

The background of the page is a light cream color with a subtle, repeating pattern of traditional Japanese motifs. These include delicate cherry blossoms with long, slender petals and green leaves, small butterflies in flight, and pine branches with needle-like leaves. The pattern is distributed across the entire page, with some elements appearing more prominent than others.

2014

Outline of the National Institutes
for Cultural Heritage

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Message

SASAKI Johei

President

Independent Administrative Institution
National Institutes for Cultural Heritage



The National Institutes for Cultural Heritage include the following: four national museums, two national research institutes for cultural properties, and the International Research Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region (IRCI), which was established in 2011. This brochure presents an overview of the activities being undertaken by these seven institutions.

These institutions are located in different parts of Japan; each has its own unique characteristics, and the activities undertaken by each institution reflect the region in which it is situated. The Tokyo National Museum is a broadly focused museum located in the Tokyo metropolitan area. It takes a leading role in promoting Japanese culture worldwide. The Kyoto National Museum showcases the unique culture that developed in Kyoto over the course of its nearly 1,200 years as an Imperial capital from the eighth century to the nineteenth century. The Nara National Museum plays an indispensable role in the preservation and interpretation of Buddhist culture, while the Kyushu National Museum embodies a unique perspective that emphasizes Kyushu's status as a region that historically has had extensive cultural exchanges with other parts of Asia. The National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo, disseminates to the world knowledge that is the fruit of both fundamental research and cutting-edge, high-tech scientific research relating to cultural properties. The Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties is an important center for wide-ranging research on society in ancient Japan. The International Research Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region is engaged in research on the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage in the said region through international collaboration.

While each of these institutions has its own important role to play, they also have a shared goal – to contribute to a better understanding of Japanese traditional culture by preserving and researching cultural properties and by enabling as many people as possible to view these cultural assets under the best possible conditions and in the best possible environments. The National Institutes for Cultural Heritage thus have the important task of supporting the foundations of the administration of cultural property preservation in Japan.

For the National Institutes for Cultural Heritage, 2013 was a year that saw a defining debate that will have a major impact on how the institutes develop in the future. It had been proposed, based on a Cabinet decision made in January 2012, that the institutes should be merged with the National Museum of Art and the Japan Arts Council. However, with a new administration coming into office in December 2012, this merger was suspended. Throughout 2013, the Japanese government reviewed the proposals regarding the organizational restructuring of the Independent Administrative Institutions (IAIs).

The three IAIs – the National Institutes for Cultural Heritage, the National Museum of Art, and the Japan Arts Council – are all organizations that underpin the framework for cultural administration in Japan. However, there are major differences among them in terms of the focus of their activities and operational approaches; as such, it is highly unlikely that a merger of these three organizations would produce any significant benefits. The point that we sought to emphasize was that rather than thinking of a merger, the “Act on General Rules for Incorporated Administrative Agency” and its operation should be reviewed, which would without question allow these three existing organizations to operate more effectively. Voices were also raised suggesting that it was not desirable to have a merger among organizations with different missions and different roles, and that, instead, it would be preferable to expand these organizations so that they can properly fulfill their originally-conceived role as the “core” of Japan’s cultural administration. Because it was believed that the merger would not improve efficiency, it was put on hold by the cabinet late in December of 2013.

The main points that we wanted to get across during the recent round of discussions were as follows: While seeing government subsidies cut every year, our revenue target has been raised, making it extremely difficult to carry on operating. In addition, even when we have gained more than the revenue target, we have not been allowed to use the surplus revenue ourselves. These are areas where we felt that improvement was needed. The new government policy will ease financial pressure as our target revenue for the fiscal year of 2014 will remain the same as for the previous year. Regarding the distribution of revenue, up until now the efforts made by the institutes to strengthen their operations have generally not been recognized, and any surplus revenue earned in excess of the target for internally-generated revenue was paid to the National Treasury. Now, following a number of improvements to the recognition criteria guidelines, a new approach is being demonstrated whereby revenue in excess of the target set is recognized as “new revenue.”

As has been reiterated in the “Basic Strategy Regarding Reform of the Independent Administrative Agencies” that was approved by the Cabinet on December 24, 2013, regardless of the circumstances, given that government funding support derives ultimately from the taxes paid by the nation’s citizens, we should be constantly striving to ensure that this funding leads to improvements in the quality of services provided that are visible to the public.

While recognizing the reality of government finances, we have a responsibility to make people aware that preserving cultural heritage and enabling more people to view and learn about it is very important, and is intimately connected with the invigoration of contemporary Japanese culture.

Looking ahead, we at the National Institutes for Cultural Heritage will continue to carry out our work in full awareness of the important role that has been entrusted to us. We look forward to your continuous support in the future.

