



# 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 than any museum in Japan. Its collection comprises more than 117,000 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. Starting from this year, the Museum's opening hours are being extended until 21:00 on Fridays and Saturdays throughout the year, with the aim of providing both foreign tourists and domestic visitors with more opportunities to view the Museum's exhibits; the Museum will also be holding a variety of special events on Friday and Saturday evenings to further enhance the experience of evening visitors.

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 2017 (the dates given are tentative):

- *Conservation and Restoration of the Tokyo National Museum Collection* (March 22–April 16, 2017)
- *2017 Newly Designated National Treasures and Important Cultural Properties* (June 27–July 17, 2017)
- *Family Gallery: Diving into Folding Screens* (July 4–September 3, 2017)
- *Magical Asia—Journey through Asia at the Tokyo National Museum* (September 5–October 15, 2017)
- *Yamato-e Paintings of the Muromachi Era—Master Painters and their Works* (October 24–December 3, 2017)



Poster in the Ueno District of Tokyo advertising the Tokyo National Museum's new extended evening opening hours



Thematic Exhibition: *Conservation and Restoration of the Tokyo National Museum Collection* (March 22–April 16, 2017) Pamphlet



Special Exhibition: *Chanoyu—The Arts of Tea Ceremony, the Essence of Japan* (April 11–June 4, 2017)

## ●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 2017:

- *Chanoyu—The Arts of Tea Ceremony, the Essence of Japan* (April 11–June 4, 2017)
- Special Exhibition Celebrating 130 Years of Amity between Japan and Thailand—*Thailand: Brilliant Land of the Buddha* (July 4–August 27, 2017)
- *The Living Treasures of France* (September 26–November 26, 2017)
- *Unkei: The Great Master of Buddhist Sculpture* (September 26–November 26, 2017)
- *Ninnaji and the Buddhas of Omuro Temples* (provisional title) (January 16–March 11, 2018)
- *Roads of Arabia: Archaeology and History of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia* (January 23–March 18, 2018)

## ●Overseas Exhibitions

- Special Exhibition Celebrating 130 Years of Amity between Japan and Thailand—*Japanese Art: Belief and Life* (provisional title) scheduled for December 2017–February 2018, Bangkok National Museum, Thailand
- Joint Special Exhibition of National Museums: *Tigers* (provisional title), January 26–March 18, 2018, National Museum of Korea

## ■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 90 full restorations and 500 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)

Teacher training (in relation to Special Exhibitions and Regular Exhibitions)

### ○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 2017 includes the following:

- Joint research on the Buddhist art works held in the Museum’s collections, using optical technology
- Research relating to Thematic Exhibitions such as *Tibetan Buddhism and the World of Esoteric Buddhism*
- Research relating to the development of museum field-trip guides that make effective use of information and communications technology (ICT)
- Special Research Projects on the Treasures of the Horyu-ji Temple donated to the Imperial Household in 1878, including Calligraphy, Handicrafts, Sculpture, and Painting

## Brief History

- 1872: Opened as the Museum of the Ministry of Education, on the occasion of Japan’s first public exposition held by the ministry in the Yushima Seido, Tokyo.
- 1875: Transferred to the Ministry of the Interior. The museum had eight exhibition categories at this time: natural products, agriculture& forestation, industrial technology, art, history, education, religion, and army and navy
- 1882: Moved to the present location, a site formerly occupied by the headquarters of Kan’ei-ji temple.
- 1889: Reorganized as the Imperial Museum under the supervision of the Imperial Household Agency.
- 1900: Renamed the Tokyo Imperial Household Museum.
- 1909: Hyokeikan opened.
- 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 <sup>2</sup> )                |   |        |                  |        |
|----------------------------------|---|--------|------------------|--------|
| 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 activity: *Welcome to the Tokyo National Museum Theatre!*



Tactile map in Room 19 of the Japanese Gallery (Honkan)



Survey being undertaken using optical technology as part of a joint research project



# Kyoto National Museum

The Kyoto National Museum collects, preserves, manages, and exhibits 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 1,000 years, from the relocation of the capital in 794, which marked the beginning of the Heian period, right through to the Meiji Restoration in 1868.

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.

This year (2017) marks the 120th anniversary of the founding of the Kyoto National Museum. In the past, we have played an important role in the preservation and transmission of cultural heritage. Taking this fundamental role of museums as our starting point, we will be implementing a variety of activities, thereby proactively promoting the museum's continued development.

