



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

The Tokyo National Museum was established in 1872 and has the longest history among any Japanese museums. Our collection comprises of 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 objects and promote understanding of art through educational programs.

Currently at Tohaku (our nickname for the Tokyo National Museum), renovation work on the Heiseikan building is underway. The thematic Exhibition Room reopened in April, and the Archaeology Gallery is scheduled to reopen in October.

Tohaku offers various events aimed at making the regular exhibition galleries as exciting and stimulating as possible for visitors. Following the New Year's celebration in January and cherry blossom viewing events in the spring, last autumn the Museum also introduced a new event; "Journey Through Asia". It integrated exhibitions of masterpieces from the Toyokan (Asian Gallery) and received great reviews from visitors.

The Museum's special exhibitions for 2015 began with "Masterpieces of Buddhist Sculpture from Northern Japan", and continue with "Indian Buddhist Art from Indian Museum, Kolkata," "Masterpieces of Kosan-ji Temple: The Complete Scrolls of Choju Giga, Frolicking Animals," "Cleopatra and the Queens of Egypt," "THE ART OF BVLGARI. 130 YEARS OF ITALIAN MASTERPIECES," "The Great Terracotta Army of China's First Emperor" and "Kuroda Seiki, Master of Modern Japanese Painting: The 150th Anniversary of his Birth."

In addition to exhibitions, 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 students help them develop a more in-depth understanding of cultural treasures.

Tohaku will continue its effort to making the Museum enjoyable to everyone, from children and adults to overseas visitors.

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 2015, 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. Special exhibitions are also held in the Honkan building.

TOYOKAN (Asian Gallery): Displays artworks and archeological artifacts from Asian countries excluding Japan.

HEISEIKAN: The Japanese Archaeology Gallery (1st Floor) features archeological objects such as bronze bells and haniwa clay ornaments dating from the Paleolithic through to the Edo period; the Thematic Exhibition Room (1st floor) is used for thematic and educational displays. The Japanese Archaeology Gallery is closed for renovation work between December 2014 and October 2015.

The Gallery of Horyuji Treasures: Exhibits are selected from over 300 cultural properties donated to the Imperial family by Horyuji temple in Nara. Closed for building maintenance from May 20, 2015 to March 14, 2016.

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, and displays his works.

●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 2015:

- Noh Masks: Representation of Women's Faces (early July-early October)
- Objects Related to Early Christian Faith-Images of the Virgin Mary (early July-late August)
- Walking together with Ippen Shonin (early November-early December)



Room 18, Japanese Gallery



Special exhibition *Indian Buddhist Art from the Indian Museum, Kolkata*
(March 17-May 17, 2015)



Specialist working on full restoration of a hanging scroll

●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 2015:

- *Masterpieces of Buddhist Sculpture from Northern Japan* (January 14–April 5, 2015)
- *Indian Buddhist Art from the Indian Museum, Kolkata* (March 17–May 17, 2015)
- *Masterpieces of Kosan-ji Temple: The complete scrolls of Choju Giga, Frolicking Animals* (April 28–June 7, 2015)
- *Cleopatra and the Queens of Egypt* (July 11–September 23, 2015)
- *THE ART of BVLGARI 130 YEARS OF ITALIAN MASTERPIECES* (September 8–November 29, 2015)
- *The Great Terracotta Army of China's First Emperor* (October 27, 2015–February 21, 2016)
- *Kuroda Seiki, Master of Modern Japanese Painting: The 150th Anniversary of his Birth* (March 23–May 15, 2016)

●Overseas Exhibitions

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

■Acquisition, Preservation, and Restoration

The Museum seeks to create a comprehensive display of Asian culture with a focus on Japan through the acquisition of works of art by purchase, gift, and loan.

We also carry out a variety of collection management measures to allow deteriorated objects to be safely exhibited in the future. These measures include enhancing gallery and storage environments, improving display and transportation methods, conducting collection assessment, as well as performing about 100 full restorations and 1,000 emergency treatments of works annually. We call these activities clinical conservation.