Outline of the National Institutes for Cultural Heritage

The Independent Administrative Institution (IAI) National Institutes for Cultural Heritage was formed in April of 2007 through the merging of the IAI National Museums (Tokyo National Museum, Kyoto National Museum, Nara National Museum and Kyushu National Museum) and the IAI National Research Institutes for Cultural Properties (National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo and Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties), which share the same mission: the conservation and utilization of cultural properties.

Japan's cultural properties are the precious assets of the Japanese people. In order to preserve and utilize these properties more effectively and efficiently under unified management, each of the seven existing institutions plays the following roles.

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.

Kyoto National Museum

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

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.

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 assets related to Japan's cultural exchanges with other Asian regions.

National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo

The National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo, conducts research on Japanese cultural properties, utilizing a variety of basic, advanced and practical methods. In addition to actively publicizing and utilizing the results of this research, as an International Center for Cooperation, the institute also facilitates global research into the protection of cultural properties.

Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties

Located near the Nara Palace site, the Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties is engaged in excavation and research projects related to the conservation and utilization of cultural heritage such as sites, buildings and gardens as well as cultural properties preserved at major temples and shrines in the Nara and Kinki regions. The institute also advises and cooperates with research projects conducted across Japan.

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

We facilitate research for the safeguarding of endangered intangible cultural heritage (ICH) in the Asia-Pacific region, and collect and disseminate information relating to international trends in the safeguarding of ICH.



Tokyo National Museum



13-9 Ueno Park, Taito-ku, Tokyo, 110-8712
Phone: +81-3-3822-1111
<http://www.tnm.jp/>

Access



(JR Line) 10 min. from Ueno or Uguisudani Station
(Ginza or Hibiya Tokyo Metro Line) 15 min. from Ueno Station
(Chiyoda Tokyo Metro Line) 15 min. from Nezu Station
(Keisei Line) 15 min. from Keisei Ueno Station

Visitor Information

Hours: 9:30-17:00 (Last admission 30 minutes before closing)
Open until 20:00 on Fridays during special exhibition periods from March 28 to December.
Open until 18:00 on Saturdays, Sundays, and National Holidays from March 29 to December 7.
Closed: Mondays (except for National Holidays which fall on Mondays, in which case the museum is open on the holiday and closed the following Tuesday) and during the year-end holidays (December 24-January 1)

Admission: Adults: 620 (520) yen
University Students: 410 (310) yen
※() indicate prices for those in groups of 20 or more.
※Additional charge is required for special exhibitions.
※Persons with disabilities and one accompanying person are admitted free.
※Persons over 70 and under 18 are admitted free to regular exhibitions.
※Admission to regular exhibitions is free on International Museum Day (May 18 or the following day if it falls on a Monday) and the Respect for the Aged Day (the third Monday of September).

Kyoto National Museum



527 Chaya-cho, Higashiyama-ku, Kyoto
City, Kyoto Prefecture 605-0931
Phone: +81-75-541-1151
<http://www.kyohaku.go.jp/>

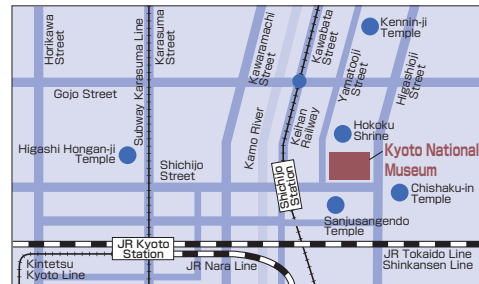
Visitor Information

The Heisei Chishinkan Wing (new Collections Hall) is set to open on September 13, 2014.

Hours: 9:30-17:00 (last admission 30 minutes before closing)
(Open until 18:00, and until 20:00 on Fridays, during special exhibition periods)

Closed on Mondays (except for National Holidays which fall on Mondays, in which case the museum is open on the holiday and closed the following Tuesday), and during the New Year period

Access



(City Bus from JR, Subway, or Kintetsu Kyoto Station) 1 min. from "Hakubutsukan Sanjusangendo-mae" stop on #206 or #208 line (Keihan Line) 7 min. from Shichijo Station

Admission: Adults: 520 (410) yen

University students: 260 (210) yen

※() indicate prices for those in groups of 20 or more

※Free admission for high school students and younger children

※There is a charge for use of the car parking facilities. We recommend using public transport to travel to the Museum.

Nara National Museum



50 Noborioji-cho, Nara City
Nara Prefecture 630-8213
Phone: +81-742-22-7771
<http://www.narahaku.go.jp/>

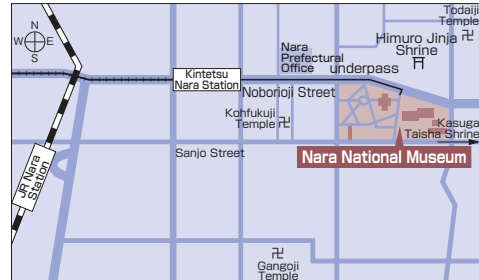
Visitor Information

The Nara Buddhist Sculpture Hall & Ritual Bronzes Gallery will be temporarily closed from September 8, 2014.

