

# 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.



**FUJIWARA Makoto**  
Executive Director  
Tokyo National Museum

Tokyo National Museum (TNM) is the oldest museum in Japan. Our history traces back to 1872 (Meiji 5) and the staging of an exhibition under the auspices of the Ministry of Education at the Taiseiden Hall of Yushima Seido, a former Confucian temple in Tokyo, an event that marked the inauguration of the Ministry of Education Museum, TNM's predecessor.

Our collection comprises around 120,000 tangible cultural properties from Japan and other Asian regions, including numerous National Treasures and Important Cultural Properties. It is our mission to convey the charms of these cultural properties to a global audience while also ensuring they are passed down safely to future generations.

2022 (Reiwa 4) marked the 150th anniversary of TNM's founding and we carried out a variety of anniversary projects. It was an important year that saw us looking back at TNM's history from its inception to the present day while also renewing ourselves to face the future.

From here on, we will remain true to our *raison d'être* and mission as a museum by steadfastly undertaking research, collection, preservation and restoration projects. We will also stage exhibits, provide educational programs and develop new projects that allow more people to experience the charms of cultural properties and the fun of museums. In this way, we will endeavor to take new strides forward as a bridge connecting the past, present and future.

## 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 400 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 *dogū* 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 1st 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 2023 (the dates given are tentative):

- *Meigetsuki*: The Diary of Fujiwara no Teika and his Calligraphy (June 27-August 6, 2023)
- The Arts of Confucianism and the Yushima Temple (June 27-August 6, 2023)
- Yamato-e Painting in the 16th-19th Century: The Tradition and Succession of Imperial Aesthetics (Tentative) (September 5-December 3, 2023)
- The Essence of Chinese Calligraphy and Painting: The History of Collecting in Japan (October 31-December 24, 2023)
- Christian Prayers and the Virgin Mary (November 28- December 24, 2023)
- Tea Bowls and Chanoyu (Tentative) (January 2-March 10, 2024)



150th Anniversary Thematic Exhibition  
Exploring the TNM Collection of Ancient Tomb  
Sculptures 50 Years Since the Haniwa  
Exhibition (February 28-April 9, 2023)



Special Exhibition Commemorating the 50th  
Anniversary of Okinawa's Reversion to Japan  
RYUKYU (May 3-June 26, 2022)



150th Anniversary Special Exhibition Tokyo  
National Museum: Its History and National  
Treasures (October 18-December 18, 2022)

### ●Special Exhibitions

Special exhibitions are held to share the results of our research and to meet visitor interest. The following are examples of special exhibitions scheduled for the fiscal year 2023:

- Special Exhibition: Tōfuku-ji: Monumental Zen Temple of Kyoto (March 7-May 7, 2023)
- Special Exhibition: Ancient Mexico: Maya, Aztec, and Teotihuacan (June 16-September 3, 2023)
- Special Exhibition Celebrating the Completion of Conservation Work on Jōruriji Temple's Amida Statues: Buddhist Sculptures from Minami Yamashiro in Kyoto (September 16-November 12, 2023)
- Tadanori Yoko'o: 100 Takes on Hanshan and Shide (September 12-December 3, 2023)
- Special Exhibition: Yamato-e: Traditions of Beauty from the Imperial Court (October 11-December 3, 2023)

### ●Overseas Exhibitions

- Special Exhibition: Legacies of Beauty: Archaeological Treasures from Ancient Japan (June 2-September 24, 2023)

## ■Acquisition, Conservation, 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. We ensure that deteriorated cultural properties can still be exhibited safely in future by enhancing gallery and storage environments, improving display and transportation methods, and conducting condition assessments. We conducted around 90 full restorations and around 400 emergency treatments in fiscal year 2022.

## ■Education

To provide a better museum experience for visitors, we offer opportunities for a diverse range of people to get to know the museum, and we help them to develop a deeper understanding of Japanese and Asian culture. By collaborating with schools and developing volunteer activities, we strive to establish a pioneering model for engaging museum projects while promoting 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, the "TNM Art Guide" application, Japanese cultural experiences, pamphlet production, Kids Day, and other exhibition-related events.

### ○Educational, thematic and interactive exhibits: "Family Galleries" and "Japanese Culture Plaza".

### ○Collaboration with schools

School programs (art appreciation programs, work experience programs, and programs for visually impaired students) and teacher training

### ○Partnerships with universities

Campus Members System (lectures/seminars), internship programs for graduate students, and internships in collaboration with Tokyo University of the Arts Graduate School

### ○Volunteer activities

Assistance for educational activities, visitor information, and guided tours

### ○Barrier-free accessibility: Braille pamphlets, the development and management of tactile tools, school programs for visually impaired students, the release of sensory maps, the provision of voice recognition services in lecture halls, etc.

\*Some programs have been moved online.

## ■Research

We conduct research on cultural properties originating in Asia, with a focus on Japan. Research outcomes are reflected in the museum's collection, and in our collection 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 2022 includes the following:

- Special research projects on the treasures of Horyuji Temple donated to the Imperial Household in 1878, including calligraphy, decorative arts, sculpture, paintings, and artifacts
- Research on cultural properties at temples and shrines in the Kanto region
- Research on eastern peoples
- Joint research on the composition of silk and dyed textile used in arts and crafts
- Research related to "Early Imari Porcelain: From Blue-and-White to Multicolor Decoration" and other Thematic Exhibitions

### 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 & forestry, 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 Museum of Nature and Science) 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	120,270 (including the Kuroda Memorial Hall and the Yanase Villa)		
Buildings	Building Area	23,651	Gross Floor Area 78,471
Exhibition Buildings	Exhibition Area Total		18,567
	Repository Area Total		11,603
Honkan	Building Area	6,602	Gross Floor Area 22,416
	Exhibition Area	6,941	Repository Area 3,713
Toyokan	Building Area	2,892	Gross Floor Area 12,531
	Exhibition Area	4,250	Repository Area 1,379
Heiseikan	Building Area	5,542	Gross Floor Area 19,406
	Exhibition Area	4,471	Repository Area 2,446
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	4,826	Gross Floor Area 16,014
			Repository Area 3,749



A monthly lecture



Kids Day



A special research project surveying calligraphic works



# 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.



**MATSUMOTO Nobuyuki**  
Executive Director  
Kyoto National Museum

Kyoto prospered as Japan's capital and cultural center for over a thousand years, from the relocation of the capital at the end of the 8th century to the Meiji Restoration in the late 19th century.

