

Message

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We have faced an unprecedented situation due to the global spread of the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) and the declaration of a state of emergency in our country. Consequently, the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games scheduled for this year have been postponed, which has also resulted in the unavoidable postponement or cancellation of many of the exhibitions planned by the National Institutes for Cultural Heritage (NICH) in line with the sporting events.

We have been gradually resuming our daily lives following the eventual lifting of the state of emergency in Japan. However, our circumstances have changed significantly as we are obliged to adopt strict measures to prevent the spread of infections, including wearing a mask, maintaining a social (physical) distance, and avoiding the “3Cs” (closed spaces, crowded places, and close-contact settings).

This fiscal year marks the final year of the implementation period for the NICH’s Fourth Medium-term Plan that began in 2016. Starting with the Tohoku New Era Plan that was initiated by the Tokyo National Museum at the end of FY 2018, other National Museums in Kyoto, Nara, and Kyushu will also start working on their own distinctive New Era Plan. Meanwhile, we are exploring the best ways of adapting museums and archives for the new era following the COVID-19 outbreak and are actively taking measures to prevent the spread of infections in line with the “Guidelines for Preventing the Spread of Novel Coronavirus Disease in Museums” formulated by the Japanese Association of Museums. We will also endeavor to further promote multilingualization and improve our services, aiming to be a museum that is open to the world.

The NICH will make further efforts to promote and deepen the understanding of Japanese culture by responding appropriately to the demands of the times while also proactively disseminating the value and appeal of cultural heritage both at home and abroad.

We would kindly request your continued support and cooperation.