Hours: 9:30-17:00 (Last admission 30 minutes before closing)
Open until 18:00: July 19-September 15 and March 1-14
Open until 19:00: Fridays from the last Friday in April to the last Friday in October, August 5-14, December 14 and 17, the fourth Saturday of January, February 3, and March 12
Open 9:00-18:00 during the Shōsō-in Treasures exhibition period (open until 19:00 on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays, and National Holidays)

Closed: Mondays (except when National Holidays fall on Mondays, in which case the museum is open on the holiday and closed the following day), New Year's Day (January 1)

Access



(Kintetsu Line) 15 min. from Kintetsu Nara Station
(City Loop Bus) "Shinai Junkan" from JR or Kintetsu Nara Station, to "Himuro Jinja / Kokuritsu Hakubutsukan" stop

Admissions: Adults: 520 (410) yen

University Students: 260 (210) yen

※() indicate prices for those in groups of 20 or more

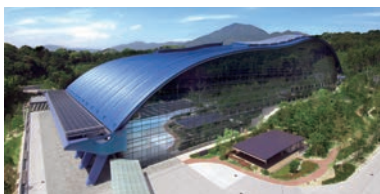
※An additional charge is required for special exhibitions

※Free admission (to all exhibitions) for disabled pass holders and one assistant

※Free admission (to masterpiece exhibitions) for seniors (70+) and children (under 17 or high school students)

※Free admission to masterpiece exhibitions on Children's Day (May 5), International Museum Day (May 18 or the following day if it falls on a Monday), Respect for the Aged Day (third Monday of September), Kansai Culture Day, On-Matsuri Festival Owatari-shiki parade, and Setsubun (February 3)

Kyushu National Museum



4-7-2, Ishizaka, Dazaifu City, Fukuoka
Prefecture, 818-0118
Phone: +81-92-918-2807
<http://www.kyuhaku.com/>

Visitor Information

Hours: 9:30-17:00 (Last admission at 16:30)

Closed on Mondays (except for National Holidays that fall on Mondays, in which case the museum is open on the holiday and closed the following Tuesday), and during the Year-end holidays

The Cultural Exchange Exhibition room (regular exhibition)

Admission: Adults: 430 (220) yen

University students: 130 (70) yen

※() indicate group prices (for paying visitors in groups of 20 or more)

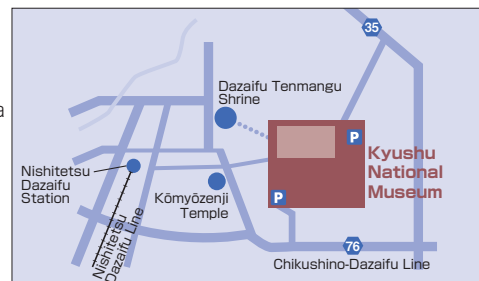
※An additional charge is required for special exhibitions

※Persons with disabilities and one accompanying person are admitted free

※Persons 70 years or older, persons under 18 years, and school students (up to and including high school) are admitted free to Cultural Exchange Exhibition.

※Admission to Cultural Exchange Exhibition is free on International Museum Day (May 18 or the following day if it falls on a Monday) and Respect for the Aged Day

Access



By rail: Nishitetsu rail line: From Nishitetsu Fukuoka (Tenjin) Station, take the Nishitetsu Tenjin Omura Line to Nishitetsu Futsukaichi Station (approximately 13 minutes on the Limited Express, 17 minutes on an Express train), and transfer to the Nishitetsu Dazaifu Line (approximately 5 minutes) and get off at Nishitetsu Dazaifu Station. Approximately 10 minutes walk from Nishitetsu Dazaifu Station. *Please note that no extra charge is required for taking the Limited Express or Express train.

JR rail line: From JR Hakata Station, take the JR Kagoshima Chuo Line (approximately 15 minutes on the Rapid train) and get off at JR Futsukaichi Station. To get to Nishitetsu Futsukaichi Station it is approximately 12 minutes walk or 5 minutes by bus: Take the Nishitetsu Dazaifu Line and get off at Nishitetsu Dazaifu Station.

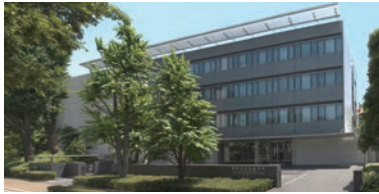
By car: By Kyushu Expressway, approximately 20 minutes drive from either Dazaifu IC, or Chikushino IC, via Takao Intersection. By Fukuoka Urban Expressway, approximately 20 minutes drive from Mizuki exit via Takao Intersection

By taxi: Approximately 15 minutes from JR Futsukaichi Station, or 30 minutes from Fukuoka Airport.