Kyoto National Museum was established in 1897 (Meiji 30) in the Higashiyama district of Kyoto, an area steeped in the city's history and traditions. Since then, while functioning as a core institution for the preservation and transmission of Kyoto's tangible cultural properties, the museum has also worked to disseminate the value and appeal of Japan's traditional culture to a wide audience, both nationally and internationally.

Even during these difficult times, we have endeavored to maintain a high level of activities while deepening our response to globalization and the spread of information technology in a manner that takes new lifestyles and SDGs into consideration. From here on, we will continue to improve ageing facilities as we build a museum that everyone can appreciate and enjoy as a center for schooling and lifetime learning, a nexus of exploration and creativity, a place of leisure, and a hub of tourism.

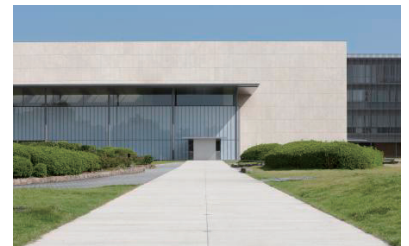
## Exhibitions

### ● 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 20,000 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

- 850th Anniversary Special Exhibition *Shinran: The Life and Legacy of the Founder of Shin Buddhism* (March 25–May 21, 2023)
- Special Exhibition *Tōfuku-ji: Monumental Zen Temple of Kyoto* (October 7–December 3, 2023)



Heisei Chishinkan Wing

※Please note that due to the current closure of Meiji Kotokan (Main Hall), the Heisei Chishinkan Wing is being used alternately for both Special Exhibitions and Collection Exhibitions.



Special Exhibition  
*Commemorating the 1200th Anniversary of Saichō's Death Buddhist Art of the Tendai School* (April 12–May 22, 2022)



Special Exhibition  
*Kanshin-ji and Kongō-ji, Two Temples of Kawachinagano: Esoteric Buddhist Art and the Legacy of the Southern Court* (July 30–September 11, 2022)



Special Exhibition  
*Chanoyu: Tea in the Cultural Life of Kyoto* (October 8–December 4, 2022)

## 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.



Conservation work underway in the Conservation Center for Cultural Properties

## Educational Activities

We undertake a variety of activities via our exhibitions, website, and outreach to schools, in order to help people learn more about the museum's exhibitions and collections, and to stimulate interest and concern for cultural properties.

○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 produces multilingual educational guides, worksheets and the "Museum Dictionary," for example, and it provides audio guides for young people.

○Activities held to stimulate interest in cultural properties

- The museum organizes summer lectures, symposia and other lecture events. It also stages special introductory exhibits and it arranges 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). Furthermore, it develops and distributes online contents.

○The museum works closely with educational institutions, organizing collaborative events.

- Collaborations between the museum and the university sector include: the Campus Members System; lectures on East Asian civilizations by our curators at the Graduate School of Human and Environmental Studies; the training of volunteers called "Kyohaku Navigators" and "Cultural Property Sommeliers"; support for teaching through the use of replicas; the holding of art appreciation events; and the holding of workshops for educators.

○Support for volunteer activities

- Implementation of the "Kyohaku Navigators" and "Cultural Property Sommeliers" systems, and training of "Kyohaku Navigators" and "Cultural Property Sommeliers" volunteers.



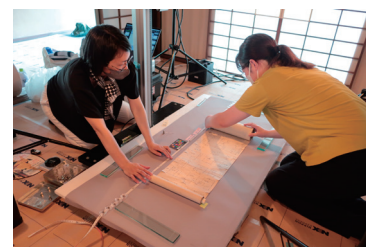
Summer Lectures  
(August 5 and 6, 2022)



Feature Exhibition  
*Hear Me Roar: Celebrating the Year of the Rabbit*  
(January 2-29, 2023)

## 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. The results of these activities are published in our *Kyoto National Museum Shrine and Temple Inventory Reports*. The museum also continues to undertake research on its collections; the research results are reflected in the museum's exhibitions and published in the *Kyoto National Museum Bulletin*.



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 New Exhibition Hall  
 1968: Affiliated with the Agency for Cultural Affairs  
 1969: The Main Hall, Main Gate, ticket booth and fences are designated as an Important Cultural Property of the former Imperial Museum of Kyoto  
 1973: The Saturday lecture series starts  
 1980: Conservation Center for Cultural Properties is established  
 1997: A special ceremony is held in October to mark the 100th anniversary of the Museum's founding  
 2001: The South Gate renovated 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 exhibition hall  
 2013: Construction of Heisei Chishinkan Wing (new exhibition hall) is completed in August  
 2014: Heisei Chishinkan Wing opens in September  
 2017: A special ceremony is 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	13,077	Gross Floor Area 30,872	
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	1,550	Gross Floor Area	1,504	



# NARA NATIONAL MUSEUM

The Nara National Museum collects, preserves, manages and displays cultural properties, while also conducting research and providing educational programming. Its focus is on Buddhist art and the cultural properties of Nara.



**INOUE Yoichi**  
Executive Director  
Nara National Museum

Since its opening in 1895, with the support 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 with a special focus on Buddhist art. 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, we aim to reach a wide range of people as a conveyor of Nara's culture. To this end, we strive to promote the museum's international activities and a more effective use of information technology.

## Exhibitions

### ● Buddhist Art Exhibitions

In addition to holding special exhibitions and feature exhibitions, the museum also displays renowned masterworks of Buddhist art including many designated as National Treasures and Important Cultural Properties. The Nara Buddhist Sculpture Hall features "Masterpieces of Buddhist Sculpture", exceptional Buddhist statues representative of the history of Japanese sculpture from the Asuka to the Kamakura period, dating from around the seventh century to the mid-fourteenth 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.

