



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, making it the oldest museum in Japan. Its collection comprises more than 117,000 cultural properties, including many National Treasures and Important Cultural Properties. We collect, preserve, conserve, 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. From fiscal year 2017, the Museum's opening hours were 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 2018, 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 history 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 and special events 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 2018 (the dates given are tentative):

- *The Masks of Japan: Gods and Demons in Noh and Kyogen* (March 20–April 22, 2018)
- *Newly Designated National Treasures and Important Cultural Properties* (April 17–May 6, 2018)
- *The 150th Anniversary of the Meiji Restoration: The Meiji Era in Calligraphy and Painting* (July 10–September 2, 2018)
- *Wayang: Traditional Indonesian Puppet Theater* (September 4–December 25, 2018)
- *Raphael Collin and Kuroda Seiki* (January 22–April 14, 2019)



Poster advertising the Museum's extended opening hours



Family Gallery: *Diving into Screen Paintings* (July 4–September 3, 2017)



Special Exhibition: *Echoes of a Masterpiece: The Lineage of Beauty in Japanese Art* (April 13–May 27, 2018)

●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 2018:

- Celebrating the 130th Anniversary of KOKKA and the 140th Anniversary of The Asahi Shimbun: *Echoes of a Masterpiece: The Lineage of Beauty in Japanese Art* (April 13 – May 27, 2018)
- JOMON: 10,000 Years of Prehistoric Art in Japan (July 3 – September 2, 2018)
- Collaborative Exhibition Project between the Tokyo National Museum and the Philadelphia Museum of Art: *Marcel Duchamp and Japanese Art* (October 2 – December 9, 2018)
- *The Buddhist Sculptures of Daihō'onji: Masterpieces by Kaikei and Jokei* (October 2 – December 9, 2018)
- Celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the Treaty of Peace and Friendship between Japan and the People's Republic of China: Special Thematic Exhibition: *Qi Baishi: Master of Modern Chinese Painting* (provisional title) (October 30 – December 25, 2018)
- *Unrivalled Calligraphy: Yan Zhenqing and His Legacy* (January 16 – February 24, 2019)

●Overseas Exhibition

- Japonisme 2018: JOMON: 10,000 Years of Prehistoric Art in Japan (provisional title), Maison de la culture de Japon à Paris, France (October– December 2018) (provisional)

■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

Gallery talks, seminars, lecture series, workshops, "behind the scenes" tours introducing the Museum's preservation and restoration work, and other 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, 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 2018 includes the following:

- Joint research on Buddhist art etc., using optical technology
- Research relating to *The Masks of Japan: Gods and Demons in Noh and Kyogen* and other Thematic Exhibitions
- Research relating to cultural heritage preserved in shrines and temples in the Kanto region
- Special Research Projects on the Treasures of the Horyū-ji Temple donated to the Imperial Household in 1878, including calligraphy, decorative arts, sculpture, and painting



Kids' Day activity: *Welcome to the Tokyo National Museum Theatre!* (July 30, 2017)



Lifelong learning volunteer using a tactile map in an activity to introduce visitors to the Museum



Research on calligraphy

Brief History

- 1872: Opened as the Museum of the Ministry of Education, on the occasion of Japan's first public exposition held by the ministry in the Yushima Seido, Tokyo.
- 1875: Transferred to the Ministry of the Interior. The museum had eight exhibition categories at this time: natural products, agriculture & forestation, industrial technology, art, history, education, religion, and army and navy.
- 1882: Moved to the present location, a site formerly occupied by the headquarters of Kan'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 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 Horyūji Treasures (inaugural building) opened.
- 1968: Affiliated with the Agency for Cultural Affairs. Toyokan opened.
- 1984: The Shiryōkan (the Research and Information Center) opened.
- 1999: The Gallery of Horyūji 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 Horyūji Treasures	Building Area	1,935	Gross Floor Area	4,031	
	Exhibition Area	1,462	Repository Area	291	
Hyokeikan	Building Area	1,130	Gross Floor Area	2,077	
	Exhibition Area	1,179	Repository Area	0	
Kuroda Memorial Hall	Building Area	724	Gross Floor Area	1,996	
	Exhibition Area	264	Repository Area	25	
Others	Building Area	3,613	Gross Floor Area	9,765	



Kyoto National Museum

The Kyoto National Museum collects, preserves, manages, and 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 world. 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.

