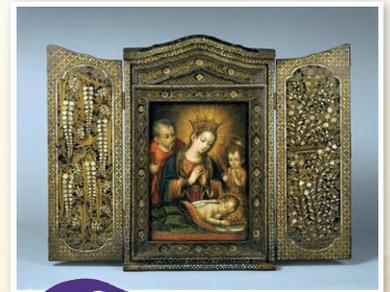
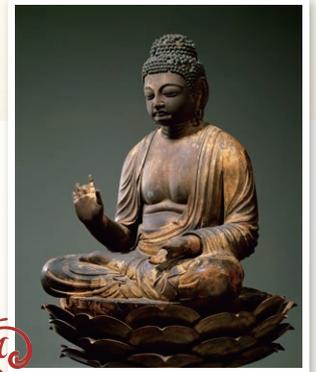


2016

Outline of the National Institutes for Cultural Heritage



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(表紙写真)



Tokyo National Museum:
Scenes In and Around Kyoto (Funaki version), National Treasure, By Iwasa Matabei, Edo period, 17th century



Kyoto National Museum:
Okuni Kabuki Screen, Important Cultural Property, Momoyama period, 17th century



Nara National Museum:
Seated Yakushi Nyorai, National Treasure, Heian period, 9th century



Kyushu National Museum:
Shrine for crucified Christ with design of flowers, birds and animals in maki-e lacquer and mother-of-pearl inlay, Important Cultural Property, Azuchi-Momoyama period, 16th-17th century



National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo:
Survey of Intangible Cultural Heritage (Cattle with ornaments at the Mibu Rice-planting Festival, Kitahiroshima)



Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties:
Archaeological site restoration training activity in Myanmar



International Research Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region (IRCI):
Workshop on the revival of traditional arts and how they can be used to help rebuild communities

Message

SASAKI Johei

President

Independent Administrative Institution
National Institutes for Cultural Heritage



The National Institutes for Cultural Heritage (NICH) comprises the following institutions: four National Museums (Tokyo National Museum, Kyoto National Museum, Nara National Museum, Kyushu National Museum); two National Research Institutes for Cultural Properties (National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo, Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties); and the International Research Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region (IRCI). This booklet presents an overview of the activities being undertaken by these seven institutions.

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 conducting research on 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 has the important task of supporting the foundations of the administration of cultural property preservation in Japan.

The Fourth Medium-term Plan of the National Institutes for Cultural Heritage (NICH) was launched in April this year, which marks the fifteenth anniversary of NICH's establishment as the Independent Administrative Institution (IAI) National Museum and the ninth anniversary of its transformation into the National Institutes for Cultural Heritage. While the creation of NICH, which was part of a wider program of administrative reform in Japan, was followed by a period in which it struggled to find its way, the implementation since then of three medium-term plans has seen the National Museums, National Research Institutes for Cultural Properties, and International Research Center for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region that make up NICH put their operations on firm footing, with each institution successfully developing its own unique character. During this period, NICH has also been working steadily to improve its facilities, with the renovation of the Nara Buddhist Sculpture Hall & Ritual Bronzes Gallery at the Nara National Museum in 2010 when the Second Medium-term Plan was being implemented, the renovation of the Toyokan at the Tokyo National Museum in 2013, and the opening of the Heisei Chishinkan Wing at the Kyoto National Museum in 2014 during the Third Medium-term Plan. During the implementation period of the Fourth Medium-term Plan, the construction of the new head office building for the Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties will be completed (scheduled for completion in 2019), and upcoming projects include the renovation of the Honkan (Japanese Gallery) of the Tokyo National Museum and the seismic reinforcement of the Special Exhibition Hall at the Kyoto National Museum.

Regarding projects relating to NICH as a whole, major upcoming events include the ICOM KYOTO 2019, and the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics. The hosting of these major events by Japan represents a marvelous opportunity to promote wider understanding of Japan's rich, diverse culture, and to utilize Japan's cultural heritage in dynamic ways. It will be possible to use culture to promote exchange among people from all over the world throughout Japan, and NICH will be implementing a variety of initiatives aimed at realizing the vision of "putting culture and the arts at the heart of Japan's national regeneration."

The first year of implementation of NICH's Third Medium-term Plan (2011) was the year in which the Great East Japan Earthquake occurred, and 2016—the year in which the Fourth Medium-term Plan is being implemented—has seen major earthquakes in Kumamoto. Both disasters resulted in severe damage and loss of life. NICH is striving to learn from the experience of the Great East Japan Earthquake by reviewing the relevant coordination and collaboration mechanisms for protecting and rescuing cultural heritage from natural disasters, with the aim of ensuring that, in the event of large-scale disasters such as major earthquakes, suitable measures can be taken to rescue and restore cultural heritage.

While acknowledging that we operate within the constraints of government finance, we must endeavor, as those engaged in traditional Japanese culture, to communicate the importance of protecting cultural properties, exhibiting them to the public, and informing the public about them. This is our responsibility.

Outline of the National Institutes for Cultural Heritage

The Independent Administrative Institution (IAI), National Institutes for Cultural Heritage, was formed in April 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), all of which share the same mission: the conservation and utilization of cultural properties. With the addition of the International Research Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region, which was established in October 2011, the National Institutes for Cultural Heritage now comprise a total of seven individual institutions.

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 foremost 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 works 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 while also conducting research and providing education programs. The focus is 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

National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo, conducts research on Japanese cultural properties, utilizing a variety of methods. In addition to 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 Institute for Cultural Properties

Located near the Nara Palace site, Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties conducts 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 provides advice and cooperates for research projects conducted across Japan.

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

This institution facilitates research for safeguarding endangered intangible cultural heritage (ICH) in the Asia-Pacific region, and collects and disseminates 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



10 min. walk from the Ueno Park Exit of JR Ueno Station or from the South Exit of JR Uguisudani Station
15 min. walk from Ueno Station or Nezu Station (Tokyo Metro), or from Keisei Ueno Station (Keisei Electric Railway Keisei Line)

Visitor Information

Hours: 9:30-17:00 (Last entry 30 min. before closing)

Fridays during Special Exhibitions (Apr.-Dec.) and Wednesdays in July and August: open until 20:00

Weekends and holidays (Apr.-Sept.): open until 18:00

Closed: Mondays (if Monday is a national holiday, the museum will be open on that Monday and closed on the following Tuesday)

Dec. 24-Jan. 1 for year-end holidays

Opening hours and the days on which the Museum is closed are subject to change due to Special Exhibitions and events.

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

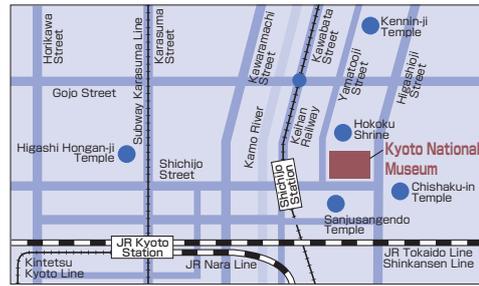


527 Chaya-cho, Higashiyama-ku, Kyoto
605-0931 Japan
Phone: +81-75-541-1151
<http://www.kyohaku.go.jp/>

Visitor Information

Hours: 9:30-17:00
Special Exhibition Hours: 9:30-18:00, extended to 20:00 on Fridays
(Admission ends 30 minutes before closing)
Closed: Mondays (when Monday is a national holiday, the museum remains open on Monday and closes the following Tuesday);
During the year-end and New Year holiday period in late December and early January.
On Friday, October 14 (2016).

