



JCIC-Heritage

JAPAN CONSORTIUM FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN CULTURAL HERITAGE

JAPAN'S INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN HERITAGE CONSERVATION



2010 March

WHAT IS JCIC-HERITAGE?

Cultural heritage is a cultural testament that has been created over humankind's long history. This heritage overcomes the barriers of space and time to inspire us in important ways. We are responsible for passing on to future generations this cultural heritage as an asset shared by all people.

Due to destruction accompanying conflicts, natural disasters, environmental degradation, and changes in social structure, many treasures of cultural heritage are in danger of not being passed on to future generations if we fail to preserve our heritage. This would be a great loss for all humanity.

In June 2006, Japan enacted the Law on the Promotion of International Cooperation for Protection of Cultural Heritage Abroad. Japan is expected to contribute to the advancement of diverse cultures throughout the world by further promoting international cooperation regarding cultural heritage.

We have established the Japan Consortium for International Cooperation in Cultural Heritage with the aim of creating a common base for coordinated and collaborative international cooperation. The Consortium brings together a wide variety of institutes and individuals who share a common desire to preserve cultural heritage. In this way, we hope to contribute to the sustainable development of international cooperation related to the preservation of cultural heritage.



OUR MISSIONS

Promoting human relations among consortium members

Expediting the collection and exchange
of information concerning international cooperation

Carrying out case studies and research
on international cooperation in cultural heritage

Publication and dissemination of activities on international
cooperation in cultural heritage

Activities

NETWORK BUILDING

Promoting relations among the Consortium members conducting workshops and symposia or through the use of an interactive website—thus enabling our experiences/expertise to be shared, contributing to better coordination of international cooperation.

INFORMATION

Expediting the collection and exchange of information concerning international cooperation, providing a database of heritage preservation projects undertaken by Japanese organizations, both private and governmental.

RESEARCH

Carrying out case studies and research on international cooperation in cultural heritage. Through research results, we play a role as an advisory body for international cooperation on cultural heritage preservation.

PUBLIC ADVOCACY

Publication and dissemination of activities on international cooperation in cultural heritage. Established website for the Consortium and published cultural heritage preservation case studies online.



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 project 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 2010



◀ Restoration of the Northern Library in Bayon

The Angkor Monuments as a symbol of "Southeast Asia-ness"

The Angkor Monuments are the Symbol of the traditional culture of the Kingdom of Cambodia and national integration. However, they are also monuments that deserve to be called the crown jewel of Asian culture. In the past, Angkor Thom, one of the monuments of Angkor, supported people's lives as a royal city, and it was the place of worship like other numerous temples. Moreover, they still continue to hold the same significance to the people of Cambodia today. The monuments deeply embody the value of living in harmony with nature, and teach us present generation many things.

Project for Safeguarding Angkor

JSA (Japanese Government Team for Safeguarding Angkor)

JASA (Japan + APSARA Authority)

Representative: Takeshi Nakagawa, Waseda University

Period: 1994 - present (ongoing)



Completion Ceremony for the Northern Library in Angkor Vat

International Cooperation for Angkor

As the civil war that began in 1970 sunk deeper into a quagmire, the ravages of war gradually spread to Angkor. Angkor was threatened by the risk of collapse of both its tangible and intangible traditional culture. The prolonged years of confusion in the country came to an end with the signing of the Paris Peace Agreement in 1991, and Angkor were inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List (-and the World Heritage in Danger List at the same time-) in 1992. Thereafter, the international community strengthened its concern for the safeguarding of the Angkor Monuments and focused its efforts on establishing an international framework of cooperation as an essential part of its long term cooperation in Cambodia's social reconstruction process.

Taking these circumstances into consideration, the Japanese government organized the Japanese Government Team for Safeguarding Angkor (JSA) in 1994, to promote the implementation of projects financed by the UNESCO/Japan Funds-in-Trust for the Preservation and Promotion of the Intangible Cultural Heritage.



Excavation in the Central Tower in Bayon

Comprehensive Efforts for Conservation and Restoration of the Angkor Monuments

Number of different restoration teams are implementing restoration activities at the Angkor Monuments. As each building varies widely from the others in its extent of damage, complex configuration, structural characteristics, art and architectural design, religious background, and surrounding environment, teams must each explore restoration principles and technologies that are most appropriate to the respective building they are working on. In this situation, the

International Coordinating Committee on the Safeguarding and Development of the Historic Site of Angkor (ICC) plays a particularly important role. It is held bi-annually in Angkor, co-chaired by the Embassies of Japan and France in Cambodia, and with UNESCO serving as the secretariat.

