

The Undertakings of the National Institutes for Cultural Heritage include:

1 Acquisition and Preservation of Museum Collections

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 it easier to donate objects.

Japan's cultural properties are the precious assets of the Japanese people. In order to pass on this heritage to future generations, we make efforts to improve the environment for the works while working systematically to restore the objects, with those requiring urgent treatment given priority. This work is carried out through the coordinated efforts of specialists in the fields of conservation science and restoration technology, using both traditional techniques and modern scientific methods.

■ Collection

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.

■ 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 fullscale treatments, performed on a schematic basis in response to the condition of the object.

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
125,766	130	954	116,268	87	634	7,109	27	180	1,877	13	111	512	3	29

(Figures as of March 31, 2015)

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
11,844	195	1,208	3,064	56	256	6,001	86	623	1,984	53	324	795	0	5

(Figures as of March 31, 2015)

2 Dissemination of Traditional Culture

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. We are also constantly striving to improve our facilities and management to make our museums more accessible and visitor-friendly.

■ 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 (Fiscal 2014)

Total	Tokyo National Museum	Kyoto National Museum	Nara National Museum	Kyushu National Museum
3,734,433	1,913,643	539,134	476,993	804,663



Special Exhibition: *The Age of Dramatic Interaction in East Asia: Between Ancient Japan and Baekje* (Kyushu National Museum) January 1-March 1, 2015



Ink and Gold: Art of the Kano (February 16-May 10, 2015, The Philadelphia Museum of Art, United States of America)

■ Educational Activities

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 also support volunteer activities with the aim of further improving our educational programs.

3 Contributing to Museum Activities as a Central Organization for Museums in Japan

We aim to play a leading role for museums in Japan while actively engaging with overseas museums and contributing to vibrant museum activities both within Japan and overseas. To achieve these goals, we are engaged in the following tasks:



The Eighth Director's Meeting of National Museums, Japan, China and Korea (Tokyo National Museum ; September 19, 2014)

- ① We widely disseminate the results of research into museum collections and other areas through various media such as publications and websites.
- ② We hold international symposiums with noted scholars from other countries. We also send our staff members to research institutions and international conferences overseas.
- ③ Together with other related institutions, we provide training programs for museum professionals in such fields as conservation and restoration. Through these activities, we contribute to the improvement of conservation and restoration technologies both within Japan and abroad.
- ④ While taking into account conservation considerations, we actively loan objects from our collections to public and private museums so they can be seen throughout Japan. We are also working to build a professional network through which we can offer instruction, advice and information exchange to public and private museums throughout Japan.

4 Promoting Surveys and Research as a Core Research Organization for Japan's Cultural Heritage

Besides promoting surveys and research relating to various types of cultural properties, we also contribute to the development of knowledge and techniques necessary for ensuring the preservation of precious cultural properties and handing this heritage down to future generations.



Reconstruction of the ceiling of Kitora Tumulus



Shishi-mai (a lion dance) of Konori district, one of the revived performances (Onagawa, Miyagi Prefecture)



X-ray fluorescence analysis of mural painting of the Takamatsuzuka Tumulus

- ① We conduct a wide range of fundamental and systematic research on Japan's cultural properties and the related cultural properties of other nations. These include tangible cultural properties, monuments, cultural landscapes, and groups of historic buildings. Our research also includes topics such as the transmission and presentation of intangible cultural properties, as well as the researchers who engaged in the study of Japan's ancient castle towns through the excavation of the Asuka, Fujiwara, and Nara Palace Sites. Through this, we promote the development of methods for comprehensive research on cultural properties, thus contributing to the establishment of a foundation for the protection and appraisal of cultural

properties by the government and local public organization.

- ② We conduct research and development aimed at establishing (1) techniques to produce digital images suitable for the recording and analyzing of cultural properties and (2) methods for conducting research on archaeological sites or dendrochronology. Through this, we contribute to increasing and providing fundamental materials that will shed light on the cultural and environmental backgrounds of cultural properties as well as the changes they have come through.
- ③ We work to raise the quality of cultural property conservation and restoration through state-of-the-art research using the latest conservation techniques, together with research into traditional restoration techniques and methods of manufacturing and utilization.
- ④ We work to raise the quality of cultural property conservation and restoration through state-of-the-art research using the latest conservation techniques, together with research into traditional restoration techniques and methods of manufacturing and utilization.
- ⑤ We conduct systematic research into the collection, preservation, management and display of tangible cultural properties as well as into other related educational activities. By promoting the conservation and utilization of these properties, we help to enhance Japanese culture and ensure that these assets are handed down to future generations.

5 Promotion of International Cooperation Related to the Protection of Cultural Properties

International collaboration is vital for the preservation of cultural properties, the common heritage of all humankind. We assist with Japan's positive contribution in this area by strengthening coordination between domestic research institutes, undertaking international collaborative research with other countries, and implementing talent cultivation and technology transfer relating to the preservation and restoration of cultural properties through the provision of training and the dispatching of experts to work overseas.

We undertake activities aimed at safeguarding endangered intangible cultural heritage (ICH) in the Asia-Pacific region, and endeavor to promote research. We also collect information relating to international trends in the safeguarding of ICH.



On-site training on the investigation of wooden buildings held at Bagaya monastery in Innwa, Myanmar

6 Collection of Reference Materials and Dissemination of Research Outcomes

In addition to the collection, management and preservation of materials related to Cultural Properties, we also work to provide wide access to information, research and studies. For this reason, we promote activities such as (1) the digitalization of material related to cultural properties, (2) the expansion of specialized archives, (3) the holding of public lectures and international symposia and (4) the improvement of each institute's website. We strive to deepen public understanding of research and studies through the improvement of displays at public facilities such as the Nara Palace Site Museum, the Fujiwara Palace Site Reference Room and the Asuka Historical Museum of the Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties.



The 9th Public Lecture at the Department of Intangible Cultural Heritage, National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo

7 Improving Cultural Property Protection by Assisting Local Public Organizations

We help to raise the knowledge and ability of individuals engaged in the protection of cultural properties throughout Japan by (1) providing professional and technical research-based assistance and advice to national and local governments and (2) releasing and utilizing information, knowledge, and technologies with regard to cultural properties. We also help to raise the ability of professionals who engage in the protection of cultural properties, and to educate students and younger staff through training programs for professional leaders or through collaboration with universities.



Joint lecture with the Graduate School of Tokyo University of the Arts

■ Collaboration with Universities

- Tokyo University of the Arts: Preventive Conservation Course (Studies on Conservation Environment, Studies on Conservation Materials)
- Graduate School of Human and Environmental Studies, Kyoto University: Department of Cultural Coexistence (Cultural, Regional and Historic Studies on Environment: Studies of Cultural Heritage)
- Graduate School of Humanities and Sciences, Nara Women's University: School of Comparative Culture (Department of Lectures on Cultural History)
- Graduate School of Humanities, Kobe University (Joint Lectures on Cultural Resources)