Access



Transportation
By JR or Subway
Get off at Kyoto Station. From bus platform D1 take City Bus #100 or from bus platform D2, take City Bus #206 or #208. Get off at "Hakubutsukan Sanjusangendo-mae" bus stop, in front of the museum.
By Keihan Railway
Get off at Shichijo Station. Walk east along Shichijo (Nanaajo) Street for about seven minutes to the museum.
By Kintetsu Railway
Get off at Tanabashi Station and transfer to Keihan Railway From Keihan Tanabashi Station take a Demachiyang-bound train to Shichijo Station. Walk east along Shichijo (Nanaajo) Street for about seven minutes to the museum.
By Hankyu Railway
Get off at Kawaramachi Station. Walk east over the bridge to the Keihan Railway Gion Shijo Station. Take an Osaka-bound Keihan train to Shichijo Station. Walk east along Shichijo (Nanaajo) Street for about seven minutes to the museum.
Parking
The museum has limited parking at an hourly rate. Please use public transportation whenever possible.

Admission: Admission: General: 520 (410) yen
University students: 260 (210) yen
*Prices in parentheses are for groups of 20 or more
*Free admission for seniors (70 and older) and children (under 17 or high school students)
*Free admission (to all exhibitions) for disabled pass holders and one assistant
*An additional charge is required for special exhibitions
*Different admission prices will apply during the periods when the Heisei Chishinkan Wing is closed.



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 reopened on April 29, 2016 following the completion of the renovation work.
Hours: 9:30-17:00 (Last admission is 30 minutes before closing)
*Open 9:00-18:00 during the Shoso-in Treasures exhibition period
Open 9:30-18:00: July 23-September 19 and March 1-11, 13, 14
*Open 9:30-19:00: Fridays from the last Friday in April to the last Friday in October;
Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays, and National Holidays during the Shoso-in Treasures exhibition period;
August 5-15, December 17, the fourth Saturday of January, February 3, and March 12
*Open 9:30-20:30 during the Nararurie event period (February 8-14)
Closed: Mondays (except when National Holidays fall on Mondays, in which case the museum is open on the holiday and closed the day after the holidays), New Year's Day (January 1)

Access

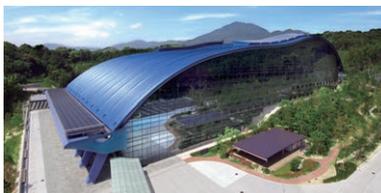


(Kintetsu Line) 15 min. from Kintetsu Nara Station
(City Loop Bus) "Shinai Junkan" from JR or Kintetsu Nara Station to "Himuro Jinja / Kokuritsu Hakubutsukan" bus stop

Admissions: Adults: 520 (410) yen
University Students: 260 (210) yen
*() indicates 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 older) 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 (the 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/>

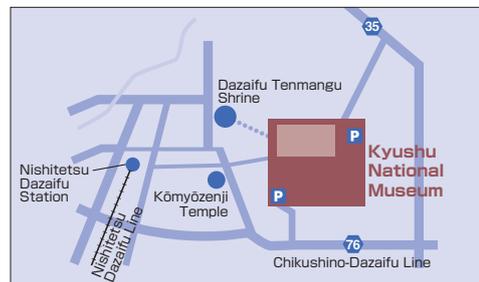
Visitor Information

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 (Permanent 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
*Free admission for individual with disability certificate and one caretaker
*Free admission to the Cultural Exchange Exhibition (permanent exhibition) for individuals 70 years or older, under 18 years old, or who are high school students and below
*Free admission to the Cultural Exchange Exhibition on International Museum Day (May 18 or the following day if it falls on Monday) and Respect for the Aged Day

Access



By rail: Nishitetsu rail line: From Nishitetsu Fukuoka (Tenjin) Station, take the Nishitetsu Tenjin Omuta 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 I.C. or Chikushino I.C. via Takao Intersection. By Fukuoka Urban Expressway, a 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. 11) take the bus to Dazaifu and get off at Nishitetsu Dazaifu Station (journey time is approximately 40 minutes). From the Station, it is approximately 10 minutes walk to the Museum.



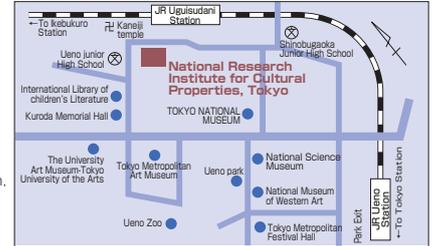
National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo



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

(JR Line) 10 min. from the South Exit of Uguisudani Station,
 15 min. from the Ueno 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

Access



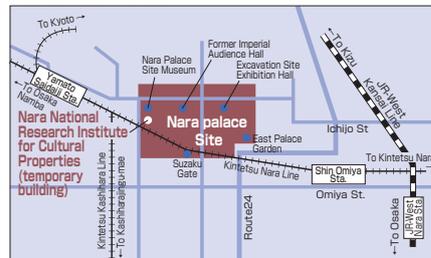
Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties



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

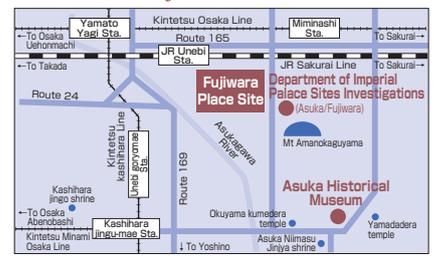
Access

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 Kashihara Jingu Mae Station to the Asuka Historical Museum
 From either Kintetsu Kashihara 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: 0742-30-6753 (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 some 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

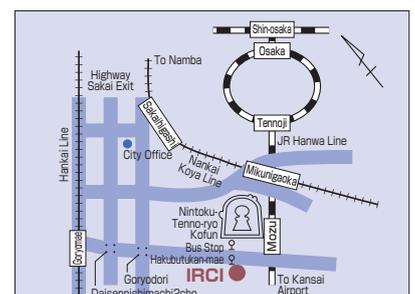


International Research Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region (IRCI)



Sakai City Museum, 2 cho 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 Preservation and Transmission of Tangible Cultural Properties, and Utilization of Cultural Properties to Disseminate Japan's History and Traditional Culture Nationally and Internationally

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

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

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

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

■ Acquisition

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

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

■ 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 Works in the Museum Collections

(Entries)

| Total | | | Tokyo National Museum | | | Kyoto National Museum | | | Nara National Museum | | | Kyushu National Museum | | |
|---------|--------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| Total | National Treasures | Important Cultural Properties | Total | National Treasures | Important Cultural Properties | Total | National Treasures | Important Cultural Properties | Total | National Treasures | Important Cultural Properties | Total | National Treasures | Important Cultural Properties |
| 126,872 | 131 | 963 | 116,932 | 87 | 634 | 7,532 | 28 | 183 | 1,883 | 13 | 112 | 525 | 3 | 34 |

(Figures as of March 31, 2016)

Number of Works on Long-term Loan to the Museums

(Entries)

| Total | | | Tokyo National Museum | | | Kyoto National Museum | | | Nara National Museum | | | Kyushu National Museum | | |
|--------|--------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| Total | National Treasures | Important Cultural Properties | Total | National Treasures | Important Cultural Properties | Total | National Treasures | Important Cultural Properties | Total | National Treasures | Important Cultural Properties | Total | National Treasures | Important Cultural Properties |
| 12,056 | 202 | 1,417 | 3,072 | 55 | 258 | 6,112 | 91 | 820 | 1,987 | 54 | 327 | 885 | 2 | 12 |

