



# 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. The Museum's collection is comprised of more than 119,000 cultural properties, including many National Treasures and Important Cultural Properties. We collect, restore, 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 420 rotations annually. In fiscal year 2019, around 9,300 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 2019 (the dates given are tentative):

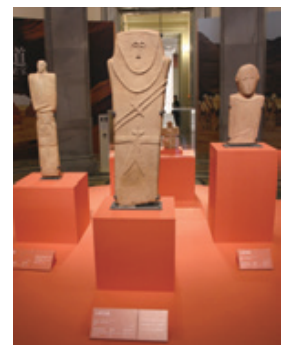
- Family Gallery thematic exhibition in collaboration with Ueno Zoo: *Animals with Horns and Antlers* (April 16-May 26, 2019)
- *Heian Court Calligraphy: The Iijima Shunkei Collection* (October 1 - November 17, 2019)
- *The Emperor and Palace Ceremonies* (October 8 - December 15, 2019)
- *The Palace Culture of the Korean Monarchy* (February 4 - March 15, 2020)
- *Conservation and Restoration of the Tokyo National Museum Collection* (March 24 - April 26, 2020)



A scene from *Open Air Cinema at the Tokyo National Museum*



Family Gallery: *TNM and Art Tunes! Present: Becoming Japanese Art*  
(July 24-September 9, 2018)



Special Exhibition: *Roads of Arabia: Archaeological Treasures of Saudi Arabia*  
(January 23-May 13, 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 2019:

- The 30th Anniversary of the Enthronement: *Cultural Exchanges of Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress: Sharing the Beauty of Japan* (March 5–April 29, 2019)
- *National Treasures of To-ji Temple: Kukai and the Sculpture Mandala* (March 26–June 2, 2019)
- *Masterpieces of Japanese Art: From Sesshu and Eitoku to Korin and Hokusai* (May 3–June 2, 2019)
- Special Exhibition to Mark the 40th Anniversary of the Signing of the Japan-China Cultural Exchange Agreement: *Three Kingdoms: Unveiling the Story* (July 9–September 16, 2019)
- *Special Exhibition Celebrating the Enthronement of His Majesty the Emperor—Shosoin: Essential Treasures of Ancient Japan Passed down by the Imperial Family (October 14–November 24, 2019)*
- Special Exhibition to Mark the 1,300th Anniversary of the Completion of the Nihon Shoki (Chronicles of Japan): *Izumo and Yamato* (January 15–March 8, 2020)
- Special Exhibition to Mark the 70th Anniversary of the Fire that Damaged the Murals in the Kondo Hall at the Horyu-ji Temple: *The Art of Conservation: Buddhist Murals and Sculptures of Horyuji* (provisional title) (March 14–May 10, 2020)

## ■Acquisition, Conser, 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, donation, 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 30 full restorations and 430 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, Conservation, 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 2019 includes the following:

- Research on ethnographic materials relating to the peoples of East Asia
- Joint research on oil painting materials and techniques
- Research on environmental conservation in museums
- Special research projects on the treasures of Horyu-ji Temple donated to the Imperial Household in 1878, including calligraphy, decorative arts, sculpture, and painting



One of the Museum's monthly lectures



Behind-the-scenes tour



Oil painting research

## 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 Horyuji Treasures (inaugural building) opened.
- 1968: Affiliated with the Agency for Cultural Affairs. Toyokan opened.
- 1984: The Shiryokan (the Research and Information Center) opened.
- 1999: The Gallery of Horyuji Treasures (current building) and Heiseikan opened.
- 2001: Became the Independent Administrative Institution National Museums, Tokyo National Museum.
- 2007: Integrated into the Independent Administrative Institution National Institutes for Cultural Heritage as the Tokyo National Museum.

## Facilities

Land Area					(m <sup>2</sup> )
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		Repository Area Total	
		18,199		7,836	
Honkan	Building Area	6,602	Gross Floor Area	22,416	
	Exhibition Area	6,573	Repository Area	4,028	
Toyokan	Building Area	2,892	Gross Floor Area	12,531	
	Exhibition Area	4,250	Repository Area	1,373	
Heiseikan	Building Area	5,542	Gross Floor Area	19,406	
	Exhibition Area	4,471	Repository Area	2,119	
The Gallery of Horyuji Treasures	Building Area	1,935	Gross Floor Area	4,031	
	Exhibition Area	1,462	Repository Area	291	
Hyokeikan	Building Area	1,130	Gross Floor Area	2,077	
	Exhibition Area	1,179	Repository Area	0	
Kuroda Memorial Hall	Building Area	724	Gross Floor Area	1,996	
	Exhibition Area	264	Repository Area	25	
Others		Building Area	3,613	Gross Floor Area	9,765



# Kyoto National Museum

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

This year will also see the much-anticipated ICOM KYOTO 2019 (the 25th General Conference of the International Council of Museums) which will be held in Kyoto. As the host city's National Museum, we will be contributing towards making this event a resounding success; at the same time, we are aiming to ensure that the benefits from holding of ICOM KYOTO continue after the conference itself has come to a close, by doing our utmost to take advantage of this opportunity to bring about the beginning of a new era for museums in Japan in 2019, the first year of the new Imperial era Reiwa.