By Nishitetsu bus: From Hakata Bus Terminal (Bus Stop No. 13), take the bus to Dazaifu and get off at Nishitetsu Dazaifu Station (journey time is approximately 42 minutes). From the Station, it is approximately 10 minutes walk to the Museum.

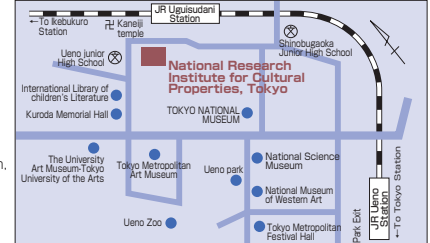


National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo



13-43 Ueno Park, Taito-ku, Tokyo, 110-8713
Phone: +81-3-3823-2241
<http://www.tobunken.go.jp/>

Access



(JR Line) 10 min. from the South Exit of JR Uguisudani Station,
15 min. from the Koen
(Park) Exit of Ueno Station
(Ginza or Hibiya Tokyo Metro Line) 20 min. from Ueno Station
(Chiyoda Tokyo Metro Line) 20 min. from Nezu Station
(Keisei Line) 20 min. from Keisei Ueno Station



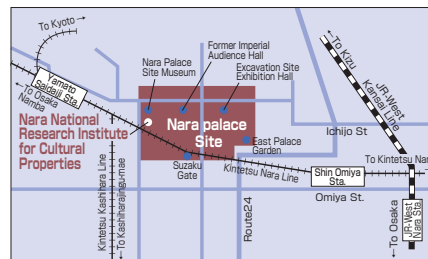
Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties



247-1 Saki-cho, Nara City, Nara Prefecture 630-8577
Phone: +81-742-30-6733
<http://www.nabunken.go.jp/>

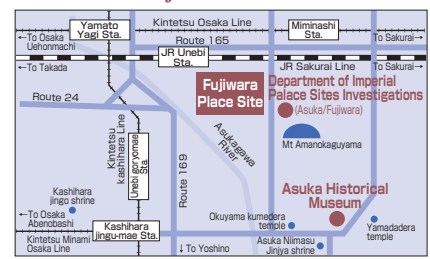
Access

Nara facilities



(Kintetsu Line) 10 min. from Yamato Saidaiji Station to the institute and the Nara Palace Site Museum
(Nara Kotsu Bus from JR and Kintetsu Nara Stations) 3 min. from Nijocho stop to the Nara Palace Site Museum

Asuka and Fujiwara sites



(Kintetsu Line) 20 min. by taxi from Yamato Yagi Station to the institute 20 min.
by taxi from Kashiwara Jingu Mae Station to the Asuka Historical Museum
From either Kintetsu Kashiwara Jingu Mae Station or Kintetsu Asuka Station, take the Kame Bus and get off at the Asuka Historical Museum stop.
From JR/Kintetsu Sakurai Station, take the Nara Kotsu Bus and get off at the Asuka Historical Museum stop.

Visitor Information

● Nara Palace Site Museum

Hours: 9:00-16:30 (Admission free; last admission at 16:00)
Closed: Mondays (except when National Holidays fall on Mondays, in which case the museum is open on the holiday and closed the following day instead) and over the New Year period
Note: Free guided tours by volunteers available
Phone: 0742-30-6735 (Collaboration Promotion Division)

● Exhibition Room of Fujiwara Palace Site

Hours: 9:00-16:30 (Free admission)
Closed: During the New Year period and exhibition renewal periods
Phone: 0744-24-1122 Department of Imperial Palace Sites Investigations (Asuka and Fujiwara)

● Asuka Historical Museum

Hours: 9:00-16:30 (Last admission at 16:00)
Closed: Mondays (except when National Holidays fall on Mondays, in which case the museum is open on the holiday and closed the following day) and over the New Year period
Admissions: Adults: 270 (170) yen
University Students: 130 (60) yen
※ () indicate prices for those in groups of 20 or more
※ An additional charge is required for special exhibitions
※ Persons with disabilities and one accompanying person are admitted free
※ Persons under 18 years, and school students (up to and including high school) are admitted free to regular exhibitions
Note: Guides available (free of charge, reservations required)
Phone: 0744-54-3561 Asuka Historical Museum

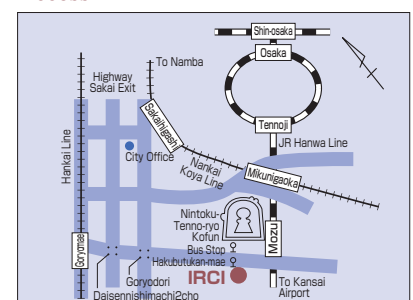


International Research Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region (IRCI)



Sakai City Museum, 2 Mozusekiun-cho, Sakai-ku, Sakai City, Osaka 590-0802
Phone: +81-72-275-8050
<http://www.irci.jp>

Access



● (JR Hanwa Line) 6 min. from Mozu Station
(Nankai Bus) 4 min. from Sakaishi Hakubutsukanmae

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 full-scale treatments, performed on a schematic basis in response to the condition of the object.

