A stylized, colorful illustration featuring various Japanese cultural elements. In the upper left, there is a large, abstract orange figure. To its right, a blue pagoda stands on a hill. Below the pagoda, a blue, abstract shape resembling a traditional Japanese boat or a stylized cloud is depicted. In the lower left, two figures in red kimonos with white polka dots are standing. To their right, a blue steam locomotive with a red base is shown. The background is a warm, yellowish-orange gradient with soft, abstract shapes. The title 'Cultural Properties for Future Generations' is written in a large, bold, red serif font across the middle. Below it, the subtitle '~Outline of the Cultural Administration of Japan~' is written in a smaller, red serif font. At the bottom right, there is a black logo consisting of three stylized, stacked 'H' shapes. Below the logo, the text 'Protection of Cultural Properties Logo' is written in a small, black sans-serif font. At the bottom left, a portion of a traditional Japanese wooden structure, possibly a bridge or a gate, is visible. The overall style is artistic and evocative of Japanese culture.

# Cultural Properties for Future Generations

~Outline of the Cultural Administration of Japan~



Protection of Cultural Properties Logo

Cultural Properties Department, Agency for Cultural Affairs, JAPAN

# Cultural properties in Japan

## Types of Cultural Properties in Japan

Diverse cultural properties have been created and developed throughout Japan's long history. They have been passed down from one generation to the next, to the present day, and are a precious legacy of the Japanese people.

Cultural properties include structures such as shrines or temples, Buddhist statues, paintings, calligraphy and other skills such as performing arts and craft techniques, traditional events and festivals. Natural landscapes unchanged by time are also included as cultural properties in Japan.

Under the Japanese Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties, these cultural properties are divided into the following categories.

### Tangible Cultural Properties

Tangible cultural properties include structures, paintings, sculptures, crafts, calligraphic works, classical books, and ancient documents which are of high historical or artistic value, as well as properties such as archeological artifacts and other historical materials of high scientific value.

### Intangible Cultural Properties

Intangible cultural properties are defined as those of high historical or artistic value, such as drama, music, and craft techniques. They are embodied by individuals or groups who have mastered the relevant skills.

### Folk Cultural Properties

Folk cultural properties are defined as items indispensable for understanding transition in the daily lives of the people, such as manners and customs, folk performing arts and folk techniques that are related to food, clothing, housing, occupation, religious faith and annual events, as well as clothes, tools and implements, houses, and other objects used in connection with the foregoing.

### Monuments

Monuments include shell mounds, ancient tombs, sites of palaces, sites of forts or castles, monumental dwelling houses, and other sites which possess a high historical or scientific value. They also include gardens, bridges, gorges, seashores, mountains, and other places of scenic beauty which possess a high artistic or scenic value; and animals, plants, and geological and mineral formations, which possess a high scientific value.

### Cultural Landscapes

Cultural landscapes are defined as landscapes that have evolved with the modes of life or livelihoods of the people and the geo-cultural features of the region, which are indispensable to the understanding the lifestyles and/or livelihoods of the people of Japan.

### Groups of Traditional Buildings

Groups of traditional buildings are buildings of high value which form beautiful historical scenery in combination with their surroundings.

Of these cultural properties, the government designates, selects, and registers important items in categories such as Important Cultural Properties, National Treasures, Historic Sites, Places of Scenic Beauty, and Natural Monuments, and gives priority to their protection.

In addition, cultural properties that are underground (Buried Cultural Properties), and traditional techniques and skills that are necessary for the restoration and preservation of cultural properties (Conservation Techniques for Cultural Properties), are protected as well.

# Number of Designated Cultural Properties

(as of October 1, 2010)

## Designation National Treasures and Important Cultural Properties

	National Treasures	Important Cultural Properties
Fine Arts and Crafts	Paintings 158 items	1,969 items
	Sculptures 126 items	2,647 items
	Applied Crafts 252 items	2,423 items
	Calligraphic works, Classical books 223 items	1,876 items
	Ancient documents 60 items	734 items
	Archeological artifacts 44 items	578 items
	Historic resources 3 items	161 items
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>866 items</b>	<b>10,388 items</b>
<b>Structures</b>	(263 buildings) 215 items	(4,363 buildings) 2,367 items
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,081 items</b>	<b>12,755 items</b>

Note: The figures for Important Cultural Properties include National Treasures

## Designation Historic Sites, Places of Scenic Beauty, and Natural Monuments

Special Historic Sites 60 items	Historic Sites 1,643 items
Special Places of Scenic Beauty 30 items	Places of Scenic Beauty 321 items
Special Natural Monuments 72 items	Natural Monuments 941 items
<b>Total 162 items</b>	<b>Total 2,905 items</b>

