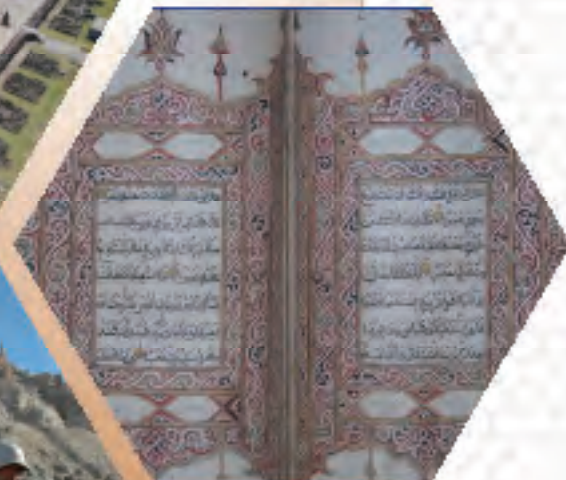




JCIC-Heritage

## JAPAN' S INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN HERITAGE CONSERVATION



2009

March

Japan Consortium for  
International Cooperation in Cultural Heritage

# Preface

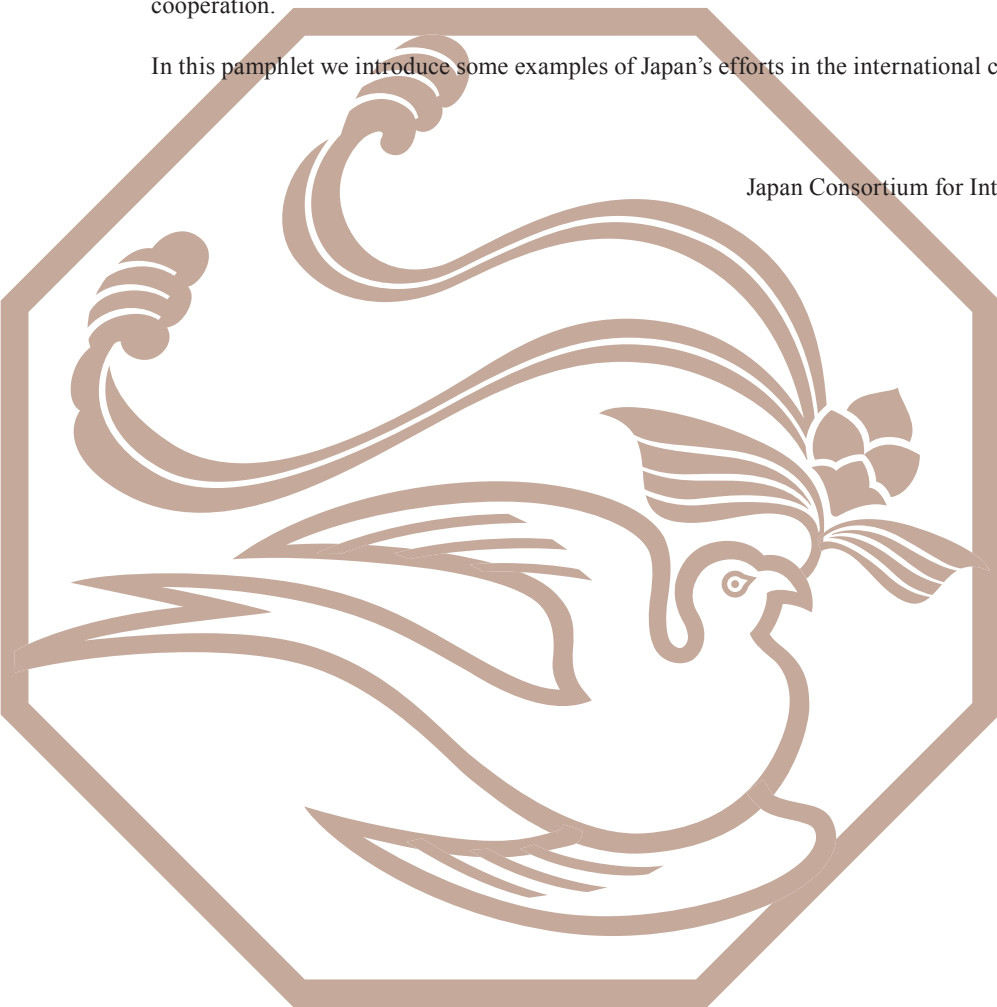
Japan has consistently played an active part in safeguarding the world's cultural heritage through cooperation, human resource development, and joint research schemes for more than twenty years. To widely disseminate these efforts, the Japan Consortium for International Cooperation in Cultural Heritage introduces Japan's diverse international cooperation activities for the preservation of cultural heritage via its website (<http://www.jcic-heritage.jp/>).

As of 2008, Japan has engaged in over 1,400 international cooperation projects related to cultural heritage. These projects have taken diverse forms, such as the provision of equipment necessary for the preservation of cultural heritage; the implementation of academic studies; value assessment, conservation activities for specific heritage sites; and the promotion of expert development activities and awareness-raising programs intended for local residents who are the bearers of cultural heritage. Financial assistance for these projects have also taken diverse forms, including ODA (Japan's Official Development Assistance) funds, ministry and agency budgets, scientific research grants, and other contributions and funding from the Japanese government, as well as subsidies from private foundations and funds generated by companies through social contribution activities.

Implementing such projects requires the participation and mutual cooperation of people and organizations from various realms in both the public and private sectors. For example, people are needed to study the value and history of cultural heritage; to develop specific plans and technologies for the conservation of cultural heritage; to promote institutions and policies for safeguarding cultural heritage; and to build capacities in local people to effectively utilize cultural heritage, develop their community, and engage in conservation activities. Based on this awareness, the Consortium is committed to supporting and strengthening the partnership among all players in the international cooperation for cultural heritage, to ensure effective cooperation.

In this pamphlet we introduce some examples of Japan's efforts in the international cooperation for the world's cultural heritage.