Initiatives of JSA (JASA)

JSA began restoration activities in Angkor in 1994, and have since engaged a total of more than 700 Japanese experts and an average of more than 180 regular Cambodian experts and staff up to the completion of Phase 2 activities in 2005. In addition to advancing the conservation and restoration project, JSA has also, since the beginning, directed its efforts to transferring required technologies to Cambodian engineers and developing human resources through the project, and is gradually witnessing the results of those efforts. Phase 3 activities are currently underway at the Bayon in continuation of previous activities, and include the conservation and restoration of the Southern Library, a study of permanent conservation methods for the Central Tower, a study of preservation methods for the bas-reliefs in the Inner Gallery, and a survey of danger areas. New initiatives are also being launched to strengthen the independent efforts of the Cambodian side. One such initiative is the establishment of JASA, a framework organized by APSARA Authority, a governmental institution in Cambodia, and JSA.



Geotechnical Investigation in the Central Tower in Bayon

JSA's Conservation/Restoration Project and the Bayon Master Plan

JSA has so far completed conservation and restoration work at the Northern Library of Bayon, the Northern Library inside the outermost enclosure of Angkor Wat, and the N2 Tower antechamber and N1 Tower of Prasat Suor Prat in front of the Royal Plaza of Angkor Thom. The major cause of collapse of the Angkor Monuments is uneven subsidence of the platform and foundation, degradation of laterite has also seen in many of the monumente. In conducting its restoration activities, JSA had articulated its principle of respecting the construction techniques that were originally used in the past in Angkor, but it was more difficult than imagined to actually put those words into action. Nevertheless, convinced that the young generation of Cambodians will in the near future stand up and voluntarily engage in this difficult but rewarding work, JSA has worked onsite alongside the Cambodian people and has mutually cooperated with foreign teams and international experts working in Angkor. This itself has been a wonderful achievement to JSA. However, the greatest achievement borne of the mutual cooperation is the “Master Plan for the Conservation & Restoration of the Bayon” which took ten years to complete.

Based on these achievements, JSA is currently conducting Phase 3 of its project in Angkor, toward the goal of transferring comprehensive and even more concrete conservation and restoration techniques to Cambodia.



Dismantlement of the Southern Library in Bayon



Investigation for Conservation of Bas-relief in Bayon

Human Resource Development

JSA applies the achievements of its conservation and restoration project to the transfer of technologies to local engineers and to human resource development in Cambodia. Additionally, it aims to promote an understanding of JSA among the general public as well as to contribute to international exchanges and provision of information among experts, by providing details of its restoration activities and records of scientific surveys in symposiums and reports and via the Internet.

(Takeshi Nakagawa, Waseda University)



◀ Full view of the old royal palace in Sumbawa

Wooden Buildings in Indonesia

Historical buildings in Indonesia, represented by the Borobudur and Prambanan Temple Compounds which have been inscribed on the World Heritage List, are well known for their stone and brick masonry structure. However, there still exist numerous historical wooden buildings throughout the vast land composed of countless islands. In fact, Indonesia's diverse and multilayered historical culture is well symbolized by a wide range of buildings, including Islamic mosques that have been constructed throughout the country, the many royal palaces that have served as the center of city-states in modern history, and residential architectures that have developed independently according to each ethnic group.

Cooperation Project for the Conservation of Traditional Wooden Buildings in Indonesia under the Cooperation Project for the Conservation and Restoration of Cultural Properties and Buildings in the Asia-Pacific Region

Councilor (in charge of Architectures), Cultural Properties Dept., Agency for Cultural Affairs

Period: 1995 - present (ongoing)



Training in traditional ant repellent treatment

Crises Confronting Wooden Buildings in Indonesia

Indonesia's historical buildings indeed bespeak a rich cultural diversity, but it is becoming increasingly difficult to conserve the wooden buildings in particular, due to development initiatives driven by recent economic growth in the country. Moreover, Indonesia is not only an earthquake country like Japan, but it is also subject to hot and rainy weather conditions and suffers extensive biological damage from termite and other insect pests. Therefore, the conservation environment of wooden buildings in Indonesia is much severer than in Japan.

