

Preservation and Utilization of Cultural Properties

1 The System for Protecting Cultural Properties

◆ Number of Cultural Properties Designated by the National Government

as of April 1, 2008

| Designation | | | |
|--|---------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------|
| Important Cultural Properties(National Treasure) | | 12,611 | (1,074) *1 |
| Buildings | | 2,328 | (213) |
| Works of fine arts and crafts | | 10,283 | (861) |
| Important Intangible Cultural Property | | Number of holders and groups*2 | |
| Performing arts | Individuals recognition | 38 | (56 people) |
| | Collective recognition | 11 | (11 groups) |
| Craft techniques | Individuals recognition | 43 | (55 people) *3 |
| | Designated Holding groups | 14 | (14 groups) |
| Important Tangible Folk Cultural Properties | | 206 | |
| Important Intangible Folk Cultural Properties | | 257 | |
| Historic Sites, Places of Scenic Beauty, Natural Monument (Special Historic Sites, Places of Scenic Beauty, and Natural Monuments) | | 2,849 | (161) |
| Historic Sites | | 1,597 | (60) |
| Places of Scenic Beauty | | 311 | (29) |
| Natural Monuments | | 941 | (72) |
| Selection | | | |
| Important Cultural Landscapes | | 7 | |
| Important Preservation Districts for Groups of Traditional Buildings | | 80 | |
| Registration | | | |
| Registered Tangible Cultural Properties(buildings) | | 6,824 | |
| Registered Tangible Cultural Properties(works of fine arts and crafts) | | 6 | |
| Registered Tangible Folk Cultural Properties | | 10 | |
| Registered Monuments | | 28 | |
| The objects of conservation, which are not Cultural Properties | | | |
| Selected Conservation Techniques | | Number of holders and groups | |
| | Holders | 47 | (51 people) |
| | Holding Groups | 24 | (26 groups) *4 |

*1 The number of Important Cultural Properties includes the number of National Treasure
 *2 The number of Historic Sites, Places of Scenic Beauty, Natural Monuments includes Special Historic sites, Places of Scenic Beauty, and Natural Monuments
 *3 The actual number of people who received approval is 56 after deleting the number of double approvals.
 *4 The actual number of approved groups in crafts techniques is 24 after deleting the number of double approvals.

Cultural properties are essential to accurately understand the history and culture of Japan, and they also form the foundations for its future cultural growth and development. It is extremely important to appropriately preserve and utilize such cultural properties, which are the heritage of Japanese people.

Under the Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties, the national government thus designates and selects the most important cultural properties and imposes restriction on such activities as alteration of their existing state, repairs, and export. The government also implements diverse measures necessary for the preservation and utilization of cultural properties. Measures for tangible cultural properties (such as works of fine arts and crafts, buildings, and folk materials) include preservation, disaster protection work, and acquisition. For intangible cultural properties (such as performing arts, craft techniques, manners and customs, and folk performing arts), these measures include subsidies for programs for training successors or for compiling records.

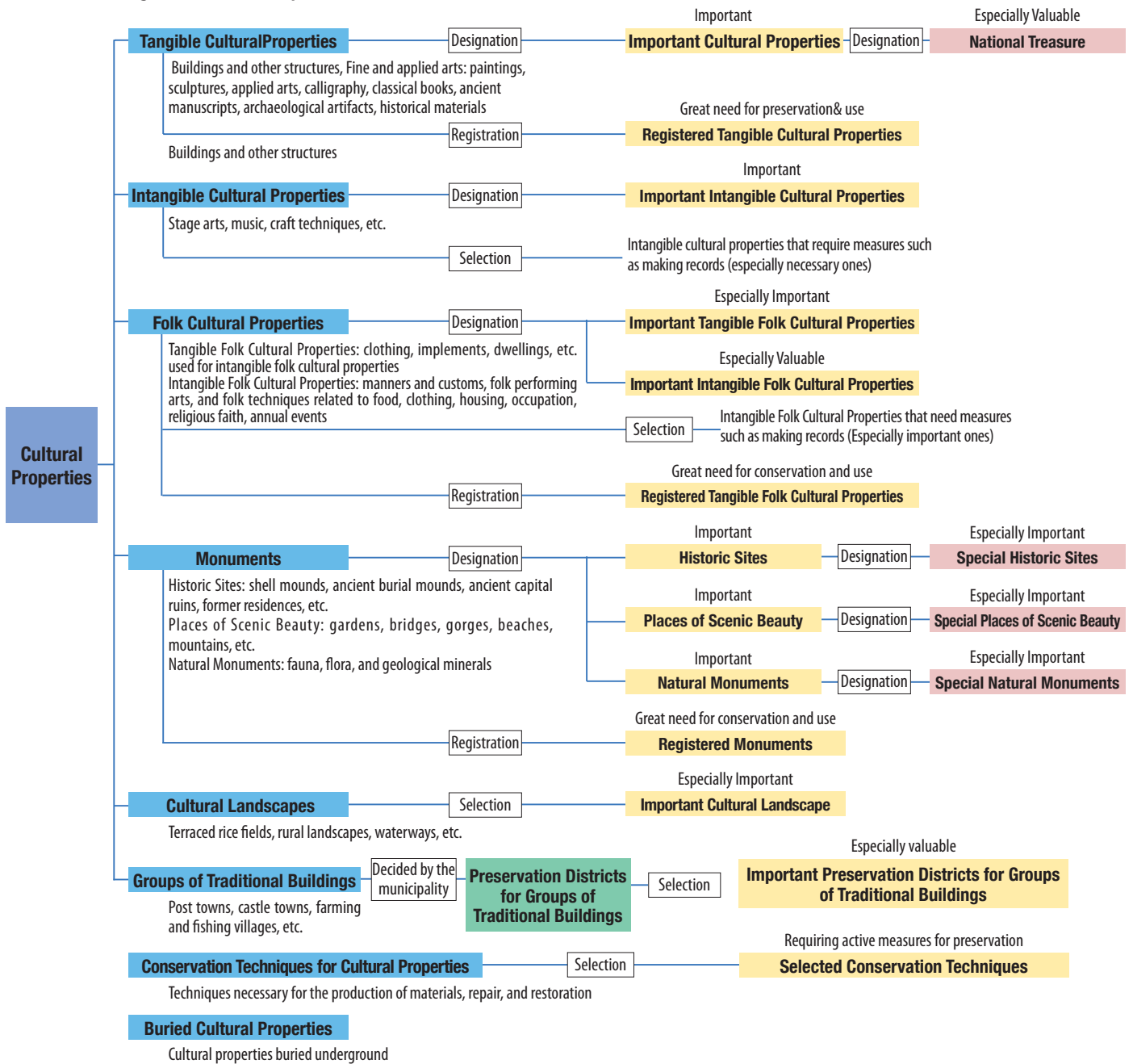
In addition, a registration system, which provides protective measures that are more moderate than those of the designation system, has been established for cultural properties (tangible cultural properties, tangible folk cultural properties, and monuments) primarily of the modern period, whose protection is increasingly necessary due to land development and changes in lifestyles in recent years. Under the registration system, cultural properties that are in special need of preservation and utilization are registered with the national government. Based on notification, guidance, and advice, this system aims at voluntary protection of cultural properties by their owners, thereby complementing the designation system.