Japan Consortium for International Cooperation in Cultural Heritage  
March 2009



# JCIC-Heritage





**JAPAN**  
Official Development Assistance

Cooperation Project between  
the Government of the Republic of Indonesia and the Government of Japan  
2007  
(Proyek Kerjasama Antara Pemerintah Republik Indonesia Dan Pemerintah Jepang)  
2007



*The west approach to Angkor Wat; restoration completed in November 2007*

# Preservation of Monuments and Human Resource Development in Cambodia

## Sophia University Angkor International Mission

Representative: Yoshiaki Ishizawa, President, Sophia University  
Term: 1980 - present (ongoing)

### Cultural Cooperation through Excavation and Conservation Projects

During the long years of internal conflict in Cambodia and the destructive rule of Pol Pot's regime from 1975 to 1979, many Cambodian experts have lost their lives, and the Angkor Monuments have long been abandoned. Given this situation, the Angkor International Mission, led by Sophia University, began implementing onsite activities in 1980 to safeguard the Angkor Monuments, carry out studies and research, and develop human resources. The Mission's activities are founded on the three fundamental principles of academic significance, diversity, and continuity.

The Sophia University Angkor International Mission (hereinafter referred to as "Mission") is comprised of experts and researchers representing diverse fields, from such institutions as Waseda University (School of Political Science and Economics), Tohoku Institute of Technology, University of Tokyo, Kanazawa University, Yamagata University, Nihon University, Kyoto Prefectural University, Nara Women's University, Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Osaka City Cultural Properties Association, and Japan Quality Assurance Organization, in addition to lawyers, master stonemasons, and other specialists. Each of their activities is based on the following policies.

Policy 1: Conservation of Cambodian monuments, by the Cambodian people, and for the Cambodian people

Policy 2: Close coordination between surveys and studies of cultural properties and conservation projects

Policy 3: Conservation activities based on thorough surveys of monuments, and human resource development based on a medium- to long-term master plan

The activities of the Mission are roughly divided into three project types: (1) studies and conservation of monuments; (2) development of Cambodian experts; and (3) symbiosis among monuments, villages and forests, in accordance with monument engineering methodologies. In implementing projects, Mission members are particularly mindful to respect the local community's ties to the monuments; to comprehend Cambodian culture in the context of world history and promote independent studies by Cambodian researchers; and to introduce and transfer technologies to Cambodian workers as appropriate to their levels of technical skills and understanding.





### The Angkor Monuments

Enormous numbers of buildings and ancillary facilities made of brick, sandstone, and laterite have been built during the Angkor period (ca. 802 – 1431). They include Hindu and Buddhist temples, shrines, reservoirs, and bridges. Approximately 5,010 such ruins throughout Cambodia have so far been registered as monuments. Among these, a group of 63 major ruins that include the world-famous Angkor Wat and Angkor Thom temple complexes, spreads along the northwest bank of Lake Tonle Sap in Siem Reap Province, in northwestern Cambodia, and compose the Angkor Monuments.

## Human Resource Development Project Nearing its 20th Year

Transcending political standpoints and ideologies, the Mission has dedicated its efforts to safeguarding and restoring the Angkor Monuments since 1980, when ongoing internal conflicts still continued to fester in Cambodia. In 1991, it launched a project for human resource development at the request of the Cambodian government, and has received high acclaim from both inside and outside Cambodia for the long-continued project which has marked its 17th year as of 2008. The project offers seminars at the Royal University of Fine Arts, specific fieldwork experience and workshops, and guidance for independent excavation work, as well as aims to provide even more practical research know-how, by employing a number of graduates of the university as “trainees.” It has also referred Cambodian students to Sophia University, from which 6 have earned a PhD degree and more than 11 have earned a master’s degree. In FY2006 and 2007, the Mission was selected to organize an Expert Exchange Program under sponsorship of the Asia-Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO (ACCU), and invited ten Cambodian experts to visit and study world heritage sites in Japan. The Mission’s human resource development initiatives are not only intended to benefit experts, however, but are also implemented as a means of sharing, via its trainees, the achievements of its academic studies with local villagers in the vicinity of monuments.

In 2001, after 10 years into the archaeological excavation training survey conducted at Banteay Kdei, the Mission discovered 274 Buddha statues that overturned prior theories of the Angkor Dynasty, and made a great contribution to unraveling the history of Angkor. The statues have been unearthed, and are presently on public display at the new Preah Norodom Sihanouk Angkor Museum, which was completed in November 2007. November 2007 also saw the completion of the first construction segment (100 m) of the Angkor Wat West Approach Restoration Project, a joint project which was begun in 1997 with APSARA Authority.

Other ongoing activities include the following:

- (1) Project on cultural property education for Cambodians: As a joint project with APSARA Authority, local villagers are invited to participate in a conservation tour that includes the excavation site at Banteay Kdei, Preah Norodom Sihanouk Angkor Museum, and the restoration site along the west approach. The event was held twice in 2008, in February and August.
- (2) Banteay Kdei regular clean-up project: Every Friday, 10 residents of Lo Hal village get together to clean the site of the monument. The event was begun in 1999, and was held for the 500th time in July 2007.
- (3) International cooperation for promotion of cultural heritage education strategies: The development of conservation officers and researchers in tropical Asia is promoted through an international cooperation program (2006 – 2009).
- (4) Compilation of a report on the restoration of the west approach to Angkor Wat.