2017 marked the 120th anniversary of the founding of the Kyoto National Museum. Taking the fundamental role of museums as our starting point, we will be implementing a variety of different activities with renewed vigor, 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 14,000 items (including items on long-term loan), and enable visitors to experience some of the most outstanding examples of Kyoto's unique cultural heritage. The items on display are changed periodically, so visitors can expect to see different items on subsequent visits.

● Special Exhibitions

- *The Genius of Ike no Taiga: Carefree Traveler, Legendary Painter* (April 7-May 20, 2018)
- *Swords of Kyoto: Master Craftsmanship from an Elegant Culture* (September 29-November 25, 2018)
- Celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the Treaty of Peace and Friendship between Japan and the People's Republic of China: Special Thematic Exhibition: *Qi Baishi: Master of Modern Chinese Painting* (provisional title)(January 30-March 17, 2019)



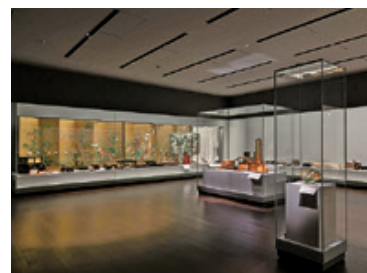
Heisei Chishinkan



Kyoto National Museum 120th Anniversary
Commemorative Special Exhibition
Kaihō Yūshō
(April 11-May 21, 2017)



Kyoto National Museum 120th Anniversary
Commemorative Special Exhibition
National Treasures: Masterpieces of Japan
(October 3-November 26, 2017)



Feature Exhibition
*Hidden Treasures from a Merchant's
Storehouse: The Hiromi collection, a
Legacy of Elegant Living*
(February 3-March 18, 2018)

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, 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 Cart" activity led by a Kyo-Haku Navigator



"Let's play the Kai-awase shell-matching game!" Museum Kids! Fair in Minamisoma 2017 activity (October 9, 2017)

Research

Since 1979, the Museum has been implementing an ongoing, comprehensive survey of cultural assets owned by old temples and shrines in the Kinki region of Japan, centered on Kyoto. As part of these efforts, over a four-year period starting in 2016, we have been 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 program involves conducting a survey of the cultural heritage of shrines and temples in the Osaka and Kawachi regions. 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.



KAKENHI-funded research underway at the Kanshin-ji Temple in Kawachinagano City

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 and is an important aspect of Japanese traditional culture) are held on a regular basis.



"Rakugo at the Museum" performance

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 (Currently closed)	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 (Under construction)	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 "Masterpieces 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 11, 2018-January 20, 2019)
- *Treasures of Tōdaiji's Omizutori Ritual* (February 8-March 14, 2019)
- Special Exhibition to Mark the 770th Anniversary of the Passing Away of Kakujo Shoin: *Toshodai-ji Temple and the Revival of Monastic Precepts in the Kamakura Period* (provisional title) (February 8-March 14, 2019)

● Special Exhibitions

- *Commemorating 1250 Years Since the Founding - Kasuga Taisha: Centuries of Worship Revealed in Sacred Treasures* (April 14-June 10, 2018)
- *Commemorating the Completion of Conservation Work - Threads of Devotion - National Treasure: The Taima Mandala Tapestry and Embroidered Buddhist Imagery* (July 14-August 26, 2018)
- *The 70th Annual Exhibition of Shōsō-in Treasures* (Autumn 2018) (provisional)



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 (October 28-November 13, 2017)

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.

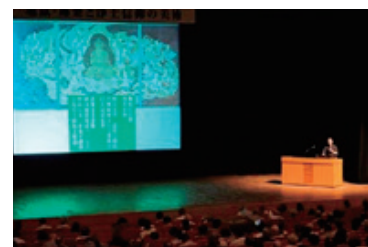
■ Educational Programs

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

- 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
- ⑤Promotion of volunteer activities



Volunteer activity



Summer seminar: *Hells, Paradise, and the Sacred Art of the Jodo Shin Sect* in progress



Fudo Goma fire ritual survey and photographic recording in progress



Venue leasing to ensure effective utilization of the Museum facilities: Persimmon Day