Note: The figures for Historic Sites, Places of Scenic Beauty, and Natural Monuments include Special Historic Sites, Places of Scenic Beauty, and Natural Monuments

## Designation Important Intangible Cultural Properties

	Individual Recognition		Group Recognition	
	No. of designations	No. of holders	No. of designations	No. of holding groups
Performing Arts	39 items	57 persons (57)	12 items	12 groups
Craft Techniques	43 items	59 persons (58)	14 items	14 groups
<b>Total</b>	<b>82 items</b>	<b>116 persons (115)</b>	<b>26 items</b>	<b>26 groups</b>

Note: Some holders receive multiple recognitions; the number in brackets indicates the actual number of individuals

### Designation Important Tangible Folk Cultural Properties

210 items

### Designation Important Intangible Folk Cultural Properties

266 items

### Selection Important Cultural Landscapes

21 items

### Selection Important Preservation Districts for Groups of Traditional Buildings

87 districts

### Selection Selected Conservation Techniques

Holders		Preservation Groups	
46 items	52 holders	29 items	31 groups (29 groups)

Note: Some preservation groups receive multiple recognitions; the number in brackets indicates the actual number of groups

### Registration Registered Tangible Cultural Properties (Structures)

8,146 items

### Registration Registered Tangible Folk Cultural Properties

16 items

### Registration Registered Tangible Cultural Properties (Works of Fine Arts and Applied Crafts)

11 items

### Registration Registered Monuments

53 items

### Selection Intangible Cultural Properties that needs measures such as making records

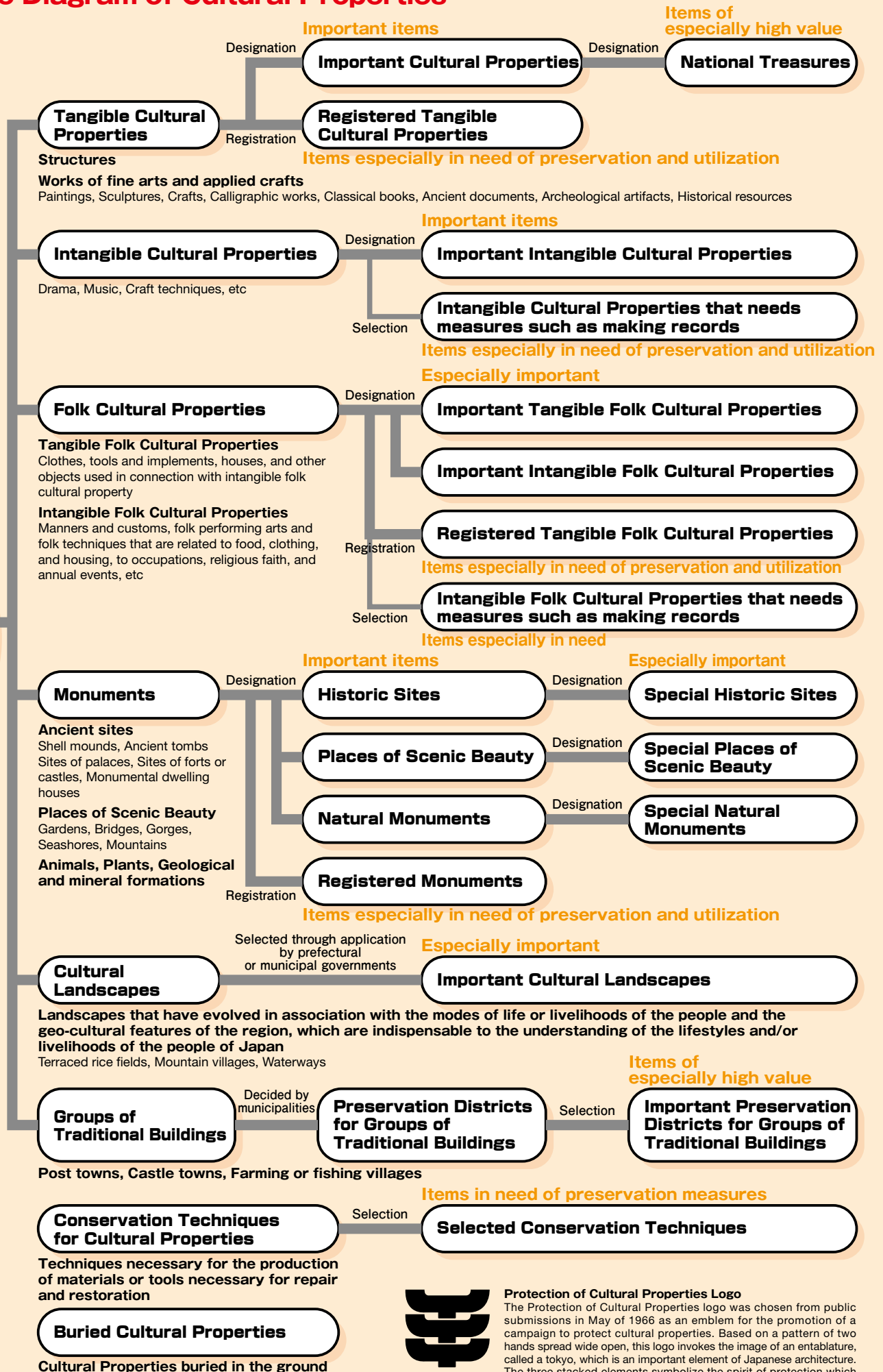
90 items

### Selection Intangible Folk Cultural Properties that needs measures such as making records

590 items

# Schematic Diagram of Cultural Properties

## Cultural Properties



### Protection of Cultural Properties Logo

The Protection of Cultural Properties logo was chosen from public submissions 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 tokyo, which is an important element of Japanese architecture. The three stacked elements symbolize the spirit of protection which eternally preserves our heritage of cultural properties from the past, in the present, and for the future.

Note: A tokyo is a kind of a wooden joint which is usually placed on top of each pillar to support the long eaves of temples.



# System and measures for the protection of cultural properties in Japan

## How cultural properties are preserved and utilized

Cultural properties are divided into categories based on the Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties, and the best-fitting protection measures are taken for each category.