(Yoshiaki Ishizawa, Sophia University Angkor International Mission)

Related website

Sophia University Angkor International Mission: <http://angkorvat.jp>

*Invitation of local residents to Preah Norodom Sihanouk Angkor Museum; joint event with APSARA Authority*



*Students from Royal University of Fine Arts in Phnom Penh receiving training at Banteay Kdei, where 274 Buddha statues were discovered*





*Kiln excavated from the Tani Kiln Sites*

# From the Study of the Tani Kiln Sites to the Conservation of Prasat Top West

National Institutes for cultural Heritage

**Nara National Research  
Institute for Cultural  
Properties**

Representative: Ikuro Tanabe, Director, Nara National  
Research Institute for Cultural Properties

Term: 1993 – present (ongoing)

## Tani Kiln Sites

The Tani Kiln Sites are located 17 km east of the royal city of Angkor Thom. Around the end of the 19th century, a kiln site was discovered in Phnom Kulen, a city situated 30 – 40 km east-northeast from the Angkor Monuments, but no formal excavation surveys were conducted, and no other kiln sites were known in Cambodia at the time. The Tani kiln sites were discovered in 1995, and were the first Khmer kiln sites to be formally excavated.

## Activities of the Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties in Cambodia

Long years of internal conflict in Cambodia finally came to an end in 1991 with the signing of the Paris Peace Accord, and urgent attention was turned toward the protection and survey of the cultural heritage of Angkor, which was practically left to ruin during the conflict years. In 1993, parties to the Conference on the Safeguarding and Development of the Historic Site of Angkor (Tokyo Conference) agreed to coordinate their efforts to safeguarding the Angkor monuments, and Japan also launched activities under its Agency for Cultural Affairs. Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties (hereinafter referred to as “NNRICP”) undertook the implementation of those activities in a joint project with local conservation institutions.

France and a number of other countries are also implementing restoration projects in Angkor. NNRICP initially commenced a study at Banteay Kdei with the cooperation of Sophia University and focused on the study of the Tani Kiln Sites, from their discovery in 1995 to 2000. Thereafter, it has shifted its focus to Prasat Top West, and is now implementing the second phase of its activities, which is slated to continue through 2010.

## Contribution of the Excavation of the Tani Kiln Sites to Advancements in Khmer Ceramics Studies

NNRICP began an excavation of the Tani Kiln Sites in the summer of 1996, and unearthed a variety of artifacts, including small, ash-glazed bowls, non-glazed jugs, pots, jars, and roof tiles. An analysis of the artifacts strongly indicates that the kiln sites date to the early- to mid-10th century. Excavation of the Tani Kiln Sites, the first excavation of its kind in Cambodia, shed light on various heretofore unknown aspects of kilns used to produce Khmer ceramics during the Angkor period. The results of the excavation still provide important reference in understanding the role of ceramics as a bridge of cultural exchange not only in Cambodia, but throughout Southeast Asia and the rest of the world, as well.



### Prasat Top West, inside the Royal City of Angkor Thom

Prasat Top West is a temple situated about 500 m west of the Bayon complex, in the center of the 12th-century royal city of Angkor Thom. The temple is composed of 3 towers that stand on a low platform, which extends out in the eastern front. Judging by the style of the beam in the central tower and the laterite wall inside the sandstone surface of the platform, it is assumed that, around the 10th century, the temple was simply a small structure composed of a central tower standing on a laterite platform. Studies have revealed that the surface of the central tower was covered with sandstone and the north tower was added to the temple, followed by the addition of the south tower, around the 12th century, and that the extended platform in the eastern front and surrounding laterite tiers were assembled during the 14th to 15th centuries.



### Commencement of the Prasat Top West Conservation Project

As of January 2009, the Prasat Top West Study Project is in its second phase. Up to now, surveys have formed the main part of the project, but in the second phase, NNRICP intends to apply the comprehensive studies of monuments—from their restoration to utilization—that it has accumulated through its study of capital site in Japan, to monuments in Cambodia. It also plans to move forward the study on the restoration and utilization plan of Prasat Top West, as well as hopes to begin defining the specific direction of activities for the project's third phase, slated to begin in 2011, in consultation with not only members of NNRICP, but also with study teams from other countries and various other Japanese organizations engaging in onsite restoration work.

(Hiroshi Sugiyama, Asuka Historical Museum, Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties)

*Excavation survey at Prasat Top West*



# Project for Preservation of Bamiyan



*Buddhist mural painting discovered at Qol-i Jalal*

National Institutes for Cultural Heritage

## National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo

Representative: Norio Suzuki, Director, National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo  
Term: 2002 – present (ongoing)

### Crisis Visited on the Bamiyan Site

Afghanistan has suffered over 20 years of internal conflict since its invasion by the former Soviet Union. During those years, many precious cultural properties at Bamiyan have been damaged and pillaged. In March 2001, the Taliban regime, brushing aside the voices of criticism from the international community, destroyed the east and west Buddha statues. A survey led by UNESCO later found extensive damage not only to these statues, but also to the entire Bamiyan site, and has prompted full-scale conservation activities in 2003.

### Launch of the Project for Preservation of Bamiyan

The Project for Preservation of Bamiyan was launched with funding by the UNESCO/Japan Funds-in-Trust set up by the Japanese government within UNESCO, and is being implemented under a close partnership of experts from Japan, Italy, Germany, and France, with the cooperation of the Afghanistan Ministry of Information and Culture and UNESCO.

Japanese members of the partnership, National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo and Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, are doing their part in preserving the mural paintings, compiling a “comprehensive management plan” for the monuments, and conducting archaeological and structural surveys of the caves. Italy is working on reinforcing the great Buddha niches that have weakened both as a result of investigations to the harsh natural environment and from the impact of the blasts that have destroyed the east and west Buddha statues. Meanwhile, Germany is focusing on preserving the fragments of the destroyed Buddha statues, and on creating development plans for the local community and a database of historical buildings.