■Education

To provide a better museum experience for visitors, we offer opportunities for as many people as possible to get to know the museum, and helps them to develop a more in-depth understanding of Japanese and Asian culture. Through collaborations with schools and development of volunteer activities, we strive to establish a model approach for engaging museum projects and promote effective educational programs that reflect our role as a leading museum in Japan.

○Providing learning opportunities

Lectures, gallery talks, workshops, "behind the scenes" tours introducing the museum's preservation and restoration work, and exhibition-related events

○Educational thematic exhibits "Family Galleries"

○Collaboration with schools

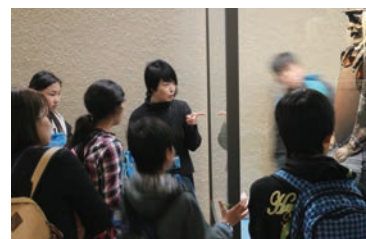
School programs (art appreciation programs, work experience programs, and programs for visually impaired students) Teacher training

○Partnerships with universities

Campus Members System and internship programs for graduate students

○Volunteer activities

Assist with educational and public programs and events, visitor information, guided tours, etc.



School program in progress



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 2015 includes the following:

- Research on the creation of the Japanese dyed textiles collection and its art-historical values
- Research on the digital archiving of cultural treasures held in museum collections
- Special research projects on calligraphy and decorative art



Research work on metal crafts for a Special Research Project on traditional handicrafts

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 Jingu.
- 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

(m²)

Land Area	120,270 (including the Kuroda Memorial Hall and the Yanase Villa)			
Buildings	Building Area	22,438	Gross Floor Area	72,222
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	5,542	Gross Floor Area	19,406
	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	Building Area	1,179	Repository Area	0
	Exhibition Area	724	Gross Floor Area	1,996
Others	Building Area	264	Repository Area	25
	Building Area	3,613	Gross Floor Area	9,765



Kyoto National Museum

The 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 1200 years, from the relocation of the capital in 794, which marked the beginning of the Heian period, right through to the Meiji Restoration. 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 the museum's great mission of spreading awareness of Japanese traditional culture throughout the globe. To this end, the museum strives to encourage people in all walks of life to take an interest in and visit the museum. Our aim is to create a "people-centric museum" that is also a "museum with deep roots in the local community." 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 new Collections Galleries, the Heisei Chishinkan Wing, opened in September 2014. We anticipate that, when combined with the museum's Special Exhibition Hall, the Meiji KotoKan, constructed in 1895, the new facilities and functions of the Heisei Chishinkan Wing will help to make the Kyoto National Museum even more popular with visitors.

Exhibitions

Collection Galleries

The Collection Galleries in the Heisei Chishinkan Wing, which opened in September 2014, include thematic galleries for ceramics, archeological relics, paintings, calligraphy, decorative and applied arts, and sculpture. The galleries showcase some of the finest pieces from the museum's 13,000 collection works (including works on long-term loan), and enable visitors to experience some of the most outstanding products of Kyoto's unique cultural heritage. The works on display are changed periodically, so visitors can expect to see different items on subsequent visits.

Special Exhibitions

Kano Painters of the Momoyama Period: Eitoku's Legacy (April 7–May 17, 2015)

Rinpa: The Aesthetics of the Capital (October 10–November 23, 2015)



Pilgrimage through Minami-Yama-shiro: Early Buddhist Art of Southern Kyoto (April 22–June 15, 2014)



Kyoto: Splendors of the Ancient Capital (The opening exhibition of the Heisei Chishinkan Wing) (September 13–November 16, 2014)



Heisei Chishinkan



Masterpieces of Kōsan-ji Temple: Commemorating the Restoration of the National Treasure "Scrolls of Frolicking Animals and Humans" (October 7–November 24, 2014)

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 conservation facility for cultural properties in Japan, was established in 1980 to meet that need.