- *Treasures of Tōdaiji's Omizutori Ritual* (February 10–March 7, 2024)

### ● Special Exhibitions

- *Special Exhibition Celebrating the Completion of Repairs to Jōruriji's National Treasure Amida Statues: Numinous Minamiyamashiro Treasures from the Mountains between Nara and Kyoto* (July 8–September 3, 2023)
- *The 75th Annual Exhibition of Shōsō-in Treasures* (Fall 2023)\*Dates TBD



Temple of Great Peace The world of Daianji and Buddhist Art in Ancient Nara (April 23–June 19, 2022)



Celebrating the Conservation of the Jōkyō-Era Taima Mandara | Special Exhibition Chūjō-hime and the Taima Mandara: Weaving Tales of Faith (July 16–August 28, 2022)

## The Collection, Preservation, and Restoration of Cultural Properties

We strive to collect tangible cultural properties, which are profoundly valuable assets for the people of Japan, through 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 takes 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 conservation specialists.

## ■ 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  
We offer world heritage classes for elementary, junior-high and high school students, live online programs for schools, object explanations for children, and workshops.
- ② Lectures and seminars  
e.g.: Public lectures, Sunday Talks, Seasonal lecture series.
- 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



Workshop

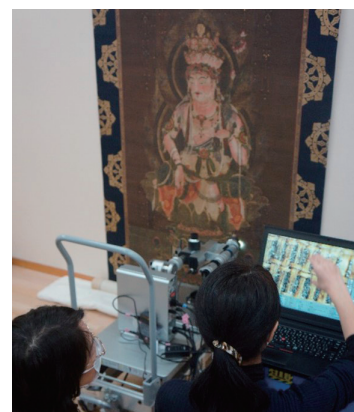


Sunday Talk

## ■ 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. Research findings play a part in our exhibition activities and are also reflected in the museum's masterpiece exhibitions and special exhibitions. Reference materials collected through research are available to the public at the Buddhist Art Library. In fiscal year 2023, 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 and medieval Buddhist scriptures and sutra-copying
- ④ Comprehensive survey of Buddhist arts and crafts and ancient arts and crafts
- ⑤ Research on archaeological materials related to ancient and medieval religious beliefs
- ⑥ Research on the art of sculpture in ancient and medieval Nara
- ⑦ Research to accompany special exhibitions, etc.
- ⑧ Research to contribute to educational programs in history and traditional culture
- ⑨ Research into the effects on cultural properties of storage area environments, exhibition spaces and display cases
- ⑩ Research on collections from the perspective of cultural asset restoration
- ⑪ Research on collections from the perspective of conservation science



Research in progress

### 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 <sup>2</sup> )
Land Area				78,760
Buildings	Building Area	6,786	Gross Floor Area	19,133
Exhibition Buildings			Exhibition Area Total	4,079
			Repository Area Total	1,806
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	1,642
West Wing	Building Area	1,649	Gross Floor Area	5,396
	Exhibition Area	1,473		
Buddhist Art Library	Building Area	735	Gross Floor Area	735
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 engages in the collection, preservation, exhibition, and research of cultural properties, as well as educational outreach, with a focus on Japan's history of cultural exchange with Asia.



**SHIMATANI Hiroyuki**  
Executive Director  
Kyushu National Museum  
(President, NICH)

Our museum opened its doors on 16 October 2005 and focuses on mapping the formation of Japanese culture within the context of Asia's history. To date, our museum has welcomed more than 18 million visitors into its halls, an indication of the enthusiastic support we enjoy from people near and far.

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, we have taken the opportunity to explore new ways of serving the people around us, such as through developing new online programs that allow our audience to enjoy content from our museum from the safety of their homes. Now, more so than ever, we remain firmly committed to our mission of communicating the cultural heritage of our ancestors to our visitors in a way that is more engaging than the classroom, and more illuminating than a textbook.

## Exhibitions

### ● Cultural Exchange Exhibition

Aside from constantly rotating exhibits, our permanent Cultural Exchange Exhibition also plays host to Feature Exhibitions and special displays centered on specific themes that provide visitors with fresh content and perspectives with every visit, as well as interactive displays that allow visitors to experience history in a multisensory way.

### ● Feature Exhibitions and Special Displays 2023-24

- *New Perspectives: A Glimpse into the World of Akita-ranga Paintings* (29 Apr-11 Jun 2023)
- *Cultural Connections: Buddhist Art from the Goryeo and Joseon Dynasties* [working title] (5 Sep-15 Oct 2023)
- *Hatsune Maki-e Lacquer Trousseau: National Treasure from the Tokugawa Art Museum* (1-29 Jan 2024)
- *The Cutting Edge of Beauty* [working title] (30 Jan-13 Apr 2023)

### ● Special Exhibitions 2023-24

Our Special Exhibitions are designed to be engaging and informative for first-timers and repeat visitors alike.

- *Odes to Nature: Art Nouveau Glasswork by Gallé and Daum* (18 Apr-11 Jun 2023)
- *Captivating Form, Timeless Beauty: Masterpieces from the Museum of Oriental Ceramics, Osaka* (11 Jul-3 Sep 2023)
- *Ancient Mexico: Maya, Aztec, and Teotihuacan* (3 Oct-10 Dec 2023)
- *Nagasawa Rosetsu: Life, Legacy, and Boundless Imagination* [working subtitle] (6 Feb-31 Mar 2024)

## Acquiring, Storing, and Conserving our Collection

### ● Acquisitions

In line with our mission, Kyushu National Museum constantly seeks to enrich our collection of items relevant to the history of cultural exchange between Japan and mainland Asia. We also work with temples, shrines, and private collectors who may wish to donate or store their collections with us, and who generously permit us to use these objects to further enhance our exhibitions.

### ● Storage

Our museum's purpose-built storage rooms are located in the center of the building, ensuring our collection is insulated by the double-walled structure of the rooms, and also shielded from direct contact with the elements. Our building also uses a heating, ventilating, and air conditioning (HVAC) system that maintains constant temperature and humidity levels within the storage area. Further, the ceilings and walls of the storage area are made from Japanese cedar sourced locally from Kyushu, while the floors are made of Japanese beech from Hokkaido. These types of wood function as moisture buffers, providing an additional, non-mechanical method of regulating humidity.

In addition, our museum makes use of three types of seismic isolators in order to stabilize the building in the event of earthquakes, reducing the amount of seismic energy transferred into the building and thus keeping our collection safe.

