plan).

2003: The National Museum and Fukuoka Prefecture start the preparation of the exhibitions (the first year of a two-year plan)

2004: ACA, Fukuoka Prefecture and the Foundation complete the construction work.

ACA, the National Museum and Fukuoka Prefecture formally announce that the new museum would be called the "Kyushu National Museum."

2005: The National Museum and Fukuoka Prefecture complete the work on the preparation of the exhibitions.

The National Museum formally establishes the Kyushu National Museum.

Kyushu National Museum opens to the public on October 16.

2007: Integrated into the Independent Administrative Institution National Institutes for Cultural Heritage as the Kyushu National Museum

2008: The Japan-China-ROK Trilateral Summit is held at Kyushu National Museum

2012: The cumulative number of visitors to Kyushu National Museum reaches the 10 million mark.

Facilities

				(m ²)
Land Area	Institution Area	10,798	Prefectural Area	155,679
Buildings	Building Area	14,623	Gross Floor Area	30,675
	Institution Area	9,300	Prefectural Area	5,780
			Shared Area	15,595
Exhibition and Repository Area	Exhibition Area Total	5,444	Institution Area	3,844
	Prefectural Area	1,375	Shared Area	225
	Repository Area Total	4,518	Institution Area	2,744
	Prefectural Area	1,335	Shared Area	439

The land and buildings are co-owned by Fukuoka Prefecture and the institution.



National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo



KAMEI Nobuo

Director General
National Research
Institute for Cultural
Properties, Tokyo

The National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo, in its role of supporting the work of the government in the administration of cultural properties, conducts fundamental, systematic, up-to-date and practical research on diverse types of cultural properties. Furthermore, it actively disseminates the results of such research, provides guidance and advice to local public organizations, and makes an international contribution by assisting neighboring countries with the conservation and restoration of cultural properties.

The three priority areas on which the Institute is focusing particularly in its survey and research work are outlined below: Firstly, the Institute is working to build up comprehensive cultural properties archives from the research results, basic databases and source materials that the Institute has collected over the years. Secondly, in the conservation and restoration field, the Institute promotes coordinated projects with the National Institutes for Cultural Heritage, of which the Institute forms a part, with respect to surveys and research relating to the preservation, restoration and publication of museum materials. Thirdly, in relation to intangible cultural heritage, the Institute collects basic data and materials, mainly on folk performing arts and folk techniques, and makes them available to the public.

With regard to international cooperation, the head office of the Japan Consortium for International Cooperation in Cultural Heritage, a collaborative organization for promoting coordinated and effective projects, has been established in the Institute; the Consortium promotes conservation and restoration of tangible cultural properties, or cultural heritage, outside of Japan, such as historical remains and architecture.

■ Organization

● Department of Art Research, Archives and Information Systems

The Department of Art Research, Archives and Information Systems is responsible for the information systems for the entire institute and the institute's public relations. In order to further the archiving of research on cultural properties, it also collects, stores and organizes materials and images concerning cultural properties and makes them available to the public, and also promotes effective dissemination of information. It is simultaneously engaged in investigating research issues in art history and aims to establish a new discipline in the field of art reference materials.



Study and photography of Taima-dera Temple's "Backboard *Mandala*"

● Department of Intangible Cultural Heritage

The Department of Intangible Cultural Heritage conducts basic research useful for the conservation and transmission of Japan's intangible cultural heritage, which includes intangible cultural properties, intangible folk-cultural properties, and techniques for preserving cultural properties. Audiovisual documentation, a significant Method for the conservation of intangible cultural heritage, is conducted and new methods of documentation are also investigated.



Recording of *rakugo* by Mr. HAYASHIYA Shoju

● Center for Conservation Science and Restoration Techniques

The Center for Conservation Science and Restoration Techniques uses scientific methods to study and evaluate environmental conditions and characteristics of cultural properties. It also conducts research into materials, manufacturing techniques and the surrounding conditions of cultural properties in order to develop and evaluate necessary materials and techniques for their restoration, and develop methods for their maintenance after restoration. Moreover, the center works closely with those who are actually engaged in the conservation and restoration of cultural properties and their owners.