Moreover, those traditional techniques or skills that are indispensable for preserving cultural properties and that require protection are designated as Selected Conservation Techniques. Protective measures are also taken for cultural properties buried underground, including certain restrictions on the excavation of Buried Cultural Properties.

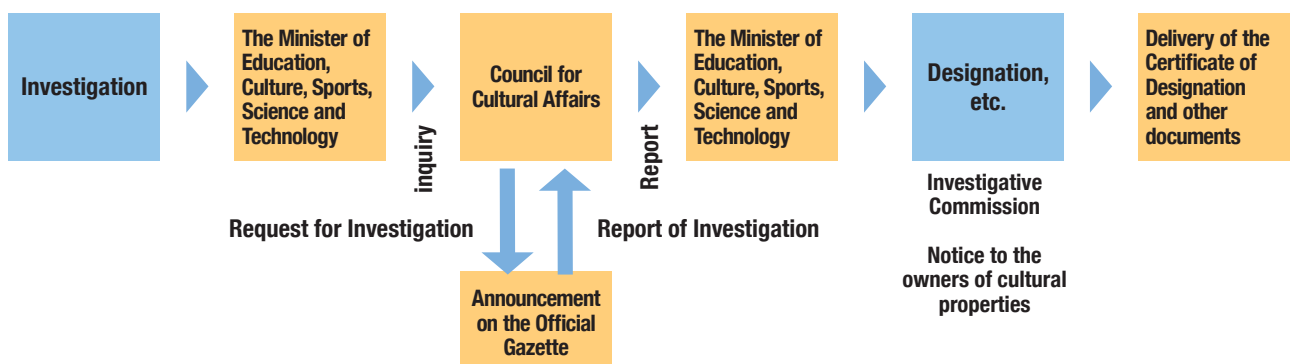
The Designation, selection, and registration of cultural properties are carried out by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology on the basis of

reports submitted by the Council for Cultural Affairs in response to a ministerial inquiry. The chart to the right illustrates how the different types of cultural property are classified.

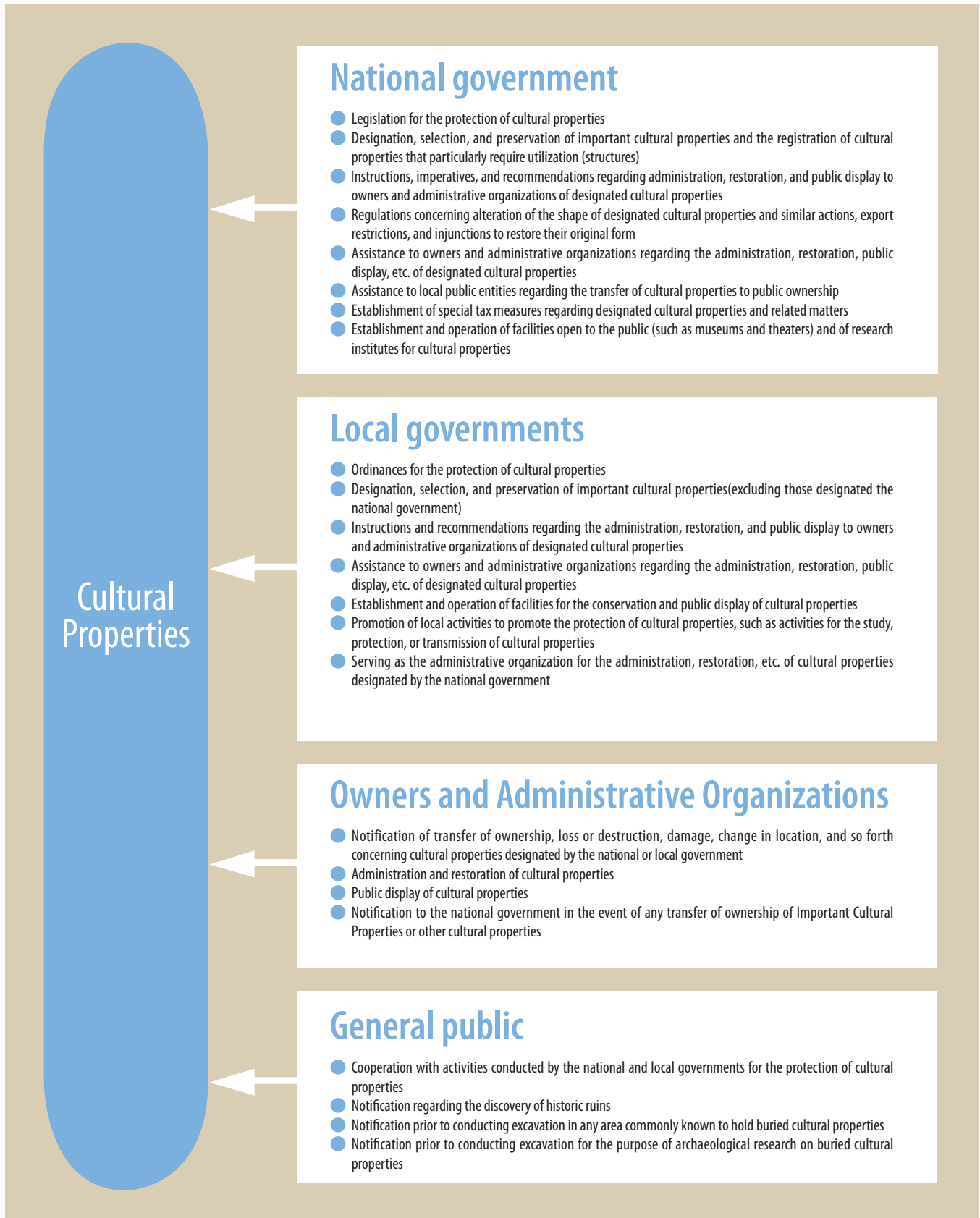
◆ Schematic Diagram of Cultural Properties



◆ Process of designation, registration, and selection of cultural properties



◆ **The National Government, Local Governments, Owners, and the Public in the Framework of the Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties and other laws/ regulations**



1. Tangible Cultural Properties

“Tangible cultural properties” collectively refer to cultural products with a tangible form that possess high historic, artistic, and academic value for Japan, such as structures, pictorial crafts, sculptural works, calligraphy, classical books, paleography, archaeological artifacts, and historic materials. Within this category, all objects except for structures are called “works of fine arts and crafts”.

The national government designates important tangible cultural properties as “Important Cultural Properties”. Moreover; those with particularly high value from the perspective of worldwide culture are designated and protected by the national government as “National Treasures”. In addition, a registration system, which provides moderate measures for protection, has been established to complement the designation system.

1. Architecture and Other Structures

As of April 1, 2008, the national government has designated 2,328 sites (including 213 National Treasures), 4,210 architecture and other structures (including 257 National Treasures).