## 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

- 120th Anniversary Commemorative Special Exhibition *Kaiho Yusho* (April 11–May 21, 2017)
- 120th Anniversary Commemorative Special Exhibition *National Treasures* (October 3–November 26, 2017)



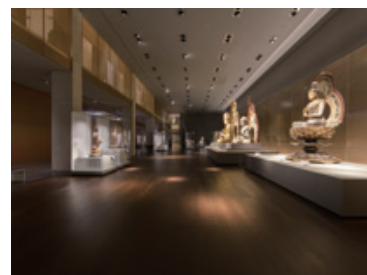
Heisei Chishinkan



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)



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.



*Let's Use Stamps to Design Uchiwa (Traditional Paper Fans)! activity at the Museum Kids! National Fair (in Sendai) (June 25-26, 2016)*



*Kyo-Haku Navigator workshop Divination-Learning About the Language of Zen Buddhism (2016)*

## Research

Since 1979, the museum has been implementing an ongoing, comprehensive survey of cultural assets owned by shrines and temples in the Kinki region of Japan, centered on Kyoto, with the researchers of the museum's Curatorial Board playing a particularly active role. As part of these efforts, over a four-year period starting in 2016, we are implementing a *Comprehensive Research Program on the Buddhist Culture and History of the Kawachi Region*, with KAKENHI (government-funded grants-in-aid for scientific research) funding support. This research program will involve conducting a survey of the cultural heritage of shrines and temples in the Osaka and Kawachi regions. We have also been undertaking an ongoing survey of paintings, calligraphy and decorative art 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 will be put on public display in a Special Exhibition in the Heisei Chishinkan Wing in 2017. 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.



Temple research inventory at Kongō-ji Temple



Rakugo 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 <sup>2</sup> ) |
|---|-----------------------|--------|------------------|-------------------|
| 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.



MATSUMOTO Nobuyuki  
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 "Masterpieces of Buddhist Sculpture", 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 Ritual Bronzes Gallery connected by a corridor features fine works of Chinese ancient bronzes. The West Wing houses "Masterpiece of Buddhist Art" which introduces the essence of Japanese Buddhist art through selected items of painting, decorative art, calligraphy and artifacts. In addition, thematic exhibitions from the permanent collection are occasionally held for themes that lie outside a specific genre.

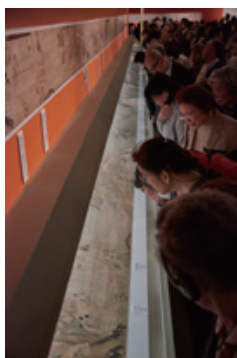
### ● Feature Exhibitions

Feature exhibitions are medium-scale exhibitions organized to explore a specific theme.

- *On-Matsuri and the Sacred Art of Kasuga* (December 9, 2017–January 14, 2018)
- *Treasures of Todaiji's Omizutori Ritual* (February 6–March 14, 2018)
- Restoration Commemoration Exhibition *Masterpiece Paintings of Yakushiji: Interior Panel Paintings of the Former Fukujuin by Nagasawa Rosetsu and Ita-e Paintings* (February 6–March 14, 2018)

### ● Special Exhibitions

- *The Buddhist Master Sculptor Kaikei: Timeless Beauty from the Kamakura Period* (April 8–June 4, 2017)
- Millennial Memorial Exhibition: *Imaging the Afterlife—Hells and Paradise Envisioned by the Buddhist Prelate Genshin* (July 15–September 3, 2017)
- The 69th Annual Exhibition of Shōsō-in Treasures (Late October–Early November, 2017) (Tentative)



*The National Treasure Illustrated Scrolls of the Legends of Shigisan: Treasures of Chōgosonshiji Temple and Faith in Bishamontenno*  
(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  
(October 22–November 7, 2016)

## ■ Collection, Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Properties

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

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

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

## ■ Educational Programs

We promote a variety of educational programs to increase the understanding of the importance of cultural properties.

