

TNM 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.

We collect, preserve, restore, and display a large number of National Treasures and Important Cultural Properties as well as around 120,000 tangible cultural properties, mainly from Japan and various Asian regions. We also conduct surveys and research in addition to providing educational programs on them.

The Museum is working to develop more appealing comprehensive cultural exhibitions by holding seasonal events in addition to its display of collected and preserved works. We also run school programs, guided tours, workshops, and various other programs that help participants appreciate cultural properties while becoming more familiar with and further understanding them through, for example, art making experiences.

Additionally, as Japanese culture attracts global attention, we play a central role in disseminating it to the world and strive to become a more appealing museum. To this end, we are formulating and implementing the Tohaku New Era Plan with the goals of promoting easy-to-understand exhibition commentary and multilingual support as well as creating a comfortable viewing environment.

We will continue in our efforts to make the Tokyo National Museum more enjoyable for everyone, including children and adults, as well as visitors from around the world.

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 450 rotations annually. 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.

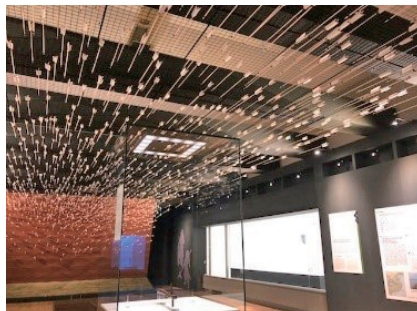
●Thematic Exhibitions

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 2000 (the dates given are tentative):

- *Noh Masks by the Ōno Deme and Echizen Deme Families* (August 25–October 4, 2020)
- *Calligraphy and Writing Paper—Beautiful Paper From the Heian Period—* (September 24–November 23, 2020)
- *The World of Chinese Sculpture* (December 1, 2020–February 21, 2021)



A armor wearing experience at *Japanese Culture Experience: Samurai Mania! Explore Japanese Armor at TNM*



Special Exhibition Celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the Japan-China Cultural Exchange Agreement, *Three Kingdoms: Unveiling the Story* (July 9–September 16, 2019), which enables you to experience naval battles in the Three Kingdoms era



Special Exhibition, *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)

●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 2020:

※The exhibition dates are subject to change.

- Special Exhibition, *KIMONO: Fashioning Identities* (June 30–August 23, 2020)
- Special Exhibition, *Kōgei 2020—The Art of Crafting Beauty from Nature* (September 21–November 15)
- Special Exhibition, *Momoyama: Artistic Visions in a Turbulent Century* (October 6–November 29)
- Special Exhibition, *Japanese Architecture: Traditional Skills and Natural Materials* (December 15–February 21)

■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 2020 includes the following:

- Research on ethnographic materials relating to the peoples of East Asia
- Joint research on the composition of silk and dyed textiles used in arts and crafts
- International joint research on feather mosaic works in Japanese art
- Special research projects on the treasures of Horyu-ji Temple donated to the Imperial Household in 1878, including calligraphy, decorative arts, sculpture, paintings, and artifacts



One of the Museum’s monthly lectures



A guided tour at Toyokan (Asian Gallery) on Kids Day



Research into Chinese sculpture

Brief History

- 1872: Opened as the Museum of the Ministry of Education, on the occasion of Japan’s first public exposition held by the ministry in the Yushima Seido, Tokyo.
- 1875: Transferred to the Ministry of the Interior. The museum had eight exhibition categories at this time: natural products, agriculture & 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

				(m ²)
Land Area	120,270 (including the Kuroda Memorial Hall and the Yanase Villa)			
Buildings	Building Area	23,689	Gross Floor Area	78,496
Exhibition Buildings	Exhibition Area Total		18,199	
	Repository Area Total		11,042	
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	4,864	Gross Floor Area	16,039
			Repository Area	3,206



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, we had no choice but to make major changes to our exhibition plan due to the novel coronavirus problem that arose immediately after we entered the new fiscal year. We sincerely hope to return as soon as possible to a state where you can enjoy and use our museum as usual.

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.

● Exhibitions

※The exhibition dates are subject to change.