### Designation and other

Cultural properties are designated, selected, or registered after the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology has consulted the Council for Cultural Affairs and received its report.



**National Treasure: Nigatsu-do Hall of Todai-ji Temple**  
(Nara City, Nara Prefecture)  
(Photo: Courtesy of Todai-ji Temple)

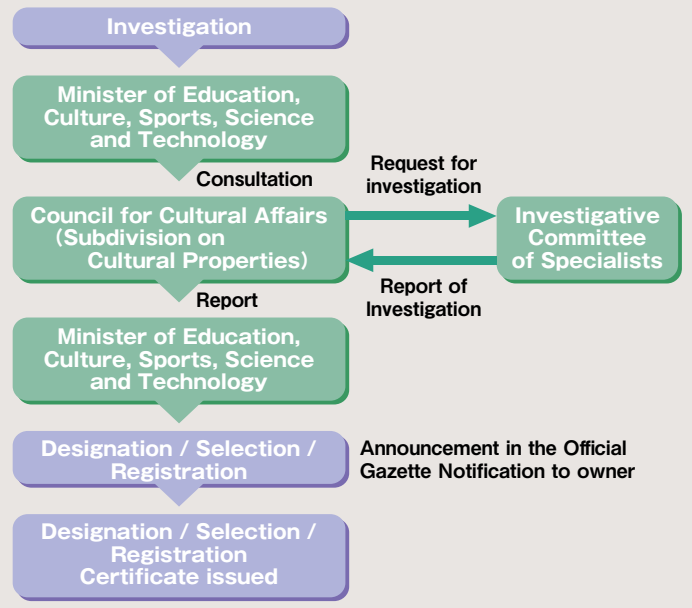
### Utilization

- Subsidies, recommendations, orders, and directives to owners or municipalities regarding the public display of cultural properties
- Establishment and operation of museums, theatres, and other public facilities, and centres for cultural properties research



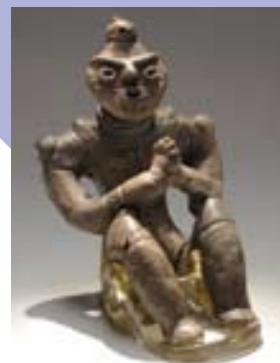
**Special Natural Monuments: Oriental White Stork**  
(Photo: Courtesy of Hyogo Prefectural Homeland for the Oriental White Stork)

## The process leading to designation, registration, or selection of cultural properties:



### Preservation

- Guidance and subsidies concerning repair and maintenance to owners and municipalities
- Subsidies for municipalities to purchase land or structures which are cultural properties
- Regulations on alterations to current state, restrictions on export
- Establishment of tax exemptions
- Documentation as necessary, making documentation available to the public
- Environmental preservation



**National Treasure: Clay figures unearthed from Kazahari Site 1, Hachinohe City, Aomori Prefecture**  
(Photo: Courtesy of Hachinohe City Museum)

# History of the Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties over Sixty Years

## Sixty years of improvements to the system

The destruction by fire of the mural paintings in the golden hall of Horyu-ji Temple in 1949 provided an impetus for the establishment of the Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties, Japan's first unified legal framework for the protection of cultural properties. The new law combined the "National

Treasures Preservation Law", the "Law Regarding the Preservation of Important Works of Fine Arts", the "Historical Sites, Places of Scenic Beauty, and Natural Monuments Preservation Law" and other existing laws, expanding and reinforcing the protection system. As society changed, further amendments were made. 2010 marked sixty years since the Law was established. In the context of current social conditions, the Law is becoming more and more important each year.