(Figures as of March 31, 2016)

(2) Exhibitions

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

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

■ Exhibitions

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

■ Number of Visitors (FY 2015)

| Total | Tokyo National Museum | Kyoto National Museum | Nara National Museum | Kyushu National Museum |
|-----------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| 3,987,831 | 1,994,508 | 653,336 | 455,859 | 884,128 |



Special Exhibition: *Kuroda Seiki, Master of Modern Japanese Painting: The 150th Anniversary of his Birth* (Tokyo National Museum, March 23-May 15, 2016)



The Beauty of Mantra: Arts in the Collection of Daigoji Temple (May 11-July 10, 2016, Shanghai Museum, China)

(3) Education

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

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

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



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



Training for conservators held at Nara National Museum

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

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

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



Research on collection items and donated items (Special Research Project (Applied Arts) at Tokyo National Museum)

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

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



The 5th Meeting & Conference of the Asian National Museums Association (ANMA) in Singapore (November 26, 2015)

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

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

(1) Research Leading to New Ideas

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

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



Yakko adari dedicated at the Gobo Festival (Gobo City, Wakayama Prefecture)



Reinforced concrete apartment house on Hashima Island (Battleship Island, Nagasaki City, Nagasaki Prefecture)

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

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

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



Investigation by X-ray radiography using a portable scanner

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

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



Research for safeguarding endangered intangible cultural heritage (Woodblock printing in Dong Ho Village, Vietnam)

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

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



The 49th Public Lecture in progress at National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo

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

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



Training activity relating to rescuing cultural properties (Practicing cleaning paper materials that have been damaged in a natural disaster)

TNM Tokyo National Museum

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



ZENIYA Masami
Executive Director
Tokyo National Museum

The Tokyo National Museum was established in 1872 and has the longest history of any museum in Japan. Its collection comprises more than 116,000 cultural properties, 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 on these objects and promote understanding of art through educational programs.

The Museum seeks to further enhance its culturally-oriented exhibitions by displaying some of the finest objects and holding events tailored to the seasons. In October of last year, the Japanese Archaeology Gallery in the Heiseikan was reopened following a renovation. With display cases that utilize the latest technology as well as hands-on exhibits, the Gallery has been transformed: the exhibits are now more pleasing to the eye and easier to understand.

In addition to exhibitions, the Museum also offers a wide range of programs, including hands-on activities, guided tours, and workshops. Our hands-on art-making workshops for students help them to deepen their understanding of cultural treasures.

We will continue striving to make the Tokyo National Museum more enjoyable for everyone, including children and adults, as well as visitors from other countries.

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 370 rotations annually. In the fiscal year of 2016, 7,200 objects are scheduled for display. The regular exhibition galleries are as follows:

HONKAN (Japanese Gallery): The 2nd floor provides an overview of the evolution of Japanese art in chronological order from the Jomon to the Edo period. The exhibits on the 1st floor are categorized by genre and include sculptures, ceramics, and swords.

TOYOKAN (Asian Gallery): This building is dedicated to artworks and archeological artifacts from China, the Korean Peninsula, Southeast Asia, Central Asia, India, Egypt, and other regions.

HEISEIKAN: The Japanese Archaeology Gallery located on the 1st floor displays objects, such as *dogu* and *haniwa* clay figurines as well as bronze bells, dating from the Paleolithic through to the Edo period; the Thematic Exhibition Room, also on the first floor, is used for thematic and educational displays.

The Gallery of Horyuji Treasures: This building exhibits objects selected from over 300 cultural properties donated to the Imperial family by Horyuji Temple in Nara.

HYOKEIKAN: This building has been used for special exhibitions in recent years.

Kuroda Memorial Hall: This building was built through a bequest from one of the most renowned painters of modern Japan, Kuroda Seiki, and is used to exhibit his works.

●Thematic Exhibitions

Thematic exhibitions focus on specific themes and are held as part of the Museum's regular exhibitions. The following are examples of those scheduled for fiscal year 2016 (the dates given are tentative):

- Family Gallery: Come Together, Feline Friends of Tigers! (April 12–May 22, 2016)
- New Acquisitions to the Museum in Fiscal Year 2015 (May 17–July 10, 2016)
- *Netsuke* Toggles and *Okimono* Ornaments: The Tradition of Ivory Carving (June 7–July 31, 2016)
- Calligraphy of Fujiwara no Kozei: Its Popularity and Admiration through the Ages (August 23–October 2, 2016)

●Special Viewings

- Goddess of the Jomon Period: A National Treasure *Dogu* Figurine (March 23–April 17, 2016)
- The Newly Discovered Portrait of Ito Mancio, a Japanese Ambassador to Europe (May 17–July 10, 2016)



Japanese Archaeology Gallery
(Heiseikan, 1st floor)



Special Feature: Goddess of the
Jomon Period
(March 23–April 17, 2016)



Special Exhibition: Kuroda Seiki,
Master of Modern Japanese Painting:
The 150th Anniversary of his Birth
(March 23–May 15, 2016)

● Special Exhibitions

Special exhibitions are held to share the results of our research and to meet visitor demand. The following are examples of special exhibitions scheduled for the fiscal year 2016:

- Kuroda Seiki, Master of Modern Japanese Painting: The 150th Anniversary of his Birth (March 23–May 15, 2016)
- Hidden Treasures from the National Museum, Kabul (April 12–June 19, 2016)
- 50th Anniversary of the Normalization of Relations between Japan and the Republic of Korea: Smiling in Contemplation: Two Buddhas from Japan and Korea (June 21–July 10, 2016)
- A Journey to the Land of Immortals: Treasures of Ancient Greece (June 21–September 19, 2016)
- Hidden Buddha of Rakuyaji Temple, Shiga (September 13–December 11, 2016)
- 1150th Anniversary of the Death of Rinzai Gigen (Linji Yixuan) and the 250th Anniversary of the Death of Hakuin Ekaku: The Art of Zen: From Mind to Form (October 18–November 27, 2016)
- Eternal Treasures from Kasuga Taisha Shrine (January 17–March 12, 2017)

● Overseas Exhibitions

- The Beauty of Mantra: Arts in the Collection of Daigoji Temple (May 11–July 10, 2016; Shanghai Museum, China)
- The Beauty of Mantra: Arts in the Collection of Daigoji Temple (July 27–September 20, 2016; Shaanxi History Museum, China)
- Ancient Paintings from Japan, China, and Korea (provisional title) (November 5–December 18, 2016; National Museum of China)
- Masterpieces of Japanese Art: Selected Items from the Collections of the Tokyo National Museum and Kyushu National Museum (December 10, 2016–March 5, 2017; National Palace Museum, Taiwan)

■ Acquisition, Preservation, and Restoration

The Museum seeks to create a comprehensive display of Asian cultural properties with a focus on Japan through the acquisition of works of art by purchase, gift, and loan. We also carry out a variety of collection management measures to allow deteriorated objects to be safely exhibited in the future. These measures include enhancing gallery and storage environments, improving display and transportation methods, conducting collection assessment, as well as performing about 100 full restorations and 1,000 emergency treatments of works annually.