- ① Collection and distribution of information and materials concerning cultural properties
- ② Programs for students  
Ex: World heritage classes (mainly for elementary school students) and educational lectures for teachers
- ③ Lectures and seminars  
Ex: Public lectures, Sunday museum talks, summer seminar series, the Shōsō-in academic symposium, and international symposia
- ④ Cooperation with universities and colleges  
Ex: Campus Members System, internship programs, and joint lectures with Nara Women's University and Kobe University
- ⑤ Promotion of volunteer activities



Volunteer activity



Summer seminar *History and Art of the Rishshu School of Buddhism-From Ganjin to Ninshō* in progress

## ■ 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. Reference materials collected through research are available to the public at the Buddhist Art Library. In fiscal year 2017 the Nara National Museum will conduct the following thematic research:

- ① Research on collection items, items on loan to the museum, and related items
- ② Research on Buddhist paintings alongside the creation of reproductions
- ③ Fundamental research on ancient Buddhist scriptures and sutra-copying
- ④ Comprehensive survey of Buddhist arts and crafts and ancient arts and crafts
- ⑤ Research on artifacts excavated from ancient tombs
- ⑥ Research on the art of sculpture in ancient and medieval Nara
- ⑦ Research on Buddhist art using optical technologies, conducted in collaboration with the Tokyo National Research Institute for Cultural Properties
- ⑧ Research to accompany thematic exhibitions
- ⑨ Research to accompany special exhibitions, etc.
- ⑩ Research to contribute to educational programs in history and traditional culture
- ⑪ Research into the effects on cultural properties of storage area environments, exhibition spaces and display cases
- ⑫ Research on collections and objects loaned to the museum, from the perspective of cultural asset restoration
- ⑬ Research on collections and objects loaned to the museum, from the perspective of conservation science
- ⑭ Theory and practice-based study of establishing cultural property archives



Preparatory research for the special exhibition *Kaikai*



Venue hire: Ferrari Cavalcade International 2016

### Brief History

1889: Established as the Imperial Museum of Nara under the supervision of the Imperial Household Ministry  
 1895: First exhibition held (April 29)  
 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  
 1973: Opening of the West Wing  
 1980: Establishment of the Buddhist Art Library  
 1995: Celebration of the museum's centennial anniversary  
 1998: Opening of the East Wing  
 2001: Becomes the Independent Administrative Institution National Museum, Nara National Museum  
 2002: Opening of the Conservation Center for Cultural Properties  
 The main building's repository reopens as the Ritual Bronzes Gallery  
 2007: Integrated into the Independent Administrative Institution National Institutes for Cultural Heritage, as the Nara National Museum  
 2010: The main building renamed as the Nara Buddhist Sculpture Hall  
 2016: Nara Buddhist Sculpture Hall reopening after restoration (April 29)

### Facilities

|   |                  |       |                       | (m <sup>2</sup> ) |
|---|------------------|-------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 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.

The Museum has now received a cumulative total of over 14 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, Feature Exhibitions, which change periodically, are held in the Cultural Exchange Exhibition Gallery.

We also strive to create more dynamic and in-depth exhibitions through the usage of videos and hands-on displays.

### ● Feature Exhibitions (Thematic Exhibitions)

The main Feature Exhibitions scheduled for fiscal year 2017 are as follows:

- *History Revealed from the deep—The Frontier of Underwater Archaeology* (July 15–September 10, 2017)
- *Tsushima—Traces of International Contacts Seen in Historical Treasures* (provisional title) (August 8–September 18, 2017)
- *The Land of Gods, Buddhas and Demons—An Exhibition about the Rokugo Manzan (Esoteric Buddhist Temples) of Usa in Kunisaki* (provisional title) (September 13–November 5, 2017)
- *Prominent Zen priests, Hakuin and Sengai* (January 1–February 12, 2018)
- *Learning from, and Being Prepared for, Natural Disasters—The Kumamoto Earthquakes and Cultural Heritage Rescue Work* (provisional title) (March 13–May 6, 2018)
- *Special New Year Display: National Treasure HATSUNE BRIDAL MAKIE LACQUER FURNISHINGS from the Toku-gawa Art Museum* (January 1–28, 2018)

### ● Special Exhibitions

- *Thailand: Brilliant Land of the Buddha* (April 11–June 4, 2017)
- *Lascaux: The Cave Paintings of the Ice Age* (July 11–September 3, 2017)
- *Japanese Art in the Age of Discoveries* (October 14–November 26, 2017)
- *Wang Xizhi and Japanese Calligraphy* (provisional title) (February 10–April 8, 2018)

## Collection, Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Properties

### ● Collection

The Museum puts an emphasis on collecting cultural heritage such as fine art, decorative art, archeological materials, historical documents and folk materials that help visitors more easily understand the cultural exchanges between Japan and the rest of Asia as well as the origins of Japanese culture. Moreover, in an effort to further improve displays and exhibitions, we proactively invite temples, shrines and private individuals to donate or entrust their cultural properties to us.