In accordance with the provisions of the Law of the Protection of the Cultural Properties, the permission of the Commissioner for Cultural Affairs is required for any alteration to the existing state of structures designated as Important Cultural Properties. Major or minor repair work is periodically required to keep them in good condition. Conservation repair work is carried out by the owners of Important Cultural Properties or their custodial bodies, for historical structures that are made of wood, and, financial support is available to cover large expenses. As many of them have roofs made of plant materials like thatch, wooden shingle, and cypress bark, they are extremely vulnerable to fire. For this reason, the Agency for Cultural Affairs provides necessary subsidies for the owners or custodial bodies to install or repair fire-preservation facilities and other disaster-prevention system required.

Moreover, architecture and other structures of Japan’s modern era (roughly after 1868) form a significant cultural heritage born out of this country’s modernization process. Based on the results of investigations, a growing number of modern building and structures are being designated as Important Cultural Properties.

◆ Structures Designated as National Treasure or Important Cultural Properties (classified by period)

| Category | | Sites | Structures |
|--------------------------------|---|--------------------|--------------------|
| Early modern period or earlier | Shinto shrines | 562 (36) | 1,153 (58) |
| | Buddhist temples | 843 (154) | 1,103 (160) |
| | Castles 52 (8) | 234 (16) | |
| | Residences | 94 (12) | 150 (20) |
| | Farmhouses | 338 746 | |
| | Others | 192 (3) | 262 (3) |
| | Subtotal | 2,081 (213) | 3,648 (257) |
| Meiji Period Onwards | Religious architecture | 20 | 22 |
| | Residential architecture | 63 | 208 |
| | School architecture | 38 | 65 |
| | Cultural facilities | 29 | 37 |
| | Government structures | 20 | 25 |
| | Commercial structures | 18 | 23 |
| | Industrial transportation civil engineering | 55 | 172 |
| | Others | 4 | 10 |
| | Subtotal | 247 | 562 |
| Grand total | 2,328 (213) | 4,210 (257) | |

As of April 1, 2008

Note: A parenthesized numeral indicated the number of National Treasures included in the figure that precedes it.



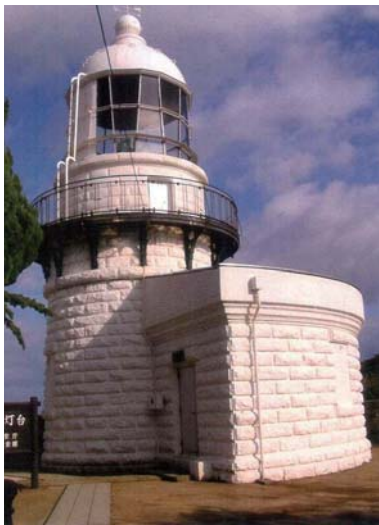
Important Cultural Property: Residence of the Chibas (Tono, Iwate)



Important Cultural Property: Okuma Auditorium, Waseda University (Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo)



Registered Tangible Cultural Property: Smith Memorial Hall (Former Smith Memorial Chapel) (Hikone, Shiga)



Registered Tangible Cultural Property: Mihonoseki Lighthouse (Matsue, Shimane)

In 1996, the Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties was amended and a new cultural property registration system was introduced in addition to the existing designation system. Under the new system, the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology can register in the Cultural Property Original Register those architectural properties and other structures which are in particular need of measures for protection and utilization. Due to recent land development, urbanization, changes in life styles and so on, many pieces of historic architecture and other structures, especially modern-period structures of different types and styles, are faced with the danger of demolition without any identification and evaluation of their cultural values. In order to hand over these cultural properties to future generations, the registration system aims to provide moderate protection measures, including notification, guidance, suggestion, and advice, thereby complementing the existing designation system.

A variety of architecture and other structures are registered, including houses and public structures, civil engineering structures such as bridges and dikes, and installations such as fences or towers. In December, 2005, the number of registrations exceeded 5,000. As of April 1, 2008, 6,824 properties were registered, located in 693 municipalities (including wards) of 47 prefectures.

Protection of Cultural Properties Logo

The protection of Cultural Properties logo chosen from public submissions was established in May of 1966 as an emblem for the promotion of a campaign to protect cultural properties.

Based on a pattern of two hands spread wide open, this logo invokes the image of an entablature called a tokyô, which is an important element of Japanese architecture. The three stacked elements symbolize the spirit of protection which eternally preserves the ethnic heritage of cultural properties from the past, in the present, and into the future.



2. Works of Fine Arts and Crafts

The national government began designation of fine arts and crafts as cultural properties in 1897, the same year that the Law for the Preservation of Ancient Shrines and Temples was enacted. Under the present Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties, it has designated 10,283 objects as cultural properties (including 861 National Treasures) as of April 1, 2008.

The administration and restoration of a National Treasure or Important Cultural Property shall be conducted by its owner or administrative organization (the local government entity or other corporate entity selected by the Commissioner for Cultural Affairs to appropriately administer the designated cultural property concerned). Out of the total number of works of fine arts and crafts that have been designated National Treasures or Important Cultural Properties, approximately 60% are owned by either a shrine or a Buddhist temple.

Prior approval is required to change the form of these designated cultural properties or perform any action that will affect their preservation. Their exportation from Japan is forbidden, except when judged necessary and approved as in the case of an overseas exhibition. The national government extends support for the conservation and restoration of designated cultural properties by providing National Treasury subsidies and other means, whereas the Commissioner for Cultural Affairs is permitted to give instructions on their administration, restoration, public display, and other related activities.

The cultural property registration system was introduced for works of fine art and crafts in April, 2005, and, as of April 1, 2008, six properties including Matsubara Bunko [Collection] had been registered.

◆ Fine Arts and Crafts Designated as National Treasures or Important Properties

As of April 1, 2008

| Category | Number |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| Painting | 1,952 (157) |
| Sculpture | 2,623 (126) |
| Artifact | 2,410 (252) |
| Calligraphy/Old Books | 1,860 (223) |
| Ancient Text | 722 (59) |
| Archaeological Materials | 564 (42) |
| Historical Materials | 152 (2) |
| Total | 10,283 (861) |

Notes: The Number in parenthesis is National Treasure and included in total number



National Treasure: Dogū excavated from Chobonaino Site, Hakodate, Hokkaido



Important Cultural Property: Wooden Shishigashira [Lion Head]



Important Cultural Property: Shiroshusuji-kobaimonyo-kakie Kosode, Picture by SAKAI Hoitsu



Registered Tangible Cultural Property Buddhism Books in Matsubara Bunko, collected by Kyojo Matsubara

2. Intangible Cultural Properties



Important Intangible Cultural Property,
“Ningyo Johruri Bunraku Tayu” holder,
“OZAKI Tadao” (stage name: TAKEMOTO Tsunatayu)

In Japan, “Intangible Cultural Properties” refer to stage arts, music, craft techniques, and other intangible cultural assets that possess high historic or artistic value for Japan. Intangible Cultural Properties consist of human “technical artistry” which is embodied by individuals or groups of individuals who represent the highest mastery of the techniques concerned.

The national government designates especially significant intangible cultural properties as Important Intangible Cultural Properties while simultaneously recognizing individuals or groups that have achieved advanced mastery of the pertinent technique as the holder or holders of that Important Intangible Cultural Property so as to ensure the transmission of traditional artistry. Recognition of holders may take one of three forms: individual recognition, collective recognition, or group recognition.