### ● Conservation

Our museum has a dedicated conservation studio that is divided into six rooms: a paper-making room, and rooms for conserving calligraphy and ancient documents, paintings, sculpture and large-sized artifacts, archaeological relics, and lacquerware. Here, experienced conservation staff work alongside specialists in the relevant fields of research to determine the best course of action for conserving each and every artifact. We are also equipped with state-of-the-art instruments, including an X-ray CT machine and an X-ray fluorescence spectrometer, which help us better analyze the objects we are to conserve.



Feature Exhibition  
*It's a "Smol" World  
Archaeology at Its Cutest*  
(19 Apr-24 Jul 2022)



Feature Exhibition  
*Vessels from the Imperial Court  
Imari Porcelain from the  
Yamashina Family Collection*  
(27 Sep-20 Nov 2022)



Special Exhibition  
*Commemorating the 50th  
Anniversary of Okinawa's  
Reversion to Japan Ryukyu*  
(16 Jul-4 Sep 2022)

## Educational Outreach and Exchange

### Educational Outreach

- ① Aijppa (Interactive Exhibition Gallery)  
This is a unique exhibition gallery where visitors of all ages can get up close and personal with Asian and European cultures with which Japan has had historical interactions. Aijppa also develops and offers hands-on activity kits and programs for visitors to experience the museum in a more interactive setting. We also work with other educational institutions to develop educational programs.
- ② Exhibition-related activities
  - Programs to help visitors understand exhibits
  - YouTube videos introducing exhibits
  - *Kyuhaku at Home* online series of videos and activities for do-it-yourself workshops
  - Development of in-house workshops
  - Production of guidebooks
- ③ Programs designed specifically for foreigners and visitors with disabilities
- ④ Kyupack—a series of supplementary tools for classroom-based teaching based on our museum collection
- ⑤ Kyuhaku Caravan—a mobile version of Aijppa that brings our museum to schools
- ⑥ Campus Members program—strengthening our ties with educational institutions, such as universities
- ⑦ *Kyuhaku Picture Books*—illustrated books used in educational programs
- ⑧ Volunteer activities  
Our local volunteers are involved in various aspects of our museum’s operations, from exhibitions to Backyard Tours, environmental management, and workshops.



Participants viewing how a sword is dismantled in a Yasashii Nihongo (“Easy Japanese”) tour

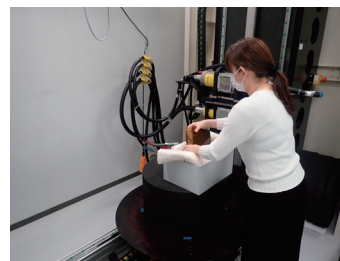
### Local and International Exchange

- ① We engage with the community by planning outreach activities with local businesses and organizations, as well as providing rental facilities.
- ② Partners all over Asia
  - South Korea: Buyeo National Museum, Gongju National Museum, Korea National University of Cultural Heritage
  - People’s Republic of China: Nanjing Museum, Inner Mongolia Museum, Chengdu Museum, Shenyang Palace Museum, Shanghai Museum
  - Southeast Asia: National Museum of Vietnamese History, Thai Ministry of Culture Fine Arts Department
- ③ International symposiums and lectures

## Research

In addition to conducting research on artifacts to reveal their role in the cultural exchange between Japan and mainland Asia, we also conduct scientific analysis on cultural properties for conservation and restoration purposes. The results of these studies are collected, stored and actively utilized in our exhibitions. Such research is conducted with financial support, such as from the Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research provided by the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science. Related endeavors include, but are not limited to:

- Structural analysis of artifacts using our X-ray CT scanner and other equipment
- Utilization of research in educational outreach programs and efforts, such as explanation panels for exhibitions, information leaflets, and workshops
- Comparison of conservation and restoration practices in museums in Japan and other countries around the world
- Assessment of the sustainability of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) systems as a method of alleviating threats posed by pests to our collection



Artifact analysis using our X-ray CT scanner

## Publications

Our museum regularly releases a number of publications aimed at promoting our exhibitions and latest research findings.

- ① *Kyushu National Museum Bulletin Tōfū Seisei* (published annually)
  - A bulletin summarizing the academic endeavors and achievements of our staff
- ② *Kyushu National Museum Conservation and Restoration Reports* (published annually)
- ③ *Asiage Quarterly* (published quarterly)
  - A magazine introducing exhibitions and other exciting events happening in our museum

### Brief History

1994: Creation of the Committee to Investigate the Establishment of a New Concept-Based Museum (“the Committee”) by the Agency for Cultural Affairs (ACA)

1996: Selection of Dazaifu City, Fukuoka Prefecture as a potential location for the new museum tentatively named “Kyushu National Museum”

1997: The Committee outlines basic plans for Kyushu National Museum

1999: The Committee finalizes basic plans for Kyushu National Museum

2000: ACA, Fukuoka Prefecture, and the Kyushu National Museum Promotion Foundation (“the Foundation”) finalize the basic architectural plans for the museum  
The Experts Committee for the Establishment of Kyushu National Museum, formed by the ACA and Fukuoka Prefecture, draws up concept plans for the museum’s permanent exhibition

2001: ACA, Fukuoka Prefecture, and the Foundation finalize the concept plans for basic exhibition design  
The IAI National Museums establishes the Kyushu National Museum Project Office

2002: ACA and Fukuoka Prefecture launch a three-year-long Construction Work phase

2003: The IAI National Museums and Fukuoka Prefecture begin a two-year-long Exhibition Work phase

2004: ACA, Fukuoka Prefecture, and the Foundation complete construction of the museum building  
ACA, IAI National Museums and Fukuoka Prefecture officially announce the museum’s finalized name, “Kyushu National Museum”

2005: Completion of the Exhibition Work phase  
IAI National Museums establishes Kyushu National Museum  
The museum opens to the public on 15 October

2007: Kyushu National Museum becomes part of the National Institutes for Cultural Heritage (NICH)

2008: Kyushu National Museum hosts the China-Japan-South Korea trilateral summit

2012: Cumulative visitorship reaches 10 million

2015: Kyushu National Museum celebrates its 10th anniversary

### Facilities Overview

				(m <sup>2</sup> )	
Land area					159,844*
Building				Building area	14,623*
				Total floor area	30,675
Exhibition and Storage Areas	NICH	9,300	Fukuoka Pref.	Joint	15,595
					Exhibition area
	NICH	2,744	Fukuoka Pref.	Joint	225
					Storage area
				439	

\*The land and building areas are jointly owned by NICH and Fukuoka Prefecture.