## 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

- *Priest Shinkyo 700th Memorial Special Exhibition—Art of the Ji Shu: A New Sect of Buddhism in the Kamakura Period*(April 13–June 9, 2019)
- *The Thirty-six Immortal Poets: Elegant Arts of the Classical Japanese Court*(October 12–November 24, 2019)
- Thematic Exhibition to Mark the Holding of ICOM KYOTO 2019 *Famous Treasures Entrusted to the Kyoto National Museum: Safeguarding Beauty and Preserving it for Posterity*(August 14–September 16, 2019)

※Please note that as the Special Exhibition Hall is currently closed for renovation, the Collection Galleries are open on an alternating basis with special exhibitions.



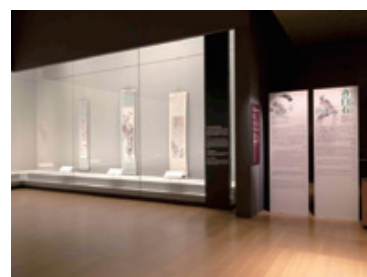
Heisei Chishinkan



Special Exhibition: *The Genius of Ike no Taiga: Carefree Traveler, Legendary Painter* (April 7–May 20, 2018)



Special Exhibition: *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* (January 30–March 17, 2019)

## 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.



Restoration work underway in the Conservation Center for Cultural Properties



## Educational Activities

We undertake a variety of activities via our exhibitions, web-site, 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.

○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, symposia 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



A scene from a workshop held for the special exhibition *Swords of Kyoto: Master Craftsmanship from an Elegant Culture* (September 29–November 25, 2018)

## 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

A variety of special events are held to encourage more people to visit the Museum.

○Rakugo at the 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  
 1997: A special ceremony was held in October to mark the 100th anniversary of the Museum's founding  
 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  
 2017: A special ceremony was held in May to mark the 120th anniversary of the Museum's founding

### Facilities

				(m <sup>2</sup> )
Land Area				53,182
Buildings	Building Area	13,224	Gross Floor Area	31,303
Exhibition Buildings			Exhibition Area Total	5,657
			Repository Area Total	4,889
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	811	Gross Floor Area	1,471
			Repository Area	880
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.

- *The Buddhist Sculptures of Hotoku-ji Temple: A Tale of the Journey of Buddhist Divinities through Modernity* (July 13–September 8, 2019)
- *Creatures of Faith* (July 13–September 8, 2019)
- *On-Matsuri and the Sacred Art of Kasuga* (December 7, 2019–January 13, 2020)
- *Important Cultural Property: The Original Glass Plates Used to Photograph the Wall Paintings in the Kondo Hall at the Horyu-ji Temple: Tracing the History of Photographing Cultural Properties* (December 7, 2019–January 13, 2020)
- *Treasures of Todaiji's Omizutori Ritual* (February 4–March 22, 2020)

### ● Special Exhibitions

- *Masterpieces from the Fujita Museum: A Brilliant Universe Reflected in a National Treasure—Yohen Tenmoku Tea Bowl and Buddhist Art* (April 13–June 9, 2019)
- *Celebrating the Enthronement of His Majesty the Emperor—The 71th Annual Exhibition of Shoso-in Treasures*
- *Bishamonten—the Guardian Deity of the North* (provisional title) (February 4–March 22, 2020)



*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* (October 27–November 12, 2018)

## ■ 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.

### ①Programs for students

Ex: World heritage classes (mainly for elementary school students) and educational lectures for teachers

### ②Lectures and seminars

Ex: Public lectures, Sunday museum talks, summer seminar series, the Shōsō-in academic symposium, and international symposia

### ③Cooperation with universities and colleges

Ex: Campus Members System, internship programs, and joint lectures with Nara Women's University and Kobe University

### ④Promotion of volunteer activities



Volunteer activity:Nara City World Heritage classes



Summer seminar: *The Secrets of Buddhist Images Explored through the Materials Used to Create Them*



70th Annual Exhibition of Shōsō-in Treasures Commemorative Concert



*Threads of Devotion—Let's Explore Embroidered Buddhist Imagery!*

## 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



Optical research on the materials used to dye the National Treasure Embroidered Tapestry Showing the Buddha Shakyamuni Preaching (from the collections of the Nara National Museum).