For the protection of Important Intangible Cultural Properties, the national government provides special grants (2 million yen a year) to recognized individual holders (commonly called “National Living Treasures”) and also subsidizes a portion of the expenses incurred for successor training progress or public performance/programs conducted by recognized group holders, local governments, and other entities.

Exhibitions are held featuring works and related objects concerning the “technical artistry” of recognized individual holders of craft techniques and techniques for protecting cultural properties in order to facilitate understanding for the transmission of such techniques. Furthermore, the Japan Arts Council, an independent administrative institution, conducts training workshops and other activities at the National Theatre of Japan to train the respective successors of traditional performing arts, such as Nohgaku, Kumiodori, Bunraku, Kabuki, and traditional popular entertainment.

◆ Number of Recognized Important Intangible Cultural Properties holders

As of April 1, 2008

| Division | Category | No. of designation | |
|------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| | | Individual recognition | Collective or group recognition |
| Performing arts | Gagaku | 0 | 1 |
| | Nohgaku | 7 | 1 |
| | Bunraku | 3 | 1 |
| | Kabuki | 4 | 1 |
| | Kumiodori | 2 | 1 |
| | Music | 19 | 6 |
| | Dance | 1 | 0 |
| | Engei | 2 | 0 |
| Subtotal | 38 | 11 | |
| Craft techniques | Ceramics | 10 | 3 |
| | Textile weaving and dyeing | 14 | 7 |
| | Lacquerwork | 5 | 1 |
| | Metalwork | 7 | 0 |
| | Woodwork and Bamboowork | 2 | 0 |
| | Doll making | 2 | 0 |
| | Papermaking | 3 | 3 |
| | Subtotal | 43 | 14 |
| Total | 81 | 25 | |



Important Intangible Cultural Property,
“Seiji [celadon]” holder,
NAKASHIMA Hiroshi

3. Folk Cultural Properties

Folk cultural properties are indispensable for understanding the transition in the daily lives of the Japanese people. They include tangible and intangible cultural properties that people of Japan have created and passed down in the course of daily life, such as manners and customs, folk performing arts and folk techniques concerning food, clothing, and housing, occupation, religious faith, annual events, and other matters; and clothing, tools and implements, dwellings, and other objects used in connection with the foregoing.

The national government designates especially significant tangible or intangible folk cultural properties as Important Tangible Folk Cultural Properties or Important Intangible Folk Cultural Properties and strives to preserve them. As of April 1, 2008, it has designated 206 Important Tangible Folk Cultural Properties and 252 Important Intangible Folk Culture Properties.

For Important Tangible Folk Cultural Properties, the national government subsidizes projects concerning their restoration or administration, projects to install facilities necessary for their preservation and utilization, such as equipment for their preservation or utilization, disaster prevention facilities, and so forth. For Important Intangible Folk Cultural Properties, the government subsidizes projects to train successors, restore or newly acquire props, tools, and other objects. Regardless of designation by the national government as Important Folk Cultural Properties, the national government also subsidizes a portion of the expenses incurred by local governments and other entities for projects that involve a survey of tangible or intangible cultural properties as well as dissemination; training, exhibition, and other classes; and the production of audiovisual records of intangible folk cultural properties.

In addition, the national government hold the International Folk Performing Arts Festival to deepen understanding of Japanese folk performing arts. The event is also intended to preserve and transmit Folk Cultural Properties, and to promote international cultural exchange.

Moreover, tangible folk cultural properties other than Important Tangible Folk Cultural Properties that particularly require measures for preservation and utilization are to be registered as “Registered Tangible Folk Cultural Properties”. Intangible folk cultural properties other than Important Intangible Folk Cultural Properties that particularly require documentation or other attention are selected as “intangible folk cultural properties requiring documentation and other measures.” The national government produces documentary records for them as necessary or subsidizes a documentation program for them conducted by local governments.



Important Tangible Folk Cultural Property
“Tools for producing Yashu-Asa [hemp]” (Stored in Tochigi Prefectural Museum)



Important Intangible Folk Cultural Property “Techniques for making salt by the Agehama method in Noto” (Suzu, Ishikawa)

◆ Number of Properties Designated as Important Tangible Folk Cultural Properties

As of April 1, 2008

| Category | Quantity |
|--|------------|
| Used for food, clothing and housing | 28 |
| Used for production and occupation | 87 |
| Used for transportation, transit and communication | 18 |
| Used for commerce | 1 |
| Used for social living | 1 |
| Used for religious faith | 36 |
| Used for knowledge of folk custom | 7 |
| Used for folk performing arts, amusement, and game | 23 |
| Used for lifetime of people | 3 |
| Used for annual event | 2 |
| Total | 206 |

◆ Number of Properties Designated as Important Intangible Folk Cultural Properties

As of April 1, 2008

| Category | No. of designation |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| Manners and customs | 100 |
| Folk performing arts | 150 |
| Folk techniques | 7 |
| Total | 257 |

4. Monuments



Historical Site: Kofun Tumuli in Hanishina (Mori Shogunzuka Burial Chamber) (Chikuma, Nagano)

◆ Number of Designated Historical Sites

As of April 1, 2008

| Category | number of designation |
|--|-----------------------|
| Shell mounds, ancient tumuli, etc. | 652 (14) |
| Palace sites, etc. | 344 (19) |
| Sites of shrines, temples, etc. | 268 (14) |
| Sites of Confucian shrines, libraries | 24 (3) |
| Herb gardens, charitable institutions, etc. | 6 |
| Sites of barrier gates, mileposts, etc. | 165 (2) |
| Tombs, tombstones, etc. | 75 (3) |
| Old houses, wells, etc. | 82 (6) |
| Sites related to foreigners or foreign countries | 7 |
| Total | 1,623 (61) |

Note: The numbers in brackets are Special Historical Sites and included in total.

◆ Number of Designated Places of Scenic Beauty

As of April 1, 2008

| Category | number |
|------------------------------|----------------|
| Gardens | 193 (23) |
| Parks | 7 |
| Bridges | 2 |
| Flowering trees | 13 |
| Pine groves | 6 (1) |
| Rocks and caves | 14 |
| Ravines and mountain streams | 34 (5) |
| Waterfalls | 9 |
| Lakes and marshes | 2 (1) |
| Floating waterweeds | 1 |
| Springs | 1 |
| Beaches | 30 |
| Islands | 8 (2) |
| Sandbars | 1 (1) |
| Mountains | 15 (2) |
| Hills, highlands, flatlands | 2 |
| Rivers | 1 |
| Panoramic views | 10 |
| Total | 349(35) |

Note: The numbers in brackets are Special Natural Monuments and included in total.

◆ Number of Designated Natural Monuments

As of April 1, 2008

| Category | number |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Animals | 192 (21) |
| Plants | 541 (30) |
| Geological and mineral formations | 226 (20) |
| Nature conservation areas | 23 (4) |
| Total | 982 (75) |

Notes: Parenthesized numerals indicate the number of Special Places of Scenic Beauty included

“Monuments” is the collective term to refer to the following types of cultural properties.