# TOKYO NATIONAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR CULTURAL PROPERTIES



**SAITO Takamasa**  
Director General  
Tokyo National  
Research Institute for  
Cultural Properties  
(Director, NICH)

The Tokyo National Research Institute for Cultural Properties supports the work of the government in the administration of cultural properties by conducting various research, from basic and systematic to practical and advanced, into all kinds of cultural properties, both tangible and intangible. The Institute actively disseminates the results of this research both domestically and internationally. It also provides guidance and advice to regional public bodies and other stakeholders concerning the preservation of cultural properties. Furthermore, it pursues international cooperation projects related to the conservation of cultural heritage in Asia and other regions of the world, including international research initiatives, human resource development, and the transfer of conservation and restoration technologies.

The Institute's survey and research work currently focuses on several priority areas. Firstly, the Institute is working to develop archives of research results and basic data, etc. accumulated by the Institute over the years. Also, as a part of the Independent Administrative Institution, National Institutes for Cultural Heritage, the Institute aims to play an integral role in the area of conservation and preservation through research on the conservation, preservation and publication of museum materials. Furthermore, the Institute collects basic data, prepares visual records of intangible cultural properties from across Japan, and make them available to the public, with a focus on festivals, performing arts, and traditional techniques.

In addition, the Institute houses the secretariat of the Japan Consortium for International Cooperation in Cultural Heritage, an organization that plays a central role in ensuring Japan makes a coordinated and effective contribution to the conservation of cultural heritage overseas.

We also serve as a regional hub for the East Japan region of the Cultural Heritage Disaster Risk Management Center in cooperation with its Head Office.

## 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 also engages in issues of contemporary relevance when it comes to the study of cultural properties and art history research, for example. The Department also takes the results obtained in these activities as the basis for managing the information systems and public relations activities of the Institute as a whole.

### ●Department of Intangible Cultural Heritage

The Department of Intangible Cultural Heritage conducts basic research useful for the conservation and transmission of intangible cultural heritage, focusing in particular on Japan's intangible cultural heritage, which includes intangible cultural properties, intangible folk-cultural properties, and conservation techniques for cultural properties. Audiovisual documentation, a significant method for the conservation of intangible cultural heritage, is conducted and new methods of documentation are also investigated.

### ●Center for Conservation Science

The Center for Conservation Science implements surveys of cultural property materials, construction and techniques, and collects information that contributes to a more in-depth understanding of cultural properties. In addition, it conducts research into the improvement of restoration materials and techniques and into maintenance management methods. The Center also implements activities relating to the adoption of new survey techniques. Moreover, the Center works closely with those who are actually engaged in the conservation and restoration of cultural properties and their owners.

### ●Japan Center for International Cooperation in Conservation

The Japan Center for International Cooperation in Conservation renders assistance to various countries in 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.

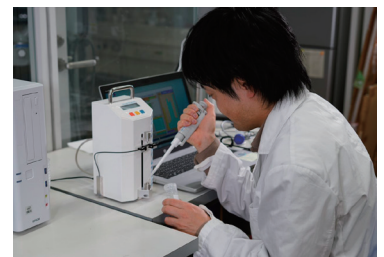
The Center is commissioned to manage the secretariat for the Japan Consortium for International Cooperation in Cultural Heritage.



A photographic survey at Kuboso Memorial Museum of Arts, Izumi



Ayako Odori Dance (Manno Town, Kagawa Prefecture)



Measuring chemical property of *neri* (abelmoschus manihot extract), a material used in washi Japanese paper



East Gate of Ta Nei Temple, Angkor after completing the full-scale restoration (Cambodia)

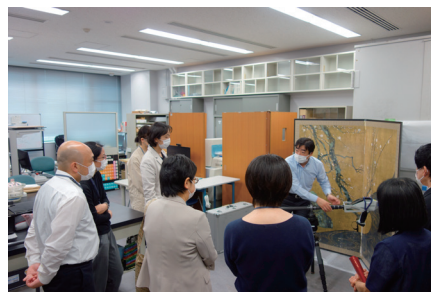
## Seminars, Advice, and Guidance

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 the International Course on 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.

"Training for Museum Curators in charge of Conservation" was reorganized in FY2021 in response to societal demands. The Basic Course and Advanced Course were established in tandem with the National Center for the Promotion of Cultural Properties. The Advanced Course is run by the Tokyo National Research Institute for Cultural Properties



International course on conservation of paper in Latin America



Training for museum curators (advanced course)



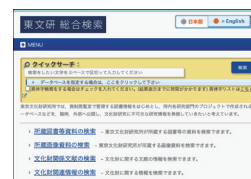
Leaflet for the symposium "Dancing Spirits: How to Enjoy the Fūryūodori Dance" (a joint event with POLA Foundation of Japanese Culture)

## Graduate School Education and Public Lectures

The Institute provides the results of its research to the public aiming at 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

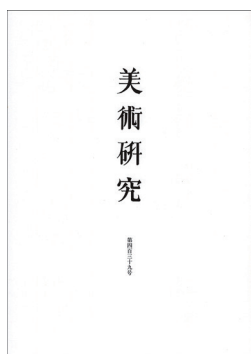
The Institute actively communicates and publicizes the results of its different activities including research studies and international cooperation projects through academic conferences, workshops and symposiums, for example. It also updates its website regularly and it releases publications such as its 'Annual Report,' its 'Outline,' and 'Tobunken News.'



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

## Publications

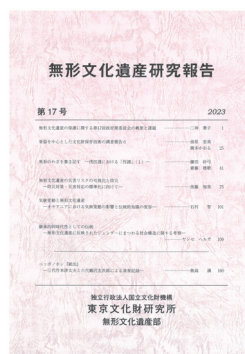
The Institute publishes periodicals such as *The Bijutsu Kenkyu* (*The Journal of Art Studies*), *Yearbook of Japanese Art, Research and Reports on Intangible Cultural Heritage*, and *Science for Conservation*. It also publicizes the research and study results through the publication of academic reports and other means.