1871 Decree for the Preservation of Ancient Artifacts

1897 Ancient Temples and Shrines Preservation Law

1919 Historical Sites, Places of Scenic Beauty, and Natural Monuments Preservation Law

1929 National Treasures Preservation Law

1933 Law Regarding the Preservation of Important Works of Fine Arts

## 1950

### Enactment of the Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties

Committee for the Protection of Cultural Properties established

Amendment of designation system  
(division into two-grade categories of National Treasures and Important Cultural Properties)

..... Important Cultural Properties that are especially important are designated as National Treasures; Historic Sites, Places of Scenic Beauty, and Natural Monuments that are especially important are designated as Special Historic Sites, Special Places of Scenic Beauty, and Special Natural Monuments.

Establishment of system for protection of Intangible Cultural Properties and Buried Cultural Properties

..... Addition of intangible cultural products and buried cultural properties as objects to be protected

## 1954 Amendments

Expansion of system for Intangible Cultural Properties

..... Establishment of system for designation of Important Intangible Cultural Properties, and for documentation of selected intangible cultural properties

Expansion of system for Buried Cultural Properties

..... Established as a separate category from Tangible Cultural Properties; a system of advance notice implemented for excavation in land known to contain cultural properties

Expansion of system for Folk Materials

..... Establishment of a designation system for Important Tangible Folk Materials separate from Tangible Cultural Properties; establishment of a system for documentation of selected intangible folk materials

## 1968 Amendments

Agency for Cultural Affairs established

Council for the Protection of Cultural Properties established

## 1975 Amendments

Development of system for Buried Cultural Properties

..... Establishment of a system of exemptions for excavation of ruins by the national government and development of protection for ruins discovered in the course of construction

Expansion of system for Folk Cultural Properties

..... Folk materials renamed Folk Cultural Properties; establishment of system for designation of Important Tangible Folk Cultural Properties and Important Intangible Folk Cultural Properties

Establishment of system of Preservation Districts for Groups of Traditional Buildings

Establishment of system for protection of Conservation Techniques for Cultural Properties

## 1996 Amendments

Establishment of system of Registered Cultural Properties

..... Establishment of a registration system for the preservation of structures other than those designated by the national or local governments

## 1999 Amendments

Transfer of authority to prefectures and designated cities

Reform to Council for Cultural Affairs

## 2004 Amendments

Establishment of system for protection of Cultural Landscapes

..... Establishment of a selection system for Important Cultural Landscapes

Expansion of system of Folk Cultural Properties

..... Addition of folk techniques

Expansion of system of Registered Cultural Properties

..... Expansion of registration system to include Works of Fine Arts and Crafts, Tangible Cultural Properties, Tangible Folk Cultural Properties, and Monuments

# Examples of Preservation and

## Important Cultural Property (buildings)

### Old Maizuru Navy Weapon Warehouses

In recent years, public activities facilitating the “conservation in use” of cultural property buildings have increased in number and diversity throughout Japan. Through these activities, cooperation among stakeholders has grown and strengthened. In particular, property owners and local authorities are forming partnerships with local citizens’ groups in order to organize a wide variety of events.

The promotion of “conservation in use” of cultural properties contributes to raising public awareness and understanding of the cultural values of buildings, encourages public participation in protection activities, and helps to create a spiritually affluent society.

To cite an example, three of the seven buildings composing the Old Maizuru Navy Weapon Warehouses, an Important Cultural Property, are opened to the public as the World Brick Museum, the Maizuru City Commemoration Hall and the Maizuru Wisdom Warehouse. For their suitable preservation and use, Maizuru City set up a research committee and developed the “Framework of the Maizuru Red Brick Art School”. Based on the framework, various artistic and cultural events are actively taken place at the warehouses in cooperation between Maizuru City and the Maizuru Red Brick Club, a nonprofit organization.



Both photos: Courtesy of the Maizuru City Board of Education

## Historic Site

### Onaka Site

After ensuring that Historic Sites are preserved in such a way as to maintain their value as cultural properties, various means of utilization were then planned in order to deepen understanding of history and culture among the local people.