In light of these circumstances, the Japanese Agency for Cultural Affairs is cooperating with the Indonesian Ministry of Culture and Tourism in implementing a cooperation project for the conservation of traditional buildings and settlements as part of the effort to conserve wooden buildings in Indonesia.

Implemented Surveys and Overview of the Restoration Project Begun in Sumbawa

Overview of Activities

The cooperation project that is being implemented by the Agency for Cultural Affairs is centered on two pillars—technical cooperation and human resource

development—for the conservation and restoration of wooden buildings.

Firstly, in order to select a specific candidate restoration site, the Agency and the Indonesian counterpart conducted a joint survey on the locations and preservation conditions of wooden building and other traditional buildings, as well as historical towns, in Sumatra, Sulawesi and other island in Indonesia. Additionally, based on the awareness that Indonesia and Japan have a different historical background concerning the conservation of wooden buildings, the Agency is also engaging in activities aimed at deepening mutual understanding, such as by holding local workshops on the conservation and restoration of wooden buildings, and inviting officers in charge of cultural property restoration in Indonesia to Japan to exchange views on survey methods for wooden buildings, principles regarding their restoration, and practical restoration methods.

Survey and Restoration of the Old Royal Palace in Sumbawa

Technical cooperation for the restoration of the old royal palace in Sumbawa is presently underway, based on a memorandum of understanding concerning exchange programs signed in 2001. The palace was originally built in the 19th century, and is a large wooden structure that is 23m wide and 31m deep. Today, it is being used as a regency-owned museum.

The Japanese side suggested a basic plan for the restoration of the old royal palace in 2002, and based on the plan, the Indonesian Ministry of Culture and Tourism commenced the restoration project in 2004.

After the launch of the project, the Agency for Cultural Affairs and the Japanese Association for Conservation of Architectural Monuments have sent personnel to Sumbawa to provide onsite technical cooperation. In 2006, Japanese members participated in a technical training program held at a local restoration site for the conservation and restoration of wooden architectures in Sumbawa, and cooperated in promoting human resource development activities in Indonesia.

Progress and Issues in the Restoration of the Old Royal Palace in Sumbawa

The restoration of the old royal palace in Sumbawa is still ongoing. As of October 2009, the roof shingles are being replaced, toward completion at the end of this fiscal year. Long pillars and beams compose the majestic frame of the building, and elaborate carvings decorate the beams and eaves and give the building an air of dignity befitting a royal palace. Restoring such a special wooden building in proper manner requires quality wood and other restoration and temporary construction materials, as well as access to the necessary equipment and skilled engineers. However, on a remote island like Sumbawa, more expenses and time than expected are being spent on these resources, and are more than slightly impacting the entire project.

Not only for the restoration of the old royal palace in Sumbawa, but also for the safe and systematic conservation and restoration of other historical buildings in the future, efforts need to be made to secure the necessary materials and human resources in a stable manner.

(Masakazu Takeuchi, Agency for Culture Affairs)



Interior view of the old royal palace in Sumbawa



Training in ant repellent resin treatment using a wooden gravestone



Training program held at the restoration site of the old royal palace



Repair of the roof truss



Preservation of Duong Lam Ancient Village

Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties

Showa Women's University

Japanese Agency for Cultural Affairs (Councilor (in charge of Architectures), Cultural Properties Dept.)

Period: 1995 - present (ongoing)



Village gate



Village scene

Duong Lam Ancient Village: Hometown of National Heroes

Duong Lam is well-known as the hometown of national heroes Phuong Hung and Ngo Quyen, who fought for Vietnam's independence, and Giang Van Minh, a diplomat to China. Mong Phu commune is especially famous for the temples dedicated to the Giang, Nguyen, Phan, and Ha families, where ceremonies and rituals are still held, and is a beautiful commune characterized by many ancient houses situated on a small hill surrounded by a laterite wall.

Though an agricultural country, Vietnam has also been beset by the rapid development of factories and modernization of lifestyles. However, the country has taken a firm stand against these modern trends, and has revised its cultural property protection law with strong hopes of relaying the rural spirit supporting the very foundation of the country to later generations. As the first case of application of the revised law, the Vietnamese government set out to preserve the rural ancient village of Duong Lam. At the same time, it requested Japan's cooperation, to compensate for Vietnam's limited experience in the preservation of buildings, and also because Japan has previously demonstrated its expertise in the preservation of Hoi An Old Town. Japan has agreed to the request and has launched a preservation project in Duong Lam.