### ● Preservation

The "storage rooms" of the Museum are where important cultural properties are preserved and stored. They feature a double-walled structure, designed to prevent external air from outside the Museum from directly reaching the cultural properties, and are located in the heart of the building to minimize changes in temperature and humidity. The air conditioning facilities also utilize a constant temperature humidistat, which allows the temperature and humidity of the storage area to be constantly maintained at more or less the same level. Additionally, the walls and ceiling of each storage room are made from materials procured from local suppliers in Kyushu, such as cedar, to help ensure an appropriate humidity level without overly depending on air conditioning devices. The Museum was constructed as a seismically isolated structure, to prevent cultural properties from damage caused such as by toppling over during earthquakes. The building does not receive a direct impact in the event of an earthquake, and this helps protect the priceless cultural properties located inside.

### ● 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 *Imari wares in the life of established families*  
(September 14–November 6, 2016)



Special Exhibition *Thailand: Brilliant Land of the Buddha*  
(April 14–June 4, 2017)

## 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 programs 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), Shenyang Imperial Palace Museum (China), the Vietnam National Museum of History, and the Fine Arts Department of the Ministry of Culture (Thailand)
- ③ Hosting international symposia and lecture events
  - Sacred Island of OKINOSHIMA in Munakata Region and the Yamato Imperial Court: *The Island of the Gods and Memories of Worship—The Story of Excavation Surveys of Religious Sites* (January 21, 2017)
  - The US-Japan Conference on Cultural and Educational Interchange (CULCON)—Arts Dialogue Committee Symposium: *Japanese Art and the World—Focusing on Key Trends Since 2000* (December 6, 2016)
  - Japan-China-ROK Trilateral Cultural Heritage Forum—*The Protection and Public Use of Underwater Cultural Heritage* (February 12, 2017)

## 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, and other types of cultural heritage
- Research on the preservation and utilization of underwater archaeological sites
- Research relating to feature exhibitions and special displays, including *"The Land of Gods, Buddhas and Demons—An Exhibition about the Rokugo Manzan (Esoteric Buddhist Temples) of Usa in Kunisaki"* (provisional title) etc.
- Research on educational outreach programs aimed at enhancing museum visitors' understanding through the use of explanatory panels, booklets, workshops etc. tailored to exhibition themes
- Research on the conservation and restoration of cultural heritage in museums
- Basic research on the establishment of an integrated pest management (IPM)
- Empirical research on the rescue etc. of cultural heritage following a natural disaster



Research on the *Namban Ships and Chinese Junk*, using a large, high-definition flatbed scanner

## Publications

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

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

### Brief History

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

ACA, the National Museum and Fukuoka Prefecture officially named the Museum as "Kyushu National Museum".

- 2005: The National Museum and Fukuoka Prefecture completed the "preparation of the exhibitions".  
The National Museum formally established the Kyushu National Museum. Kyushu National Museum opened to the public on 16 October.
- 2007: The Kyushu National Museum was merged into the IAI National Institutes for Cultural Heritage (NICH).
- 2008: Japan-China-ROK Trilateral Summit Meeting was held at the Kyushu National Museum.
- 2012: Kyushu National Museum welcomed its 10 millionth visitor.
- 2015: 10th anniversary

### Facilities

| Facilities                     |                       |        |                  | (m²)    |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|--------|------------------|---------|
| Land Area                      | NICH                  | 10,798 | Prefecture       | 166,477 |
|                                |                       |        |                  | 155,679 |
| Building                       | Building Area         | 14,623 | Gross Floor Area | 30,675  |
|                                | NICH                  | 9,300  | Prefecture       | 5,780   |
|                                |                       |        | Shared Area      | 15,595  |
| Exhibition and Repository Area | Exhibition Area Total | 5,444  | NICH             | 3,844   |
|                                | Prefecture            | 1,375  | Shared Area      | 225     |
|                                | Repository Area Total | 4,518  | NICH             | 2,744   |
|                                | Prefecture            | 1,335  | Shared Area      | 439     |

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





# Tokyo National Research Institute for Cultural Properties



KAMEI Nobuo

Director General  
Tokyo National  
Research Institute for  
Cultural Properties

The Tokyo National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, 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, and also undertakes research on the development of effective methods for the transmission of information, with the aim of expanding the scope of cultural property archives. At the same time, the Department 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 takes the results obtained in these activities as the basis for managing the information systems and public relations activities of the Institute as a whole.