The Onaka historic site in Hyogo Prefecture, has been developed and opened to the public as the Onaka Ancient Village Remains. Built on an adjacent site, the Hyogo Prefectural Museum of Archaeology is the center of the activities. In addition to exhibitions of archaeological materials, the museum offers a range of opportunities to experience ancient times with the participation of local residents, such as restoring pit houses and making magatama (beads in the shape of a comma), starting fires and spending the night in restored houses. The museum also collaborates with kindergartens, nursery schools, elementary schools, junior high schools, senior high schools, special-needs schools and universities to conduct a range of events and learning support activities using the historic site, such as ancient rice-planting and other activities to experience life in ancient times. The circle of exchange between the museum and schools, volunteers and local residents is spreading widely.



Both photos: Courtesy of Hyogo Prefectural Museum of Archaeology



# Utilization of Cultural Properties

## Important Tangible Folk Cultural Properties

### Tango Spinning and Weaving Tools and Finished Products

Although utilization of Important Tangible Folk Cultural Properties has traditionally consisted mainly of exhibitions in museums, more active utilization practices have been introduced in recent years.

The opening of the Kyoto Prefectural Tango Regional Museum provided an impetus for people to gradually learn about fujiori techniques, promoting the transmission of information about the traditional technique, and the collection of tools and finished products. Tango Fuji Textile Spinning and Weaving Folkways has been selected as an Intangible Folk Cultural Property, requiring the creation of records, while the tools have been designated as Important Tangible Folk Cultural Properties as Tools for Spinning and Weaving Tango and Finished Products. At first, short courses in fujiori were organized by the Tango Regional Museum, but the Tango Fujiori Preservation Organization, formed by volunteers who had completed the course, is now operating the courses.

Together with the Tango Fujiori Preservation Organization, work on integrated initiatives for the objects and the traditional techniques is continuing at the Kyoto Prefectural Tango Regional Museum.



**Unbarking the wisteria / Spinning threads**

Both photos: Courtesy of the Kyoto Prefectural Tango Regional Museum

## Important Cultural Properties (Fine Arts and Crafts)

### Art of the Samurai: Japanese Arms and Armor, 1156–1868

In order to provide substantial opportunities for the appreciation of Important Cultural Properties, the Agency for Cultural Affairs makes items available for a range of exhibitions. In 2009, the Agency organized the Treasures of a New Nation exhibition, showing recent purchases of cultural properties at Nagoya City Museum, as well as the Exhibition of Newly Designated National Treasures and Important Cultural Properties at the Tokyo National Museum, showing objects of fine art and handicraft, newly designated as National Treasures or Important Cultural Properties.

Every year, the Agency for Cultural Affairs also organizes an overseas exhibition of ancient Japanese works of art in order to promote international friendship, and increase understanding of Japanese history and culture, and to introduce outstanding cultural properties of Japan to people overseas.

In 2009, the exhibition, the Art of the Samurai: Japanese Arms and Armor, 1156–1868 was held at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in the United States, showing armors including a Yoroi armor with red leather lacing designated a National Treasure, the first arms in Japan, battle surcoats and other costumes, paintings including picture scrolls and folding screens of portraits and battle depictions.

In future, the Agency for Cultural Affairs plans to actively promote exhibitions of National Treasures and Important Cultural Properties in Japan and overseas.



## Important Intangible Cultural Properties (Performing Arts)

# The Chekhov International Theatre Festival 2009

Nohgaku, Ningyo Joruri Bunraku, Kabuki, Gidayubushi, and other traditional performing arts that have been designated as Important Intangible Cultural Properties receive government funding for successor training projects, and for National Theatre projects such as public performances, successor training projects, and collection of materials.

In recent years, the Agency for Cultural Affairs has devised ways to further disseminate and apply these arts such as supporting performances overseas, and organizing events where elementary school students and others can experience these traditional performance arts.

In June and July 2009, Ningyo Joruri Bunraku, an Important Intangible Cultural Property, was performed to audiences in Russia with the support of the Agency for Cultural Affairs, participating in The Chekhov International Theatre Festival 2009 in Russia. The Love Suicides at Sonezaki was performed eight times at the Pushkin Theatre in Moscow. Workshops for Russian theatre professionals were also organized.



Both photos: Courtesy of Bunraku Kyokai association

## Important Intangible Cultural Properties (Craft Techniques)

# The Japanese Artistry and Beauty Exhibition

The Agency for Cultural Affairs holds the “Japanese Artistry and Beauty Exhibition — Important Intangible Cultural Properties and the People who Sustain Them” every year as a public event for the promotion of techniques that support Important Intangible Cultural Properties.