■ Education

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

○ Providing learning opportunities

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

○ Educational and thematic exhibits called "Family Galleries"

○ Collaboration with schools

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

○ Partnerships with universities

Campus Members System and internship programs for graduate students

○ Volunteer activities

Assistance for educational activities and conservation projects, visitor information, and guided tours



Kids' Day (July 27, 2015)



Tactile map operated by volunteers to provide visitor information

■ Research

We conduct 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 fiscal year 2016 includes the following:

- Research on the formation of the Museum's Japanese dyed textiles collection and its art historical value
- Research relating to Thematic Exhibitions such as *Calligraphy of Fujiwara no Kozai: Its Popularity and Admiration through the Ages*
- Research on the digital archiving of cultural properties held in museum collections
- Special research projects on the Treasures of Horyuji Temple donated to the Imperial Household in 1878: Calligraphy, applied arts, and sculpture



Research being undertaken as part of the 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 & forestry, 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'eiji 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.
- 1984: The Shiryokan (the Research and Information Center) 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

| Land Area | 120,270 (including the Kuroda Memorial Hall and the Yanase Villa) | | | |
|----------------------------------|---|--------|------------------|--------|
| Buildings | Building Area | 22,438 | Gross Floor Area | 72,222 |
| Exhibition Buildings | Exhibition Area Total | | 18,199 | |
| | Repository Area Total | | 7,836 | |
| Honkan | Building Area | 6,602 | Gross Floor Area | 22,416 |
| | Exhibition Area | 6,573 | Repository Area | 4,028 |
| Toyokan | Building Area | 2,892 | Gross Floor Area | 12,531 |
| | Exhibition Area | 4,250 | Repository Area | 1,373 |
| Heiseikan | Building Area | 5,542 | Gross Floor Area | 19,406 |
| | Exhibition Area | 4,471 | Repository Area | 2,119 |
| The Gallery of Horyuji Treasures | Building Area | 1,935 | Gross Floor Area | 4,031 |
| | Exhibition Area | 1,462 | Repository Area | 291 |
| Hyokeikan | Building Area | 1,130 | Gross Floor Area | 2,077 |
| | Exhibition Area | 1,179 | Repository Area | 0 |
| Kuroda Memorial Hall | Building Area | 724 | Gross Floor Area | 1,996 |
| | Exhibition Area | 264 | Repository Area | 25 |
| Others | Building Area | 3,613 | Gross Floor Area | 9,765 |



Kyoto National Museum

The Kyoto National Museum collects, preserves, manages, and displays cultural properties, while also conducting research and educational activities. It focuses 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 1,200 years, from the relocation of the capital in 794, which marked the beginning of the Heian period, right through to the Meiji Restoration.

The Kyoto National Museum showcases numerous cultural assets that testify to the glory of the city's cultural heritage and presents Japan's traditional culture to the world through various activities. We will continue to work towards the realization of the museum's great mission of spreading awareness of Japanese traditional culture throughout the globe. To this end, the museum strives to encourage people in all walks of life to take an interest in and visit the museum. Our aim is to create a "people-centric museum" that is also a "museum with deep roots in the local community." We would like our museum to be a place for education, a place where people can relax, a place for lifelong learning, and also a place that will attract both domestic and overseas tourists. The new Heisei Chishinkan Wing opened in September 2014. We anticipate that the new facilities and functions of the Heisei Chishinkan Wing will help to make the Kyoto National Museum even more popular with visitors.

Exhibitions

● Collection Galleries

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

● Special Exhibitions

- Special Exhibition "The Art of Zen: From Mind to Form" (April 12-May 22, 2016)
- Special Exhibition "Sakamoto Ryōma: Japan's Favorite Hero" (October 15-November 27, 2016)



Heisei Chishinkan



Special Exhibitions
"Kano Painters of the Momoyama
Period: Eitoku's Legacy"
(April 7-May 17, 2015)



Special Exhibitions
"Rinpa: The Aesthetics of the Capital"
(October 10-November 23, 2015)



Collection Galleries

Collection, Preservation, and Restoration of Cultural Properties

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

Educational Activities

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



The Conservation Center for Cultural Properties

- Activities held to enhance understanding of exhibition contents and exhibits
 - The museum holds various lectures and seminars including the Saturday Lectures and Commemorative Lectures. It also operates the "Museum Cart" hands-on experience booths (staffed by "Kyo-Haku Navigator" volunteers), and implements various types of workshops, as well as distributing museum guide brochures, explanatory sheets, and the "Museum Dictionary," etc.
- Activities held to stimulate interest in cultural properties
 - The museum organizes summer lectures, symposiums and other lecture events, as well as arranging visits to elementary schools and junior high schools in Kyoto by "Cultural Property Sommeliers" making use of high-resolution digital reproductions of important works of art (Cultural Heritage Familiarization Classes), and organizing workshops in locations outside the museum.
- 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," as well as the holding of training sessions for visit-based learning activities and teacher education.
- Support for volunteer activities
 - Implementation of the "Kyo-Haku Navigator" and "Cultural Property Sommeliers" systems, and training of "Kyo-Haku Navigator" and "Cultural Property Sommelier" volunteers.



Museum Children's Club:
"Let's Learn About Swords!"
(July 19 and July 20, 2015)



"Museum Cart" activity led by
Kyo-Haku Navigators
(2015)

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 2014-15, we carried out a three-day follow-up survey of cultural properties held at the Chion-ji Temple in Sakyo-ku, Kyoto, making some exciting discoveries, particularly in relation to handicrafts, etc. We have also been undertaking an ongoing survey of paintings, calligraphy and handicrafts dating from the Early Modern and Modern eras from a collection housed in a private residence in Kaizuka City, Osaka Prefecture. Approximately half of these works have already been donated to the museum, and it is hoped that more may be donated in the future. The museum also continues to undertake research on its collections; the research results are reflected in the museum's displays and published in the Kyoto National Museum Bulletin.



Cultural properties survey being carried out in a private residence in Kaizuka City



"Rakugo at the Museum" at Kyoto National Museum



Outdoor opera performance

Other Activities

○Rakugo at the Museum

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

Brief History

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

Facilities

| | | | | (m ²) |
|---|-----------------|--------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Land Area | | | | 53,182 |
| Buildings | | | | |
| | Building Area | 13,517 | Gross Floor Area | 31,828 |
| Exhibition Buildings | | | Exhibition Area Total | 5,657 |
| | | | Repository Area Total | 5,421 |
| Special Exhibition Hall | Building Area | 3,015 | Gross Floor Area | 3,015 |
| | Exhibition Area | 2,070 | Repository Area | 803 |
| Heisei Chishinkan Wing | Building Area | 5,568 | Gross Floor Area | 17,997 |
| | Exhibition Area | 3,587 | Repository Area | 2,710 |
| Former 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.