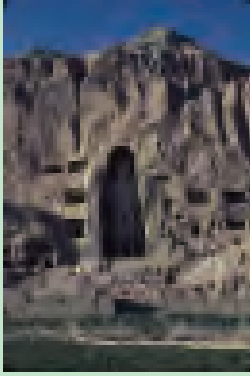
*Geophysical survey*



*Workshop on the preservation of Buddhist manuscripts*







### Monuments in the Bamiyan Valley

The Bamiyan monuments are historic relics of the Buddhist and Islamic periods in Afghanistan, and are located at an altitude of 2,500 m in the Hindu Kush Mountains, 120 km west of Afghanistan's capital city of Kabul. There exist a considerable number of monuments in the Bamiyan Valley, but most well-known are the Bamiyan Caves, characterized by hundreds of Buddhist caves carved in the steep cliffs of the valley, the Foladi Caves, and the Kakrak Caves. In addition to its innumerable Buddhist caves, the Bamiyan Caves are also famous for the colossal Buddha statues at the east and west ends of the cliff and the seated Buddha statue between them, as well as for the magnificent paintings adorning the walls and ceiling of the caves.

These monuments are an important cultural heritage that eloquently speaks of the cultural exchanges that took place between civilizations, at the westernmost region of the spread of Buddhism. In July 2003, they were listed on the UNESCO World Heritage List under the name of "Cultural Landscape and Archaeological Remains of the Bamiyan Valley," and simultaneously on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

## Japan's Initiatives: Preservation of the Mural Paintings, Implementation of Archaeological Investigations and Structural Surveys of the Caves

National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo and Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties (hereinafter referred to as "Institutes") have sent 8 missions to Bamiyan, as of June 2007. In the preservation of the mural paintings, the missions have documented their existing conditions, recorded more than 10,000 mural fragments scattered within the caves into a database, and have taken measures for the storage and management of those fragments, in addition to implementing a pilot project in Caves I and N(a). The task of consolidating the mural paintings which were showing signs of imminent collapse has so far been completed in Cave I. In Cave N(a), new images have been discovered in the process of removing the layers of dirt and black deposits that have accumulated over the years, and have provided an important foothold for future activities. The pilot project in Caves I and N(a) addresses issues unique to the preservation of the Bamiyan Buddhist mural paintings, and represents a significant step toward the future preservation of murals.

In the area of archaeology, the Institutes are conducting exploratory investigations and reconfirmation surveys in the valley and its surroundings to identify and appropriately manage archaeological remains that need protection. These surveys have so far revealed previously unknown caves with mural paintings, Buddhist stupas, temple complexes, and a stream of historically significant discoveries that would later lead to a re-assessment of the value of the Bamiyan site. For instance, in spring 2005, a vivid mural painting was discovered in a cave at Qol-i Jalal, located about 4 km west of the Bamiyan site, and in autumn 2007, the platform of a stupa made of limestone masonry was found in the Ju-i Shahr area.

As part of the structural surveys of the Buddhist caves of Bamiyan, the Institutes are documenting and investigating the state of preservation of the caves as an essential step for safety assessment in the preservation of cultural properties, in addition to conducting surveys from the perspective of architectural history.

## Toward Comprehensive Conservation of the Bamiyan Site

The Project for Preservation of Bamiyan is aiming to comprehensively conserve the Bamiyan site, by developing human resources and transferring technologies through local workshops and joint activities with Afghan experts. National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo will continue pursuing such conservation initiatives as its responsibility to international society, so that the people of Afghanistan may safeguard the irreplaceable cultural heritage of Bamiyan with their own hands.

(Kazuya Yamauchi, Japan Center for International Cooperation in Conservation,  
National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo)

*Training in archaeological measuring*



*Survey of the distribution of monuments in the Bamiyan site*





# Project for Preservation of Written Cultural Heritage in Afghanistan

Representative: Makoto Hachioshi, Professor,  
Tokyo University of Foreign Studies  
Term: 2004 - 2009



top: Materials at risk bottom: The National Archives of Afghanistan

## A New Beginning for the Newborn Nation-State of Afghanistan

The 1973 coup d'état by Daoud Khan brought an end to the Durrani Empire, which had long continued to rule Afghanistan since 1747. To the people of Afghanistan, however, this was the beginning of a modern history characterized by hardships, political turmoil, and repetitive internal conflict for close to 30 years. Yet, during the subsequent rule of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA), a movement that took root during Daoud's reign, to promote the national culture of Afghanistan by collecting and exhibiting the cultural properties of the Afghan people, gained momentum. On the waves of this momentum, the National Archives of Afghanistan was established in 1979, as a domestic institution responsible for collecting and preserving written materials on the history of the people of Afghanistan.

## Much-needed Support

The National Archives was founded on the large collection of written materials acquired from the former royal family, former Ministry of Justice, and former national assemblies, and thereafter continued collecting more written materials, albeit on a smaller scale. Most of the collected materials, however, with the exclusion of a small handful of exceptions, had not even been sorted, but simply left in a state of abandon, due in part to the lack of funds and capable human resources to sort and preserve the materials, and also in part to the inadequate working environment resulting from the unstable security situation in Afghanistan.

Moreover, the storage environment was not only poor, but also aggravated the disintegration of the printed materials, so that it was glaringly clear that the entire collection of written materials stored in the archives was in perilous condition.

Project members at work



Training program at the National Archives of Japan





## Background to Development of the Project

Before any action could be taken for preserving the collection of written materials in danger of extensive damage, the Afghan Ministry of Information and Culture, the governing body of the National Archives, recognized that the materials must be prioritized, and that to prioritize them, the content of the archives must be properly assessed. Based on this awareness, it requested cooperation from the Tokyo University of Foreign Studies (summer 2003). The university, in response, established the “Project for Preservation of Written Cultural Heritage in Afghanistan” within the university (December 2003), and in May 2004, the Ministry of Information and Culture and Tokyo University of Foreign Studies exchanged an agreement and a Memorandum of Understanding on the project.