The purpose of the exhibition is to raise understanding of cultural properties protection among the Japanese, through a broad-ranging display of ceramics, weaving, dying, lacquer work, and other traditional craft techniques that have been designated as Important Intangible Cultural Properties, along with tools and materials for production which are indispensable for the expression of these craft techniques, which have been specially selected as Conservation Techniques for Cultural Properties.

Representative works by Intangible Cultural Properties holders (known as Living National Treasures) and holding groups for such properties, along with related materials and other items are displayed mainly from the Agency for Cultural Affairs’ collection. Documentary films planned and produced by the Agency for Cultural Affairs illustrating craft techniques are also shown.



Both photos: Courtesy of Hokkaido Asahikawa Museum of Art

# Activities for Promoting and Raising Awareness for the Protection of Cultural Properties

## Cultural Properties Protection Week

(Every November 1 to 7)

“Cultural Properties Protection Week” was prompted by the fire that broke out in the Kondo Hall of Horyu-ji Temple (Ikaruga-cho, Nara Prefecture), damaging the National Treasures buildings and wall murals. The fire, which damaged the Kondo Hall of Horyu-ji Temple, One of the world’s oldest existing wooden structure, and destroyed more than half of the wall murals, was a great shock to the Japanese people, leading to an increased public concern about the threat posed to cultural properties by fire and other disasters, resulting in the establishment of a unified body of legislation in the Law for the Protection for Cultural Properties the following year (1950). The repair work on Kondo Hall of Horyu-ji Temple was completed on November 3, 1954. In order to mark the date, and to raise cultural awareness of the nation through conservation and utilization of cultural properties, the first week of November, centered on November 3, was chosen as the “Cultural Properties Protection Week.” In 2010, the 57th annual Cultural Properties Protection Week was held.

During this week, prefectural and municipal Boards of Education take the lead in organizing exhibitions of historical structures and works of fine arts and crafts, tours of historical sites, performances of traditional performing arts, and various events held across the country, providing opportunities to get in touch with Japan’s history and culture.

In order to make this week more familiar to the Japanese, a logo for the week was created in 2010, and ideas for its design were sought from the public.



文化財保護強調週間  
Cultural Properties Protection Week

Logo for the Cultural Properties Protection Week



Special event of the Cultural Properties Protection Week at the Former Maeda Estate

Photo: Courtesy of the Education Bureau of the Tokyo Metropolitan Government

## Fire Prevention Day for Cultural Properties

(Every January 26)

In 1955, January 26 was set as “Fire Prevention Day for Cultural Properties,” prompted by the fire that destroyed wall murals at the Kondo Hall of Horyu-ji Temple on January 26, 1949. Since then, the Agency for Cultural Affairs, the Fire and Disaster Management Agency, owners of cultural properties, prefectural and municipal Boards of Education, fire departments, and local residents have cooperated to organize annual fire prevention activities for cultural properties throughout the country.

From mid to late January in 2010, fire drills and other activities were held at sites of cultural properties throughout the country. On January 26 in 2010, on the 56th annual Fire Prevention Day, the Commissioner of the Agency for Cultural Affairs and the Commissioner of the Fire and Disaster Management Agency attended the large-scale drills at the Former Zentsuji-Kaikosha site in Zentsuji City, Kagawa Prefecture, conducted by local fire departments and fire brigades along with the Board of Education.



Fire drill at the Former Zentsuji-Kaikosha



# Efforts for the Protection of Cultural Properties by Local Authorities

## **Regional governments have established ordinances for the protection of cultural properties**

Recently, along with rising public interest in cultural properties, regional governments are playing an increasingly important role in the protection of cultural properties that are familiar at the local level. Many regional governments in Japan have established ordinances for the protection of cultural properties and have accordingly made independent designations of cultural properties located in the area. Regional governments directly undertake the management, repair and exhibition of these cultural properties as well as providing support for management, repair and projects carried out by owners.

With the amendments to the Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties in 1975, committees for the direction of cultural properties protection were set up within prefectural Boards of Education. Committees visit local cultural properties, and give detailed instructions for their protection.



**Palatial House of Herring Fisherman Important Cultural Property by Hokkaido Prefecture**

Photo: Courtesy of Hokkaido Prefectural Board of Education

## **Municipalities administer the system of Preservation Districts for Groups of Traditional Buildings**

The system of Preservation Districts for Groups of Traditional Buildings was established in 1975, in order to preserve historic villages and towns that express rich local history and culture. Preservation Districts are defined by municipalities. Among the Preservation Districts, those of national significance are classified as Important Preservation Districts for Groups of Traditional Buildings (hereinafter “IPD”) by the national government.