- Special Exhibition Kannon Worship: *The Thirty-three Pilgrimage Sites of Western Japan* (July 23–September 13, 2020)
- Special Exhibition in Celebration of the Emperor's Enthronement *Treasures from the Imperial Palace* (October 10–November 23, 2020)
- Feature Exhibition Celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the Conservation Center for Cultural Properties, *The Conservation of Japanese Art* (December 19, 2020–January 31, 2021)
- Feature Exhibition on the 50th Anniversary of the Ueno Memorial Foundation for the Study of Buddhist Art, *The Newsmen's Eye: East Asian Painting and Calligraphy Collected by Ueno Riichi* (February 2–March 7, 2021)

※Please note that due to the current closure of Meiji Kotokan Hall (main mall), we are running the Collection Galleries and Special Exhibitions alternately.



Heisei Chishinkanwing Wing



Priest Shinkyō 700th Memorial Special Exhibition—Art of the Ji Shū: A New Sect of Buddhism in the Kamakura Period (April 13–June 9, 2019)



Special Exhibition: The Thirty-six Immortal Poets: Elegant Arts of the Classical Japanese Court (October 12–November 24, 2019)



Feature Exhibition in Celebration of ICOM Kyoto 2019 Masterworks of the Kyoto National Museum: Temple and Shrine Treasures (August 14–September 16, 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 Properties School Outreach 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 Sommeliers" volunteers.



Workshop by a KYO-HAKU Navigator on Special Exhibition, Art of the Ji Shu: A New Sect of Buddhism in the Kamakura Period (April 13-June 9, 2019)



Special class to become acquainted with cultural properties! by "Cultural Property Sommeliers" (September 7, 2019)

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 shrines and temples

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 (May 1)
 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 ²)
Land Area				53,182
Buildings		Building Area	Gross Floor Area	31,044
Exhibition Buildings			Exhibition Area Total	5,657
			Repository Area Total	4,889
Special Exhibition Hall	Building Area	2,896	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	606	Gross Floor Area	1,988
Materials Building	Building Area	414	Gross Floor Area	1,125
Conservation Center for Cultural Properties	Building Area	821	Gross Floor Area	2,786
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	1,697	Gross Floor Area	1,676



Nara National Museum

Nara National Museum collects, preserves, manages and displays cultural properties, while also conducting research and providing educational programs. Its 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 offering 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 for its syncreticism 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, in order to reach a wide range of people as a conveyor of Nara's culture, we continuously strive to promote the museum's international activities and a more effective use of information technology.

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

※The exhibition dates are subject to change.

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

- *On-Matsuri and the Sacred Art of Kasuga* (December 8, 2020–January 17, 2021) *Dates subject to change.*
- Treasures of Todaiji's Omizutori Ritual (February 6–March 28, 2021)

●Special Exhibitions

※The exhibition dates are subject to change.

- *Celebrating the Enthronement Ceremonies of His Majesty the Emperor: The Reproduction of Shosoin Treasures—Encountering Tenpyo Craftsmanship through the Recreation of 8th Century Works* (April 18–June 14, 2020)
- *The 72nd Annual Exhibition of Shōsō-in Treasures (Fall 2020*)* *Dates TBD



Special Exhibition, *Masterpieces from the Fujita Museum: A Brilliant Universe Reflected in a National Treasure—Yōhen-Tenmoku Tea Bowl and Buddhist Art* (April 13–June 9, 2019)



Celebrating the Enthronement of His Majesty the Emperor—The 71st Annual Exhibition of Shōsō-in Treasures (October 26–November 14, 2019)



Special Exhibition, *Bishamonten: Guardian of the North* (February 4–March 22, 2020)

※Cancelled on February 26 to prevent the spread of Covid-19.

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 an ideal 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 impart upon audiences an understanding of the importance of cultural properties.