## Fundamental Principle of the Project

The project term was set at six years. The first two years were to be spent on a general survey of the content of the archives and on classifying the written materials on a test basis. The next two years were to be spent officially classifying all written materials in the archives, and the last two years, preserving the materials (making reproductions of selected materials) and wrapping up the project. Initially, the Japanese side planned to have researchers from Japan perform these tasks with the cooperation of local workers (National Archives personnel), but due to the poor security situation, the Japanese members were unable to make trips to Afghanistan freely. Consequently, it was decided that the local personnel of the National Archives would perform the tasks, with the Japanese side providing guidance. In order to realize this plan, five members from the National Archives were invited to receive training in Japan on two separate occasions, under the auspices of Japan's Agency for Cultural Affairs. The training sessions proved to be extremely meaningful, as well as helped cultivate awareness among the members, of the significance of preserving written cultural heritage. This framework of cooperation corresponded to the principle of “non-exploitative acquisition of materials based on local cooperation,” originally upheld by the Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, and provided a precious experience to the university side.

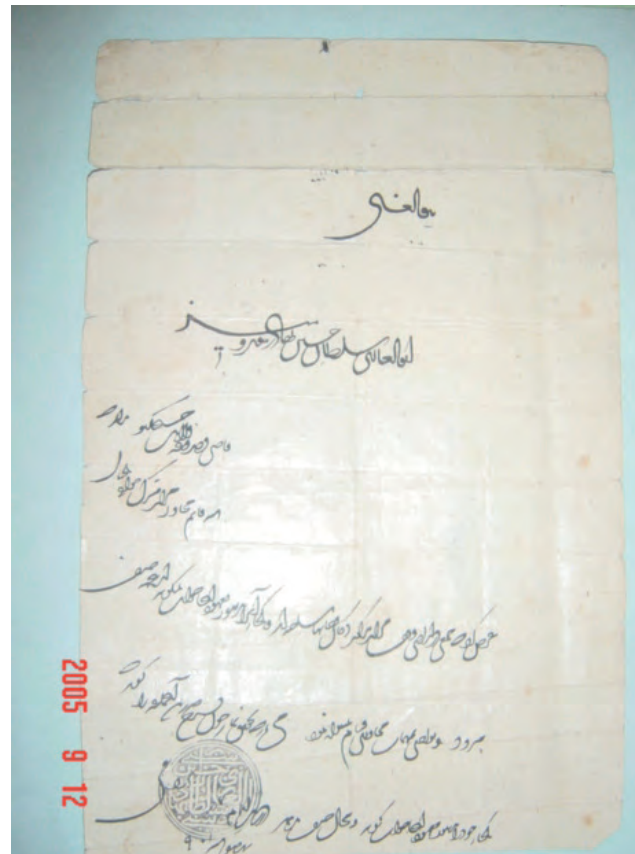
## Expected Results

There is still a year left until the originally scheduled completion date of the project (with plans for its extension unless circumstances dictate otherwise), but the following tasks have been completed as of the present.

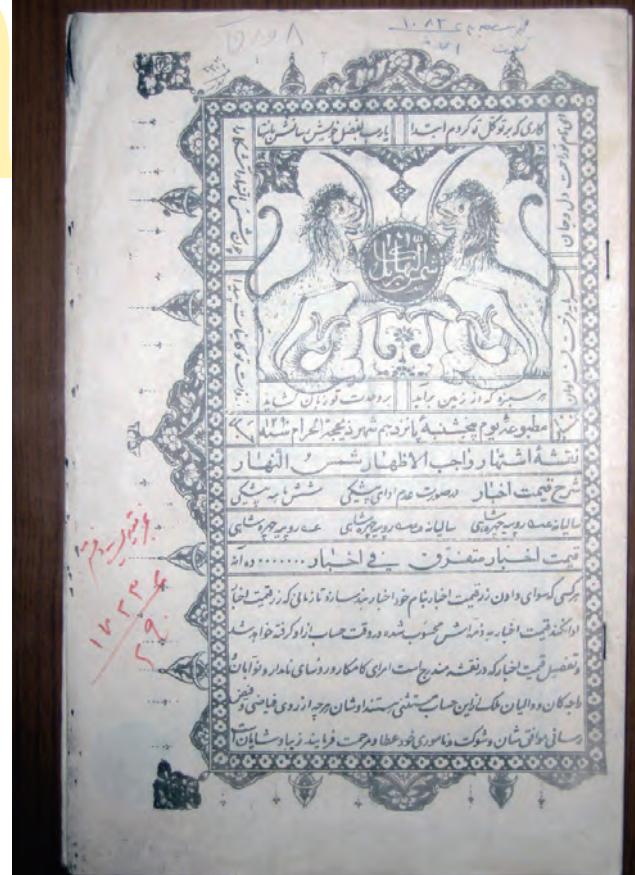
- (1) The unclassified collection of written materials has been sorted into large categories through a general survey.
- (2) Newspaper materials stored in the archives have been sorted and catalogued. For the record, there were 333 newspaper materials in storage in terms of their storage number, and 101 in terms of the number of items.
- (3) Governmental decrees and documents (farmaan) stored in the archives have been sorted and catalogued. Through this process, 1,841 farmaan documents were discovered stored in the archives.
- (4) The majority, or about 1,300 farmaan documents in storage, were those written during the reign of Amir Abdul Rahmaan (1880-1901). They have been converted to digital data, and are planned to be published in some form in the future.

The undertaking of this project to preserve the written materials stored in the National Archives of Afghanistan was a completely new challenge, never before attempted. In this respect, it not only has groundbreaking significance, but is also the focus of great expectations that it will provide a wealth of precious information that may open new horizons in the study of Afghanistan's history (and particularly modern history) and regional studies of Afghanistan, which have long lacked sufficient resources.