The national and prefectural governments provide a broad range of support, including technical and financial assistance, for relevant municipalities to implement preservation projects within IPDs, particularly restoration of traditional buildings, façade enhancement of non-traditional buildings, and installation of disaster prevention facilities.



**Important Preservation Districts for Groups of Traditional Buildings in Japan: Makabe district in Sakuragawa City**

Photo: Courtesy of Sakuragawa City Board of Education

## **Local authorities work actively toward the protection and utilization of Buried Cultural Properties**

Every region of Japan has a rich store of irreplaceable buried cultural properties which tell the history of the area. Approximately 6,100 experts are employed by prefectures and municipalities to implement preservation regulations in connection with development projects, to carry out excavation surveys, and for the preservation and utilization of sites. Local authorities in each area work to provide facilities for preserved sites, and to display earthenware and other objects discovered during excavation, in order to spread local history. Through these activities, buried cultural properties play a role in the revitalization of the town and its people.



**Scene from a project to familiarize children with Buried Cultural Properties**

Photo: Courtesy of Saitama Cultural Deposits Research Corporation



## Local Authorities are the Key to Preserving and Utilizing Cultural Landscapes

In order to select a cultural landscape of high value as an Important Cultural Landscape, the municipal or prefectural government undertakes a survey, formulating and establishing plans to preserve the cultural landscape cooperating with the Landscapes Act. After routine procedures such as establishing ordinances, the proposal is submitted to the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology.

When selected as an Important Cultural Landscape, it is possible to receive a wide range of support including technical guidance and financial support from the national or prefectural governments with regard to repairs, landscaping and restoration.



**Important Cultural Landscape: Wetland in Omi-hachiman**

Photo: Courtesy of Omi-hachiman City

## Town Planning and Comprehensive Preservation and Utilization of Cultural Properties

Joining forces with local people to rediscover the value of cultural properties overlooked in the past, including the “skills” related to a cultural property, and to undertake their comprehensive preservation and utilization are important initiatives for promoting town planning that is rich in individuality.

To form a comprehensive understanding of intangible and tangible cultural properties, regardless of whether they are designated or not, the Agency for Cultural Affairs promotes the formulation of a Basic Scheme for Historical and Cultural Concepts as a plan for comprehensive preservation and utilization that includes the surrounding environment.

Based on the Basic Scheme for Historical and Cultural Concepts, municipalities can promote comprehensive protection of cultural properties and attractive town planning by utilizing systems such as the Act on Maintenance and Improvement for Historic Landscape in the Region.



**Scene from a local workshop**

Photo: Courtesy of Nanjo City Board of Education

# Communicating information about Cultural Properties

## “Cultural Heritage Online”

The Agency for Cultural Affairs officially opened “Cultural Heritage Online” in March 2009.

Cultural Heritage Online is a portal site of cultural heritage on the Internet, which contains concise information on tangible and intangible cultural properties recognized by national or local governments.

In cooperation with museums, and related organizations, as well as local governments, enhancement of the site’s contents is aimed through collecting further information on diverse tangible and intangible cultural heritage of high quality.



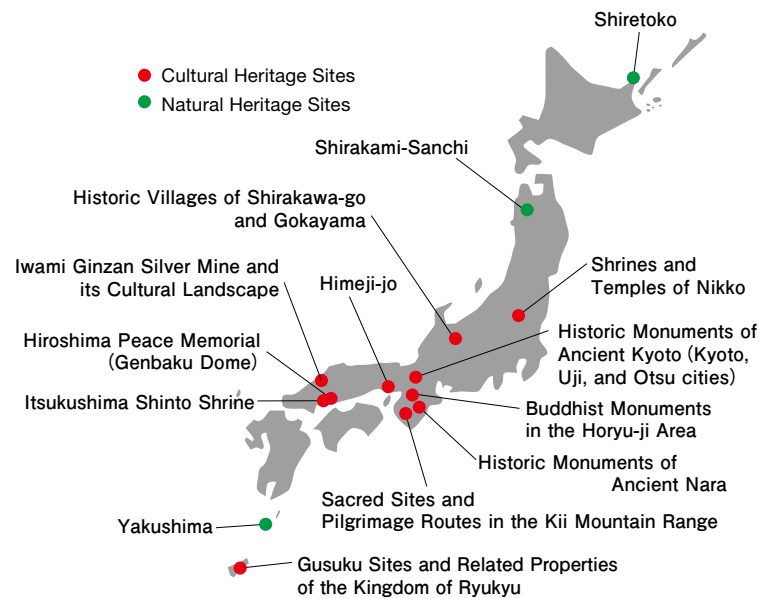
Cultural Heritage Online (image of home page)  
<http://bunka.nii.ac.jp/>