Educational Activities

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



The Conservation Center for Cultural Properties

○Activities held to enhance understanding of exhibition contents and exhibits

- The museum holds various lectures and seminars including the Saturday Lectures and Commemorative Lectures. It also operates the "Museum Cart" hands-on experience booths (staffed by "Kyo-Haku Navigator" volunteers), and organizes guided tours for elementary and junior high school students (the Museum Children's Club), as well as distributing worksheets and explanatory sheets (the "Museum Dictionary") to elementary and junior high school students visiting the museum.

○Activities held to stimulate interest in cultural properties

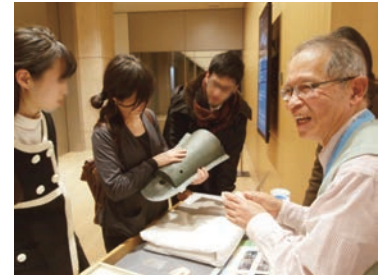
- the museum organizes summer lectures, symposiums and other lecture events, as well as arranging visits to elementary schools and junior high schools in Kyoto by "Cultural Property Sommeliers" making use of high-resolution digital reproductions of important works of art (Cultural Heritage Familiarization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

○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).



Buddhist Pilgrimage activity led by a Kyo-Haku Navigator (May 11 and May 18, 2014)



"Museum Cart" activity (2014)

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 2013-14, we carried out a five-day survey of cultural properties held at the Chion-ji Temple in Sakyo-ku, Kyoto, making some exciting discoveries, particularly in relation to carvings. We have also been undertaking an ongoing survey of paintings, calligraphy and handicrafts dating from the Early Modern and Modern eras from a collection housed in a private residence in Kaizuka-shi, Osaka Prefecture. Some of these works have already been donated to the museum, and it is hoped that more may be donated in the future. The museum also continues to undertake research on its collections; the research results are reflected in the museum's displays and 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 Ministry
 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.

- *Master Works in Wood by Three Generations in the Kiuchi Family: Kihachi, Hanko and Shōko* (June 2-28, 2015)
- *On-Matsuri and the Sacred Art of Kasuga* (December 8, 2015-January 17, 2016)
- *Treasures of Todaiji's Omizutori Ritual* (February 6-March 14, 2016)

● Special Exhibitions

- *Ancient Sutras from the Heian Period: Encountering the Legendary Kunōji Sutras* (April 7-May 17, 2015)
- Special Exhibition: *Celebrating the 120th Anniversary of the Nara National Museum: Hakuho, The First Full Flowering of Buddhist Art in Japan* (July 18-September 23, 2015)
- *The 67th Annual Exhibition of Shōsō-in Treasures* (Late October-Early November, 2015) (Tentative)



Special Exhibition: *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)



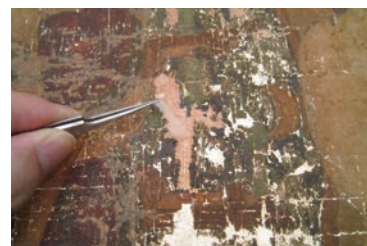
Special Exhibition: *Commemorating the 80th Birthdays of their Majesties the Emperor and Empress: The 66th Annual Exhibition of Shōsō-in Treasures*
(October 24-November 12, 2014)

■ 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 Conservation of lacquer by restorers handle restoration projects.



Fabric restoration work on the Important Cultural Property Fugen Enmei (Vajrāmoghasamayāsattva), from the Museum's own collection

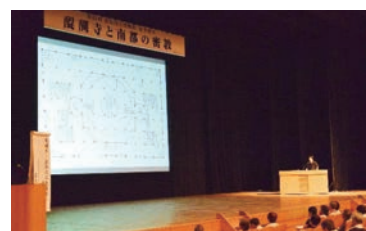
Educational Programs

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



Guided tour of the Research Center for Buddhist Art Materials (with volunteer guides from the museum's Support Group)



Summer Lecture: The Daigo-ji Temple and the Esoteric Buddhism of Nara in progress



Survey work undertaken in preparation for the holding of the special exhibition "Hakuho, The First Full Flowering of Buddhist Art in Japan"



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 2015 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.