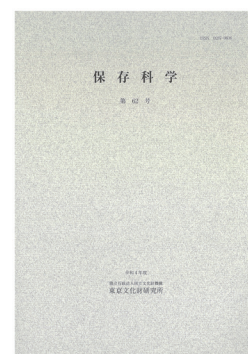
*The Bijutsu Kenkyu*  
(*Journal of Art Studies*)



*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 <sup>2</sup> )	
Land Area	4,181	
Building	Building Area	2,258
	Gross Floor Area	10,516



# NARA NATIONAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR CULTURAL PROPERTIES



**MOTONAKA Makoto**  
Director General  
Nara National Research  
Institute for Cultural  
Properties

## ●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 into five sections: Archaeology Section 1, Archaeology Section 2, Archaeology Section 3, the History Section, and the Architectural Features Section. These conduct interdisciplinary research based on excavational investigations of ancient palaces, temples and tombs located in the Heijo, Asuka and Fujiwara areas. The research results are publicized through presentations, reports and exhibitions; this research also contributes to the preservation and effective utilization of these archeological remains.

### [Department of Imperial Palace Sites Investigations (Heijo)]

This Department is in charge of excavation and research at the Nara Palace Site (Special Historic Site), where the imperial palace and government offices were located in the Nara period (710-784). Systematic research has been in progress since 1959 and over one-third of the 130 hectare site has been excavated and surveyed so far. Finds at the sites of the palace and ancient temples (such as architectural remains, wooden tablets used for writing, earthenware vessels and ceramic tiles) have been verified with reference to historical records, with the Department's empirical research on the Nara period winning 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 in the Asuka and Fujiwara area, 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 residences of elite clans, the sites of temples such as Asukadera (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.

As an institution engaged in the comprehensive research of tangible cultural properties, Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties researches cultural heritage (such as historical materials and buildings) and conducts excavations, primarily at the Nara and Fujiwara Palace sites. We exhibit and publish the results of this research, for example, and we also carry out research and exhibition programs with the aim of preserving Asuka culture. The Institute also strives to gather and publicize data on archaeological sites through the 'Comprehensive Database of Archaeological Site Reports in Japan.'

All these activities make a significant contribution to cultural heritage research, both nationally and internationally, and they have resulted in academic exchanges with China, South Korea and other countries across Asia. Furthermore, the Institute endeavors to develop new research technologies and methods to conserve, restore and maintain historical sites. We then provide guidance and training to local government specialists, for example, with these technologies and methods also utilized to protect historical sites across the world.

From here on, we hope to make further contributions to the conservation and utilization of cultural properties by pursuing interdisciplinary joint research in other fields too.



Exhibition to commemorate the 70th anniversary of Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties



Regional exchanges related to the utilization of reconstructed buildings and archaeological finds



Survey of Nara Palace Site Sakyo Sanjo Ichibo Futatsubo (Sakyo Street 3, Ward 1, Block 2)



Excavating the Imperial Audience Hall, Fujiwara Palace 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 and 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 and Feature Exhibitions, 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, and displays featuring photographs of cultural heritage items, etc. The Museum also hosts lectures and participatory activities, etc.

●International Academic Exchange

NABUNKEN contributes to international exchange and collaboration through activities such as joint research, expert exchange, conservation and restoration, support and training using our 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. Furthermore, we also participate 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 on the artifacts excavated from kiln sites; (3) joint research with the Liaoning Provincial Institute of Cultural Relics and Archaeology, China, on the artifacts of the Sanyan culture; (4) joint research with the National Research Institute of Cultural Heritage, Korea on 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 knowledge transfer and human resource development for International Institute for Central Asian Studies and Samarkand Institute for Archaeology through a Networking Core Centers for International Cooperation on the Conservation of Cultural Heritage project commissioned by the Agency for Cultural Affairs.

●Publications

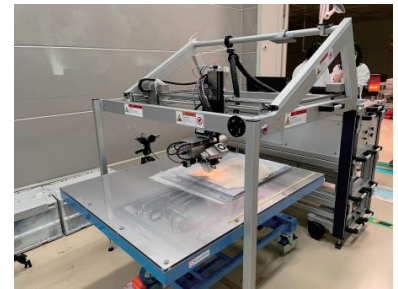
Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties publishes periodicals such as *Overview of Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties*, *BULLETIN Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties*, *NABUNKEN NEWS*, *CAO NEWS Centre for Archaeological Operations*, and *NABUNKEN 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 <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	11,060	16,303
Fujiwara Area	20,515	6,260	9,416
Asuka Area	17,082	2,660	4,403



A detailed element analysis using a newly-installed fluorescent X-ray analysis machine



Exhibition Room 2 Yamadadera Cloister Remains



On-site training as part of the "MEROS: Mutual Engagement in aRchaeOlogical heritage and Science" program

# INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH CENTRE FOR INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION (IRCI)



**MACHIDA Daisuke**  
Director-General  
International Research  
Centre for Intangible  
Cultural Heritage in the  
Asia-Pacific Region

At the 35th Session of UNESCO General Conference in October 2009, approval was granted to Japan to establish an international research centre for intangible cultural heritage (ICH) 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 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 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 worldwide due to various factors, and the safeguarding of ICH is now undeniably an urgent issue. IRCI collaborates with universities, research institutes, museums, and NGOs in Japan and the Asia-Pacific region to promote research on the practices and methodologies of ICH safeguarding.

