



Japan Consortium for International Cooperation in Cultural Heritage

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Urgent Statement on the Protection of Cultural Heritage in Afghanistan

Due to the rapid change in the political situation of Afghanistan, there is strong concern about the likelihood of looting and destruction targeting the country's historical cultural heritage, especially archaeological sites, and museums.

The Japan Consortium for International Cooperation in Cultural Heritage (JCIC-Heritage) is extremely concerned that the irreplaceable cultural heritage of Afghanistan is in great danger.

The consortium was established to promote collaboration among related organizations and experts in Japan and facilitate a greater Japanese role in international cooperation in the field of cultural heritage protection. Since 2001, activities in Afghanistan have been a critical pillar in the history of Japan's international cooperation in cultural heritage, which have achieved significant results by cooperating with Afghanistan, other countries, and international organizations.

It is widely recognized that cultural heritage is a common treasure that tells the history of humanity. Cultural heritage also plays an important role as a source of national unity and identity, as well as facilitating regional and national development. Wishing to prevent any attacks on cultural heritage and mitigate its illicit transfer, we urge all parties and individuals concerned to act in a calm and considered manner. We also would like to share our concerns with the international community.

JCIC-Heritage hereby express our strong resolution to continue offering support for the protection of Afghanistan's cultural heritage. We hope that the people of Afghanistan will be able to live in safety and security, and that the current situation will be stabilized as soon as possible.

18th August, 2021

Masanori AOYAGI
Chair Person of JCIC-Heritage