On-site analysis of a metal object by a handheld X-ray fluorescence spectrometer

● Japan Center for International Cooperation in Conservation

The Japan Center for International Cooperation in Conservation renders assistance to countries such as Afghanistan and other Asian countries for their conservation undertakings, including capacity building, as well as the promoting of ties with other institutions around the world through research meetings, and the collecting and disseminating of information on cultural properties and systems for their protection.

The center is commissioned with the management of the office of the Japan Consortium for International Cooperation in Cultural Heritage.



A workshop on the conservation of *urushi* (Japanese lacquer ware) in Germany

Seminars, Advice and Guidance

The National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo conducts various seminars and provides advice and guidance for the protection and utilization of cultural properties. Seminars and projects include International Courses on Conservation of Japanese Paper, Training for Museum Curators in Charge of Conservation, Advice on safeguarding Intangible Cultural Properties, Inspection Assistance and Advice on the Museum Environments, and Investigation and Advice Concerning Conservation of Cultural Properties.



International Course on Conservation of Japanese Paper



Local Workshop on Materials Conservation in Yamanashi



Leaflet for the 8th Public Lecture of the Department of Intangible Cultural Heritage "Record of Kamigata Rakugo of the Early Showa Period"

Graduate School Education and Public Lectures

The National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo provides the results of its research to the public in the hope of nurturing the next generation of experts and raising public interest. The institute has collaborated with the Tokyo University of the Arts since 1995 and is in charge of its Preventive Conservation Course. In the public lectures, the Department of Art Research, Archives and Information Systems, and the Department of Intangible Cultural Heritage present their research achievements every year.

Dissemination of Research Information

The National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo is engaged in actively communicating with the public and making the results of its diverse activities accessible, including those of research and international cooperation. Publications such as the Annual Report, Profile and TOBUNKENNEWS are published, and the website of the institute is updated constantly.



Glass Plate Negative Database (<http://www.tobunken.go.jp/materials/glass>)

Publications

The National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo publishes periodicals such as *The Bijutsu Kenkyu* (*The Journal of Art Studies*), *Yearbook of Japanese Art, Research and Reports on Intangible Cultural Heritage and Science for Conservation*. It also publishes the results of various additional research studies



Yearbook of Japanese Art



Report of the 8th Conference on the Study of Intangible Folk Cultural Properties



Science for Conservation

Brief History

1930: Established as The Institute of Art Research, an auxiliary organization of the Imperial Academy of Fine Arts
1947: Affiliated with the National Museum
1950: Affiliated with the National Commission for Protection of Cultural Properties
1952: Reorganized and renamed as Tokyo Research Institute of Cultural Properties
1954: Renamed as Tokyo National Institute of Cultural Properties
1968: Affiliated with the Agency for Cultural Affairs
2000: Construction of new offices
2001: Restructured as the Independent Administrative Institution, National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo
2007: Integrated into the Independent Administrative Institution National Institutes for Cultural Heritage, as National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo

Facilities

		(m ²)
Land Area		4,181
Building	Building Area	2,258
	Gross Floor Area	10,516



Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties



MATSUMURA Keiji

Director General
Nara National Research
Institute for Cultural
Properties

●Department of Planning and Coordination

The work of the Department of Planning and Coordination is assigned to five sections: the Planning and Coordination Section, the Data and Information Section, the International Cooperation Section, the Exhibition Section and the Photography Section. These sections plan and organize professional training programs for cultural heritage workers at local government agencies and other organizations, organize data systems and enhance related databases, arrange international joint research projects and engage in international cooperation on archaeological sites, exhibit research results at the Nara Palace Site Museum, and carry out photography and the development of new technology.

●Department of Cultural Heritage

The Department of Cultural Heritage consists of the Historical Document Section, the Architectural History Section, the Cultural Landscape Section and the Site Stabilization Section. These sections conduct specialist and comprehensive research in the following areas respectively: calligraphy, ancient books and historical documents; historical and traditional architecture; cultural landscapes; and the maintenance of archaeological sites and historical gardens. The research activities conducted by each section contribute, in a practical manner, to governmental activities concerning the protection of cultural properties, such as the designation, selection, registration, conservation and management of properties. The Department also collaborates with, and provides advice for, local public entities in regard to cultural property administration.