- Washi—The Birth of Modern Japanese Handmade Paper (June 7–July 3, 2016)
- On-Matsuri and the Sacred Art of Kasuga (December 10, 2016–January 15, 2017)
- Treasures of Todaiji's Omizutori Ritual (February 7–March 14, 2017)

● Special Exhibitions

- The National Treasure Illustrated Scrolls of the Legends of Shigisan—Treasures of Chōgōsonshiji Temple and Faith in Bishamontennō (April 9–May 22, 2016)
- Special Exhibition Commemorating the 800th Anniversary of the birth of Ninshō—"The Buddhist Monk Ninshō: A Life Devoted to Salvation" (July 23–September 19, 2016)
- The 68th Annual Exhibition of Shōsō-in Treasures (Late October–Early November, 2016) (Tentative)



Special Exhibition "Ancient Sutras from the Heian Period: Encountering the Legendary Kunōji Sutras" (April 7–May 17, 2015)



Special Exhibition Celebrating the 120th Anniversary of the Nara National Museum: "Hakuhō—The First Full Flowering of Buddhist Art in Japan" (July 18–September 23, 2015)



Special Exhibition "The 67th Annual Exhibition of Shōsō-in Treasures" (October 24–November 9, 2015)

Collection, Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Properties

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

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

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



"Amida (Amitābha) Coming Over the Mountain" (painting from the Museum's collection) with protective facing

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 (mainly for elementary school students) 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, and joint lectures with Nara Women's University and Kobe University and joint lectures with Nara Women's University and Kobe University
- ⑤Promotion of volunteer activities



Volunteer activity



Scene from the venue of the "Hakuho—History and Culture" summer lecture



Survey in progress (Calligraphy)



Concert to Celebrate the 120th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Nara National Museum

Research and Survey 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 2016 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 and ancient arts and crafts
- ⑤Research on artifacts excavated from ancient tombs
- ⑥Research to accompany thematic exhibitions
- ⑦Research to accompany special exhibitions, etc.
- ⑧Research on the art of sculpture in ancient and medieval Nara
- ⑨Research on Buddhist art using optical technologies, conducted in collaboration with the National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo.
- ⑩Research into the effects on cultural properties of storage area environments, exhibition spaces and display cases
- ⑪Research on collections and objects loaned to the museum, from the perspective of cultural asset restoration
- ⑫Research on collections and objects loaned to the museum, from the perspective of conservation science
- ⑬Research to contribute to educational programs in history and traditional culture

Brief History

1889: Established as the Imperial Museum of Nara under the supervision of the Imperial Household Ministry
 1895: First exhibition held
 1900: Renamed as the Imperial Household Museum of Nara
 1914: Establishment of the Shōsō-in Department
 1947: Supervision transferred to the Ministry of Education
 1950: Affiliated with the National Commission for the Protection of Cultural Properties
 1952: Renamed as the Nara National Museum
 1968: Affiliated with the Agency for Cultural Affairs
 1972: Completion of the West Wing
 1980: Establishment of the Buddhist Art Library
 1995: Celebration of the museum's centennial anniversary
 1997: Completion of the East Wing and the lower level passageway
 2000: Completion of the Conservation Center for Cultural Properties
 2001: Becomes the Independent Administrative Institution National Museum, Nara National Museum
 2007: Integrated into the Independent Administrative Institution National Institutes for Cultural Heritage, as the Nara National Museum
 2016: Nara Buddhist Sculpture Hall reopening after restoration

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 |
| Ritual Bronzes Gallery | Exhibition Area | 1,261 | | |
| | Building Area | 341 | Gross Floor Area | 664 |
| East Wing | Exhibition Area | 470 | | |
| | Building Area | 1,825 | Gross Floor Area | 6,389 |
| West Wing | Exhibition Area | 875 | Repository Area | 1,394 |
| | Building Area | 1,649 | Gross Floor Area | 5,396 |
| Buddhist Art Library | Exhibition Area | 1,473 | | |
| | Building Area | 718 | Gross Floor Area | 718 |
| Conservation Center for Cultural Properties | Building Area | 319 | Gross Floor Area | 1,036 |
| | | | | |
| Lower Level Passageway | Gross Floor Area | 2,152 | Repository Area | 164 |
| | | | | |
| Others | Building Area | 405 | Gross Floor Area | 1,249 |
| | | | | |



Kyushu National Museum

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



SHIMATANI Hiroyuki
Executive Director
Kyushu National Museum

Kyushu, the westernmost main island of Japan, which is situated close to continental Asia, has been the stage for 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. Last year, the Museum celebrated the 10th anniversary of its opening.

The Museum has now received a cumulative total of over 13 million visitors since it first opened. The last few years have seen a pronounced increase in the number of visitors from China, Korea, Vietnam and Thailand.

In the future, the Museum will continue to carry out a wide range of research work and other activities aimed at furthering mutual understanding between Asian cultures, while also striving to be a museum that is relevant to, and of value to, the local community.

Exhibitions

● Cultural Exchange Exhibition (Permanent Exhibition)

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

● Feature Exhibitions (Thematic Exhibitions)

We also feature creative displays based on regionally specific themes in the Cultural Exchange Exhibition. Thematic exhibitions scheduled for fiscal year 2016 are as follows:

- *The Matchlock Guns of Japan* (July 12–September 4, 2016)
- *ALL-JAPAN HIGH SCHOOL ARCHAEOLOGICAL LEGACY 2016* (July 20–September 25, 2016)
- *Commemorating the ARITA Porcelain 400th Anniversary: Imari wares in the life of established families* (provisional title) (September 14–November 6, 2016)
- Harunotsuji, ruins of the maritime royal city, and masterpieces from Iki Island, Nagasaki Prefecture—Its history of interchanges with East Asian countries— (provisional title) (October 11–December 4, 2016)
- *Glittering Decoration—A Collection of Outstanding Examples of Mother-of-pearl Work* (provisional title) (November 15–December 23, 2016)
- *Special New Year Display: National Treasure Hatsune Bridal Makie Lacquer Furnishings From The Tokugawa Art Museum* (January 1–29, 2017)

● Special Exhibitions

Special exhibitions aims to provide opportunities that both newcomers and experts can enjoy alike. Special exhibitions scheduled for fiscal year 2016 are as follows:

- *The Great Terracotta Army of China's First Emperor* (March 15–June 12, 2016)
- *Kaii Higashiyama: Nature, Men and Towns* (July 16–August 28, 2016)
- *Kosan-ji Temple and Myoe: Special Exhibit of Choju-jinbutsu giga (Scroll Paintings Frolicking Animals)* (October 4–November 20, 2016)
- *Okinoshima Island in Munakata City and the Yamato Court* (provisional title) (January 1–March 5, 2017)

Collection, Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Properties

● Collection

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

● Preservation

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

● Restoration

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



Cultural Exchange Exhibition
(Permanent Exhibition)



Feature Exhibition "Buried Treasures of Dazaifu Tenmangu Shrine"
January 1–February 28, 2016



Special Exhibition "Japan, Country of Beauty"
October 18–November 29, 2015

Educational and Exchange Activities

Educational Activities

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



Volunteer Program: Kyushu National Museum Children's Festival

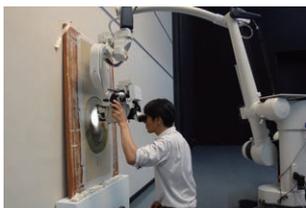
- Conducting of workshops
- Production of guidebooks
- ③ "Kypack" - educational kits to be used in secondary schools
- ④ Campus Members System to strengthen ties with universities and other higher educational institutions
- ⑤ Educational activities based on "Kyushu National Museum's picture books" for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

Exchange Activities

- ① Implementing exchange projects in cooperation with local enterprises for more effective utilization of museum facilities.
- ② Promoting exchange among Asian museums
 - Conclusion of cultural exchange agreements with the Buyeo National Museum (Korea), the 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, Sichuan Museum (Chengdu, China) the Vietnam National Museum of History, and the Fine Arts Department of the Ministry of Culture (Thailand)
- ③ Hosting international symposia
 - Asian Museum Directors' Summit Meeting (October 18, 2015)