- ① Programs for students
e.g.: World heritage classes (mainly for elementary school students) and educational lectures for teachers
- ② Lectures and seminars
e.g.: Public lectures, Sunday Talks, summer seminar series, the Shōsō-in Academic Symposium, and international symposia
- ③ Cooperation with universities and colleges
e.g.: Campus Members System, internship programs, and joint lectures with Nara Women's University and Kobe University
- ④ Promotion of volunteer activities



Volunteering: a guide conducting a garden tour



Inside the Venue for the Shōsō-in Academic Symposium 2019: Enthronement and the Shōsō-in's Treasures



Collaboration with Nara City Board of Education—Learn with family about Buddha statues in Nara



Collaboration with Nara University of Education: Creatures of Faith—Family Workshop—Bouncing Around with Sacred Animals Jumping out! Moving! Creatures of Faith

■ 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, research findings play a part in our exhibition activities. Reference materials collected through research are available to the public at the Buddhist Art Library. In fiscal year 2020, the Nara National Museum will conduct the following thematic research:

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



Performing X-ray fluorescence analysis

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; main building's repository reopened 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 reopened 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 National Museum (Kyuhaiku) opened its doors on October 16, 2005, based on the concept of "understanding the formation of Japanese culture from the Asian historical perspective." From its opening to date, the museum has welcomed more than 17 million visitors thanks to the great support from locals and many other people.

In May 2019, the name of the era in Japan was changed from "Heisei" to "Reiwa." It comes from the introduction to the 32 "poems of plum blossoms" from the *Manyoshu* that describes the "plum blossom viewing party" held in Dazaifu around 1,300 years ago. Since the name of the new era was announced, a great number of people have visited Dazaifu, where the event took place, with many also coming to Kyuhaku. In 2020, the museum is celebrating its 15th anniversary and in the new eras to come it will continue to widely convey the charm of valuable cultural properties inherited from our predecessors. We also aim to be a friendly museum for everyone with the goal of being "more fun than the classroom, easier to understand than a textbook."

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 feature exhibitions scheduled for FY 2020 are as follows:

- Feature Exhibition, *The Wild World of Kyuhaku* (June 2-July 12, 2020)
- Feature Exhibition Celebrating 15 Years of Kyushu National Museum, *Worship in Tsukushi*, Commemorating 100 Years of the Dazaifu Historical Site Designation (June 2-August 30, 2020)
- Feature Exhibition Celebrating 15 Years of Kyushu National Museum, *Yamato: The Cradle of Japanese Civilization* (July 28-December 20, 2020)
- Celebrating 15 Years of Kyushu National Museum, *Treasures from the Tearoom, Prized Textiles of the Maeda Clan* (December 1, 2020- January 24, 2021)
- Feature Exhibition, *The Stories of Tenjin* (provisional title) (February 2-March 28, 2021)

● Special Exhibitions

* The exhibition dates are subject to change.

We plan and hold special exhibitions that beginners can fully enjoy and connoisseurs will enjoy even more. The special exhibitions scheduled for FY 2020 are as follows.

- National Treasures from Chūgū-ji (January 26-March 21, 2021)

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

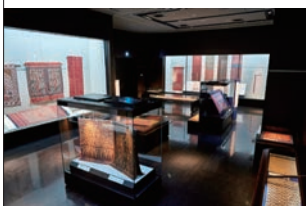
The "storage rooms" of the Museum are where important cultural properties are preserved and stored. They feature a double-walled structure, designed to prevent external air from outside the Museum from directly reaching the cultural properties, and are located in the heart of the building to minimize 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

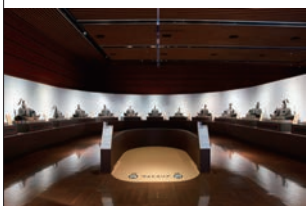
The six conservation and restoration facilities at the Museum (respectively specializing in: the production of paper and other materials used for repair; historical materials, calligraphy and documents; paintings; sculptures; archaeological artifacts; and lacquerware) work in collaboration with the Museum's 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.



Cultural Exchange Exhibitions
(permanent exhibition)



Feature Exhibition, *Sarasa: Life Blooms On Printed Cotton* (July 30-October 20, 2019)



Special Exhibition, *The Muromachi Shoguns: Involvement of fifteen ASHIKAGAs in wars and arts* (July 13-September 1, 2019)

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 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.



"Kyuhaku-go" mobile museum

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 Gongju 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 improving and expanding the system for safeguarding underwater archeological sites.
- 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



Survey of restoration techniques in the National Museum of Royal Barges, Thailand

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 ²)	
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.