### ● Department of Intangible Cultural Heritage

The Department of Intangible Cultural Heritage conducts basic research useful for the conservation and transmission of intangible cultural heritage, focusing in particular on 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.

### ● Center for Conservation Science

The Center for Conservation Science implements surveys of cultural property materials, construction and techniques, and undertakes research on the creation of environments suitable for the conservation and display of cultural properties. The Center also seeks to introduce new research methods. In addition, it conducts research into the improvement of restoration materials and techniques and into maintenance management methods. Moreover, the center works closely with those who are actually engaged in the conservation and restoration of cultural properties and their owners.

### ● 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.



Conference *In Search of the Multiple Origins of Namban Lacquer*



Kobayashi Lion Dance of Kanpaku School, Nikko City, Tochigi



Restoration work for torii gate of Itsukushima-jinja shrine using the restoration materials, which have evaluated in this project



A survey of restoration materials for the brick temple (Bagan, Myanmar)

## Seminar, Advice and Guidance

The Tokyo National Research Institute for Cultural Properties conducts various seminars and provides advice and guidance for the protection and utilization of cultural properties. Seminars and projects include International courses on conservation of Japanese paper, Training for museum curators in charge of conservation, Advice on safeguarding Intangible cultural properties, Inspection assistance and advice on the museum environments, and Investigation and advice concerning conservation of cultural properties.



International Training Program *Conservation and Restoration of Paper in Latin America*



Training for museum curators



The 50th Public Lecture

## Graduate School Education and Public Lectures

The Tokyo National Research Institute for Cultural Properties 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 Tokyo National Research Institute for Cultural Properties 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 Archives and Information Systems, and TOBUNKENNEWS are published, and the website of the institute is updated constantly



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

## Publications

The Tokyo National Research Institute for Cultural Properties 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 Tokyo National Research Institute for Cultural Properties

### Facilities

|           |                  | (m <sup>2</sup> ) |
|-----------|------------------|-------------------|
| 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.



Gallery Talk activity at the Nara Palace Site Museum

## ●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.



Providing guidance during restoration work on an archeological site

## ●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.



Excavation survey of the East Palace Site, forming part of the Heijo Palace (Imperial Palace)

### [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.



The *dōban* (hanging banner) stand remains excavated at the Fujiwara Palace Site and the reconstructed *dōban*



### ●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 excavated artifacts belonging to the San-Yan Culture; (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; We have also been commissioned by the Agency for Cultural Affairs to collaborate with the Department of Archaeology, National Museum and Library, Ministry of Religious Affairs and 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

### ●Publications

Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties publishes periodicals such as *Overview of Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties*, *BULLETIN Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties*, *NABUNKEN NEWS* and *CAO NEWS Centre for Archaeological Operations*. It also publishes the results of various additional research studies.

### Brief History

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

### Facilities

|   | Land Area  | Building  | (m <sup>2</sup> ) |
|---|--|---|-------------------|
| Area of Headquarters  | 8,860  | Building Area<br>Gross Floor Area<br>Currently under reconstruction |                   |
| Area of Nara Palace Site Museum   | Located on government-owned land, rent fees waived | Building Area<br>Gross Floor Area                                   | 13,328<br>21,395  |
| Area of Department of Imperial Palace Sites Investigations (Asuka and Fujiwara) | 20,515   | Building Area<br>Gross Floor Area                                   | 6,016<br>9,477    |
| Area of Asuka Historical Museum   | 17,093   | Building Area<br>Gross Floor Area                                   | 2,657<br>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. 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 2016

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 in cultural heritage management.