Research and Survey Activities

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



Pigment survey involved in restoration work on "Portrait of Hippocrates," an important work of art

- Research on using X-ray computed tomography (CT) scanning to analyze the structure of bronze vessels, sculptures, lacquer-ware, etc.
- Research on archaeological materials held in high schools
- Research on the preservation and utilization of underwater archaeological sites
- Research on the history and arts of Thailand
- Research relating to thematic exhibitions and special exhibitions, including "The Matchlock Guns of Japan" and "Glittering Decoration—A Collection of Outstanding Examples of Mother-of-pearl Work" (provisional title)
- Research on showing films in super-high-definition movie theaters that utilize precise imaging technology
- Research on and development of the "Kyu-paku" school loan kit, aimed at strengthening collaboration with in-school teaching
- Basic research on the establishment of an integrated pest management (IPM) system emphasizing collaboration with the general public as part of museum crisis management efforts

Publications

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

- i) Tofu-seisei (Research Bulletin): This bulletin summarizes the results of the Museum's investigative research efforts (published annually)
- ii) Asiage (Visual guide): A guide providing information on Cultural Exchange Exhibition (permanent exhibition) in an accessible format
- iii) Asiage (Quarterly magazine): An information magazine focusing on the Cultural Exchange Exhibition and special exhibitions (released quarterly)
- iv) Picture Book Series: The Museum produces original picture books for children about Japanese history format to encourage understanding and familiarity.

Brief History

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

tion of the exhibitions".

- The National Museum formally established the Kyushu National Museum.
- Kyushu National Museum opened to the public on 16 October.
- 2007: The Kyushu National Museum was merged into the IAI National Institutes for Cultural Heritage (NICH).
- 2008: Japan-China-ROK Triilateral Summit Meeting was held at the Kyushu National Museum.
- 2012: Kyushu National Museum welcomed its 10 millionth visitor.
- 2015: 10th anniversary

Facilities

| | | (m ²) | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| Land Area | NICH | 10,798 | Prefecture 166,477 |
| | | | 155,679 |
| Building | Building Area | 14,623 | Gross Floor Area 30,675 |
| | NICH | 9,300 | Prefecture 5,780 |
| | | | Shared Area 15,595 |
| Exhibition and Repository Area | Exhibition Area Total | 5,444 | NICH 3,844 |
| | Prefecture | 1,375 | Shared Area 225 |
| | Repository Area Total | 4,518 | NICH 2,744 |
| | Prefecture | 1,335 | Shared Area 439 |

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



National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo



KAMEI Nobuo

Director General
National Research
Institute for Cultural
Properties, Tokyo

The National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo, in the implementation of 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 all types of cultural properties, both tangible and intangible. It actively disseminates the results of such research, provides guidance and advice to local public organizations regarding the preservation of cultural properties, and conducts international cooperation activities, with different countries in Asia and other regions of the world, on the protection of cultural properties through the trainings of personnel and the transferring of conservation and restoration techniques.

The priority areas on which the Institute is focusing in its survey and research work are outlined below: Firstly, the Institute is working to build up comprehensive archives from the various types of research results, basic databases and source materials that the Institute has collected over the years. In addition, in the conservation science field, the Institute promotes coordinated projects with the Independent Administrative Institution 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 regard to intangible cultural heritage, the Institute collects basic data and materials nationwide, focusing mainly on performing arts and traditional techniques, and makes them available to the public, etc.

Besides the above activities, the Institute operates the secretariat office of the Japan Consortium for International Cooperation in Cultural Heritage, a base organization for promoting the coordination and collaboration of Japan's contribution in this area.

Organization

● Department of Art Research, Archives and Information Systems

The Department of Art Research, Archives and Information Systems collects, preserves, collates and publicizes information relating to cultural properties, with the aim of expanding the scope of cultural property archives, and also undertakes research on the development of effective methods for the transmission of information. At the same time, the Department also aims to realize a new kind of information science through measures tackling issues of contemporary relevance in the fields of cultural properties studies and art history research, etc. The Department also builds on the results obtained in these activities in managing the information systems and public relations activities of the Institute as a whole.



Research on letters sent to Kuroda Seiki (a key figure in the development of Western-style painting in 19th century Japan)

● 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.



Traditional storytellers Mr. ICHIRYUSAI Teisui (left) and Mr. KANDA Shori (right)

● Center for Conservation Science

The Center for Conservation Science 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.



Survey by portable X-ray diffraction analyzer

● Japan Center for International Cooperation in Conservation

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

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



Practical training session on the preparation of materials used for restoration of mural paintings (No. 1205 temple, Bagan, Myanmar)

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.



Workshop of conservation of Japanese Artworks on Paper and Silk



Training for museum curators

Graduate School Education and Public Lectures

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

Dissemination of Research Information

The National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo is engaged in actively communicating with the public and making the results of its diverse activities accessible, including those of research and international cooperation. Publications such as the Annual Report, Leaflet for the 8th Public Profile and TOBUNKENNEWS are published, and the website of the institute is updated constantly



The 49th Public Lecture



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

Publications

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



The Bijutsu Kenkyu
(Journal of Art Studies)



Yearbook of Japanese Art



Research and Reports on Intangible Cultural Heritage



Science for Conservation

Brief History

- 1930: Established as the institute of Art Research, an auxiliary organization of the Imperial Academy of Fine Arts
- 1947: Affiliated with the national Museum
- 1950: Affiliated with the national Commission for Protection of Cultural Properties
- 1952: Reorganized and renamed as Tokyo Research Institute of Cultural Properties
- 1954: Renamed as Tokyo national Institute of Cultural Properties
- 1968: Affiliated with the Agency for Cultural Affairs
- 2000: Construction of new offices
- 2001: Restructured as the Independent Administrative Institute 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 (Special Historic Site), where the imperial palace and government offices were located in the Nara period (710-784). Systematic research has been in progress since 1959 and over one-third of the 130 hectare site has been excavated and surveyed so far. The finds from excavation at the sites of the palace and ancient temples, such as architectural remains, wooden strips (used for writing messages on), earthenware vessels and ceramic tiles, have been verified with reference to historical records; this empirical research on the Nara period undertaken by the Department has won widespread plaudits. The Department also provides the results of its research on the Nara Palace Site to the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT) as basic data to support the maintenance of the national Nara Palace Site Historical Park.

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

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

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

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



Nara Palace Site Museum, Autumn
Special Exhibition



Providing guidance during restoration
work on an archeological site



First excavation survey of the arcade
on the western side of the Daigokuden
(Great Hall of State) forming part of
the Heijo Palace (Imperial Palace)



Excavation survey of the central
courtyard of the Daigokuden (Great
Hall of State) forming part of 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 Itsukahara Kofun (burial tumulus) site (in Muko City, Kyoto Prefecture)

●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 Northern Wei Luoyang capital site, an ancient capital of the Northern Wei dynasty; (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 the Eastern Jin and Sixteen Kingdoms era; (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 collaborate with the Department of Archaeology, National Museum and Library, Ministry of Culture, Myanmar on technology transfer and human resources development in the field of archaeology, especially methods of excavating archaeological sites and investigating artifacts from the site.



International project for conservation of Western Prasat Top, Angkor

Brief History

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

Facilities

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

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



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

At the UNESCO General Conference of October 2009, approval 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 (IRCI) was founded in Sakai City, in October 2011, as a Category 2 Centre under the auspices of UNESCO (institutions that serve to contribute to the achievement of UNESCO's strategic objectives).