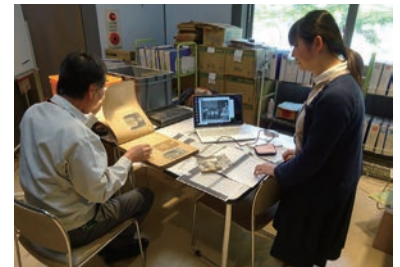
The priority areas on which the Institute is focusing in its survey and research work are outlined below: Firstly, the Institute is working to build up comprehensive archives from the various types of research results, basic databases and source materials that the Institute has collected over the years.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



Documentation Research on KOMURO Toru, a sculptor in the Local Museum of Shibata, Miyagi Prefecture

● 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.



Making uda-paper

● 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.



Breeding of test insects used for insecticidal effect of humidity-controlled warm air treatment

● Japan Center for International Cooperation in Conservation

The Japan Center for International Cooperation in Conservation renders assistance to various countries in Asia 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 to manage the secretariat for the Japan Consortium for International Cooperation in Cultural Heritage.



Restoration work of the east gate of Ta Nei Temple site in Angkor, Cambodia

Seminar, Advice, and Guidance

The Institute conducts various training seminars and provides professional advice as well as technical guidance for the protection and utilization of cultural properties. These include an International Course on the Conservation of Japanese Paper, annual 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 the conservation of cultural properties.



International Course on Conservation of Japanese Paper



Training for museum curators



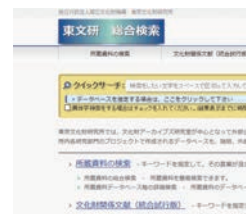
The 53rd Public Lecture

Graduate School Education and Public Lectures

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 Institute is engaged in actively communicating with the public and making the results of its diverse activities accessible through presentations at various academic conferences and the hosting of research meetings and symposiums, etc.. 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(<https://www.tobunken.go.jp/archives/>)

Publications

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 through, for example, the publication of various reports.



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 Research 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, promote multilingualization in the sections, 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.



Promotion of multilingualization (hearings with staff in charge of multilingualization at Nara and Kyoto National Museums)



A survey on the cultural landscape of Nakagawa, Kyoto city.



Structural remains discovered at the Eastern Administrative Office Sector of Nara Palace Site



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 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.

●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

The Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties contributes to international exchange and collaboration through activities such as joint research, expert exchange, conservation and restoration, support and training using its expertise and technology, and the Networking Core Centers for International Cooperation on the Conservation of Cultural Heritage project commissioned by the Agency for Cultural Affairs. Further, it also participates in international contribution projects related to cultural properties and conducted by other institutions such as ACCU (Asia-Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO).

The Institute's main projects include: (1) joint research with the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences involving comparison of ancient capital sites; (2) joint research with the Henan Provincial Institute of Cultural Heritage and Archaeology, China into artifacts, etc. excavated from kiln sites; (3) joint research with the Liaoning Provincial Institute of Cultural Relics and Archaeology, China, into artifacts belonging to the culture of the Former, Later, and Northern Yan; (4) joint research with the National Research Institute of Cultural Heritage, Korea, into the formation and processes of development of ancient Japanese and Korean culture, as well as exchanges of personnel on excavation sites; (5) research, conservation, and restoration, 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, as well as a human resource development project; (6) international dissemination of Japanese archaeology through online resources and publications, in collaboration with the Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures in the U.K. We are also working on technology transfer and human resource development for the National Museum of the Republic of Kazakhstan through a Networking Core Centers for International Cooperation on the Conservation of Cultural Heritage project commissioned by the Agency for Cultural Affairs.

●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*, *CAO NEWS Centre for Archaeological Operations*, and *NABUNKEN RONSO*. 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, Kashihara City
- 2001: Restructured as the Independent Administrative Institution National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Nara
- 2007: Integrated into the Independent Administrative Institution National Institute for Cultural Heritage, as the Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties.
- 2013: Relocated to temporary premises located at 247-1 Saki-cho, Nara City, while the original head office site is being redeveloped.
- 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 ²)	
		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



Investigation and analysis of tuna bones excavated from a shell mound of the Jomon period



Exhibited the East Corridor of Yamada-dera Temple



Training invited by the Networking Core Centers for International Cooperation on the Conservation of Cultural Heritage project

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 2020

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. Its activities focus on:

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

In FY 2020, IRCI will conduct the following projects.