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.



SHIMATANI Hiroyuki
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. This year, the Museum will celebrate the 10th anniversary of its founding.

The Museum has now received a cumulative total of over 12 million visitors since it first opened. The last few years have seen a pronounced increase in the number of visitors from China, Korea, Vietnam and Thailand. In the future, the Museum will continue to carry out a wide range of research work and other activities aimed at furthering mutual understanding between Asian cultures, while also striving to be a museum that is relevant to, and of value to, the local community.

Exhibitions

● Cultural Exchange Exhibition (Permanent Exhibition)

In order to provide our visitors with opportunities to experience new works each time they visit, the Cultural Exchange Exhibition holds the Feature 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. Thematic exhibitions scheduled for fiscal year 2015 are as follows:

- *The Dazaifu viewed by Prince of Silla (September 22-November 29, 2015)*
- *Image of Prayers: Hachiman (February 22-March 13, 2016)*

● 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 2015 are as follows:

- Sengoku Daimyo-16th century Warlords' Rivalry in Kyushu over billowing Asian seas (April 21-May 31, 2015)*
- The British Museum Exhibition: A History of the World in 100 Objects (July 14-September 6, 2015)*
- Japan, Country of Beauty (October 18-November 29, 2015)*
- Afghanistan Hidden Treasures from the National Museum, Kabul (tentative title) (January 1-February 14)*

Collection, Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Properties

● Collection

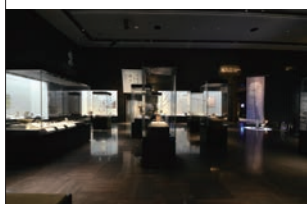
The Museum puts an emphasis on collecting artifacts such as artwork, archeological materials, historical documents and folk materials that help visitors more easily understand the cultural exchanges between Japan and the rest of Asia. Moreover, in an effort to further improve displays and exhibitions, we proactively invite various organizations, temples, shrines and individuals to lend or donate their cultural properties to us.

● Preservation

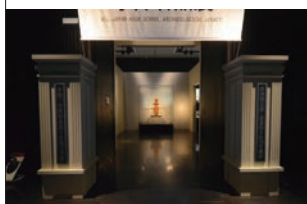
The "storage rooms" of the Museum are where important cultural properties are preserved and stored. They are located in the heart of the building and the box-like space features a double walled structure. The air conditioning facilities also utilize a constant temperature humidistat, which allows the temperature and humidity of the storage area to be maintained at a stable level. Additionally, the walls and ceiling of each storage room are made from Kyushu cedars, which help ensure an appropriate humidity level even if air conditioning facilities fail. The Museum installed the "seismic isolation structure" to prevent cultural properties from toppling over during earthquakes. One unique feature of the seismically isolated building, compared to installing seismic isolation devices above ground, is that the building does not receive direct impact in the event of an earthquake. The building thus sways slowly and this helps protect the cultural properties.

● Restoration

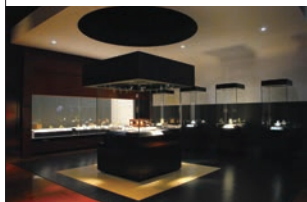
The six conservation and restoration facilities at the Museum (respectively specializing in: the production of paper and other materials used for repair; historical materials, calligraphy and documents; paintings; sculptures; archaeological artifacts; and lacquerware) work in collaboration with the Museum's 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
(Permanent Exhibition)



All-Japan High School Archaeological Legacy
(July 15-September 23, 2014)



Treasured Masterpieces from the National Palace Museum, Taipei
(October 7-November 30, 2014)