Number of Objects 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
124,729	130	952	115,653	87	633	6,721	27	179	1,862	13	111	493	3	29

(Figures as of March 31, 2014)

Number of Objects 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
11,486	193	1,191	2,519	53	245	5,892	87	622	1,994	53	321	1,081	0	3

(Figures as of March 31, 2014)

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 2013)

Total	Tokyo National Museum	Kyoto National Museum	Nara National Museum	Kyushu National Museum
2,660,010	1,322,288	148,429	461,690	727,603



Special Exhibition: *Kano Sanraku and Sansetsu* (Kyoto National Museum; March 30–May 12, 2013)



Ribbon-cutting ceremony for the opening of the Special Exhibition: *The Culture of Japan* (overseas exhibition organized by the Agency for Cultural Affairs) (Venue: Vietnam National Museum of History, Hanoi) January 16–March 9, 2014

■ 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 4th Executive Committee Meeting of Asian National Museum Association (ANMA) October 8, 2013

- 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.



Lion dance for spring prayer at a destroyed village (Takeura, Onagawa-cho)



Reconstruction of the ceiling of Kitara Tumulus



X-ray fluorescence analysis of mural paintings 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 organizations.

- 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 When requested by the Japanese government or local public organizations, we carry out practical, prompt, and appropriate research into cultural properties which are deemed important and in urgent need of restoration and conservation, such as the conservation work at the Takamatsuzuka and Kitora Tumuli.
- 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 cooperation is essential for the protection of cultural properties, the shared heritage of mankind. To this end, we contribute to Japan's international efforts by reinforcing associations between national research institutions within Japan, conducting international research projects together with other nations, and running training programs and dispatching experts abroad as part of efforts to facilitate professional training and technology transfers related to the preservation and conservation of cultural properties. We undertake activities aimed at the safeguarding of 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 at archaeological survey of Hulbuk site in Tajikistan

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.



Dr. Stanley ABE (professor, Duke University, United States of America) speaking at the 2013 lecture

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.



Lecture on a report-writing course

■ 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)



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 Zhigian'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"

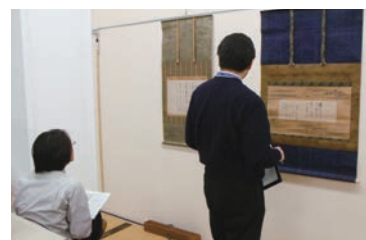


Tactile map operated by volunteers to provide visitor information

■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)



Heisei Chishinkan



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



Play (July 13–August 25, 2013)



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.

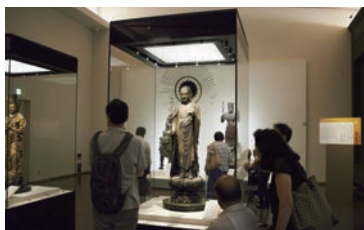
- *On-Matsuri and the Sacred Art of Kasuga* (December 9, 2014-January 18, 2015)
- *Treasures of Todaiji's Omizutori Ritual* (February 7-March 15, 2015)

● 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

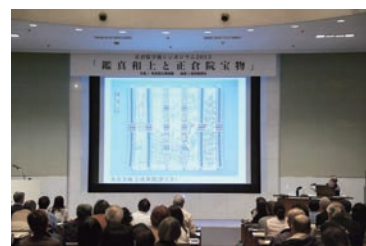
Educational Programs

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	13,328
		Gross Floor Area	21,395
Area of Department of Imperial Palace Sites Investigations (Asuka and Fujiwara)	20,515	Building Area	6,016
		Gross Floor Area	9,477
Area of Asuka Historical Museum	17,093	Building Area	2,657
		Gross Floor Area	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.

Directors (As of July 1, 2014)

SASAKI Johei: President (Executive Director, Kyoto National Museum)
 MATSUMURA Keiji: Director (Executive Director, Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties)
 IKEHARA Mitsuhiro: Director

WATANABE Taeko: Director
 YUKIYAMA Koji: Auditor
 NAKAMOTO Fuminori: Auditor

Special Advisory Board (As of April 1, 2014)

We have a board of special advisors, consisting of professionals drawn from outside the institutes, to gather various opinions from many fields concerning the management of the National Institutes for Cultural Heritage. The mission of the Board of Special Advisors is to discuss important issues about the management of the Institutes and give advice to the Chairperson of the Board. The number of board members is set at 20, and each member serves renewable 2-year terms. Usually, the board holds two meetings per year.