1. Promoting Research for ICH Safeguarding
2. Research on Endangered ICH and Disaster-Risk Management
3. Cooperation with Sakai City for Promoting ICH

In FY 2016, IRCI conducted the following activities:

### ● Activity Focus 1: Promoting Research for ICH Safeguarding

1. IRCI Experts Meeting on the Mapping Project for ICH Safeguarding in the Asia-Pacific Region

IRCI held an international meeting with experts from 14 countries in the Asia-Pacific region to discuss current conditions and issues related to ICH safeguarding research (18-19 November 2016, Sun Square Sakai, Sakai City, Osaka, Japan).

2. Literature Surveys

IRCI conducted literature surveys for 11 countries in cooperation with local research institutions. 24 countries have been investigated thus far, together with the surveys conducted the previous year. Cooperation with local institutions has enabled access in gaining information including literature and reports written in the local language.

3. 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 has been managing an online research database since 25 September 2014, which currently consists of over 2,000 entries (<http://www.irci.jp/ichdb/>).

### ● Activity Focus 2: Research on Endangered ICH and Disaster Risk Management

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



International Experts Meeting of Mapping Project (November 2016, Sakai City, Osaka, Japan)



Workshop on Study of Legal Systems Related to Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Greater Mekong Region (December 2016, Viet Nam)

law related government officials from 5 countries in the region such as Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar. The workshop concluded with an outcome of recommendations with a draft "tool kit for planning legal mechanisms" (17-19 December 2016, Vietnam National Institute of Culture and Arts Studies, Viet Nam). These outcomes will be edited and be published in the near future not only in English but also in 5 other languages such as Vietnamese, Khmer, Myanmar, Thai, and Lao languages.

## 2. Research on ICH and Disaster-Risk Management

Asia-Pacific countries are frequently exposed to various natural hazards, including earthquakes, tsunamis, cyclones, floods, and volcanic eruptions, all of which have severe impacts. Given such circumstances, there has been a growing international awareness regarding the disaster-risk management of cultural heritage, as the new framework of disaster-risk management "Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030" adopted at the 3rd UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction includes the importance of safeguarding cultural heritage. Nevertheless, practical measures to safeguard ICH in the process of disaster reduction, mitigation, and recovery have yet to be outlined.

IRCI conducted reconnaissance surveys in 6 countries such as Vanuatu, Fiji, Viet Nam, and the Philippines, all of which have been affected by natural disasters in the past 10 years. Furthermore, an international working group session was held with Asia-Pacific researchers regarding impacts of natural disasters, roles ICH could play in the preparedness and recovery, and further project activities (30 January 2017, Tokyo National Museum, Tokyo, Japan).



Discussion at National Commission for Culture and the Arts on natural disasters and ICH (July 2016, Philippines)



Preliminary Research on ICH Safeguarding and Disaster-Risk Management in the Asia-Pacific Region: International Working Group Session (January 2017, Tokyo, Japan)

## ●Activity Focus 3: Cooperation with Sakai City for Promoting ICH

International Symposium on ICH Safeguarding in the Asia-Pacific Region: Transmitting Art and Spirit of ICH

In celebration of its 5th anniversary, IRCI in cooperation with Sakai City held a public symposium on the importance to safeguard and transmit ICH to the next generation, attracting over 200 attendees. The event included a keynote lecture by Mr Koichiro Matsuura as well as a panel discussion on various case studies on transmitting ICH with researchers from Japan, Malaysia, and Cambodia (19 November 2016, Sun Square Sakai, Sakai City, Osaka, Japan).

## ●Communications and Publicity

IRCI published the following reports in order to disseminate information about its activities:

1. IRCI Brochure (Japanese and English)
2. Research for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage on the Verge of Extinction: Vietnamese ICH Element Dong Ho Woodblock Printing (English)
3. Proceedings of 2016 IRCI Experts Meeting on the Mapping Project for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region (English)
4. International Symposium on ICH Safeguarding in the Asia-Pacific Region: Transmitting Art and Spirit of ICH (Japanese)
5. Study of Legal Systems Related to Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Greater Mekong Region: Final Report (English)



International Symposium on ICH Safeguarding in the Asia-Pacific Region: Transmitting Art and Spirit of ICH (November 2016, Sakai City, Osaka, Japan)

## 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 <sup>2</sup> ) |                  |        |
|-------------------|------------------|--------|
| Buildings         | Building Area    | 244.67 |
|                   | Gross Floor Area | 244.67 |
| Number of Rooms   |                  | 4      |

※The building is leased from Sakai City, Osaka Prefecture.