Educational and Exchange Activities

●Educational Activities

- ① Interactive Exhibition Gallery "Ajippa" showcases the various cultures of regions that had historically interacted with Japan. Other efforts include areas such as educational kits development, visitor experience programs, and collaborative programs with other educational institutions.
- ② Educational programs in association with special exhibitions and the Cultural Exchange Exhibition (permanent exhibition)
 - ・ Programs to improve exhibition understanding



Volunteer Program: Kyushu National Museum Children's Festival

- ・ Conducting of workshops
 - ・ Production of guidebooks
 - ③ "Kypack" - educational kits to be used in secondary schools
 - ④ Campus Members System to strengthen ties with universities and other higher educational institutions
 - ⑤ Educational activities based on "Kyushu National Museum's picture books" for children
 - ⑥ Supporting volunteer activities
- We encourage various volunteer activities at the museum in areas including exhibition explanations, educational programs, guided tours (including behind the scenes "Backyard Tours"), the environment, events, and Data compilation.

●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 Goguryeo 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: *Arita in Global Perspective – The Arita-ware Tradition, and the Creativity that will Enable it to Continue into the Future* (March 8, 2015)

Research and Survey Activities



Research and survey Activities

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
- ・ Fundamental research on the Tsushima's So clan and *** during the medieval and early modern periods
- ・ Collation and publication of details of Khitan tomb murals - Research on the visual understanding of the state formation process in East Asia after the collapse of the Tang Empire
- ・ Research on the preservation and effective utilization of underwater archeological sites
- ・ Ongoing, development-oriented field research on traditional craftspeople in Kyushu and Okinawa, building on the results achieved by the Special Exhibition "Craftworks of Today in Kyushu and Okinawa: Tradition and Creation" held in 2008
- ・ 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): This bulletin summarizes the results of the Museum's investigative research efforts (published annually)
- ii) Asiage (Visual guide): A guide providing information on Cultural Exchange Exhibition (permanent exhibition) in an accessible format
- iii) Asiage (Quarterly magazine): An information magazine focusing on the Cultural Exchange Exhibition and special exhibitions (released quarterly)
- iv) Picture Book Series: The Museum produces original picture books for children about Japanese history format to encourage understanding and familiarity.

Brief History

- 1994: The Agency for Cultural Affairs (ACA) organized the "committee to investigate the establishment of a new concept-based museum (the Committee)".
- 1996: ACA decided the new museum should be established as the Kyushu National Museum (provisional title) in Dazaifu, Fukuoka.
- 1997: The Committee drew up the "basic framework for Kyushu National Museum (provisional title)".
- 1999: The Committee made the "basic plan for Kyushu National Museum (provisional title)".
- 2000: ACA, Fukuoka Prefecture, and the Kyushu National Museum Promotion Foundation (the Foundation) jointly formulated the "basic construction design" for the Museum.
The ACA and Fukuoka Prefecture jointly organized "experts conference for the establishment of Kyushu National Museum (provisional title)" developed the "permanent exhibition plan".
- 2001: ACA, Fukuoka Prefecture and the Foundation jointly completed the "basic exhibition design".
The Independent Administrative Institution National Museum (the National Museum) established the "preparatory office for the establishment of the Kyushu National Museum".
- 2002: ACA, Fukuoka Prefecture and the Foundation jointly launched the "construction works (the first year of a three-year plan)".
- 2003: The National Museum and Fukuoka Prefecture launched the "preparation of the exhibitions (the first year of a two-year plan)".
- 2004: ACA, Fukuoka Prefecture and the Foundation completed the "construction works".
ACA, the National Museum and Fukuoka Prefecture officially named the Museum as "Kyushu National Museum".
- 2005: The National Museum and Fukuoka Prefecture completed the "preparation of the exhibitions".

tion of the exhibitions".

The National Museum formally established the Kyushu National Museum.

Kyushu National Museum opened to the public on 16 October.

2007: The Kyushu National Museum was merged into the IAI National Institutes for Cultural Heritage (NICH).

2008: Japan-China-ROK Trilateral Summit Meeting was held at the Kyushu National Museum.