ABE Mitsuo: Honorary Executive Director, Tokyo National Museum
 ANDO Hiroyasu: President, Japan Foundation
 ISHIZAWA Yoshiaki: Director of Sophia Asia Center for Research and Human Development
 IMAMURA Mineo: Professor Emeritus, National Museum of Japanese History
 KAZAOKA Noriyuki: Grand Steward, Imperial Household Agency
 KAMII Monsho: Head Priest, Byodoin Temple
 SATO Sojun: Professor Emeritus, Nara Women's University
 SHIRAIISHI Taichiro: Executive Director, Osaka Prefecture Chikatsu Asuka Museum
 TANAKA Koji: Advisory Board Member, Kyushu Railway Company

TSUJI Nobuo: Professor Emeritus, University of Tokyo
 TSUJIMURA Taizen: Executive Director, Gangoji Institute for Research of Cultural Properties
 NAKAJIMA Fumiko: Freelance Writer
 NISHIDA Atsutoshi: Chairman of the Board, Toshiba Corp.
 HAYASHIDA Suma: Executive Director, Onojo Madokapia Hall
 MABUCHI Akiko: President, Independent Administrative Institution National Museum of Art
 Mari Christine: Cross-Cultural Communicator
 REIZEI Tamehito: Chairperson of the Board of Directors, Reizei Family Shiguretei Library

External Evaluation Board (As of April 1, 2014)

The performance of the Independent Administrative Institutions is evaluated by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology through an Assessment Board. The evaluation takes place each fiscal year and during each five-year plan. However, the National Institutes for Cultural Heritage conducts its own performance evaluation independently and maintains its own External Evaluation Board consisting of learned persons from outside the institutes. The External Evaluation Board is responsible for evaluating the operational performance of the Institutes and giving advice to the Chairperson of the Board. External Evaluation Board members serve renewable 2-year terms and hold meetings and conduct inspections as required.

KOBAYASHI Tadashi: Professor Emeritus, Gakushuin University; Executive Director, OKADA MUSEUM OF ART (Chairperson)
 YOKOSATO Koichi: Director, NHK Promotions Inc. (Vice-Chairperson)
 AYUKAWA Masaaki: Certified Public Accountant
 INADA Takashi: Professor Emeritus, Okayama University
 OKADA Yasuyoshi: Professor, Institute for Cultural Studies of Ancient Iraq, Kokushikan University
 KAWAI Masatomo: Professor Emeritus, Keio University; Executive Director, Chiba City Museum of Art
 SAKAI Tadayasu: Executive Director, Setagaya Art Museum
 SATO Makoto: Professor, Graduate School of Humanities and

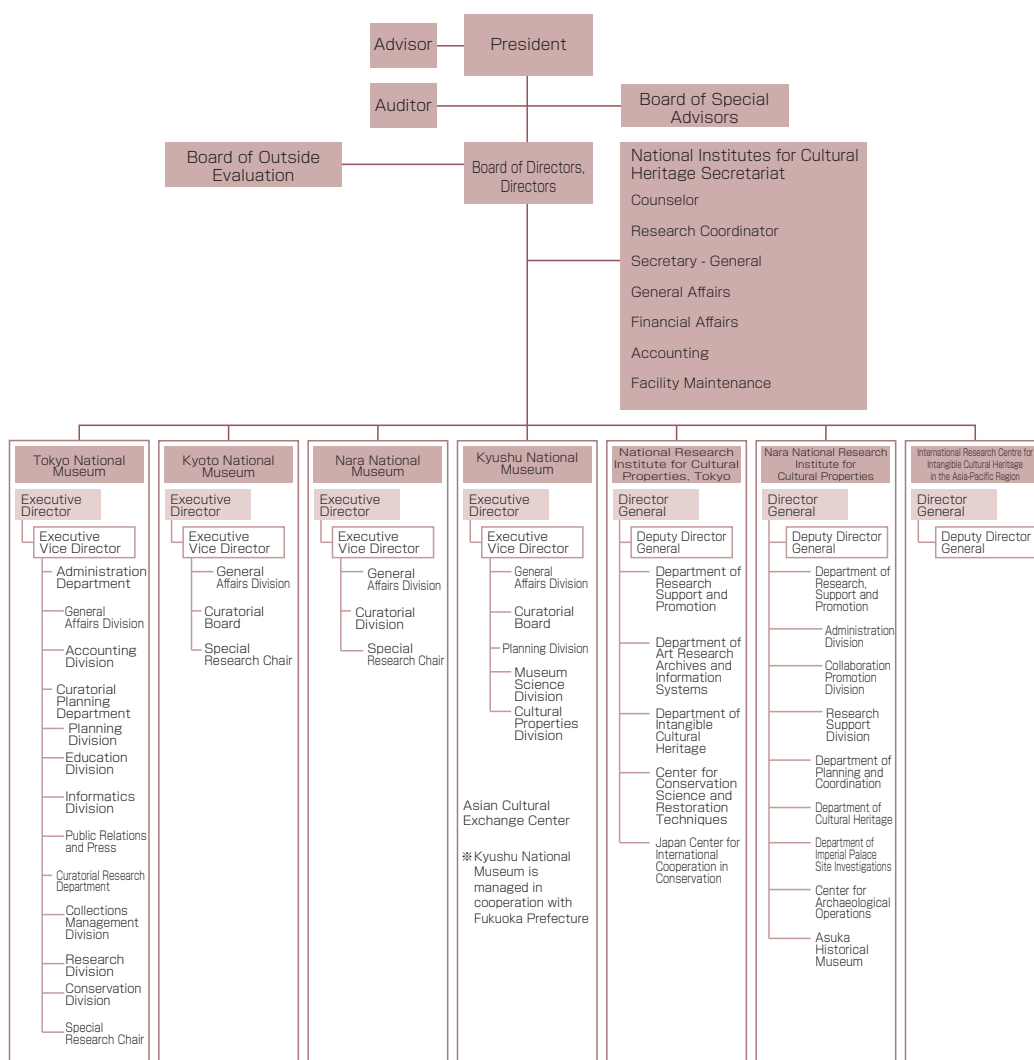
Sociology, University of Tokyo
 SONODA Naoko: Professor, Research Center for Cultural Resources, National Museum of Ethnology
 TAMAMUSHI Satoko: Professor, College of Art and Design, Musashino Art University
 HAMADA Hiroaki: Professor, J. F. Oberlin University
 FUJITA Haruhiko: Professor, Graduate School of Letters, Osaka University
 MORI Hiroko: Committee Member, Fukuoka Prefecture Council for the Protection of Cultural Properties
 YANAGIBAYASHI Osamu: Reporter, The Yomiuri Shimbun Osaka