## Activity Plan for FY 2023

As an international research hub for safeguarding ICH in the Asia-Pacific region, IRCI promotes various research projects while collecting information on international trends and contributing to the enhancement of ICH safeguarding through Japan's long-term experience in cultural heritage management. Its Medium-Term Programme (FY 2022-2026) focuses on the following activities:

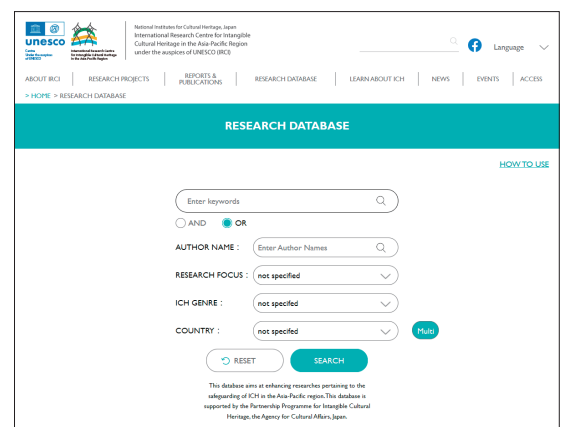
- Promoting Research for ICH Safeguarding
- Research on the Safeguarding of ICH for Building Sustainable and Resilient Societies
- Cooperating with Sakai City to Promote ICH

IRCI conducts the following projects in FY 2023:

### ● Promoting Research for ICH Safeguarding

#### 1. Sustainable Research Data Collection for ICH Safeguarding

IRCI has been collecting research information on ICH in various countries in the Asia-Pacific region in cooperation with researchers and research institutions. This information is accessible on the IRCI Research Database (<https://www.irci.jp/ichdb/>). Since FY 2022, the project has been implemented in Central Asia in collaboration with research institutions in Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. In addition, research data collection has been extended to Small Island Developing States (SIDS) such as Fiji, Kiribati, Maldives, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Timor-Leste, and Vanuatu, where the current situation of ICH research is yet to be fully understood. This project contributes to the enhancement of research for safeguarding ICH by better understanding the research trends in each country and identifying issues and challenges.



IRCI Research Database (Top page)

#### 2. Creation of the Asia-Pacific Regional Hub of Research for the Safeguarding of ICH

This project aims to strengthen the role of IRCI as a hub of ICH research in the Asia-Pacific region by developing a new platform for promoting research and international cooperation, namely 'Asia-Pacific Research Forum for ICH Safeguarding'. As part of this initiative, regular online seminars have been organized to address the latest research trends and various issues related to safeguarding ICH. Since the year 2023 marks the 20th anniversary of the 2003 Convention, these seminars will cover related topics. Other activities, such as an international conference and a workshop targeting young ICH researchers, will be held in the following years, reflecting the needs and interests of the region. By utilizing the Facebook group, the project encourages a wide range of participants in activities, including researchers, ICH practitioners, museum staff, and government officials, to actively contribute to the safeguarding of ICH.

● **Research on the Safeguarding of ICH for Building Sustainable and Resilient Societies**

1. **Research on ICH Safeguarding and Disaster Risk Management**

Asia-Pacific countries are frequently exposed to natural hazards such as earthquakes, tsunamis, cyclones, floods, and volcanic eruptions. Based on the outcomes of the project undertaken in FY 2016–2018, this project aims to understand the disaster risks and positive aspects of ICH for disaster risk management (DRM), leading to the development of action plans to incorporate ICH and its safeguarding in the community's DRM. In cooperation with institutions in Bangladesh, Fiji, Indonesia, Mongolia, Vanuatu, and Viet Nam, IRCI has conducted field research encouraging the collaboration between ICH and DRM. A regional workshop is organized in FY 2023 to summarize the project and discuss the results of the field research.



Interview in a local community (Gaua, Vanuatu ©IRCI)

2. **Research on ICH Affected by the COVID-19 Pandemic**

The COVID-19 pandemic has seriously impacted ICH. By investigating and documenting the situation of the practice and transmission of ICH during the COVID-19 pandemic, focusing on specific cases in the Asia-Pacific region, this project aims to build knowledge to prepare for future pandemics. Field research is conducted in cooperation with institutions and researchers in Bangladesh, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Iran, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Papua New Guinea, and the Republic of Korea. While identifying the actual damage caused by the pandemic, this project also aims to understand the flexibility and adaptability of ICH and related communities in dealing with emergencies.



Interview with Baul practitioners (Manikganj, Bangladesh ©Saymon Zakaria)

3. **Research on ICH Contributing to SDGs: Intangible Cultural Heritage for Sustainable Cities and Communities**

IRCI has investigated the role of ICH in realizing sustainable cities and communities, with a focus on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 11.4 (strengthening efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage) in cooperation with institutions in Cambodia, Fiji, and Malaysia. This project aims to contribute to developing strategies for safeguarding and utilizing local cultural heritage by providing opportunities for discussion, such as community-based workshops among various stakeholders, including local communities and government officials.



Traditional leather crafting (Siem Reap, Cambodia ©IRCI)

● **Cooperation with Sakai City to Promote ICH**

IRCI cooperates with Sakai City to promote and raise public awareness about ICH. For instance, panels introducing ICH and IRCI's activities are displayed at the Sakai City Museum, where the IRCI is located. IRCI also collaborates in events and symposia organized by Sakai City for the general public to deepen their understanding of ICH.

● **Communications and Publicity**

IRCI disseminates information on its activities and ICH through various media channels. The IRCI Brochure is published annually in Japanese and English and distributed to UNESCO headquarters and field offices, Category 2 Centres, National Commissions for UNESCO, and research institutes and universities at home and abroad. Furthermore, the IRCI leaflet was renewed in accordance with a new Medium-Term Programme that began in FY 2022. IRCI website (<https://www.irci.jp/>) and Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/IRCI.Official/>) are regularly updated to inform about the progress of its projects, publications, and public events.



IRCI Brochure 2022

IRCI Leaflet

**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

※The Building is provided by Sakai City, Osaka Prefecture



# National Center for the Promotion of Cultural Properties (CPCP)



**OMI Yoshimasa**  
Director  
National Center for the  
Promotion of Cultural  
Properties

Established in July 2018, the National Center for the Promotion of Cultural Properties (CPCP) aims to improve information infrastructures and develop new ways and opportunities to utilize cultural properties in a manner that allows people of all ages and regions to feel closer to Japan's cultural heritage.

## ■ Promoting model projects and developing content that enables people to come into contact with cultural properties

The CPCP works with businesses and various groups to enable more people to enjoy rich experiences with cultural properties. It does so by utilizing advanced technology to develop reproductions of cultural properties and digital content (8K images, etc.). It also develops educational programs to facilitate the appreciation of cultural properties. CPCP reproductions and content are utilized across Japan in hands-on displays at museums and galleries and art appreciation lessons at schools, for example.