■ 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 2018 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 alongside the creation of reproductions
- ③Fundamental research on ancient Buddhist scriptures and sutra-copying
- ④Comprehensive survey of Buddhist arts and crafts and ancient arts and crafts
- ⑤Research on artifacts excavated from ancient tombs
- ⑥Research on the art of sculpture in ancient and medieval Nara
- ⑦Research on Buddhist art using optical technologies, conducted in collaboration with the Tokyo National Research Institute for Cultural Properties
- ⑧Research to accompany thematic exhibitions
- ⑨Research to accompany special exhibitions, etc.
- ⑩Research to contribute to educational programs in history and traditional culture
- ⑪Research into the effects on cultural properties of storage area environments, exhibition spaces and display cases
- ⑫Research on collections and objects loaned to the museum, from the perspective of cultural asset restoration
- ⑬Research on collections and objects loaned to the museum, from the perspective of conservation science
- ⑭Theory and practice-based study of establishing cultural property archives

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 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	1,522
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 15 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 are held in the Cultural Exchange Exhibition Gallery. We also strive to create more dynamic and in-depth exhibitions through the use of videos and hands-on displays.

● Feature Exhibitions

The main Feature Exhibitions scheduled for fiscal year 2018 are as follows:

- *Rich World of Tea Ceremony VIII: Hakata Bunrin and the Tea utensils handed down in the Kuroda Family* (April 10-June 3, 2018)
- *Thousand-armed Kannon (Sahasrabhuja) and Followers in Ninnaji Temple* (July 3-September 2, 2018)
- *National Treasure: Images on Ritual Bronze Bells* (July 10-September 2, 2018)
- *ALL-JAPAN HIGH SCHOOL ARCHAEOLOGICAL LEGACY 2018* (July 21-September 9, 2018)
- *HOKUSAI, NABESHIMA and Masterpieces of the eminent gallerist "Goro SAKAMOTO"* (September 12-October 21, 2018)
- *50th Anniversary of Dazaifu Historic Site Excavation: Research on the History of Dazaifu* (September 12-December 23, 2018)
- *Matsura Family Legacy: The Ino Map* (October 30-December 23, 2018)
- *Beads: The Colourful Treasure from Antiquity* (January 1-February 24, 2019)

● Special Exhibitions

- *Impressionist Masterpieces from the E.G. Buehrle Collection, Zurich* (Switzerland) (May 19-July 16, 2018)
- *OKURA COLLECTION* (October 2-December 9, 2019)
- *Daigoji Temple: A Shingon Esoteric Buddhist Universe in Kyoto* (January 29-March 24, 2019)

Collection, Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Properties

● Collection

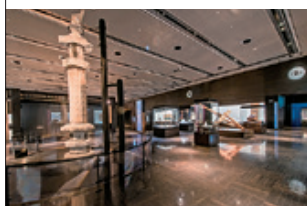
The Museum puts an emphasis on collecting cultural heritage such as fine art, decorative art, archeological materials, historical documents and folk materials that help visitors more easily understand the cultural exchanges between Japan and the rest of Asia as well as the origins of Japanese culture. 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: *Prominent Zen Priests, Hakuin and Sengai*
(January 1 - February 12, 2018)



Special Exhibition: *Wang Xizhi and Japanese Calligraphy*
(February 10 - April 8, 2018)

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), 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

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 culture heritage artifacts
- ・ Research on Christianity in Early Modern Japan
- ・ Research relating to thematic exhibitions and special displays, including *National Treasure: Images on Ritual Bronze Bells* and *ALL-JAPAN HIGH SCHOOL ARCHAEOLOGICAL LEGACY 2018*, etc.
- ・ Research relating to special exhibitions, including *OKURA COLLECTION*, 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
- ・ Research on the continued use of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in museum crisis management
- ・ Research on improving and expanding the system for safeguarding underwater archeological sites



Investigating the state of preservation of the Rakuchu Rakugai Zu (Scenes In and Around Kyoto) folding screen

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	159,844
				149,046
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 collects information that contributes to a more in-depth understanding of cultural properties. In addition, it conducts research into the improvement of restoration materials and techniques and into maintenance management methods; the Center also implements activities relating to the adoption of new survey techniques. 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.

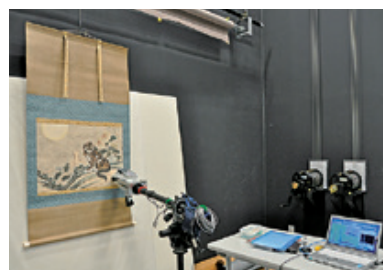
The center is commissioned with the management of the secretariat for the Japan Consortium for International Cooperation in Cultural Heritage.