## 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	1,522
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 from the perspective of Japan's contacts and exchange with surrounding Asian regions.

The Museum has now received a cumulative total of over 16 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 2019 are as follows:

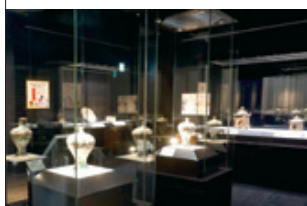
- *Sarasa-Exuberant cotton fabrics with vibrant foils and flowers; Masterpieces from the Museum Collection*
- *Foundation "New Life for Timeless Art"*
- *Eastward Expansion of Printed Sutras: Tsushima built the relationship of printed sutras between Asia and Japan*
- *Jomon Culture in Shakado Historic Ruins, Yamanashi*
- *The Origins of Swords: Famous Swords from Touken World Foundation and Kyushu National Museum*

### ● Special Exhibitions

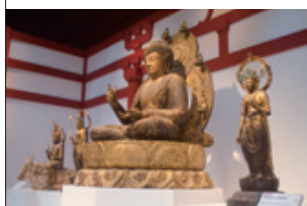
- *The Buddhist Sculptures of Daihō'onji temple, Kyoto Masterpieces by Kaikei and Jōkei*
- *The Muromachi Shoguns: Involvement of fifteen ASHIKAGAs in wars and arts*
- *Three Kingdoms: Unveiling The Story*
- *The Glory of French Paintings*



Cultural Exchange Exhibition  
(Permanent Exhibition)



Thematic Exhibition: *Hokusai Prints, Nabeshima Ware, and More—Commemorative Exhibition of Items Donated from the Collection of Mr. Sakamoto Goro* (September 12–October 21, 2018)



Special Exhibition: *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 being actively utilized in the scientific analysis of cultural properties to be restored.

## 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 "Kyupack" - educational kits to be used in secondary schools
- ④ Operation of the Kyuhaku-go mobile museum
- ⑤ Campus Members System to strengthen ties with universities and other higher educational institutions
- ⑥ Educational activities based on "Kyushu National Museum's picture books" for children
- ⑦ 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 on improving and expanding the system for safeguarding underwater archeological sites.
- ・ Research relating to special exhibitions, including *The Muromachi Shoguns: Involvement of fifteen ASHIKAGAs in wars and arts 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 Japanese and Asian 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



Surveying the structure of artifacts using X-ray computed tomography (CT) techniques

## 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

				(m <sup>2</sup> )
Land Area				159,844
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



SAITO Takamasa

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.



Presentation at the International Conference of Art Libraries (Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam, the Netherlands)

### ● 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.



Recording of the Live Performance of *Miyazono-bushi* (from left: MIYAZONO Senyoshie, MIYAZONO Senroku, MIYAZONO Senkazuya, and MIYAZONO Senkoju)

### ● 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.



Observation of the fibers used in historical documents

### ● 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.



"Investigation for restoration of the earthquake-damaged Hanumandhoka Palace in Kathmandu, Nepal"

## 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 52nd 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 <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  
(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 archaeological 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 archaeological 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.



Nara Palace Site Museum Summer Special  
Exhibition Workshop



Survey of the former Nakamura family  
residence (Shiojiri City, Nagano Prefecture)



Excavation survey of the East Gate of the  
Chodo-in (Official Compound) in the East  
Palace Site, forming part of the Heijo Palace



Excavation survey of the Daigokuden (Imperial  
Audience Hall) of 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 a wide range of research, from fundamental research to practical research, relating to surveys and analysis of the materials and structures of archaeological objects, the in-situ 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 Dendro-chronological 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.

### ●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.

### ●International Academic Exchange

Ongoing projects include: (1) joint research with the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences involving comparison of ancient capital sites; (2) joint research with the Archaeological Institute of Henan Province, China, into artifacts excavated from the Huangye kiln site the city of Gongyi; (3) joint research with the Institute of Cultural Relics and Archaeology, Liaoning Province, China, into excavated artifacts belonging to the San-Yan Culture; (4) a comparative study undertaken in collaboration with the National Research Institute of Cultural Heritage, Korea, of the emergence and development of the ancient civilizations 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 site, 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 on a Networking Core Centers for International Cooperation in Conservation of Cultural Heritage project with the National Museum of the Republic of Kazakhstan, on technology transfer and human resources development relating to archeological artifact surveying, recording and conservation.

### ●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 2-9-1 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 Sakicho, Nara City, while the original head office site is being redeveloped.