- a) Shell mounds, ancient tombs, sites of palaces, sites of forts or castles, monumental dwelling houses, and other sites which possess a high historic or scientific value for Japan.
- b) Garden, bridges, gorges, sea-shores, mountains and other places of scenic beauty which possesses a high artistic or aesthetic value of Japan.
- c) Animals, plants, minerals, and geological features that possess a high scientific value for Japan

The national government designates significant items in these three categories as “Historic Sites”, “Places of Scenic Beauty” and “Natural Monuments” and seeks to preserve them. Those which are of particularly high significance are designated as “Special Historic Sites”, “Special Places of Scenic Beauty” and “Special Natural Monuments”, respectively.

Under the terms of the Law of for the Protection of Cultural Properties, any alterations to the existing state of and area designated as a Historic Site or other category or activities that will affect its preservation require authorization from the Commissioner for Cultural Affairs. Local governments make arrangements for substantial compensation to land owners by purchasing designated land, and conserve the land to widely utilize such historic sites with the support of state subsidies.

For monuments of the modern period whose protection is increasingly necessary due to development or other reasons, a system for registering monuments has been introduced, which provides moderate measures for protection based on notification and guidance. As of April 1, 2008, 28 monuments were registered as such.



Designated Place of Scenic Beauty: Sankeien (Yokohama, Kanagawa)



Designated Natural Monument: Submerged karst at Minamijima Island in Ogasawara (Ogasawara-mura, Tokyo)

5. Cultural Landscapes



As a result of an amendment to the “Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties in 2005,” cultural landscapes were established as cultural properties, which are defined as “landscapes formed by people’s lives or work in a given region and the climate of the region in question such that they are indispensable for understanding the lives and work of the Japanese people.” It is also stipulated that, following a proposal from a prefectural or municipal government, the national government can select a particularly important cultural landscape as an Important Cultural Landscape from among those for which necessary protective measures have been taken.

The national government partially subsidizes research projects on historical transitions and natural environments of cultural landscapes and on lives and work of people in a relevant region; projects, including surveys and mapping, for formulating a conservation plan required to propose a landscape to be selected as an Important Cultural Landscape; maintenance projects for a selected Important Cultural Landscape, including restoration and landscaping, disaster prevention work, and installation of signs describing the cultural landscape in question; and, diffusion and enlightenment projects including study sessions, open lectures, and workshops in which local residents can participate.

As of April 1, 2008, seven areas had been selected as Important Cultural Landscapes.



Important Cultural Landscape: Farm Village of Hondera area of Ichinoseki (Ichinoseki, Iwate)



Important Cultural Landscapes: Waterfront of Kaizu, Nishihama, and Chinai in Takashima-shi (Takashima, Shiga)

◆ List of Important Cultural Landscapes

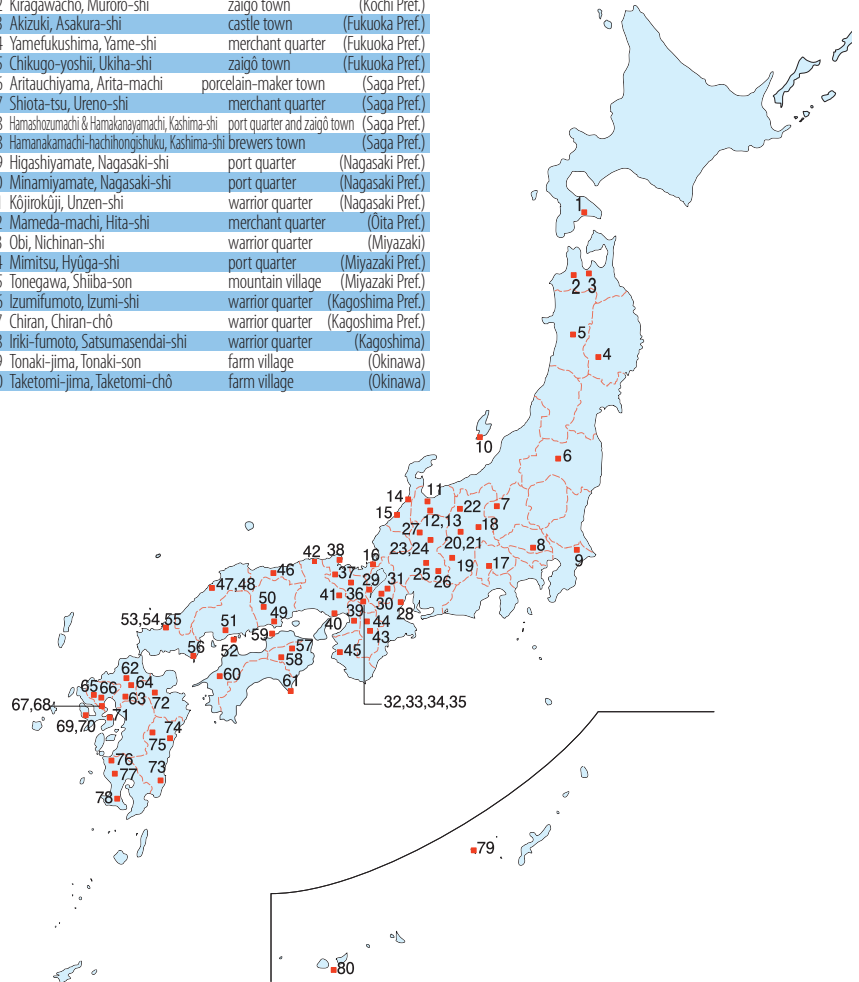
As of April 1, 2008

| Name | Location |
|--|----------------------------------|
| Suigo Area of Omi-hachiman | Omi-hachiman, Shiga |
| Farm Village of Hondera area of Ichinoseki | Ichinoseki, Iwate |
| Cultural Landscape along the Sarugawa River Ainu resulting from Ainu Tradition and Modern Settlement | Biratori-cho, Saru-gun, Hokkaido |
| Danbata [terraced fields] in Yusumizugaura | Uwajima, Ehime |
| Arakawakogen Farm of Tono | Tono, Iwate |
| Waterfront of Kaizu, Nishihama, and Chinai in Takashima-shi | Takashima, Shiga |
| Home of Ontayaki | Hita, Oita |

