

Message

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The National Institutes for Cultural Heritage (NICH) runs seven institutions, each with their own unique characteristics. These include four national museums (Tokyo National Museum, Kyoto National Museum, Nara National Museum and Kyushu National Museum), two research institutes (Tokyo National Research Institute for Cultural Properties and Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties), and the International Research Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region. Furthermore, the National Center for the Promotion of Cultural Properties and the Cultural Heritage Disaster Risk Management Center have been established in the headquarters of the NICH. While collaborating and cooperating with each institution, these two bodies will utilize cultural properties to provide people of all ages with opportunities to encounter cultural properties while also pursuing initiatives to protect our diverse cultural properties from frequently-occurring disasters.

During this fiscal year, our national museums will continue to utilize their accumulated experience and knowledge to collect and conserve cultural artifacts in a systemically and historically balanced manner while utilizing the results of research to develop captivating exhibitions and educational programs. Furthermore, our research institutes and centers will continue to conduct basic and systemic research aimed at uncovering new knowledge about our cultural heritage.

The NICH will strive to conserve our fragile cultural properties in an appropriate manner while utilizing the latest technology and adopting a diverse range of methods to provide an environment where people can encounter and enjoy learning about Japan's history, traditions and culture. We will also contribute to cultural tourism in Japan by actively utilizing our cultural resources and conveying the appeal of this cultural heritage in a manner easy to comprehend for both Japanese and non-Japanese people alike. In October this year, the management and administration of The Museum of the Imperial Collections, Sannomaru Shozokan will be transferred from The Imperial Household Agency to the NICH. While using our accumulated knowledge and experience in the fields of museum management and the conservation/utilization of cultural properties to carefully preserve and study these valuable treasures passed down through The Imperial Family, we will also strive to ensure this cultural heritage can be enjoyed by more people.

We remain in a difficult financial situation and we face many challenges, such as increasing our own sources of income, tackling the issue of ageing facilities/equipment, and striving to retain and develop staff. We are tasked with preserving our cultural heritage while presenting opportunities for many people to appreciate and learn about this heritage. I believe it is our responsibility to convey the deep connection between these activities and the vitality of modern Japanese culture.

From here on, we will continue pushing forward step by step, while retaining a thoroughgoing awareness of the roles we need to fulfil. We look forward to receiving your continued support in these endeavors.