2012: Kyushu National Museum welcomed its 10 millionth visitor.

2015: 10th anniversary

Facilities

Facilities				(m²)
Land Area	NICH	10,798	Prefecture	166,477
				155,679
Building	Building Area	14,623	Gross Floor Area	30,675
	NICH	9,300	Prefecture	5,780
			Shared Area	15,595
Exhibition and Repository Area	Exhibition Area Total	5,444	NICH	3,844
	Prefecture	1,375	Shared Area	225
	Repository Area Total	4,518	NICH	2,744
	Prefecture	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 ties, 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.



Examining the National Treasure, *Ma-hamayurividyarajini* (jpn: Kujaku Myo-o), Tokyo National Museum

● 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* "Kajikazawa," by Mr. HAYASHIYA Shojaku

● 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.



Research on the colors used in the "Ino Maps," the first complete geographical survey maps of Japanese coast, made by INO Tadataka

● Japan Center for International Cooperation in Conservation

The Japan Center for International Cooperation in Conservation renders assistance to various countries in Asian and other regions of the world through the conservation and restoration projects of cultural heritage including technical transfer and human resource development. It also promotes the cooperative networks with other relevant institutions, domestic and international, by organizing seminars and meetings. Collection and dissemination of information on cultural heritage and its protection systems is another important task of the Center.

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



Survey of works in the collection of the Manggha Museum of Japanese Art and Technology in Krakow, Poland

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



Training for museum curators in charge of conservation



Leaflet for the 48th Public Lecture

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, Leaflet for the 8th Public Profile and TOBUNKENNEWS are published, and the website of the institute is updated constantly



TOBUNKEN Research Collections(<http://www.tobunken.go.jp/archives/>)

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



Research and Reports on Intangible Cultural Heritage



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

Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, an organization that engages in the study of tangible cultural heritage, has conducted excavation research at the Nara and Fujiwara Palace sites, investigated cultural objects (such as historical documents, ancient architecture and gardens) and has also made efforts to preserve the Asuka region through its research and exhibition programs. These activities contribute to academic exchanges, international support and the study of cultural heritage in Japan and abroad. For example, they have resulted in ongoing joint research partnerships with institutes in China and Korea. We also endeavor to develop new excavation technology and research methods as well as to provide technical training for local government specialists.

Our methods of preservation, restoration and maintenance that we developed to protect historical sites are not only appreciated by researchers in Japan, but are also utilized in excavations globally. Our research activities are supported by our own interdisciplinary joint research in different fields. It is our responsibility to maximize the results of our efforts in the research and preservation of 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 (Special Historic 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 Autumn
Special Exhibition



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



Survey of the area around Minami
Ichijo-ji (South First Avenue) in
front of the Saeki Gate of the Heijo
Palace (Imperial Palace)



Building foundations in the Eastern
Government Offices area of the Fuji-
wara 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

●InternationalAcademicExchange

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 Properties
- 1954: Renamed as the Nara National Cultural 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 Institute 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, International Research Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region (IRCI) was founded in Sakai City, in October 2011, as a Category 2 Centre under the auspices of UNESCO.

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 research institutions, museums, community representatives, NGOs and governmental organizations in the region. Today, many elements of ICH are endangered throughout the world due to various factors. IRCI contributes to the safeguarding of ICH, in terms of researches, to ensure that people in the future continue to appreciate rich cultural heritage that has been passed down for generations.

Activities in FY 2014

IRCI's activities are in accordance with its medium-term programme endorsed by IRCI Governing Board, which are also in line with UNESCO's strategic goals. IRCI aims to promote researches for ICH safeguarding through its activities, while contributing to the international enhancement of ICH safeguarding with Japan's long-term experiences on cultural heritage management.