6. Preservation Districts for Groups of Traditional Buildings

List of Important Preservation Districts for Groups of Traditional Buildings in Japan

| | | | |
|----|---|--|-------------------|
| 1 | Motomachi-Suehirochō, Hakodate-shi | port quarter | (Hokkaido Pref.) |
| 2 | Nakachō, Hirosaki-shi | warrior quarter | (Aomori Pref.) |
| 3 | Nakamachi, Suwayama-shi | merchant quarter | (Aomori Pref.) |
| 4 | Jyonai-suwakoji, Kanegasaki-chō | warrior quarter | (Iwate Pref.) |
| 5 | Senboku-shi, Kakunodate | warrior quarter | (Akita Pref.) |
| 6 | Ouchi-jyuku, Shimogo-machi | post town | (Fukushima Pref.) |
| 7 | Akaiwa, Rokujo-mura | mountain village and sericulture community | (Gunma Pref.) |
| 8 | Kawagoe, Kawagoe-shi | merchant quarter | (Saitama Pref.) |
| 9 | Sawara, Katori-shi | merchant quarter | (Chiba Pref.) |
| 10 | Syukunegi, Sado-shi | port quarter | (Niigata Pref.) |
| 11 | Yamachosuji, Takaoka-shi | merchant quarter | (Toyama Pref.) |
| 12 | Ainokura, Nanto-shi | mountain village | (Toyama Pref.) |
| 13 | Suganuma, Nanto-shi | mountain village | (Toyama Pref.) |
| 14 | Higashiyamahigashi, Kanazawa-shi | pleasure quarter | (Ishikawa Pref.) |
| 15 | Kagahashidate, Kaga-shi | ship-owner quarter | (Ishikawa Pref.) |
| 16 | Kumagawajyuku, Wakasa-chō | post town | (Fukui Pref.) |
| 17 | Akasawa, Hayakawa-cho | Kotyushuku | (Yamanashi Pref.) |
| 18 | Unnoyuku, Tobu-mach | post town and sericulture community | (Nagano Pref.) |
| 19 | Tsumagojyuku, Nagiso-machi | post town | (Nagano Pref.) |
| 20 | Narai, Shiojiri-shi | post town | (Nagano Pref.) |
| 21 | Kisohirasawa, Shiojiri-shi | lacquerware town | (Nagano Pref.) |
| 22 | Aoni, Hakuba-mura | mountain village | (Nagano Pref.) |
| 23 | Sanmachi, Takayama-shi | merchant quarter | (Gifu Pref.) |
| 24 | Shimo-Nunomachibijimachi, Takayama-shi | merchant quarter | (Gifu Pref.) |
| 25 | Mino-machi, Mino-shi | merchant quarter | (Gifu Pref.) |
| 26 | Hondōri, Iwamura-chō, Ena-shi | merchant quarter | (Gifu Pref.) |
| 27 | Ogi-machi, Shirakawa-mura | mountain village | (Gifu Pref.) |
| 28 | Sekijyuku, Kameyama-shi | post quarter | (Mie Pref.) |
| 29 | Sakamoto, Otsu-shi | temple town | (Shiga Pref.) |
| 30 | Hachiman, Omihachiman-shi | merchant quarter | (Shiga Pref.) |
| 31 | Gokasyokondō, Higashiōmi-shi | farm village | (Shiga Pref.) |
| 32 | Kamigamo, Kyoto-shi | shrine quarter | (Kyoto Pref.) |
| 33 | Sannel-zaka, Kyoto-shi | temple town | (Kyoto Pref.) |
| 34 | Gion-shinbashi, Kyoto-shi | pleasure quarter | (Kyoto Pref.) |
| 35 | Saga-torimoto, Kyoto-shi | temple town | (Kyoto Pref.) |
| 36 | Kita, Miyama-chō, Nantan-shi | mountain village | (Kyoto Pref.) |
| 37 | Kaya, Yosano-chō | textile town | (Kyoto Pref.) |
| 38 | Ine-ura, Ine-chō | fishing village | (Kyoto Pref.) |
| 39 | Tondabayashi, Tondabayashi-shi | temple town, Zaigō town | (Osaka Pref.) |
| 40 | Kitanochō-yamatomodōri | port quarter | (Hyōgo Pref.) |
| 41 | Sasayama, Sasayama-shi | castle town | (Hyōgo Pref.) |
| 42 | Izushi, Toyooka-shi | castle town | (Hyōgo Pref.) |
| 43 | Matsuyama, Uda-shi | merchant quarter | (Nara Pref.) |
| 44 | Imai-cho, Kashihara-shi | temple town, zaigō town | (Nara Pref.) |
| 45 | Yuasa, Yuasa-cho | brewers quarter | (Wakayama Pref.) |
| 46 | Utsubukitama-gawa, Kurayoshi-shi | merchant quarter | (Tottori Pref.) |
| 47 | Omoriginzan, Ōda-shi | mining town | (Shimane Pref.) |
| 48 | Yunotsu, Ōta-shi | port quarter, hot-spring town | (Shimane Pref.) |
| 49 | Kurashiki-kahan, Kurashiki-shi | merchant quarter | (Okayama Pref.) |
| 50 | Fukiya, Takahashi-shi | mining town | (Okayama Pref.) |
| 51 | Takehara district, Takehara-shi | salt works town | (Hiroshima Pref.) |
| 52 | Yutakamachi-mitarai, Kure-shi | port quarter | (Hiroshima Pref.) |
| 53 | Horiuchi district, Hagi-shi | warrior quarter | (Yamaguchi Pref.) |
| 54 | Hiyako district, Hagi-shi | warrior quarter | (Yamaguchi Pref.) |
| 55 | Hamasaki, Hagi-shi | port quarter | (Yamaguchi Pref.) |
| 56 | Furuichi-kanaya, Yanai-shi | merchant quarter | (Yamaguchi Pref.) |
| 57 | Wakimachi-minami-machi, Mima-shi | merchant quarter | (Tokushima Pref.) |
| 58 | Higashiyayamason Ochiai, Miyoshi-shi | mountain village | (Tokushima Pref.) |
| 59 | Otaai, Higashi-Iyayama | mountain village | (Tokushima Pref.) |
| 60 | Kasajima, Shinakuhonjima-chō, Marugame-shi | port quarter | (Kagawa Pref.) |
| 61 | Yōkaichi-gokoku, Uchiko-chō | wax maker quarter | (Ehime Pref.) |
| 62 | Kiragawachō, Muroro-shi | zaigō town | (Kōchi Pref.) |
| 63 | Akizuki, Asakura-shi | castle town | (Fukuoka Pref.) |
| 64 | Yamefukushima, Yame-shi | merchant quarter | (Fukuoka Pref.) |
| 65 | Chikugo-yoshii, Ukha-shi | zaigō town | (Fukuoka Pref.) |
| 66 | Aritachiyama, Arita-machi | porcelain-maker town | (Saga Pref.) |
| 67 | Shiota-tsu, Ureno-shi | merchant quarter | (Saga Pref.) |
| 68 | Hamashozumachi & Hamakanayamachi, Kashima-shi | port quarter and zaigō town | (Saga Pref.) |
| 68 | Hamanakamachi-hachihongshuku, Kashima-shi | brewers town | (Saga Pref.) |
| 69 | Higashiyamate, Nagasaki-shi | port quarter | (Nagasaki Pref.) |
| 70 | Minamiyamate, Nagasaki-shi | port quarter | (Nagasaki Pref.) |
| 71 | Kōjirōkujii, Unzen-shi | warrior quarter | (Nagasaki Pref.) |
| 72 | Mameda-machi, Hita-shi | merchant quarter | (Ōita Pref.) |
| 73 | Obi, Nichinan-shi | warrior quarter | (Miyazaki Pref.) |
| 74 | Mimitsu, Hyūga-shi | port quarter | (Miyazaki Pref.) |
| 75 | Itonogawa, Shiiba-son | mountain village | (Miyazaki Pref.) |
| 76 | Izumifumoto, Izumi-shi | warrior quarter | (Kagoshima Pref.) |
| 77 | Chiran, Chiran-chō | warrior quarter | (Kagoshima Pref.) |
| 78 | Inki-fumoto, Satsumasendai-shi | warrior quarter | (Kagoshima Pref.) |
| 79 | Tonaki-jima, Tonaki-son | farm village | (Okinawa Pref.) |
| 80 | Taketomi-jima, Taketomi-chō | farm village | (Okinawa Pref.) |