(Makoto Hachioshi, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies)



Decree considered the oldest document stored in the National Archives of Afghanistan  
First newspaper published in Afghanistan (stored in the National Archives of Afghanistan)





*Aceh Provincial Museum*

# Assistance for Preservation of Written Cultural Heritage in Aceh

## Tokyo University of Foreign Studies Aceh Project for the Preservation of Cultural Heritage

Representative: Koji Miyazaki, Professor, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies  
Term: 2005 – 2009

### Tsunami Damage to Written Cultural Heritage

The great earthquake that struck the coast off Sumatra on December 26, 2004 and the accompanying Indian Ocean Tsunami brought great damage to the coastal regions of the Indian Ocean, and left more than 100,000 dead or missing in Aceh Province alone. Along with the devastating loss of precious lives, the invaluable written cultural heritage of Aceh has also suffered a great loss. Many written materials that could provide important clues for unraveling Aceh's past and its role in East-West commerce have been irretrievably lost, without their content or bibliographic information ever being known. Urgent support is therefore needed to survey and preserve what cultural heritage has survived the disaster.



*Grounded ship*



*The Provincial Archives of Aceh after the tsunami*





## Written Cultural Heritage in Aceh

Aceh, a province of Indonesia situated at the entrance of the Malacca Straits on the northern tip of the island of Sumatra, has flourished as a strategic emporium of trade between the East and West, from ancient times. It is also the first region in Southeast Asia to assimilate the Islamic religion (13th century). The Kingdom of Aceh played an important role in developing Islamic knowledge and culture in Southeast Asia, and came to be called “Mecca’s Verandah.” Scholars engaging in Islamic religious activities and literary activities converged in Aceh, particularly after the fall of the Kingdom of Malacca, a powerful trade state in the Malay Peninsula, and have left various literary works in the form of transcripts. Literature on history, law, Islamic teachings and interpretations, and legendary stories produced in Aceh has spread widely from Aceh to other Islamic regions in Southeast Asia.

## 21st Century COE Program “Centre for Documentation and Area-Transcultural Studies” (2002 – 2006)

Tokyo University of Foreign Studies has initiated a 21st-century COE program called “Centre for Documentation and Area-Transcultural Studies,” and is aiming to create a network for the survey, preservation, and dissemination of local materials written in the various languages of Asia. These tasks have received little attention in the past, but are currently the focus of the program’s activities in Palembang and Minangkabau, Indonesia.

## Lending Assistance to Restore Aceh’s Damaged Cultural Heritage

Shortly after the great earthquake and tsunami, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies received requests from various institutions and researchers in Indonesia for cooperation in restoring and preserving the cultural heritage of Aceh, and its historical documents in particular. Despite their historical significance, the survey of Aceh’s written cultural heritage had been making little progress due to security reasons, and had been creating concerns. The university therefore agreed to these requests, and began engaging in international cooperation activities in a capacity befitting the characteristics of the university, by firstly establishing the Aceh Project for the Preservation of Cultural Heritage in March 2005, as a framework of coordination and systematic implementation of activities with relevant institutions in Japan.

## Four Goals and Their Status of Achievement

1. Survey of the state of damage: Assessment of the state of damage to relevant parties, written cultural heritage, and repository institutions
2. Coordination of document conservation activities: Coordination among local institutions, central institutions, and universities, to facilitate cooperation and communication among all relevant parties in Indonesia
3. Survey of the actual state of historical documents in Aceh: Survey and cataloguing of historical documents found in principal institutions in Aceh; establishment of conservation measures; preservation of documents by conversion to digital format and other means
4. Cultivation of local experts: Training programs for the cultivation of local document experts, including local training for skills enhancement of document handlers and invitation programs for the cultivation of document handling supervisors

In the past two years, the project has practically achieved the first stage of its goals by carrying out an emergency survey and a survey on the state of damage from the earthquake and tsunami; establishing a framework of coordination with local institutions; providing basic and advanced training in the conservation of cultural heritage; and conducting a general survey of local documents. At present, continuous efforts are being made to survey and preserve the written cultural heritage that has survived throughout the Aceh region. The project is also aiming to develop local human resources in a wide range of fields, from the conservation to the research of written cultural heritage.

(Koji Miyazaki, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies)



Training scene



*Panoramic view of Prambanan Temple (Libro Jonggran)*

# Prambanan Temple Project

Implementing Agency : National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo,  
 Participating Experts : Satoshi Yamato ((then) Professor, Tsukuba University), Toshikazu Hanazato (Mie University),  
 Kunihiko Ono (Cyber University), Noriko Koresawa (Nagoya Institute of Technology),  
 National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo,  
 Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, etc.

Term : 2006 – 2008



## Earthquake-struck Ancient Capital of Yogyakarta

Central Java, and mainly the area around Indonesia's ancient capital of Yogyakarta, is home to numerous stone structures, including two world heritage sites, the Borobudur and the Prambanan Temple Compound, in addition to the royal palace and traditional wooden buildings designed in the unique Javanese construction style. In the early morning hours on May 27, 2007, a magnitude 6.3 earthquake struck this region. The earthquake claimed many precious lives, and inflicted major damage on various cultural properties. Damage to Prambanan Temple was especially severe, and attracted worldwide attention and concern. Taking this situation seriously, the Indonesian government requested the Japanese government's involvement in investigating the damage to cultural properties, and the Japanese government in turn called on the Japan Consortium for International Cooperation in Cultural Heritage (JCIC-Heritage), which had just been established, to create a project proposal.

## Dispatch of an Emergency Survey Team

JCIC-Heritage, mainly through its Southeast Asia Committee, contemplated and planned the dispatch of an emergency survey team to investigate the damage to cultural properties in Central Java, and sent the first such mission to Indonesia in July 2006 under the auspices of Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Agency for Cultural Affairs, and the Japan Foundation. The mission (headed by Satoshi Yamato, was arranged by the Japan Center for International Cooperation in Conservation of the National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo. Investigation



*top: A shrine of Prambanan Temple damaged in the Central Java Earthquake  
 bottom: Meeting of the Japanese and Indonesian survey teams*



### Prambanan Temple

The monuments of the Prambanan Temple Compound are located in an area approximately 15 km east of the ancient capital of Yogyakarta in Central Java. Prambanan Temple, the main temple of the compound, is also called Loro Jonggran, and is the largest Hindu temple in Central Java dating from the 10th century. It is characterized by a central shrine dedicated to Siva, surrounded by shrines dedicated to Brahma, Visnu, Garuda, Nandi, and Hansa, respectively. When the temple was excavated and cleaned for the first time in the beginning of the 20th century during the Dutch colonial period, it is said that the site was a mound of collapsed temple elements. Prambanan Temple was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1991 as part of the Prambanan Temple Compound, along with the Asu, Lumbung, Bubrah, and Sewu Temples that are located to its north.

by the mission revealed differing levels of damage—from extremely severe to minor damage—among the buildings of the Prambanan Temple Compound, and attributed the differences to a combination of various factors, such as the differences in past restoration methods, the characteristic tremors of each building, and ground properties. The team thus conveyed to the Indonesia side that further structural and geophysical engineering surveys need to be conducted before a full-scale conservation plan can be formulated.

