



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 Rinzaigen (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

■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

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

		(m ²)			
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



Kids’ Day (July 27, 2015)



Tactile map operated by volunteers to provide visitor information



Research being undertaken as part of the Special Research Project (Calligraphy)



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)



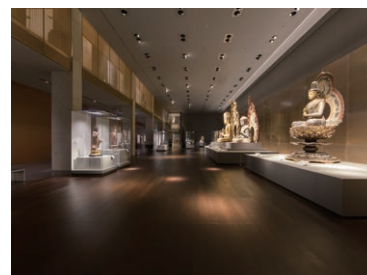
Heisei Chishinkan



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 fac-ing

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



Kyushu National Museum

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



SHIMATANI Hiroyuki
Executive Director
Kyushu National Museum

Kyushu, the westernmost main island of Japan, which is situated close to continental Asia, has been the stage 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)
- *Kaif 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

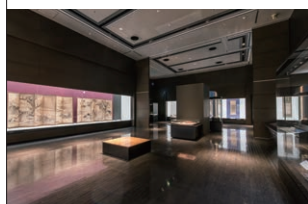
The Museum puts an emphasis on collecting artifacts such as artwork, archeological materials, historical documents and folk materials that help visitors more easily understand the cultural exchanges between Japan and the rest of Asia. Moreover, in an effort to further improve displays and exhibitions,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

● Preservation

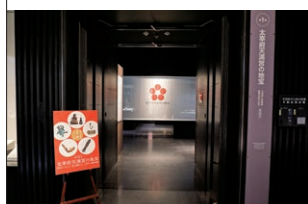
The "storage rooms" of the Museum are where important cultural properties are preserved and stored. They are located in the heart of the building and the box-like space features a double walled structure. The air conditioning facilities also utilize a constant temperature humidistat, which allows the 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

- 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.



Volunteer Program: Kyushu National Museum Children's Festival

●Exchange Activities

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

- ② Promoting exchange among Asian museums

Conclusion of cultural exchange agreements with the Buyeo National Museum (Korea), the Goguryeo National Museum (Korea), The Korea National University of Cultural Heritage, the Nanjing Museum (China), the Museum of Inner Mongolia (China), Chinese Center for Cultural Exchange, 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.

- 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



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

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 Trilateral 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	166,477
	Prefecture		155,679
Building	Building Area	14,623	Gross Floor Area
	NICH	9,300	Prefecture
			Shared Area
Exhibition and Repository Area	Exhibition Area Total	5,444	NICH
	Prefecture	1,375	Shared Area
	Repository Area Total	4,518	NICH
	Prefecture	1,335	Shared Area

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.

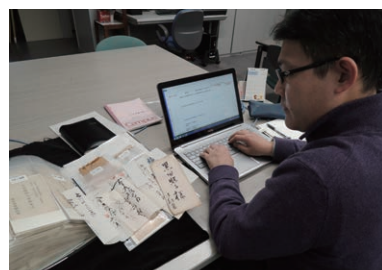
The priority areas on which the Institute is focusing in its survey and research work are outlined below: Firstly, the Institute is working to build up comprehensive archives from the various types of research results, basic databases and source materials that the Institute has collected over the years. 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. ICHIRYUSA 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



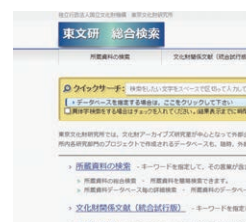
The 49th Public Lecture

Graduate School Education and Public Lectures

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

Dissemination of Research Information

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



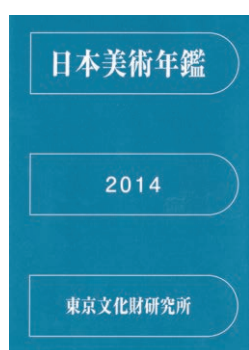
TOBUNKEN Research Collections(<http://www.tobunken.go.jp/archives/>)

Publications

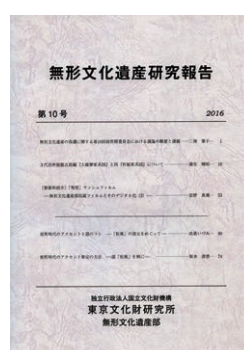
The National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo publishes periodicals such as *The Bijutsu Kenkyu* (The Journal of Art Studies), *Yearbook of Japanese Art, Research and Reports on Intangible Cultural Heritage* and *Science for Conservation*. It also publishes the results of various additional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



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 Institution National Research Institute for Cultural Properties Tokyo
- 2007: Integrated into the Independent Administrative Institution National Institutes for Cultural Heritage, as National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo

Facilities

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



Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties



MATSUMURA Keiji

Director General
Nara National Research
Institute for Cultural
Properties

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

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

●Department of Planning and Coordination

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

●Department of Cultural Heritage

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

●Department of Imperial Palace Sites Investigations

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

[Department of Imperial Palace Sites Investigations (Heijo)]

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

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

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



Nara Palace Site Museum, Autumn
Special Exhibition



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

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



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>).



Tokyo Symposium on Cultural Heritage (May 2015, Tokyo)

●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

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.