The Fight against a Rising Tide of Drastic Changes toward Modern Lifestyles

In response to the request from the Vietnamese government, the Japanese Cultural Properties Department under the Agency for Cultural Affairs has agreed to provide its cooperation, and in March 2003, a cooperation agreement was signed between the Vietnamese Ministry of Culture and Information and the

Japanese Agency for Cultural Affairs. At the request of the Agency for Cultural Affairs, the Institute of International Culture at Showa Women's University and Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties commenced a survey of preservation measures funded by a research grant provided by the Agency.

On the Vietnamese side, the Department of Architecture and Construction Planning under the Ministry of Construction participated in the architectural aspect of the joint survey, and Vietnam National University, Hanoi participated in the lifestyle, literary reference, and historical aspects of the survey, based on Vietnam's previous cooperation experience with Japan. The survey was begun in 2003, but already by this time, Vietnam had been experiencing dramatic economic growth. As a result of a boom in children's education, demand for single rooms for children increased and has prompted the construction of two-story, three-story, and even higher-story brick houses not only in urban areas but in rural areas as well. Seeing as how these developments have been chipping away at the traditional landscape of the country, the project has become a fight against a rising tide of drastic changes toward modern lifestyles. An interim report of the project was presented in December 2004.

Passing Down the Spirit of Vietnam to Later Generations

Based on the results of conservation and restoration activities, Duong Lam Village was designated as the first application case of the new cultural property protection law enacted in November 2005. Enforcement of the preservation ordinance was begun in May 2006, and a Duong Lam Village Ruins Management Office was established in July. In March 2007, UNESCO, ICCROM, and other international conservation institutions were invited to the village and asked for advice on applying for its inclusion as a world heritage site. Furthermore, with the cooperation of the Asia-Pacific Cultural Center for UNESCO (ACCU), local engineers were trained in Japan with the objective of transferring Japan's architecture restoration technologies that are relevant to the restoration of specific buildings within the village's preservation area, and Japanese cultural property restoration engineers were sent to Vietnam to provide restoration guidance under international funding. Meanwhile, cooperation for the preservation of intangible cultural heritages, such as clothing and food, has strengthened, and since January 2008, two Junior Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (architecture, rural village) from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) are implementing various cooperation activities as resident experts. These preservation efforts are expected to produce a virtuous cycle in which an increase in the number of tourists will strengthen local residents' awareness of preservation measures and promote greater preservation efforts to attract more tourists. In February 2009, the Japanese Agency for Cultural Affairs, Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Showa Women's University, JICA, Japan Foundation, and ACCU were awarded by the Vietnamese Minister of Culture, Tourism and Sports in recognition of their contribution to the preservation of Duong Lam Village.

The Vietnamese Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Sports has embarked on the preservation of Phuoc Tich Village on the outskirts of central Hue based on its experience in the Duong Lam preservation project, and is otherwise working to pass down the spirit of Vietnam to later generations through the preservation of rural villages throughout the country. Japan will continue to provide cooperation for the preservation of rural villages in other areas of Vietnam as well.

(Toshinaru Bojo, Agency for Cultural Affairs /
Toshio Shimada, Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties)



Traditional fishing scene



Spring ceremony



Summer ceremony



Award of the Vietnamese Minister of Culture, Tourism and Sports

Dunhuang

Dunhuang is an oasis town situated in the northwestern part of Gansu Province, China. It prospered by serving an important role as the gateway to China along the ancient Silk Road. On the outskirts of Dunhuang, a system of Buddhist temple caves known as the Mogao Grottoes is found at the foot of the Mingsha Shan Mountains. More than 700 caves still exist today, with 492 of them containing ancient murals and statues dating back to the early 5th century to the 14th century. A large collection of literary materials and pictures collectively called the “Dunhuang documents” was also discovered from the Mogao Grottoes at the turn of the 20th century, and kicked off a new global-scale research field called “Dunhuang Study.”

Silk Road

The Silk Road is most widely known as the trade routes which connected the ancient Mediterranean world and China. The interconnected network of trade routes extending east, west, south, and north throughout the Asian continent developed in ancient times as a result of the flow of diverse ethnic groups and the development of trade relations. The name “Silk Road” initially referred to the routes in today’s central Asia region in China (Hsinchiang Uighur Autonomous Region) only, and came to be used in reference to the entire network of routes in much later years. Awareness of the Silk Road has spread in recent years in various respects, and objections are arising against the plan that has been hatched by the several countries along the route to have the entire Silk Road network inscribed on the World Heritage List.