# From Japan's Cultural Properties

## World Heritage

### Protection of the precious heritage of humanity for future generations

The World Heritage Convention was adopted by the UNESCO General Conference in Paris in 1972. The purpose of the convention is to encourage international cooperation and support to protect cultural and natural heritage which has outstanding universal value, for all humanity from damage, destruction, or other threats. 911 properties in total are inscribed on the World Heritage List including 11 cultural heritage and 3 natural heritage in Japan. (as of October, 2010)



**Buddhist Monuments in the Horyu-ji Area**

Photo: Courtesy of Horyu-ji Temple



**Himeji-jo**

Photo: Courtesy of Himeji City Board of Education



**Historic Monuments of Ancient Kyoto (Kyoto, Uji, and Otsu cities)**

Photo: Courtesy of Motorikyu-Nijojo Office, Kyoto City Hall



**Historic Villages of Shirakawa-go and Gokayama**

Photo: Courtesy of Shirakawa Village Board of Education



**Hiroshima Peace Memorial (Genbaku Dome)**



**Itsukushima Shinto Shrine**

Photo: Courtesy of Hatsukaichi City Hall



**Historic Monuments of Ancient Nara**

Photo: Courtesy of Nara Prefectural Board of Education



**Shrines and Temples of Nikko**

Photo: Courtesy of Nikko City Board of Education



**Gusuku Sites and Related Properties of the Kingdom of Ryukyu**

Photo: Courtesy of Okinawa Prefectural Board of Education



**Sacred Sites and Pilgrimage Routes in the Kii Mountain Range**

Photo: Courtesy of Wakayama Prefectural Board of Education



**Iwami Ginzan Silver Mine and its Cultural Landscape**

Photo: Courtesy of Shimane Prefectural Board of Education



# to World Cultural Heritage

## Intangible Cultural Heritage

The Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, which defines international cooperation and requires measures for the protection of the intangible cultural properties, was adopted at the UNESCO General Conference of October 2003, and came into force in April 2006. In June 2004, Japan became the third State Party to the Convention, and in September 2007, Japan held the 2nd Session of the Intergovernmental Committee in Tokyo as its member, and contributed to the formulation of the Operational Directives for the Convention.

The Convention requires the State Parties to identify elements of intangible cultural heritage in their territory and make inventories of them. It also requires the Committee to establish the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity (Representative List) and the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding (Urgent Safeguarding List) .

Japan has sixteen intangible cultural properties inscribed on the Representative List; they are Nohgaku Theatre, Ningyo Johruri Bunraku Puppet Theatre, Kabuki Theatre, Gagaku, Ojiya-chijimi / Echigo-jofu, Sekishu-Banshi, Hitachi Furiyumono, Yamahoko - the float ceremony of the Kyoto Gion festival, Koshikijima no Toshidon, Oku-noto no Aenokoto, Hayachine Kagura, Akiu no Taue Odori, Chakkirako, Dainichido Bugaku, Daimokutate, and Traditional Ainu dance (as of October 2010) .



**Sekishu-Banshi: papermaking in the Iwami region of Shimane Prefecture**

Photo: Courtesy of Sekishu-Banshi Craftsmen's Association



**Hayachine-Kagura**

Photo: Courtesy of the Association for the Preservation of Hayachine Kagura

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## System for International Cooperation

In order to protect cultural heritage which is the common heritage of humanity, within a framework of international cooperation, Japan works together with other countries, international institutions, and research institutions, to collaborate on conservation and restoration projects, training of specialists, and other activities.

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

In June 2006, the Law on the Promotion of International Cooperation for the Protection of Cultural Heritage Abroad was passed. This law stipulates the duties of the government and research institutions, aims to strengthen ties among related bodies, and formulates basic guidelines for Japan's international cooperation on cultural heritage. The law supports activities for international cooperation on cultural heritage, establishes a domestic framework for cooperation, and facilitates effective implementation of international cooperation on cultural heritage through strengthened ties among related institutions.

### International Consortium on Cultural Heritage

In order to make international cooperation on cultural heritage even more effective and efficient, a consortium was set up in June 2006, with the participation of government agencies, research institutions, NGOs, and other domestic groups. This consortium builds a network of research institutions and other bodies in Japan, collecting and providing information, carrying out surveys and research, and implementing other projects.



**Workshop in Vietnam (Hoi An)**

Photo: Courtesy of Cultural Heritage Protection Cooperation Office, Asia-Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO (ACCU)



**Conservation and repair of the wall painting at the Ajanta Caves in India**

Photo: Courtesy of National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo

Published: March 2011

Edited and published by: Cultural Properties Department, Agency for Cultural Affairs, JAPAN

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