An amendment to the Law of the Protection of Cultural Properties in 1975 introduced a new category of cultural properties, under the name of Groups of Traditional Buildings, extending protection to historic cities, towns and villages-including castle towns, post-station towns, towns built around shrines and temples-and other areas of historic importance throughout Japan. According to this system, municipalities designate certain areas as Preservation Districts for Groups of Traditional Buildings based on regulations and formulate a preservation plan in accordance with the Preservation Ordinance in order to execute the preservation project systematically. Upon receiving a proposal from a municipal government, the national government selects those of high value to Japan as Important Preservation Districts for Groups of Traditional Buildings.

No new restrictions are brought about by the selection.

Acknowledgement of the value of the district in question by the act of selection enables the Agency of Cultural Affairs and Prefectural Board of Education to provide guidance and advice to municipal preservation projects. They also support municipalities by providing financial assistance to their projects for repairing listed Traditional Buildings and Structures and improving non-listed structures and structures to harmonize the latter with surrounding historical and natural features, for installing disaster prevention facilities, and for setting up guideboards. Besides, support is also given through preferential tax treatment.

As of April 1, 2008, 69 districts in 80 cities, towns and villages have been classified as Important Preservation Districts for Groups of Traditional Buildings (total area of approximately 3,019.4ha), and about 14,600 traditional buildings and structures have been designated as listed Traditional Buildings.

7. Techniques for the Preservation of Cultural Properties

The system of designating Selected Conservation Techniques was established through an amendment to the Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties in 1975. Based on this system, the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology designates as Selected Conservation Techniques those traditional techniques or skills that are indispensable for the conservation of cultural properties and that require protection and then recognize the holders or preservation groups of such traditional techniques or skills.

To protect the Selected Conservation Techniques, the national government conducts various projects to, for example, compile documentary records or train successors. It also provides the necessary funding for programs conducted by holders, preservation groups, or other entities to refine and improve traditional techniques or skills, train successors, and so forth. In addition, the government holds symposia on Selected Conservation Techniques for their publicity and

dissemination to the general public. Such activities are intended to ensure that there are technicians and craftsmen who can restore objects of Tangible Cultural Property and produce tools and raw materials for use in connection with Intangible Cultural Properties.



Selected Conservation Technique selected for preservation: "Production of tesuki-washi [handmade Japanese paper] for restoring hyoguro" Holder: EBUCHI Eikan

8. Buried Cultural Properties

At present, 440,000 ruins are known in our country. Ruins are the direct evidence of the life which predecessors had been lived, and the nation's valuable common historical properties that lively tells the history and culture. It is impossible to learn that from records.

In order to preserve these valuable buried cultural properties, it is required to submit a notification when conducting excavations for the purpose of any investigations or when starting construction work in an area known to have buried cultural properties. Also, when it is impossible to preserve the present state, we charge the expense for developers; carry out the excavation and investigation for recording and preserving. However, when it is not appropriate to charge, local public organizations carry out investigations and it's defrayed out of National Treasury.

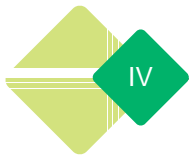
The Handling of Excavated Artifacts

When an object is unearthed as a result of an excavation, the finder must turn it over to the chief of police except when the owner is known. If the object is recognized as a potential cultural property, the chief of police submits it to the Boards of Education of prefectures, designated cities and heart-cities.

The boards of Education of prefecture, designated cities and heart-cities investigate whether or not an object is a cultural property. An object recognized as a cultural property which has no known-owner reverts to the prefecture as a rule.



Excavation scene
(provided by Chiba Prefectural Board of Education)



2 Promoting International Exchange and Cooperation Concerning Cultural Properties

As cultural properties are a heritage shared by all humankind, international exchange and cooperation are vital to their protection. Therefore, the Agency for Cultural Affairs has implemented the projects as follows.

1. Law on the Promotion of International Cooperation for the Protection of Cultural Heritage Abroad

In June, 2006, “Law on the Promotion of International Cooperation for the Protection of Cultural Heritage Abroad” was enacted, which stipulates the responsibilities of the Japanese government and education and research institutions with regard to international cooperation on protecting cultural heritage abroad, the establishment of a fundamental policy for such international cooperation, and the measures to be

taken, which include reinforcing coordination among the agencies concerned. In December 2008, a fundamental policy was established stipulating the responsibilities of the national government, research institutions, and Japan Consortium for International Cooperation in Cultural Heritage, designating Asia as a priority area, and mentioning greater coordination with economic cooperation.

2. International Contribution Project for Cultural Heritage

To protect cultural properties that were suffered from wars and disasters, we carry out the “International Contribution Project of Cultural heritage,” that addresses urgent problems, such as dispatching and accepting specialists. The projects carried out are as follows:

- Preservation support of documented materials owned by the National Archives, Afghanistan (2004 – 2006)
- Support for the State Archives in Aceh, Indonesia (2005 – 2006)
- Dispatching specialists to the ruin of Thang Long in Vietnam (2005 –)
- Support for Surveying Damage after May 2006 Java Earthquake (2006 – 2007)

3. Establishing Japan Consortium for International Cooperation in Cultural Heritage

On June 20, 2006, Japan Consortium for International Cooperation in Cultural Heritage was instituted, which is constituted by the Agency of Cultural Affairs, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, education and research institutions, independent administrative institutions, and private assistance organizations.

Its primary activities are construction of a network for

efficient and effective international cooperation concerning cultural properties, information gathering and providing, survey and research, and publicity and diffusion activities. The Consortium has been making efforts to strengthen domestic collaboration and cooperation concerning protection of cultural heritage abroad.

4. Research Cooperation on the Conservation and Restoration of Cultural Properties

National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo, a part of National Institutes for Cultural Heritage, is implementing cooperative projects, such as investigation and research of Dunhuang (China), Angkor (Cambodia), Bāmiyān (Afghanistan), etc. Furthermore, it has invited the personnel who are related to the preservation and restoration of cultural properties and held lectures and seminars.

On the other hand, in the museums in many foreign countries, there are many of Japan’s ancient works of arts, which cannot undergo regular restoration because of a lack of specialists in preservation and restoration and of degradation by aging. Along with the investigation of ancient works of arts in foreign countries, the institute has been providing support for restoration since fiscal 1991.