Joint Study for Protection of the Dunhuang Murals and the Silk Road Fellowship

National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo

Representative: Norio Suzuki, Director, National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo

Period: 1990 – ongoing

Dunhuang as the Starting Point of China-Japan Joint Cultural Heritage Studies

On December 26, 1990, Tokyo National Research Institute of Cultural Properties (then) and Dunhuang Academy signed an accord for the first phase of the “China-Japan Joint Study for Protection of the Dunhuang Mogao Grottoes cave 53 and 194.” Since then, the two countries have conducted four phases of the joint study over a period of fifteen years. This cooperation was made possible by two significant events. One is the achievement of a basic agreement regarding “Sino-Japanese cooperation for the protection of cultural properties in China, including Dunhuang,” in a conference between Shintaro Abe, then Japanese Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Wu Xueqian, Chinese Foreign Minister, on September 25, 1984. In July of the following year, the two countries held the “Sino-Japanese Intergovernmental Conference on Cultural Exchange,”

and confirmed their agreement “to promote research studies on the preservation and restoration of cultural properties at Dunhuang through the mutual cooperation of the two countries.”

Dunhuang is therefore the first site and the symbol of Japanese cooperation activities for protection of cultural properties in China. The fourth phase of the joint study was completed in March 2006, and the fifth has begun in fiscal 2007 and is presently ongoing under a new name—“China-Japan Joint Study for Protection of the Mogao Grottoes in Dunhuang.” The continued implementation of the joint study clearly shows that cultural heritage protection activities indeed call for continuous and persistent efforts.

Fifth Phase Activities in Progress (2006 – 2010)

The fifth phase of the joint study mainly involves research studies aimed at ascertaining the materials and techniques that were used to produce the Dunhuang murals. While the previous fourth phase focused on the study of materials and technologies for the restoration of those murals that have degraded in various ways, the fifth phase has set out to investigate the primal issue concerning the types of materials that were used and how they were used to create the murals in the first place. Along with an optical and physicochemical analysis using a variety of field-portable equipment, the preservation condition of the murals is being confirmed in relation to the original materials and techniques used to create the murals, to shed light on the material properties of the murals and their characteristics as works of art.

A comprehensive research of the Dunhuang murals is also underway, including carbon-14 dating of the caves and comparative

studies of the murals based on the estimated dates. Furthermore, a cultural heritage archive is being created using a geographical information system (GIS), to manage the large volume of data that has been accumulated by the joint study as well as by local surveys, and to utilize them for the research and protection of the murals in the future.

As a new initiative, young Japanese trainees who have been selected from the public have been dispatched to Dunhuang to acquire experience mainly in the protection of murals and other cultural heritages over a period of three years from 2006. Thus far, Japan has not been able to develop human resources who specialize in murals, because only a handful of selected personnel have had the opportunity to actually examine the murals and take part in the restoration work. However, in recognition of the relationship of trust which Japan and China have cultivated through long years of

exchange activities, Dunhuang Academy has opened its doors to the development of Japanese human resources.

China-Korea-Japan Joint Project via the Silk Road

National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo and China National Institute of Cultural Property (now known as China Cultural Heritage Academy) exchanged an agreement in February 2006 to implement a training program for the development of a total of a hundred technical experts in the field of conservation and restoration of cultural properties over a period of five years, from 2006 to 2010. Intended for the six provinces and autonomous regions along the Silk Road, including Xinjiang, Qinghai, Ningxia, Gansu, Shaanxi, and Henan, the program is composed of courses covering eight specialized fields, with 12 to 14 participants per course. The eight fields are: the protection and restoration of earthen monuments, the protection and restoration of ancient architectures, the protection of cultural properties unearthed from archaeological excavation sites, the protection and restoration of ceramic and metal artifacts, murals, paper items, and dyed objects in safekeeping at the museum, and museum technologies. The concept for the program originated in an offer made by Samsung Japan Corporation, a Korean-affiliated company in Japan, to contribute new funds to the Foundation for Cultural Heritage and Art Research as part of the Silk Road Fellowship it has been sponsoring over many years in support of the preservation of Chinese cultural properties. Following a careful consideration of the details for implementing the program by National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo and Chinese Academy of Cultural Heritage, the foundation and the Chinese National Bureau of Cultural Property signed and exchanged the official agreement in February 2006. The foundation is assuming any shortfall of expenses for implementing the program, and Samsung Japan Corporation is participating by providing direct funds to China. Thus began the activities for the protection of cultural properties in China under the joint framework of China, Korea, and Japan.