Number of Staff

Division	Number of staff	Administrative staff	Technical and security staff	Curators/ Researchers
Total	323	124	19	180
National Institutes for Cultural Heritage Secretariat	17	17	0	0
Tokyo National Museum	92	34	11	47
Kyoto National Museum	36	18	4	14
Nara National Museum	33	15	4	14
Kyushu National Museum	27	10	0	17
National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo	40	7	0	33
Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties	76	22	0	54
International Research Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region	2	1	0	1

(Figures as of April 1, 2014)

Organizational Chart



(As of April 1, 2014)

Budget

Fiscal 2014 Budget

Revenue

(Unit: JPY1,000)

Source	Fiscal 2014	Fiscal 2013
Self-generated income	1,322,634	1,322,634
Government funding for operating expenses	8,238,870	8,391,705
Income from commissioned projects	26,000	26,000
Grant for facilities improvement	2,990,365	2,853,965
Total	12,577,869	12,594,304

Expenditure

(Unit: JPY1,000)

Purpose	Fiscal 2014	Fiscal 2013
Operational expenses	9,561,504	9,714,339
Personnel	3,100,606	2,781,812
Supply costs	6,460,898	6,932,527
Expenses for commissioned projects	26,000	26,000
Facility improvement	2,990,365	2,853,965
Total	12,577,869	12,594,304

Income from External Sources

	Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research (2014)				Funding for Commissioned Work (2013)		Research Grants (2013)	
	① Fiscal 2014		② Fiscal 2014		Number of projects	Amount (Unit: JPY1,000)	Number of projects	Amount (Unit: JPY1,000)
	Number of projects	Amount (Unit: JPY1,000)	(Number of projects)	Amount (Unit: JPY1,000)				
National Institutes for Cultural Heritage Secretariat	0	0	0 (0)	0	0	0	0	0
Tokyo National Museum	16	47,440	18 (10)	31,460	2	29,029	2	5,734
Kyoto National Museum	1	1,170	0 (0)	0	0	0	1	1,943
Nara National Museum	1	13,000	1 (0)	910	0	0	5	10,500
Kyushu National Museum	5	22,620	8 (4)	11,180	4	15,543	0	0
National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo	7	18,200	25 (5)	46,800	24	231,080	7	4,800
Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties	17	106,256	36 (10)	45,890	39	286,324	9	7,090
International Research Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region	0	0	0 (0)	0	2	56,015	1	9,933
Total	47	208,686	88 (29)	136,240	71	617,991	25	40,000

*The amount of ① is the appropriation amount as of April, 2014.

*② was established in 2011.

*The amount of ② is the estimated disbursement amount for FY2014.

*With regard to research topics for which both ① and ② were awarded, the number of projects and the amount of funding are included under the respective totals for ① and ②; the figure given in parentheses for ② is the number of projects for which both types of Grants-in-Aid were awarded.

*Funding for commissioned work excludes commissions from the National Institutes for Cultural Heritage.