IRCI's objectives are to promote the 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 research in the Asia-Pacific region. To achieve these objectives, IRCI works in cooperation with research institutions, museums, community representatives, NGOs and governmental organizations in the region. Today, many elements of ICH are endangered throughout the world due to the various factors. IRCI collaborates with universities and research institutions in Japan and the Asia-Pacific region to promote research on the practices and methodologies of ICH safeguarding.

■ Activities in FY 2015

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

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

In FY 2015, IRCI conducted the following activities:

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

1. International Experts Meeting of the Project "Mapping Research on the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region"

IRCI held an international meeting with experts from 11 countries in the Asia-Pacific region to discuss current conditions and issues related to ICH safeguarding research (8-9 December 2015, Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic).

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

For the purpose of making widely available the research information collected in the past years, IRCI released an online research database on 25 September 2014, which currently consists of approximately 1,300 entries (<http://ichdb-irci.org/>).

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

1. Study of Legal Systems Related to Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Greater Mekong Region
Many countries in the Mekong region have difficulties in developing legal systems related to ICH safeguarding. Therefore, this project aims to meet the demands of such countries and strengthen the legal and policy framework related to ICH safeguarding in the region. IRCI in collaboration with Kyushu University (Graduate School of Law) held a workshop on current legal conditions and related analysis, attended by researchers and law related government officials from 8 countries in the region such as Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar (17-19 December 2015, Toyama Prefectural Civic Center, Toyama). Toyama Prefecture also cooperated in this workshop, as a local government known for its efforts in revitalizing traditional handicrafts. In the future, this project aims to establish a toolkit as a reference material for developing legal framework, as well as to conduct comparative research among countries within the region.



International experts meeting of mapping project (December 2015, Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic)



Workshop on study of legal systems related to intangible cultural heritage in the Greater Mekong region (December 2015, Toyama)

2. Research for Endangered Traditional Handicrafts in Post-Conflict States (Sri Lanka)

ICH faces the danger of extinction in post-conflict situations, due to the displacement and loss of artisans, in addition to the increase of refugees. Following a request from UNESCO, field research was previously conducted to collect data on the transmission of traditional handicrafts in the northern and northeastern part of Sri Lanka. Based on this field research, IRCI discussed plans for practical research and methodologies for revitalizing traditional handicrafts with experts from the Sri Lanka National Craft Council and two surviving artisans from conflict-affected districts (19-20 December 2015, Toyama Prefectural Civic Center, Toyama).

3. Research for Safeguarding ICH on the Verge of Extinction: Vietnamese ICH Element Dong Ho Woodblock Printing

IRCI and the Vietnam Institute of Culture and Arts Studies (VICAS) held an editorial meeting to publish the final report on a project implemented since FY 2013, regarding the transmission of techniques and knowledge of Dong Ho Woodblock Printing (15-18 February 2016, Tokyo National Museum and Kuroda Memorial Hall, Tokyo). This meeting also provided an opportunity for summarizing the project output and discussing future cooperation between VICAS and IRCI.



Visit to craft studio (December 2015, Takaoka)



Research project for revitalizing traditional handicrafts in Sri Lanka (December 2015, Toyama)

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

1. Tokyo Symposium on Cultural Heritage

Akio Arata, former Director-General participated in the panel discussion at Tokyo Symposium on Cultural Heritage, co-organised by Sakai City and National Institutes for Cultural Heritage (20 May 2015, Tokyo National Museum, Tokyo). The symposium attracted over 250 people and IRCI information panels were displayed in the lobby.

●Communications and Publicity

1. Website in local languages in the Asia-Pacific region

IRCI disseminates information about its activities in local languages in the Asia-Pacific region. In addition to English, Japanese, Khmer, Lao, Singhalese, Tamil, Thai and Vietnamese, IRCI started to update its news in Hindi, Myanmar and Urdu (<http://www.irci.jp>).

●Other Information

At the 4th Governing Board Meeting held on 25 September 2015, a new medium-term programme for FY 2016-2020 was approved. In FY 2016, IRCI plans to conduct activities in line with the following activity focuses:

1. Enhancement of research regarding ICH safeguarding in the Asia-Pacific region
2. Research on ICH safeguarding and disaster-risk management
3. Collaboration with Sakai City for promoting ICH, within the framework of IRCI's mandate

Brief History

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



Tokyo Symposium on Cultural Heritage (May 2015, Tokyo)

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 APRIL 1, 2016)

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
 KURUSIMA Noriko: Auditor
 NAKAMOTO Fuminori: Auditor

Special Advisory Board (AS OF APRIL 1, 2016)

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.

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; Emeritus Professor, The Graduate University for Advanced Studies
 KAZAOKA Noriyuki: Grand Steward, Imperial Household Agency
 KAMII Monsho: Head Priest, Byodoin Temple
 KARAIKE Koji: Representative Director and Chairman of the Board, Kyushu Railway Company
 SATO Sojun: Professor Emeritus, Nara Women's University
 SATO Teiichi: Professor, Graduate School, International University of Health and Welfare

SHIMIZU Mazumi: Executive Director, Mitsui Memorial Museum
 SHIRAIISHI Taichiro: Executive Director, Osaka Prefecture Chikatsu Asuka Museum
 TANABE Ikuo: President, Osaka Center of Cultural Heritage
 DAN Fumi: Actress
 HAYASHIDA Suma: Executive Director, Onojo Madokapia Hall
 FUJII Jouji: Executive Director, Ishikawa Prefectural Museum of History
 MABUCHI Akiko: President, Independent Administrative Institution National Museum of Art

External Evaluation Board (AS OF APRIL 1, 2016)

Besides implementing self-evaluation of the Institutes' operational, survey and research performance, The National Institutes for Cultural Heritage have also established an External Evaluation Board of external experts to verify the Institutes' assessment of their own performance. (Renewable 2-year terms)

KOBAYASHI Tadashi: Professor Emeritus, Gakushuin University; Executive Director, OKADA MUSEUM OF ART (Chairperson)
 KAWAI Masatomo: Professor Emeritus, Keio University; Executive Director, Chiba City Museum of Art (Vice-Chairperson)
 AYUKAWA Masaaki: Certified Public Accountant
 ISHIKAWA Hideshi: Professor, School of Arts and Letters, Dean of the Undergraduate School of Arts and Letters, Meiji University
 OKADA Yasuyoshi: Professor, Institute for Cultural Studies of Ancient Iraq, Kokushikan University
 SAITO Tsutomu: Professor, Research Department, National Museum of Japanese History