Human Resource Development in Various Field

The program has so far completed its fourth year. Chinese and Japanese experts have provided guidance and field practice in theoretical techniques, restoration planning, and restoration practice in each field. A salient characteristic of the program is that, while the museum and archaeological excavation site courses are offered as three-month courses that are completed in a single year, the courses for the protection and restoration of earthen monuments and ancient architectures are long-term courses covering a total of seven months over a period of three years and two years, respectively.

The earthen monument protection and restoration course was begun in 2006 and completed in 2008, with a distinctive site was selected each year for practical training: the Duling Tomb in Xian City, Shaanxi Province (Han Dynasty period: 202 BC – AD 220) in the first year, a tomb monument in Liangdai Village, Hancheng City, Shaanxi Province (Western Zhou Dynasty period: 11th century BC – 771 BC) in the second year, and the Tashi tomb gate in Guazhou City, Gansu Province (Han Dynasty period: 202 BC – AD 220) in the third year. In the final year, restoration work at the Tashi tomb gate was implemented and completed with the cooperation of Dunhuang Academy, and a final report was produced as a culmination of the three-year training in the theory and practice of conservation and restoration of cultural properties.

The course on the protection and restoration of ancient architectures was held in 2008 and 2009. In the first year, lectures on theories were given in Beijing, and practical training in various surveys and the protection and restoration planning was provided at the third annex house of the Qingshou Hall in the Gugong Forbidden City, the legacy of the ancient Chinese empire. Based on this, a long-term practical training session was held for four months during the second year of the program, at Taer Temple (altitude 2,700m), the head temple of the Tibetan Buddhist religion, in Xining City, Qinghai Province. The participants prepared a detailed survey report of the ongoing dismantlement and repair site and a research paper on individual themes, and successfully completed the entire schedule of the program.

In fiscal 2010, the final year of the program, two courses, on the protection and restoration of murals and of dyed products, are scheduled for implementation as part of the museum course, and a symposium is also scheduled to be held as an overall conclusion of the program.

(Ken Okada, National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo)



The Mogao Grottoes



Investigation inside Mogao Grottoes cave 285



Training course on the protection and restoration of earthen monuments (Guazhou City, Gansu Province)



Training course on the protection and restoration of ancient architectures (Gugong Imperial Palace, Beijing)



The Old Walled City of Shibam

Shibam, an old city enclosed by a wall 320 meters in the east-west direction and 240 meters in the north-south direction, was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1982. Some 500 tower houses are intricately huddled together within a 7-hectare walled area. Some are as high as eight stories, and rise 30 meters above street level. The city has given the nickname of 'the Manhattan of the desert' because of its characteristics.

Research on Flood Damage to Cultural Heritage in the Hadramawt Region

Japan Consortium for International Cooperation in Cultural Heritage
Agency of Cultural Affairs

Members: Naoko Fukami (Waseda University), Kazuhiro Arai (Keio University), Jun Matsuo (OYO International Cooperation), Tomoaki Okamura (Shiga Prefectural University), Makoto Arimura (National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo)
Period: February, 2009



Tower houses in Shibam

Flood Damage to Cultural Heritage in the Hadramawt Region

The floods that hit the Hadramawt region in Yemen over the 24th and 25th of October 2008 not only resulted in many casualties, but also severely damaged the cultural heritage of the region, including the World Heritage Site Shibam. Information on the damage to and condition of Shibam was provided relatively quickly to experts around the world, from both the Yemen government, and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) which has been providing long-term development aid in Shibam.

Based on this information, an urgent meeting of the Subcommittee for West Asia of the Japan Consortium for International Cooperation in Cultural Heritage (JCIC-Heritage) was convened, and specialists exchanged information on the affected areas and discussed ways to provide aid. However, no information on the extent of damage to other cultural heritage besides the World Heritage Site Shibam was available, and there was not enough available for the Japanese government to consider its immediate response for the disaster. Accordingly, in February 2009, a decision was made to send an on-site survey team to the affected areas as part of the operations of JCIC-Heritage (Team Leader: Naoko Fukami).