●Department of Imperial Palace Sites Investigations

The Department of Imperial Palace Sites Investigations is organized in five sections: the Archaeology Sections 1, 2 and 3, the History Section, and the Architectural Feature Section. These sections undertake interdisciplinary research on the basis of archeological excavations of ancient palaces, temples, tombs located in the Heijo area and in the Asuka and Fujiwara area. The research results are publicized through presentations, reports and exhibitions; this research also contributes to the preservation and effective utilization of these archeological remains.

[Department of Imperial Palace Sites Investigations (Heijo)]

This Department is in charge of excavation research at the Nara Palace Site, where the imperial palace and government offices were located in the Nara period (710-784). Systematic research has been in progress since 1959 and over one-third of the 130 hectare site has been excavated and surveyed so far. The finds from excavation at the sites of the palace and ancient temples, such as architectural remains, wooden strips (used for writing messages on), earthenware vessels and ceramic tiles, have been verified with reference to historical records; this empirical research on the Nara period undertaken by the Department has won widespread plaudits. The Department also provides the results of its research on the Nara Palace Site to the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT) as basic data to support the maintenance of the national Nara Palace Site Historical Park.

[Department of Imperial Palace Sites Investigations (Asuka and Fujiwara)]

The Department is in charge of excavation research on the Asuka and Fujiwara area that constituted Japan's political, economic and cultural center during the period between the 7th and early 8th centuries when the Japanese state was coming into being. The sites in the Asuka district include: palaces and the residences of elite clans; the sites of temples such as Asukadera temple (the oldest Buddhist temple in Japan); a workshop that produced ancient coins and glass; a water clock; and various tombs. To the north lies the site of the Fujiwara capital, the first large-scale castle city in Japan, covering a vast area of more than five square kilometers. The interdisciplinary, empirical research being conducted based on the excavations of these sites in the Asuka and Fujiwara areas has made a major contribution towards helping to clarify the historical record of the Asuka period.



Nara Palace Site Museum Summer
Special Exhibition



Survey of Ancient Materials in the
Kondo Main Hall of the Horyuji Temple



Excavation of the First Imperial
Audience Hall Compound



Excavation of the Halls of State
Compound at the Fujiwara Palace Site

●Center for Archaeological Operations

The Center for Archaeological Operations consists of four sections, which undertake the research activities noted below. The Conservation Science Section studies and develops analytical methods for investigating the material and structure of archaeological objects in order to conduct appropriate conservation and restoration work. The Environmental Archaeology Section studies the remains of flora and fauna in order to simulate ancient environments and nature. The Dating Section is advancing research in how to apply the methods of dendrochronology to the fields of archaeology, architectural history etc. The Archaeological Research Methodology Section researches technology for studying cultural properties as well as for measuring and surveying archaeological sites, and also undertakes disaster archeology research.



Survey using ground-penetrating radar (GPR) at the Todaiji temple West Pagoda site

●Asuka Historical Museum

The Asuka Historical Museum, a facility displaying historical materials from the Asuka area, was established in 1975. The museum's regular exhibitions display items excavated from palaces, stone structures, tombs and temple sites. The reconstructed portion of the eastern cloister of Yamadadera temple and objects excavated around its site are also exhibited. The museum's special exhibitions, held twice a year in spring and autumn, feature the unearthed cultural properties of the Asuka area and explore the history of the Asuka period. Special Feature Exhibitions are held in summer and winter to showcase the multi-faceted research achievements of the Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties.



Asuka Historical Museum

●International Academic Exchange

Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties contributes to international exchange and collaboration through activities such as joint research, exchange of researchers, technical training, and conservation and restoration. It also participates in international cooperation projects conducted by other institutions such as ACCU (Asia-Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO).