## ■ Promoting the lending of items in the collections of national museums

The CPCP runs the National Museum Collection Loan Promotion Project, an initiative to lend items related to each region from the collections of Japan's four national museums to regional museums across the country, with the CPCP bearing the costs of object transportation, etc. As of FY 2022, the project had led to the staging of exhibitions at 29 institutions (in 20 cities and prefectures). From here on, we will endeavor to give more people the opportunity to encounter the precious cultural properties of our national museums at their local museums.

## ■ Consolidating the digital resources and databases regarding cultural properties

The CPCP runs ColBase (Integrated Collections Database of the National Institutes for Cultural Heritage; <https://colbase.nich.go.jp>), a platform that enables users to search across the collections of the four national museums and the Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, and e-Museum (<https://emuseum.nich.go.jp>), a platform that provides high-resolution images and explanations (in Japanese, English, Chinese and Korean) of National Treasures and Important Cultural Properties in the aforementioned collections. We also handle requests from museums wishing to use digital resources.

## ■ Consultation and technical support concerning the preservation of cultural properties

The CPCP offers consultation services, advice, research assistance and technical support as needed regarding exhibition rooms, display cases, and storage environments at museums, etc. We also support curators or other administrators engaged in preservation activities at museums by holding practical workshops and courses that furnish participants with the knowledge and technical abilities needed to display and store cultural properties in an appropriate environment.

## ■ Cultural property fundraising activities

The CPCP works to ensure that our cultural heritage can be passed down safely to the future generations. To this end, we seek to expand our supporter base by raising awareness of and garnering support for this work. Our initiatives to raise funds from individuals, companies and organizations include disseminating information through our website and SNS, etc., preparing activities for museum visitors, and running the National Institutes for Cultural Heritage Donation Portal Site.



An art appreciation program using reproductions



FY 2022 National Museum Collection Loan Promotion Project (Okinawa Prefectural Museum & Art Museum)



A brochure explaining the system for bequeathment and inheritance donations



# Cultural Heritage Disaster Risk Management Center



**KOHDZUMA Yohsei**  
Director  
Cultural Heritage  
Disaster Risk Management Center

The Cultural Heritage Disaster Risk Management Center was established on October 1, 2020, with the goal of protecting a diverse range of cultural heritage from frequently-occurring disasters.

The Center provides a structure for implementing integrated disaster risk management initiatives across the National Institutes for Cultural Heritage (NICH). Headquartered in the Nara National Research Institute of Cultural Properties, it works in tandem with the Cultural Heritage Disaster Risk Management Project Team, comprised of staffs from two Research Institutes and four National Museums of NICH family.

The Center undertakes various initiatives based on its three core missions of (1) reducing disaster risk in order to safeguard our cultural heritage, (2) building systems and developing technologies to save disaster-hit cultural heritage as quickly as possible, and (3) providing support for salvage operations for cultural heritage when disasters actually occur.

## Our 5 main initiatives

### ● Building regional disaster prevention frameworks

The Center is building regional cultural heritage disaster prevention frameworks in close cooperation with other institutions involved in the field of cultural heritage, such as local governments, museums and galleries, universities and research institutions, and local historical materials networks.

- (1) We hold conferences and information-sharing meetings.
- (2) We study regional cultural heritage disaster prevention frameworks.
- (3) We support rescue operations for cultural heritage, etc. when disasters hit.

### ● Formulating guidelines for disasters

The Center is engaged in the formulation of guidelines to facilitate the swift commencement of cultural heritage salvage.

- (1) We organize issues related to cultural heritage disaster prevention in each field.
- (2) We formulate disaster prevention guidelines for each type of cultural heritage.

### ● Developing technologies related to the rescue, storage and display of cultural heritage

The Center is engaged in the development of technologies for the regular storage and display of cultural heritage and for the emergency salvage of cultural heritage.

- (1) We hold workshops on disaster risk identification, prevention and response for cultural heritages.
- (2) Based on conservation science and other related studies, we conduct research on degradation assessment for disaster-hit cultural heritages, stabilization and restoration measures, regular and emergency storage environment, treatment environment in the disaster-hit areas, and disaster prevention methods.

### ● Raising awareness and disseminating information to promote cultural heritage disaster prevention

The Center seeks to raise awareness and spread knowledge on cultural heritage disaster prevention through instruction, advice, training, and other activities. The center disseminates information about its activities to a wide audience both within Japan and overseas.

- (1) We help to train the personnel needed for regional disaster prevention frameworks by holding symposiums, lectures, workshops, and study groups for local government officials, etc.
- (2) We disseminate information within Japan and overseas regarding cultural heritage disaster prevention.
- (3) We contribute to the cultural heritage disaster prevention worldwide by sharing our national experience through seminars and conferences.

### ● Collecting and utilizing information related to cultural heritage disaster prevention

The Center collects information about cultural heritage disaster prevention and it examines ways to utilize this information to improve the functionality of Japan's cultural heritage disaster prevention system.

- (1) We collect, organize and share information about disasters that have impacted cultural heritage or leading examples of cultural heritage disaster prevention.
- (2) We collect the data needed to construct databases related to cultural heritage disaster prevention and we study ways to utilize this data in disaster prevention.
- (3) We collect data related to the sites of historical disasters and we promote the management and utilization of databases, etc.
- (4) We collect up-to-date insights on cultural heritage disaster prevention initiatives and conservation measures worldwide.
- (5) We convene the Cultural Heritage Disaster Risk Management Network Promotion Council and the Advisory Committee for Cultural Heritage Disaster Risk Management to grasp issues related to cultural heritage disaster prevention.



Research conference on cultural heritage disaster prevention in the Chugoku and Shikoku regions, 2022 (Okayama Prefectural Government Office)



3D-measurement scene from the study project on the fall prevention of Three-Dimensional Works by the computer simulation



Symposium 2022: "Intangible Cultural Heritage and Disaster Prevention-Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Based on the Experience of the Disaster" (Tokyo National Research Institute for Cultural Properties)