Damage Assessment and Making a List of Cultural Heritage

This team was tasked with gathering enough information to confirm the extent of damage to cultural heritage in the Hadramawt region including the World Heritage Site Shibam and to enough information to allow Japan to consider the cooperation it should provide. In particular the team was asked to ascertain the extent of damage to historical buildings and other cultural heritage in Hadramawt region, to determine areas where cooperation would be possible based on the steps already taken on-site immediately after the flood damage occurred and requests from the Yemen government, and to gather information on the current state of aid and cooperation provided by other countries and UNESCO. Additionally the survey team also gathered information on historical buildings and villages in the Hadramawt region that had been picked up before the survey as lacking basic information, and the survey team attempted to make a list of major heritage assets, and record some items on the preservation state of cultural heritage.

The Old City of Shibam and its Surroundings

The old city of Shibam is clearly better maintained than other settlements, and its historical landscape is well preserved, thanks to the initiatives of General Organization for the Preservation of the Historic Cities of YEMEN (GOPHCY) and GTZ for conserving the cultural heritage. The location of the Old Walled City of Shibam itself is a flood measure, and it can be said helped in reducing the damage to the old city from this flood. However, if a flood of similar size to the one that hit the old city in the 16th century were to happen again, it would be impossible to avoid the collapse of the old city. In order to prepare for this, simply strengthening the city walls and improving drainage facilities is not adequate. Flood prevention measures must be taken over a wider area.

As indicated by GTZ, the repair of the city walls and discharging of water are major concerns. However, compared to the potential problems facing the traditional villages of the Hadramawt, we believe that the problems faced by Shibam, with maintenance already being carried out by a number of organizations, are not the most pressing problems to be tackled when looking across the entire Hadramawt region. People other than the people of Yemen are enthusiastically working to conserve Shibam as the single most important heritage of Wadi Hadramawt, but can this situation be considered appropriate? Hailed as the “Manhattan of the desert,” the appearance of the cluster of tower houses is certainly impressive. However, Shibam exists as part of the cultural foundation that encompasses the surrounding areas and the entire Hadramawt region. Given the current situation where most of the development of Shibam has been finished while other villages have been untouched, we believe that it would be advisable for development aid to be provided around a base of making use of the cultural heritage of the whole Hadramawt region, not just Shibam.

Based on this understanding, it is perhaps necessary to place priority on thoroughly surveying and documenting all towns and villages with traditional residence styles in the Hadramawt region, before proceeding with any other activities. While the condition of many of the traditional dwellings is battered, if action is taken soon, they can be restored.

(JCIC-Heritage)



Flood-affected historical building



Archaeological Site under open air condition



Landscape in Wadi Hadramawt



Some tower houses are abandoned because of lack of maintenance, social changes in the area and other reasons

The greatest feature of Salt is its picturesque urban landscape. Its foundation is based on a merchant city, developed from the towns of Middle Age. During the few decades from 19th century to 20th century, the merchants invested generously of their wealth and drew fully upon traditional construction techniques and modern technologies by using an abundance of Salt yellow colored stones to build the city, as to become the capital of the modern state of Jordan. This period, which was formed by the merchants migrating from such cities like Nablus, was called the

“Golden Age”. Along with mosques, churches, merchants’ houses and other architectures dating back to this period, some twenty tribes still keep their various traditions on trade manner and hospitality as a culture which differs from tribe to tribe. These cultural heritages which values are derived from a blending of such tangible, intangible, movable and immovable legacies are generally called “living heritages” in recent years. As a city that has not yet evolved into a tourism site, Salt has retained its originality to this day, and has been included in the provisional list of world heritage sites.



Jordan Tourism Sector Development Project — The Idea of Eco-Museum in Salt

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

Collaborator: Noriaki Nishiyama, Professor, Kyushu University

Period: 1999 – ongoing



JICA experts in front of a collapsed house



Japanese volunteers conducting a survey

Retaining the Value of the City as a Cultural Heritage

The city of Salt is located in the northeast from Amman, the capital of Jordan, the distance is only 30 minutes drive. Rapid urbanization has also brought new architectural styles and land-use plans to Salt. Salt’s unique landscape, which has long been lauded as “an architecture by master craftsmen,” “a brilliant golden townscape,” and “surrounded by hillside and farms that has quietly observed the history of Salt,” has begun to gradually disappear. There has been a large switchover of generation and residents in recent years, so only few elders remember the life during the golden age of Salt, though it was not more than a hundred years ago. Moreover, traditional and distinguished lifestyles of each tribe have also begun to change gradually, and customs and tools which were inherited are slowly disappearing. Some universities and research institutions were alerted with the situation and begun to conduct researches of the history and culture of Salt. Meanwhile, Jordanian government aimed to develop the city as a new international tourism site.