Ongoing projects are as follows: (1) Joint research with the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences into the Luoyang site, an ancient capital of the Han and Wei dynasties; (2) Joint research with the Archaeological Institute of Henan Province, China into the Huangye and Baihe kiln sites located in the city of Gongyi; (3) Joint research with the Archaeological Institute of Liaoning Province, China into sites of Former Yan, Later Yan and Northern Yan; (4) A comparative study with the National Research Institute of Cultural Heritage, Korea, of ancient capitals of Japan and Korea, together with human resource exchanges at excavation projects; (5) Research and a conservation project, undertaken with Cambodia's Authority for the Protection and Management of Angkor and the Region of Siem Reap (APSARA), at the Western Prasat Top, one of the historical sites of Angkor, together with human resource development; (6) Research exchange with Columbia University in the U.S.A. We have also been commissioned by the Agency for Cultural Affairs to undertake collaborative research on excavated materials with Vietnam Forestry University as an exchange program. Furthermore, we have a responsibility for archeological technology transfer and personnel training for a project that the National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo has been commissioned to undertake as an exchange program with Myanmar.

In addition, we are collaborating with the Institute on a conservation project and human resource development work at the Bamiyan site in Afghanistan, along with activities in Central Asian countries to support the registration of sites along the Silk Road as World Heritage sites.



International project for conservation of Western Prasat Top, Angkor

Brief History

1952: Nara Cultural Properties Research Institute (consisting of the General Affairs Division, the Historical Research Division, the Architecture Research Division, and the Art Research Division) is established at 50 Kasugano-cho, Nara City, as an auxiliary organization of the National Commission for the Protection of Cultural Properties
1954: Renamed as the Nara National Cultural Properties Research Institute
1960: Heijo Palace Site Investigation Office opened at the Nara Palace Site in Sakihigashi-machi, Nara City
1963: Heijo Palace Site Investigation Division is established
1968: Affiliated with the Agency for Cultural Affairs (established 1968)
1970: Nara Palace Site Museum opened
1973: Finance Section, Asuka/Fujiwara Palace Site Investigation Division, and Asuka Historical Museum established
1974: Department of General Affairs and the Center for Archaeological Operations established
1975: Asuka Historical Museum opened at Okuyama in Asuka village, Nara
1980: Art Research Division transferred to the Research Center for Buddhist Art, Nara National Museum
1980: Relocated to Nijo-cho, Nara City. Heijo Palace Site Investigation Division and the Center for Archaeological Operations are transferred together to the new site
1988: New headquarters building of Asuka/Fujiwara Palace Site Investigation Division built at 94-1, Kinomoto-cho, Kashihara City
2001: Restructured as the Independent Administrative Institution National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Nara
2007: Integrated into the Independent Administrative Institution National Institutes for Cultural Heritage, as the Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties
2013: Relocated to temporary premises located at 247-1 Saki-cho, Nara City, while the original head office site is being redeveloped.

Facilities

	Land Area	Building (m ²)	
Area of Headquarters	8,860	Building Area Gross Floor Area Currently under reconstruction	
Area of Nara Palace Site Museum	Located on government-owned land, rent fees waived	Building Area Gross Floor Area	13,328 21,395
Area of Department of Imperial Palace Sites Investigations (Asuka and Fujiwara)	20,515	Building Area Gross Floor Area	6,016 9,477
Area of Asuka Historical Museum	17,093	Building Area Gross Floor Area	2,657 4,404

International Research Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region (IRCI)



ARATA Akio

Director-General
International Research
Centre for Intangible
Cultural Heritage in the
Asia-Pacific Region

At the UNESCO General Conference of October 2009, authorization was given to Japan to establish an International Centre for intangible cultural heritage in the Asia-Pacific region. After the Japanese government concluded an agreement with UNESCO in August 2010, the International Research Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region was founded in Sakai City, in October 2011.

The International Research Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region (IRCI) is a Category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO established to support researchers and institutes engaged in research for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage (ICH) in the Asia Pacific region.

ICH is now endangered in many countries throughout the world. IRCI contributes to the safeguarding of ICH through research to ensure that the children of the future will still be able to enjoy rich traditional culture that has been passed down through the generations.

(<http://www.irci.jp>)

■ Activities in FY2013

IRCI's objectives are to promote UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) and its implementation, and to enhance the safeguarding of ICH through instigating, facilitating, and coordinating researches in the Asia-Pacific region. To achieve these objectives, IRCI works in cooperation with universities, research institutions, museums, community representatives and other governmental and non-governmental organizations in Japan and elsewhere in the region, while assisting notably developing countries in the Asia-Pacific region in implementing effective safeguarding measures.