### Successive Survey Teams and the Contribution to a Restoration Plan

Taking into consideration the findings of the first mission, a second mission was sent to Indonesia from February to March 2007, and a third, in October 2007. The missions were composed of experts from the National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo, Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tsukuba University, Mie University, Cyber University, Nagoya Institute of Technology, and received cooperation from the Japanese Association for Conservation of Architectural Monuments. The team has compiled the results of activities conducted by the missions—surveys of the state of earthquake damage, surveys of documents on architectural history, ground surveys, structural surveys, and material tests—into a comprehensive restoration plan covering all 6 shrines of Prambanan Temple, and has presented the plan to the Indonesia side.

As of April 2008, the surveys and results thereof have been succeeded by Tsukuba University. The restoration plan is slated to be incorporated into the actual implementation of onsite restoration processes, in close consultation with Indonesian experts.

*Bottom: Damage rendered to the precious bas-relief adorning the shrines*

*Right: The Japanese government supplied scaffold materials that became scarce after the earthquake disaster*







# Study of the Origin and Development of Equestrian-Nomadic Culture

Representative: Toshio Hayashi, Professor, Soka University  
Term: 1998 – 1999

## Social Background

The equestrian nomads have consistently played an important role in the history of Eurasia, but when and where did they originate? Seeking the answers to these questions through archaeological surveys, members of the Steppe Archaeology Society traveled throughout the steppes in Central Eurasia beginning in the late 1980s. Until then, most areas of Central Eurasia belonged to socialist regimes, and it was impossible for researchers from Western countries to carry out local surveys in those areas. However, it was not long before China launched its reform and open-door policy and the former Soviet Union began to implement *perestroika*. Given these trends, the idea of socialist regimes and Western researchers implementing joint surveys gradually became a realistic prospect. The Steppe Archaeology Society began seeking a survey partner, while at the same time participating in UNESCO Silk Road studies and various studies subsidized by the Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research from the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology.

## Selecting a Survey Site

Among the Central Eurasian countries traveled by members of the Steppe Archaeology Society, the largest numbers of monuments of the equestrian nomads were found in Mongolia, and were preserved in best condition. Yet, most of them had not yet been investigated. When it was a socialist state, Mongolia conducted many joint surveys with the former Soviet Union and East European countries, so it holds no feelings of prejudice or discomfort against foreign survey teams. It is generally friendly toward Japan, as well. Based on these reasons, the Steppe Archaeology Society came to seek a partnership with Mongolia in conducting an investigation of the monuments. In 1997, members of the Steppe Archaeology Society traveled to Mongolia at their own expense to select and narrow down candidate investigation sites. In 1998, upon receiving a subsidy from the Mitsubishi Foundation, the Society made a final selection and concluded an agreement with Mongolia.

## Overview of the Selected Site

Ultimately, a survey site was selected near Mt. Ulaan Uushig, located about 20 km west of Mörön, the capital city of Hövsgöl Province, about 600 km northwest of Ulaan Baatar. Ulaan Uushig is actually an isolated hill measuring 7 – 8 km in diameter, surrounded by numerous monuments. As no surveys have ever been implemented of the locations and distributions of monuments in Mongolia, the survey team firstly mapped the monuments around the mountain prior to conducting its survey. As a result, it discovered ten groups of monuments consisting of *kherekurs* (stone burial mounds) and deer stones mainly on the eastern and southern faces of Mt. Ulaan Uushig.



## Excavation of Monuments

The survey team launched an excavation of the group of monuments located on the southeastern side of Mt. Ulaan Uushig, beginning with the area around a medium-sized *kherek-sur* and a deer stone with distinct patterns. The *kherek-sur* was chosen for a reason. Generally speaking, a massive structure was commonly used to mark the establishment of the first kingdom in a certain region. Because arranging or erecting such a massive structure requires collective labor, the structure eventually became a symbol of the ruler's power to control the enormous labor force. Additionally, a conspicuous monumental structure was an effective way to widely advertise the newly-established power. Particularly with respect to the king's burial mound, which was considered an extension of the king himself, the size of the burial mound indicated the strength of the king's power. Different-sized *kherek-sur*s within the same group of monuments probably indicated differences in social order of the buried. The survey team assumed that *kherek-sur*s in the steppe served this same purpose.

## Achievements of the 1999 Excavation Survey

During the 1999 survey, the survey team did not have the time to excavate the central mound of the *kherek-sur*, but excavated 5 of the 21 piles of small stones surrounding it and from each pile unearthed a horse's skull placed facing east accompanied by neck bones. When several small-stone piles around a deer stone were also excavated, a horse's skull placed facing east accompanied by neck bones was similarly unearthed from each pile. These findings indicated that the people who created *kherek-sur*s and the people who erected deer stones belonged to the same culture. This discovery has great meaning. The *kherek-sur*s were not always able to be dated accurately, but because the deer stones were known to date from the first half of the first millennium B.C. judging by the carved depictions of daggers, animal patterns, and symbols on them, the discovery meant that the date of the *kherek-sur*s was approximately the same as the date of the deer stones.