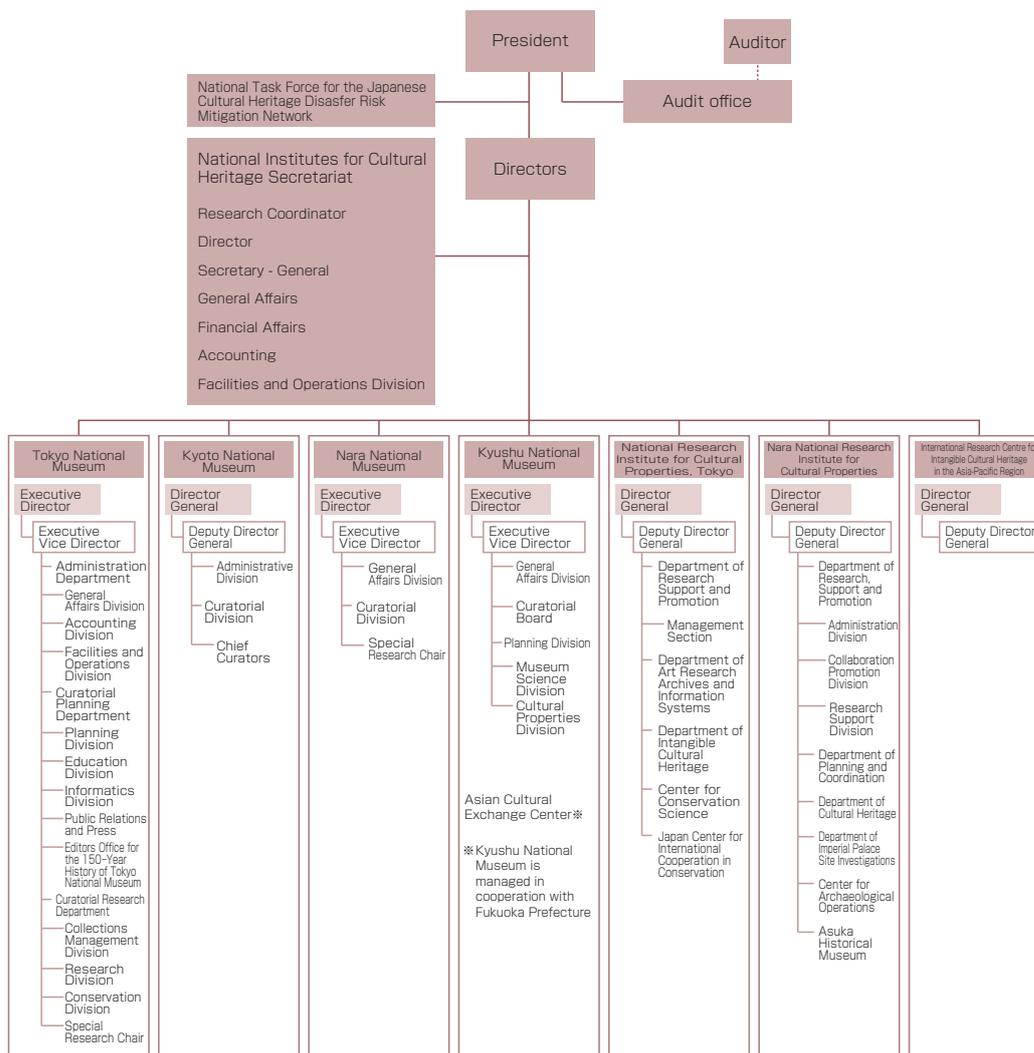
SAKAKIBARA Satoru: Director, Okazaki City Museum
 SAKAMOTO Hiroko: Executive Director (Cultural Projects and Business Development) of the Asahi Shimbun Company
 SATO Makoto: Professor, Graduate School of Humanities and Sociology, University of Tokyo
 TAMAMUSHI Satoko: Professor, College of Art and Design, Musashino Art University
 NAGOYA Akira: Vice Director, The Gotoh Museum
 HAMADA Hiroaki: Professor, J. F. Oberlin University
 FUJITA Haruhiko: Professor, Graduate School of Letters, Osaka University
 YANAGIBAYASHI Osamu: Reporter, The Yomiuri Shimbun Osaka

Number of Staff

| Division | Number of staff | Administrative staff | Technical and security staff | Specialists | Curators/ Researchers |
|---|-----------------|----------------------|------------------------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| Total | 330 | 131 | 19 | 2 | 178 |
| National Institutes for Cultural Heritage Secretariat | 22 | 22 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Tokyo National Museum | 94 | 33 | 11 | 2 | 48 |
| Kyoto National Museum | 36 | 18 | 4 | 0 | 14 |
| Nara National Museum | 33 | 15 | 4 | 0 | 14 |
| Kyushu National Museum | 27 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 17 |
| National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo | 39 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 31 |
| Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties | 76 | 23 | 0 | 0 | 53 |
| International Research Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region | 3 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 |

(Figures as of April 1, 2016)

Organizational Chart



(As of April 1, 2016)

Budget

Fiscal 2016 Budget

Revenue

(Unit: JPY1,000)

| Source | Fiscal 2016 | Fiscal 2015 |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|
| Self-generated Income | 1,474,731 | 1,322,634 |
| Government funding for operating expenses | 8,387,941 | 8,440,731 |
| Income from commissioned projects | 576,849 | 26,000 |
| Grant for facilities improvement | 1,334,381 | 2,920,551 |
| Others (Donations, etc.) | 350,531 | 0 |
| Total | 12,124,433 | 12,709,916 |

Expenditure

(Unit: JPY1,000)

| Purpose | Fiscal 2016 | Fiscal 2015 |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Operational expenses | 9,862,672 | 9,763,365 |
| Personnel | 3,472,102 | 3,249,769 |
| Supply costs | 6,390,570 | 6,513,596 |
| Expenses for commissioned projects | 576,849 | 26,000 |
| Facility improvement | 1,334,381 | 2,920,551 |
| Others (Donations, etc.) | 350,531 | 0 |
| Total | 12,124,433 | 12,709,916 |

Income from External Sources

| | Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research (2016) | | | | Funding for Commissioned Work (Fiscal 2015) | | Research Grants (Fiscal 2015) | |
|---|--|-------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|---|-------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| | ① Fiscal 2016 | | ② Multi-year Fund Fiscal 2016 | | 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 | 1 | 18,221 | 1 | 158,441 |
| Tokyo National Museum | 14 | 61,790 | 12 (5) | 16,510 | 1 | 5,684 | 7 | 24,969 |
| Kyoto National Museum | 3 | 15,470 | 5 (1) | 6,370 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 10,977 |
| Nara National Museum | 1 | 5,850 | 1 (0) | 650 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 9,490 |
| Kyushu National Museum | 4 | 36,660 | 3 (0) | 4,550 | 4 | 41,459 | 2 | 700 |
| National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo | 10 | 29,965 | 16 (2) | 17,940 | 22 | 254,270 | 2 | 900 |
| Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties | 19 | 96,170 | 42 (7) | 57,330 | 32 | 223,008 | 6 | 4,350 |
| International Research Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region | 0 | 0 | 0 (0) | 0 | 1 | 51,455 | 1 | 5,000 |
| Total | 51 | 245,905 | 79 (15) | 103,350 | 61 | 594,097 | 26 | 214,827 |

※The amount of ① is the appropriation amount as of April, 2016.

※In the case of projects that extend over multiple fiscal years, the amount given under ② shows the amount allocated to that year when the decision to provide the grant was first made.

※With regard to research topics for which both ① and ② were awarded (partial funding), the number of projects is 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. Please note that the figures given include indirect expenses.

※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 | Financial Donations | 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 |
| International Research Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region (IRCI) | General Affairs Section | | 072-275-8050 |
| 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 Rental

Each of the National Museums makes its facilities available as unique venues for MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions) events. From corporate parties to international conventions, the museum facilities can be used for a wide range of activities.



Overseas brand special exhibition at Tokyo National Museum



High-end jewelry event held at the Kyoto National Museum

○Improving Overseas Visitors' Experience

Each of the individual National Museums provides a convenient, pleasant environment for overseas visitors using multilingual explanations and guides.



English-language Museum guide application at 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

URL: <http://www.nich.go.jp/>