● Promoting Research for ICH Safeguarding

1. Research Data Collection

The data collected from surveys of 32 countries were added to the IRCI's research database (<https://www.irci.jp/ichdb/>). IRCI has collected various data, mainly in consultation with individual researchers. In FY 2019-2021, however, IRCI will systematically and sustainably collect information on the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of ICH and related research by establishing a collaborating mechanism in cooperation with designated research institutions in the Asia-Pacific region.

2. Research on ICH's Contribution to Sustainable Development - Education and Community Development

In FY 2018-2019, IRCI implemented a project to promote the contribution of ICH towards the realisation of Goal 4 of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), targeting education. In FY 2020-2021, IRCI will conduct a series of case studies focusing on the roles ICH plays in achieving the SDGs, notably goals on Quality Education (4.7) and Community Development (11.4).

● Conducting Research on Endangered ICH

1. 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. IRCI completed data collection and surveys on current ICH elements that are on the verge of extinction in Sri Lanka (Northern Province), Timor-Leste, and Afghanistan. In FY2019, IRCI conducted a desk survey and small-scale field work on identified ICH. In FY 2020, as the final year of the project, IRCI will organise an international workshop to share the outcomes and challenges in the three-year project, conducted in 5 districts of the target countries.



Discussion at a meeting for Research Data Collection Project (Tokyo, Japan, February 2020)

2. Research on ICH Safeguarding and Disaster Risk Management

Asia-Pacific countries are frequently exposed to various natural hazards, including earthquakes, tsunamis, cyclones, floods, and volcanic eruptions, all of which having a severe impact on society. Given such circumstances, IRCI implemented a preliminary research and organised an international workshop to discuss the roles of ICH in disaster preparedness, disaster mitigation, and disaster resilience. As a new project in FY 2020-2022, the current state of research on ICH and DRM since 2018 will be studied. Ultimately, the research aims to categorise the disasters into types and provide practical recommendations, including models of DRM and ICH safeguarding measures for each category.

●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; these opportunities include permanent displays of IRCI panels at the Sakai City Museum. Moreover, Sakai City and the National Institutes for Cultural Heritage had co-hosted an annual symposium on cultural heritage since FY2015. At this event, IRCI's information panels were also displayed, and publications were distributed.



Displaying panels at the symposium (Tokyo, Japan, July 2019)

●Communications and Publicity

The FY2019 version of the IRCI Brochure, which illustrates the latest research projects with various pictures, was published in English and Japanese. It has been distributed to UNESCO headquarters, local offices, Category 2 Centres, and the National commissions for UNESCO in each country, as well as to research institutes and universities, both at home and abroad. In addition, IRCI regularly updates its mobile friendly website and frequently releases new information regarding its research activities and ICH. Further, IRCI published the following publications in FY2019 to disseminate information and the results of its activities.

1. Brochure of IRCI (Japanese and English)
2. Proceedings of International Researchers Forum: Perspective of Research for Intangible Cultural Heritage towards a Sustainable Society (English)
3. Project Report on "ICH's contribution towards SDGs" project (English) (PDF)
4. Guidelines for "ICH's contribution towards SDGs" project for non-formal education in the Philippines (2nd edition, English)
5. Guidelines for "ICH's contribution towards SDGs" project for formal education in Viet Nam (2nd edition, Vietnamese)



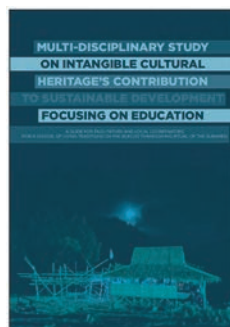
Brochure of IRCI



Proceedings of International Researchers Forum: Perspective of Research for Intangible Cultural Heritage towards a Sustainable Society (English)



Project Report on "ICH's contribution towards SDGs" project (English) (PDF)



Guidelines for "ICH's contribution towards SDGs" project (Left) for non-formal education in the Philippines (English)



(Right) for formal education in Viet Nam (Vietnamese)

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 ²)
Buildings	Building Area	244.67
	Gross Floor Area	244.67
Number of Rooms		4

※The Building is provided by Sakai City, Osaka Prefecture