2018: Following the completion of renovation work on the Institute's headquarters building, the Institute was relocated from temporary premises back to the renovated headquarters building

### Facilities

	Land Area	Building (m <sup>2</sup> )	
		Building Area	Gross Floor Area
Headquarters Area	8,879	2,812	11,387
Heijo Area	Located on government-owned land, rent fees waived	10,631	16,150
Fujiwara Area	20,515	6,016	9,477
Asuka Area	17,093	2,657	4,404



A newly installed high-energy X-ray computed tomography (CT) scanner device



The Asuka Historical Museum building, and a reconstructed stone artifact in the Museum grounds



International project for conservation of Western Prasat Top, Angkor

# 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 35<sup>th</sup> 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 2019

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

1. Promoting Research for ICH Safeguarding
2. Conducting Research on Endangered ICH
3. Cooperating with Sakai City to Promote ICH

In FY 2019, IRCI will conduct the following projects.

### ● Promoting Research for ICH Safeguarding

1. Research Data Collection  
Overall, 32 countries have been surveyed as of March 2019 and the data collected were added into IRCI's research database. IRCI published a report on the project in March 2019. In FY2019-2021, IRCI will systematically collect information on UNESCO's Convention for the Safeguarding of ICH and related research, in collaboration with designated research organisations in the Asia-Pacific region.
2. Research Database Improvement  
To ensure that the research information from relevant literature, experts and institutions collected in the past years is widely available, IRCI has been managing an online research database since September 2014, which comprised 2,550 entries as of March 2019 (<https://www.irci.jp/ichdb/>). In FY2019, IRCI will review the database functions and usability for database improvement.
3. Multi-disciplinary Study on ICH's Contribution to Sustainable Development: Focusing on Education  
In FY 2018-2019, IRCI is implementing a project to promote the contribution of ICH towards the realisation of Goal 4 of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) focusing on education. In FY2018, IRCI created guidelines which introduced ICH into the field of education 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. In FY2019, these guidelines will be applied to formal and non-formal education settings. IRCI will verify the effectiveness of the guidelines through various monitoring processes.
4. Researchers Forum  
IRCI will organise an international forum to discuss the status, role and contributions of research for ICH safeguarding. IRCI will publish proceedings as one outcome of the project.



Discussion at the International Symposium on "Multi-disciplinary study on intangible cultural heritage's contribution to sustainable development: Focusing on education" (Nara, Japan, January 2019)

### ●Conducting Research on Endangered ICH

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

This project, which is currently in the process of implementation (FY2017-2020), examines ICH under conflict-affected situations, and specifies the risk factors that threaten the viability of ICH. In FY2018, IRCI completed data collection and surveys on current ICH sites that are particularly threatened by extinction in Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste, and Afghanistan. In FY2019, IRCI will conduct further studies to identify possible safeguarding measures for ICH, in cooperation with partner organisations.

### ●Cooperating with Sakai City for Promoting ICH

IRCI widely disseminates information and a clear vision of ICH to the Japanese people, in addition to providing them with various opportunities to learn about ICH in cooperation with Sakai City; those opportunities include IRCI panel displays in Sakai City Museum. Sakai City and the National Institutes for Cultural Heritage have been co-hosting an annual symposium on cultural heritage since FY2015. At this event, IRCI's information panels are also displayed and publications are distributed. In FY2019, this event will be held on 21 July at Tokyo National Museum.

### ●Communications and Publicity

Recently, IRCI published new leaflets and brochures to present to the public its research projects as well as its activities and information related to ICH. We also released information on our website, which is compatible with smartphones and tablets in terms of its design and content, and frequently update it with new information. Further, IRCI published the following publications in FY2018 to disseminate information and the results of its activities.

1. Brochure of IRCI (Japanese and English)
2. Leaflet of IRCI (Japanese and English)
3. Proceedings of the Asia-Pacific Regional Workshop on Intangible Cultural Heritage and Natural Disasters (English)
4. Report on the IRCI Literature Survey on Intangible Cultural Heritage Safeguarding Research (2016-2018) (English) (published online only)



Displaying panels at the symposium  
(Tokyo National Museum, Japan, July 2018)



Brochure of IRCI



Leaflet of IRCI



Proceedings of the  
Asia-Pacific Regional  
Workshop on Intangible  
Cultural Heritage and  
Natural Disasters



Report on the IRCI  
Literature Survey on  
Intangible Cultural  
Heritage Safeguarding  
Research (2016-  
2018)  
(published online only)

### 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  
 Dec. 2018: Agreement for the continuation of IRCI concluded between the Japanese Government and UNESCO  
 Mar. 2019: Agreement for the continuation of IRCI concluded between Sakai City and the National Institutes for Cultural Heritage

### Facilities

		(m <sup>2</sup> )
Buildings	Building Area	244.67
	Gross Floor Area	244.67
Number of Rooms		4

※The Building is provided by Sakai City, Osaka Prefecture