IRCI is currently conducting the following activities, which are in line with UNESCO's strategic goals and in conformity with the endorsement of IRCI's Governing Board:

● Activities A: Facilitating research into methodologies and practices related to the safeguarding of endangered ICH, such as community-based documentation and legal systems

1. Endangered Traditional Handicrafts in Post-Conflict States (Sri Lanka)
The project aims to promote the transmission of handicraft making in post-conflict areas as a means of reconstructing livelihoods. ICH elements in urgent need of safeguarding have been identified through field research.
2. Safeguarding ICH on the Verge of Extinction: Vietnamese ICH Element Dong Ho Woodblock Printing
Transmission of techniques and knowledge of woodblock printing of Dong Ho is under the threat due to the aging of artisans and the rapid urbanization and industrialization. A preliminary research was conducted to mitigate these problems through developing a community-based documentation.
3. Study of Legal Systems related to ICH in the Greater Mekong Region
For the purpose of strengthening legal systems related to ICH, field research assessing the current conditions of legal system was conducted in Laos and Cambodia.
4. International Field School Alumni Seminar on ICH and Museums (August 6-18, 2013, Surin, Thailand)
The seminar targeting young ICH researchers and officers was organized in collaboration with the Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn Anthropology Centre (SAC), following the MoU signed in FY 2012. IRCI dispatched an instructor for this seminar.
5. Study Tour for ICH officers from Timor-Leste (October 22-26, 2013, Japan)
The study tour for ICH officials and experts from Timor-Leste, involving a series of lectures, workshops, museum visits, was programmed in conjunction with UNESCO Jakarta Office. Tokyo, Oga City (Akita), Yuki City (Ibaraki), Mashiko Town (Tochigi) were visited.
6. Workshop for Documentation of ICH as a Tool for Community Safeguarding Activities (February 4-6, 2014, Tokyo National Museum)
ICH practitioners in the Asia-Pacific region attended the workshop for developing methodologies for community-led documentation of ICH. ICH officials who had participated in other programmes of IRCI were also invited, expecting synergy among related projects.

●Activities B: Instigating research regarding the safeguarding of ICH in the Asia-Pacific region, through organizing international forums and conferences involving academics and experts, while collecting information pertaining to the study of ICH safeguarding

1. A Preliminary Meeting of International Experts of ICH Safeguarding (February 19-20, 2014, Bangkok, Thailand)
In this preparatory meeting among ICH experts, key issues relevant to the study of ICH safeguarding were identified and discussed.

●Activities C: Collaborating with Sakai City Museum, within the framework of the Centre's mandate, to promote ICH elements inscribed in the UNESCO's representative and other lists, and international cultural understanding among the young generations

1. International Symposium in Celebration of the 10th Anniversary of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (August 3, 2013, Hotel Agora Regency Sakai, Japan)
An international symposium celebrating the 10th anniversary of the 2003 convention was organized in collaboration with the Agency of Cultural Affairs and Sakai City.



Research on Traditional craftsmanship in Sri Lanka ©Centre for Eco-Cultural Studies, Sri Lanka



International Experts Meeting (Bangkok)



International Symposium in Celebration of the 10th Anniversary of the 2003 Convention (Sakai City)



Study Tour for ICH officers of Timor-Leste in Japan (Tokyo, etc.)



Workshop for Young Film Makers for ICH Video Documentation (Tokyo)

●Website Information

The Centre's website provides information not only in English, but also in the languages of target regions, for example, Vietnamese, Thai and other languages with the aim of disseminating activity achievements as widely as possible in the areas that the activities relate to.

Brief History

Oct. 2009: Establishment of the centre was authorized at UNESCO General Conference
Aug. 2010: Agreement for the establishment of the centre was concluded between the Japanese government and UNESCO
Mar. 2011: Agreement for the opening of the centre was concluded between Sakai City and the National Institutes for Cultural Heritage
Apr. 2011: The Preparatory Office for the Asia-Pacific Intangible Cultural Heritage Research Centre was established
Oct. 2011: International Research Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region was opened.

Facilities

(m ²)		
Buildings	Building Area	244.67
	Gross Floor Area	244.67
Number of Rooms		4

※The building is leased from Sakai City, Osaka Prefecture.