1. Mapping research for ICH safeguarding in the Asia-Pacific region
2. Practical and methodological researches for safeguarding endangered ICH
3. Collaboration with Sakai City for promoting ICH, within the framework of IRCI's mandate

In FY 2014, IRCI conducted the following activities:

● Activity Focus 1: Mapping Research for ICH Safeguarding in the Asia-Pacific Region

1. International Experts Meeting of the Project "Mapping Research on the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region" (26-27 January 2015, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia)

In cooperation with Islamic Art Museum Malaysia, IRCI held an international meeting inviting experts to discuss issues related to ICH safeguarding based on practical cases of safeguarding in the Asia-Pacific region.

2. Research Database on ICH Safeguarding in the Asia-Pacific Region

For the purpose of making widely available the research information collected in the past years, IRCI launched online research database (<http://ichdb-irci.org/>).

● Activity Focus 2: Practical and Methodological Researches for Safeguarding Endangered ICH

1. Research for Endangered Traditional Handicrafts in Post-Conflict States (Sri Lanka)
For revitalizing traditional handicrafts as a means of supporting people's livelihood in conflict-affected areas, IRCI discussed plans for further activities with the government officials in Sri Lanka.

2. Study of Legal Systems Related to Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Greater Mekong Region

With the aim of strengthening legal policies related to ICH safeguarding in the Mekong region and other countries in Southeast Asia, IRCI in cooperation with Kyushu University (Graduate School of Law) held a workshop inviting the government officials and experts from 9 countries in the region (19-20 December 2014, Kyushu University).



International experts meeting of the mapping project (January 2015, Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia)



Research Database on ICH Safeguarding in the Asia-Pacific Region (<http://ichdb-irci.org/>)



Discussion with the Minister of Traditional Industries, Sri Lanka (September 2014)

3. Research for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage on the Verge of Extinction: Vietnamese ICH Element Dong Ho Woodblock Printing
IRCI and Vietnam Institute of Culture and Arts Studies (VICAS) co-organized a workshop (27-28 January 2015, Hanoi and Bac Ninh Province, Vietnam), which was attended by Dong Ho community leaders, practitioners and researchers from Japan and Vietnam.
4. Intensive Working Session on Documentation of ICH as a Tool for Community-led Safeguarding Activities (16-18 March 2015, Tokyo National Museum)
For the effective implementation of the community-based documentation of endangered ICH elements, IRCI programmed an intensive working session inviting community representatives from Timor Leste, for presenting and editing their videorecords. With attendance of artisans from Sri Lanka as observers, the importance of documentation for ICH safeguarding was discussed among participants.



Workshop on the study of legal systems related to intangible cultural heritage in Southeast Asia (December 2014, Kyushu University)

●Activity Focus 3: Collaboration with Sakai City for Promoting ICH

1. The 10th Seminar on Understanding Intangible Cultural Heritage (21 February 2015, Sakai City Museum)
Director-General of IRCI gave a lecture on UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage and the activities of IRCI at the public seminar organized by Sakai City for enhancing the understanding of ICH.



Observation of woodblock printing techniques in Bac Ninh Province, Vietnam (January 2015)



Documentation Project (a scene in Timor Leste)



Leaflet of IRCI (English version)

●Communications and Publicity

IRCI is disseminating information about its activities using the following media:

1. Website in local languages in the Asia-Pacific region
IRCI started to update information on the website (<http://www.irci.jp>) in 8 languages: English, Japanese, Vietnamese, Thai, Tamil, Singhalese, Khmer, and Lao
2. Leaflet of IRCI
IRCI produced a leaflet providing easy-to-understand explanations on IRCI's profile and major ongoing activities. It is available in English, Japanese, and Vietnamese, and will be translated into other languages.

Brief History

Oct. 2009: Establishment of IRCI authorized at the UNESCO General Conference
Aug. 2010: Agreement for the establishment of IRCI concluded between the Japanese government and UNESCO
Mar. 2011: Agreement for the opening of IRCI concluded between Sakai City and the National Institutes for Cultural Heritage
Apr. 2011: Establishment of the preparatory office for IRCI
Oct. 2011: Official opening of IRCI

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.