Resource Provider Workshop at the 28th European Association of Japanese Resource Specialists



Biwa maker, Mr. ISHIDA Katsuyoshi (ISHIDA Fushiki the fifth)



Investigation of colorants of a painting using portable X-ray fluorescence spectrometer



Survey of earthquake damaged buildings in Bagan Archaeological Zone (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 course on conservation of Japanese paper, training for museum curators in charge of conservation, advice on safeguarding intangible cultural properties, inspection assistance and advice on the museum environments, and investigation and advice concerning conservation of cultural properties.



International course of conservation of Japanese paper



Training for museum curators



The 51th 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 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 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 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
(President of the National
Institutes for Cultural Heritage)

●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 Sites Management Research 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 and 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, and such as architectural remains, wooden tablets (used for written documents), 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 and 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 planned city in Japan, covering a vast area of more than five square kilometers. The interdisciplinary, empirical research being conducted based on the excavations of these sites in the Asuka and Fujiwara areas has made a major contribution towards helping to clarify the historical record of the Asuka period.

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

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



Gallery Talk activity at the Exhibition *Shōsō-in* at the Nara Palace Site Museum



Survey of historic documents held at Toshodai-ji Temple



Large well and nearby remains at the East Palace Site, forming part of the Heijo Palace (Imperial Palace)



Excavation of the northeast corner of the Daigokuden (Imperial Audience Hall) at the Fujiwara Imperial Site

●Center for Archaeological Operations

The Center for Archaeological Operations consists of four research sections, which undertake practical research relating to the survey, research and conservation of cultural heritage, as well as providing training activities based on the Center's research results, etc. The Conservation Science Section undertakes both fundamental research and practical research relating to surveys and analysis of the materials and structures of archaeological objects, the insitu display of archaeological remains, etc. The Environmental Archaeology Section undertakes research relating to the simulation of ancient environments and how animals and plants were used in the past, etc., through surveys of and research on the remains of flora and fauna. The Dendrochronological Dating Section uses the methods of dendrochronology to advance applied research on techniques for determining the age and origin of wooden cultural heritage items, and for determining how they were made, etc. The Archaeological Research Methodology Section develops surveying and measurement techniques, with a particular focus on the surveying and measurement of archaeological data, with the aim of furthering the development and effective utilization of methods for researching cultural heritage and archaeology; this Section also undertakes disaster archaeology surveys and research.



Using a drone for 3D photographic surveying of the Idera Kofun ancient burial mound

●Asuka Historical Museum

The Asuka Historical Museum, a facility that showcases the history and culture of the Asuka Period, was established in 1975 following a decision made by the Japanese Cabinet. Besides the Museum's regular exhibitions, which have thematic displays relating to palaces, stone structures, tombs and temple sites, etc., visitors can also see the reconstructed portion of the eastern cloister of Yamada-dera Temple and objects excavated in and around this site. The Museum holds Special Exhibitions in spring and autumn and Feature Exhibitions in summer and winter, with displays focused on the history and cultural heritage of the Asuka Period, displays that present the results of the wide-ranging research undertaken by the Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties in an easy-to-understand way, displays featuring photographs of cultural heritage items, etc. The Museum also hosts lectures, participatory activities, etc.



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 Protection of Cultural Properties
- 1954: Renamed as the Nara National Cultural Palace Site in Sakihigashi-machi, Nara City
- 1960: The office of the Heijo Palace Site Investigations opened in the former Nara Place 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, Kashiwara 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.

- 2018: Following the completion of the Institute's new premises, the Institute is scheduled to relocate to the new facility from its temporary premises.

Facilities

	Land Area	Building (m ²)	
Headquarters Area	8,879	Building Area	2,812
		Gross Floor Area	11,387
Heijo Area	Located on government-owned land, rent fees waived	Building Area	13,328
		Gross Floor Area	21,395
Fujiwara Area	20,515	Building Area	6,016
		Gross Floor Area	9,477
Asuka Area	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 35th Session of UNESCO General Conference of October 2009, approval was given to Japan to establish an international research centre for intangible cultural heritage in the Asia-Pacific region. After this approval, the Japanese government concluded an agreement with UNESCO in August 2010, and established the International Research Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region (IRCI) 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 and coordinating research in the Asia-Pacific region. Today, many elements of ICH are endangered all over the world due to various factors. The safeguarding of ICH is now undeniably an urgent issue. 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.

■ Activity Plan for FY 2018

IRCI promotes research as an international research hub for ICH safeguarding in the Asia-Pacific region while contributing to the enhancement of ICH safeguarding using Japan's long-term experience in cultural heritage management. The focus of activities will be:

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

In FY 2018, IRCI will conduct the following projects.