Moreover, since 1999, in cooperation with Nara Prefecture, Nara city, and the Cultural Heritage Protection Cooperation Office, Asia/Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO (ACCU), we have invited the specialists from Asia-Pacific Region and organized training courses.(28 people in the fiscal 2006)

**National Research Institute for Cultural Properties,
Tokyo, National Institutes for Cultural Heritage**
<http://www.tobunken.go.jp/index-J.html>

**the Cultural Heritage Protection Cooperation Office,
Asia Pacific Culture Centre, UNESCO**
<http://www.nara.ac.cu.or.jp/>



International Cooperation project in Afghanistan
(provided by the National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo)

5. Bilateral Exchange and Cooperation concerning Cultural Heritage

Japan began cooperation with Italy, which has many years of experience in the area of preservation and restoration of cultural properties, and international cooperation. In February 2006, Japan-Italy Symposium, “Safeguarding of Cultural Heritage through International Cooperation” was held, co-organized by the Agency for Cultural Affairs, the Embassy of Italy, and Asahi Shimbun Publishing Company.

In March, 2007, Francesco Rutelli, the Italian Minister for Cultural Patrimony and Activities (vice prime minister) and Bummei Ibuki, the Japanese Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology signed a document on international cooperation on cultural heritage between Japan and Italy. Based on this, in March 2008, the “first working-level meeting on cooperation between Japan and Italy concerning the protection of cultural properties” was held. At this meeting, discussions were held regarding cooperation with a third country, cooperation concerning the balance

between preservation, restoration, and use of murals, paper restoration, and protection of cultural landscapes and historic quarters. Joint projects concerning these topics are expected to be promoted in the future.



Bummei Ibuki, the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan, and Francesco Rutelli, vice prime minister of Italy, shake hands after the signing ceremony.

6. Overseas Exhibitions

Overseas Exhibitions of classical Japanese Art

International exchanges involving cultural properties contribute to bilateral cultural exchange and deepen mutual understanding. Every year since 1951, the Agency for Cultural Affairs has held overseas exhibitions of Japanese classical art-including National Treasures and Important Cultural Properties- to introduce Japan’s superb cultural properties to other countries, deepen understanding of Japan’s history and culture abroad, and further international cultural exchange.



Overseas Exhibition of Historic Japanese Works of Art in 2007 “Masterpieces of Japanese Ceramics” (at National Museum Soares dos Reis, Portugal)

7. World Heritage



World Heritage: Shrines and Temples of Nikko (Nikko, Tochigi)



World Heritage: Iwami Ginzan Silver Mine and its Cultural Landscape (Ota, Shimane)

The Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO in 1972, calls for the protection of irreplaceable cultural and natural sites which should be preserved for all humankind. As of November 2007, this international agreement has been signed by 185 states, including Japan which has been a member since 1992.

The World Heritage Committee draws up the World Heritage List based on nominations by countries all over the world of sites of notable universal value.

Japan has 14 heritage sites in total inscribed on the World Heritage List, 11 cultural and 3 natural heritage sites.

Heritage sites inscribed on the World Heritage List

As of April 1, 2008

| | | | |
|-------------------------|--|------------------------|------------------|
| Cultural Heritage Sites | Buddhist Monuments in the Horyu-ji Area | Natural heritage sites | Yakushima |
| | Himeji-jo | | Shirakami-Sanchi |
| | Historic Monuments of Ancient Kyoto (Kyoto,Uji, and Otsu Cities) | | Siretoko |
| | Historic Villages of Shirakawa-go and Gokayama | | |
| | Hiroshima Peace Memorial (Genbaku Dome) | | |
| | Itsukushima Shinto Shrine | | |
| | Historic Monuments of Ancient Nara | | |
| | Shrines and Temples of Nikko | | |
| | Gusuku Sites and Related Properties of the Kingdom of Ryukyu | | |
| | Sacred Sites and Pilgrimage Routes in the Kii Mountain Range | | |
| | Iwami Ginzan Silver Mine and its Cultural Landscape | | |

8. Protection of Intangible Cultural Heritage

1. Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage

The Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, which stipulates requisite measures for international cooperation for protecting intangible cultural heritage, was adopted at UNESCO's General Conference in October 2003, and entered into effect in April 2006, .

This convention requires State Parties to specify their domestic intangible cultural heritage and make an inventory, and stipulates that UNESCO should establish "The Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity" and "The List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding."

Japan became the third State Party to the Convention in July 2004 and, as a State Member of the Intergovernmental

Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, hosted its second Session in Tokyo in September 2007, thereby contributing to the preparation of operational directives for the implementation of this convention. As of April 2008, 94 countries had signed the convention.

To implement action in response to this convention, including the inscription on the said Representative List, the "Special Commission on UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage" was established as part of the Subdivision on Cultural Properties of the Council for Cultural Affairs. On the basis of investigations and deliberations by the commission, proposals are expected to be made for inscription of a variety of intangible cultural properties from Japan on the Representative List in accordance with implementation standards for the convention determined by the Intergovernmental Committee.

2. Proclamation of Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity

Programs for protecting intangible cultural heritage implemented by UNESCO before the above convention came into effect include the “Proclamation of Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity.” Every other year since 2001, in order to praise, transmit, and develop the masterpieces of the oral and intangible properties, UNESCO proclaimed items of heritage from Member States that satisfied certain criteria as “masterpieces”. So far, 90 examples of intangible cultural heritage, including those from Japan, have been proclaimed as masterpieces. As for masterpieces located in Japan, Nogaku Theatre, in 2001, Ningyo Johruri Bunraku Puppet Theatre, in 2003, and Kabuki Theatre (Kabuki performed in the traditional style of action and direction), in 2005 were proclaimed. These examples of intangible cultural heritage are expected to be included in “The Representative List of Intangible Heritage of Humanity.”



Noh “Kagekiyo”



Kabuki “Yoshida-ya” scene from “Kuruwa-Bunsyō”

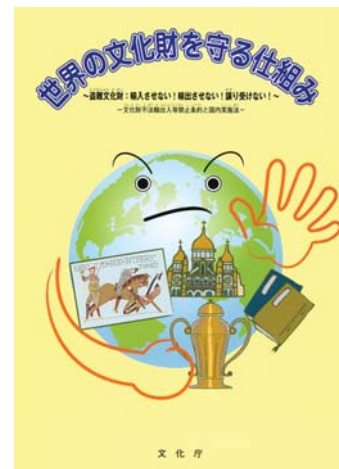


Ningyō-Jōruri Bunraku “Jusshukō” Scene from The Honchō Nijū Shiko (Twenty-four Paragons of Filial Piety in Japan)

9. Regulating the Illicit Import, Export, and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Properties

With a view to protecting the cultural properties of all countries from the threat of illicit import, export, and transfer of ownership, Japan has ratified the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export, and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Properties. In September 2002, Japan also enacted the Law Concerning Regulations on the Illicit Import and Export of Cultural Property, and amended the Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties, all of which went into effect on December 9, 2002. The alterations are as follows:

- Import of properties which are stolen from the museums in foreign countries and designated by the ministerial ordinance as cultural property (specific foreign cultural property) is basically prohibited.
- As for the victims of special cultural property theft, compensation, which is conceded in present civil law, is paid to them. The term of claim is extended from 2 to 10 years as a special exemption.
- The export system of Important Folk Cultural Property has changed from notification to permission.



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