Information about Donation and Membership

○Financial Donations and Cultural Property Donations

[Financial Donations]

Independent Administrative Institutions are mainly administered through national grants for operational costs and facilities improvement. However, difficult financial conditions and the streamlining of operations makes it necessary to receive outside funds as well. The National Institutes for Cultural Heritage is no exception and we also need to secure other funding sources besides income from admission fees. For these reasons, we welcome financial support from a wide range of organizations and individuals.

The National Institutes for Cultural Heritage has been designated by the National Tax Agency as a Special Public-Interest Promotion Corporation. This means that donations to our institutions (by organizations or individuals) are eligible for more generous income and corporate tax deductions than donations to regular private entities.

▶Income tax

When donating to a Special Public-Interest Promotion Corporation, individuals can deduct part of this donation from their taxable income. A FY2010 amendment to the tax law reduced the minimum annual tax-deductible donation amount from 5,000 yen to 2,000 yen, so any individual who donates more than 2,000 yen annually to Special Public-Interest Promotion Corporations will be eligible for a tax deduction. As a result, a donor will be able to deduct a donation amount of up to 40% of total income (minus 2,000 yen) when calculating income tax.

▶Corporate tax

When donating to a Special Public-Interest Promotion Corporation, corporate entities can count the donation amount as a deductible expense separate from other general donations. Furthermore, the reform of the tax system in December 2011 raised the ceiling for the amount of donations that could be included as deductible expenses. As a result, the maximum amount of donations that can be counted as special deductible expenses = (amount of capital × 0.375 (formerly 0.25) + 6.25% of income (formerly 5%)) × 1/2

[Cultural Property Donations]

The National Institutes for Cultural Heritage is engaged in the preservation, management, research and display of cultural properties. In addition to purchasing these cultural properties systematically, we also accept donations from individuals or organizations.

For further information about donations, please contact the following departments:

Institution	Section	Cultural Property Donations	Phone Numbers
Tokyo National Museum	Accounting, Administration Department	Collections Management, Curatorial Research Department	03-3822-1111
Kyoto National Museum	Financial Affairs	Department of Registration and Image Archives	075-541-1151
Nara National Museum	Accounts	Department of Exhibition and Education	0742-22-7772 0742-22-7774
Kyushu National Museum	Financial Affairs, General Affairs Division	Collection Registration, Cultural Properties Division	092-918-2807
National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo	Department of Research Support and Promotion, Planning Section		03-3823-2249
Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties	Department of Research Support and Promotion, Administration Division		0742-30-6732
Inquiries not specifying institutions	National Institutes for Cultural Heritage Secretariat, Financial Affairs		03-3822-2439

○Membership

Tokyo National Museum and Nara National Museum are supported by the Supporting Member system, while Kyoto National Museum is supported by the Seifukai Association. We also offer "Friends of the Museum" and "Museum Passport" systems to encourage people to visit our museums more frequently. We welcome new members at any time of the year.

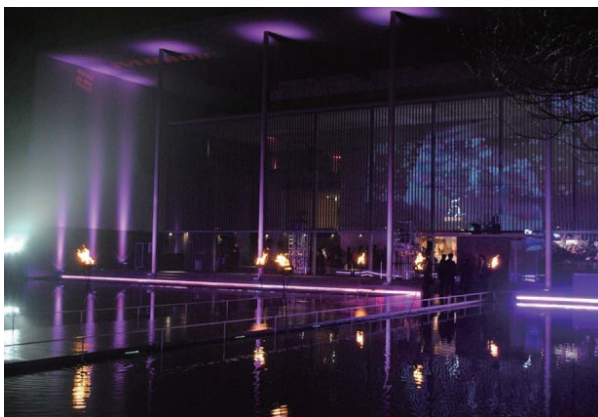
[Campus Members System]

Each of the four National Museums has its own membership programs for universities and colleges. These programs are aimed at deepening cooperation with institutions of higher education and providing opportunities for their students to become familiar with the National Museums. Members can enjoy various privileges, including free admission to regular exhibitions, for a yearly membership fee corresponding to the number of students.



○Venue Hiring

Each of the four National Museums makes its facilities available as unique venues to the private entities for the holding of various events. From corporate parties to outdoor film showings, the museum facilities can be used for a wide range of activities.



A Special event held at the Gallery of Horyuji Treasures (Tokyo National Museum)



Gala dinner party held at Heiseikan (Tokyo National Museum)



Access:

(JR Line) 10 min. from Ueno or Uguisudani Station

(Ginza or Hibiya Tokyo Metro Line) 15 min. from Ueno Station

(Chiyoda Tokyo Metro Line) 15 min. from Nezu Station

(Keisei Line) 15 min. from Keisei Ueno Station

National Institutes for Cultural Heritage

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Phone: +81-3-3822-1196

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