● Promoting Research for ICH Safeguarding

1. Literature Survey

30 countries have been studied as of March 2018. In FY 2018, IRCI will survey three more countries. Cooperation with local researchers and institutions have enabled access in gaining information on literature and reports written in local languages. IRCI will publish the final report in FY2018, which contains the summary of the entire project, outcomes and lessons learned.

2. IRCI Research Database

For the purpose of making widely available the research information of relevant literature, experts and institutions collected in the past years, IRCI has been managing an online research database since September 2014, which currently consists of over 2,300 entries as of March 2018 (<https://www.irci.jp/ichdb/>). In FY 2018, new information obtained through the literature survey will be added to the database and a needs assessment of the database will be conducted in the future.

3. Multi-disciplinary Study on ICH's Contribution to Sustainable Development : Focusing on Education

In FY 2018-2019, IRCI implements a project to promote the contribution of ICH to Target 4 of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which focuses on education. IRCI will coordinate research to be undertaken by several institutions through the project. An appropriate input will be provided from IRCI to those institutions at each stage of planning, monitoring and reviewing of the project. In FY 2018, guidelines to utilise ICH for education are to be developed in cooperation with the National Commission for Culture and the Arts in the Philippines, the Vietnam Museum of Ethnology and the Vietnam Institute of Educational Sciences.



Discussion at National Commission for Culture and the Arts
(Manila, Philippines, February 2018)



Discussion at Vietnam Museum of Ethnology
(Ha Noi, Viet Nam, February 2018)

●Research on Endangered ICH and the Role of ICH for Disaster Risk Management

1. Asia-Pacific Regional Workshop on ICH and Natural Disasters

In FY 2018, IRCI organises a regional workshop in cooperation with the Tokyo National Research Institute for Cultural Properties based on the outcome of the preliminary research, which was conducted in FY 2016-2017. This workshop aims to discuss various issues related to the safeguarding of ICH in the context of natural disasters and the role of ICH for disaster risk management. The project report will be published in FY 2018, which includes practical recommendations for ICH safeguarding and disaster risk management.

2. Study of Emergency Protection of ICH in Conflict-Affected Countries in Asia

This project, implemented in FY 2017-2020, examines ICH under conflict-affected situations, and specify the risk factors that threaten the viability of ICH. Through various case studies, the project will determine possible safeguarding measures and methodologies for mapping a community's ICH in conflict-affected situations. The project is expected to promote a community-based approach. In FY 2018, IRCI conducts data collection and a survey on the current situation of ICH in Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste and Afghanistan, and invites participants from the aforementioned countries and ICH experts to organise workshops. The workshops will discuss the progress and challenges of the survey, possible safeguarding measures and effective strategies for assessing a community's ICH.



Villagers discussing their own ICH at a community workshop (Gaua, Vanuatu, July 2017)

●Cooperation with Sakai City for Promoting ICH

IRCI disseminates information and a clear image of ICH widely to Japanese people, and provides them with various opportunities to learn about ICH in cooperation with Sakai City. For instance, Sakai City and the National Institutes for Cultural Heritage have been co-hosting an annual symposium on cultural heritage since FY 2015. At this event, IRCI's information panels are displayed and publications are distributed. In FY 2018, this event will be held on 21 July at Tokyo National Museum.

●Communications and Publicity

The IRCI Website has been renewed in March 2018 with the aim of posting new information and presenting the outcomes of our research projects widely and clearly. The new website is also smartphone and tablet device friendly in design and content. IRCI also published the following publications in FY 2017 in order to disseminate information and the achievements of its activities.

1. Brochure of IRCI (in Japanese and English)
2. Proceedings of the International Symposium on Glocal Perspectives on Intangible Cultural Heritage: Local Communities, Researchers, States and UNESCO
3. Report of the International Symposium "Negotiating Intangible Cultural Heritage"
4. Preliminary Research on ICH Safeguarding and Disaster Risk Management in the Asia-Pacific Region: Project Report for FY 2016-2017 (PDF version)



Displaying panels at the symposium (Tokyo National Museum, Japan, June 2017)



Brochure of IRCI (English)



Proceedings of the International Symposium on Glocal Perspectives on Intangible Cultural Heritage: Local Communities, Researchers, States and UNESCO



Report of the International Symposium "Negotiating Intangible Cultural Heritage"

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 provided by Sakai City, Osaka Prefecture