## Progress of Subsequent Surveys

Thereafter, surveys were continued from 2003 to 2006, funded by the Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research from the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology. Like the 1999 survey, subsequent surveys verified that *kherek-sur*s are burial mounds, and that the piles of small stones surrounding the *kherek-sur*s and deer stones each contain a horse's skull and neck bones. In the case of the *kherek-sur* excavated by the Steppe Archaeology Society, the 21 piles of stones around the *kherek-sur* meant that 21 horses were sacrificed and offered to the individual who was buried. The excavated *kherek-sur* is not large, but a large *kherek-sur* surrounded by more than 1,600 small stone piles can be found in Mongolia. The first half of the first millennium B.C. indeed appears to have been an "era of *kherek-sur*s" within the steppe. The deer stones, on the other hand, were surrounded by piles of small stones like the *kherek-sur*s, but were also found with rectangular stone slabs and other objects of unknown significance. Many issues, such as the significance of the deer stones and their more precise date, still remain to be solved.

(Toshio Hayashi, Soka University)



Horse's skull and neck bones unearthed from a pile of small stones near the deer stone

Deer stone at the Ulaan Uushig Site



Members of the Steppe Archaeology Society examining a deer stone





View from the Ho An River

# Hoi An Townscape Preservation Project

Representative: Hiromichi Tomoda, Professor, Showa Women's University  
Term: 1992 – present (ongoing)

## Hoi An, Home to an Erstwhile Japan Town and an International Trading Port in Vietnam on the Silk Road of the Seas

In the age of geographical discovery, Hoi An prospered as a commercial trading port, thanks to its strategic location where the East and West meet on the Silk Road of the Seas. During those times, the lively town was home to Portuguese and Dutch trading houses, a Chinatown, and a Japan Town, and it was where trading ships of the Japanese Shogunate made frequent visits. The center of commerce, however, thereafter shifted from the river port of Hoi An to the seaport of Da Nang. It was thanks to this shifting of activities that the town was able to hand down to later generations its elaborately-sculpted wooden homes, which were built according to construction technologies accumulated during the town's prosperous years. The ancient town, which centered on two main east-west roads running parallel to the Thu Bon River, blessedly escaped the ravages of the Vietnam War, but post-war poverty prevented any attempts of rebuilding, and numerous traditional houses remained in imminent danger of collapse. Under this situation, the government of Vietnam took the occasion of the resumption of diplomatic relations with Japan to strongly request Japan's cooperation in preserving the wooden cultural heritage of Hoi An based on its experience, as a sign of friendship between the two countries.

## Cooperation in Establishing a Townscape Preservation Framework in Vietnam

In 1992, Japan's Agency for Cultural Affairs called on the Institute of International Culture at Showa Women's University to implement the cooperation in Hoi An. The university enlisted the cooperation of Chiba University and the University of Tokyo, among others, and commenced a study on the preservation of the townscape of Hoi An, with funding by various research grants. It also organized a fundraising campaign, so that it was able to implement the housing restoration project first with donations from private companies, then with subsidies from private foundations, and lastly with aid from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). In keeping with the efforts of the university, the Agency for Cultural Affairs assembled a group of engineers from such organizations as the Japanese Association for Conservation of Architectural Monuments, prefectural boards of education, and the Nihon Kenchiku Seminar (Japan Architecture Seminar), and sent them to Hoi An to provide guidance.

A fundamental principle of the restoration project is to employ local technologies, materials, and methods wherever possible. Therefore, a framework of cooperation was established with local institutions, including the Hoi An Monument Management Office, construction contractors, the Vietnam Institute of Architecture under the Ministry of Construction, architecture universities in Vietnam, and the Vietnam National University in Hanoi. This framework has effectively facilitated the smooth implementation of the project by all members.

Townscape of Hoi An



Inside of a house in Hoi An







House restoration work in Hoi An



Japanese Bridge in Hoi An

## Independence Gained from Tourism Development = Shift from Cooperation to Interaction

Owing to the concerted efforts of the townscape preservation project, the local residents, and the government of Vietnam, Hoi An was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1999. This has boosted the annual number of tourists to Hanoi to more than 1 million in 2007. When considering the fact that the town received only 2,500 tourists in 1992, the townscape preservation activities have indeed contributed to revitalizing the poor economy in central Vietnam. These efforts and achievements have received widespread recognition, and have earned the project the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Heritage Award for Cultural Heritage Conservation, the Japan Architectural Institute Award, and the Cultural Merit Award from the Vietnamese government, in 2000.

In August 2003, the Hoi An International Festival and Symposium were held as a commemorative event marking the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Vietnam, at the call of the Embassy of Japan in Vietnam. The successful event was made possible by the city of Hoi An and Quang Nam Province, with cooperation from the Japanese Agency for Cultural Affairs, JICA, the Japan Foundation, the Asia-Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO (ACCU), and Showa Women's University. Participation by Mr. Gohei Kawabata, Mayor of Omi-Hachiman City and grand masters of the urasenke tea tradition also boosted the festival mood. The symposium welcomed the President of UNESCO ICOMOS as guest speaker, and adopted the Hoi An Declaration on preserving Asia's wooden living heritage.

The festival has been held every year since, with the cooperation of JICA's Junior Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV). Its 6th festival in August 2008 marked the 35th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Vietnam, and the 7th festival, scheduled to be held from August 14 to 16, 2009, will commemorate the 10th anniversary of Hoi An's inscription on the World Heritage List. The Embassy of Japan and other relevant parties are currently preparing for the 7th festival, which will also include an international symposium featuring experts in the field of cultural heritage preservation from around the world. The festival looks forward to receiving large crowds of people from throughout Vietnam and Japan.

(Hiromichi Tomoda, Showa Women's University)

Related website

Showa Women's University Institute of International Culture: <http://www.swu.ac.jp/graduate/research/kokusai/Vietnam/index.html>

Hoi An International Festival



Exhibition of the World Heritage Site of Hoi An



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