Transferring Japanese Town Planning Experience and Knowledge of “Hagi city as a Museum” for Salt

Eco-Museum Concept for Conserving the Living Heritage

Jordan is not rich in oil resources, though tourism sector in Jordan has achieved remarkable development as an international tourist destination for visitors from the Arab and Western countries, fascinated with its rich resources of archaeological and natural heritages represented in Petra, the Dead Sea, and the Wadi Rum Desert. There were strong expectations that Salt would be another potential tourist resource in the future, but Jordan had no experience in developing a living heritage, where

citizens reside for their daily life. Therefore, Jordan and Japan started to work on an international cooperation project since 1999, implemented by Japan Cooperation Agency (JICA), for the tourism development of Salt. This project aims to develop Salt under the Eco-Museum concept, which is centered by renovating the Abu Jaber House, a resident of a wealthy merchant, into a historic museum and also constructing infrastructures for tourism which are mainly museums, observatory and stairs. Some assistance in exhibition of the museum and trainings for curators has also been implemented.

This project also aims to enhance sustainability in tourism for Salt by maximizing effectiveness of the infrastructures constructed within the project, coping with conserving its intangible living heritage under the Eco-Museum concept. Meanwhile the historic museum will function as a core information center. This is a method to harmonize among living heritage, local community and tourism industry.

Participation of Japanese Volunteers and Expert from Hagi city

The main pillars to implement Eco-Museum concept is taken as follows; (1) Support to formulate basic concept of Eco-Museum and action plans in accordance with current situation in Salt; (2) Capacity development for the government, local governments and local NGOs to implement the above action plans effectively; (3) Support survey of present architectural structures in Salt and other tangible and intangible heritages; and (4) Support designing of sightseeing walkways called "discovery trails" and preparation for satellites (cultural sites) based on the Eco-Museum concept.

The above assistance, with the exception of (2), is implemented through close collaboration between Japanese experts and the JICA junior overseas cooperation volunteers (JOCV). Last year, museum curators and city planners, engaged in the "Hagi City Museum" project in Yamaguchi prefecture (Japan), traveled to Jordan and transferred their experiences and knowledge to the counterparts.

Expectations for Donor Coordination and Japan's Leadership

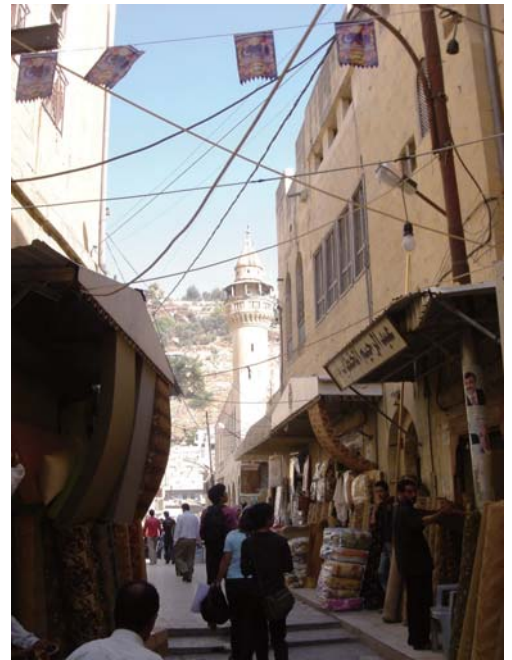
The Presence of Various Donors and Characteristics of Japan's Assistance

Cultural heritage management and tourism development in Salt is supported not only by Japan, but also by other donors (international aid institutions) such as the World Bank and USAID. These donors are implementing or planning infrastructure development projects, such as plaza development, mosques rehabilitation, and parking lot construction for residents, and also providing detailed assistance such as the installation of signs boards and micro-credit loans for small-scale store owners. Salt is now beginning to be recognized from abroad, therefore it is important to always give priority to the residents daily life and then to build a cooperative framework of assistance so that these donor activities can produce a synergistic effect. The characteristic of Japan's technical assistance is not only transferring techniques and knowledge but also promoting the ownership and enlightening the interests towards cultural heritage preservation by establishing a cooperative system between Jordanians. This Japanese-style support plays an effective and significant role for the international cooperation of living heritage conservation.

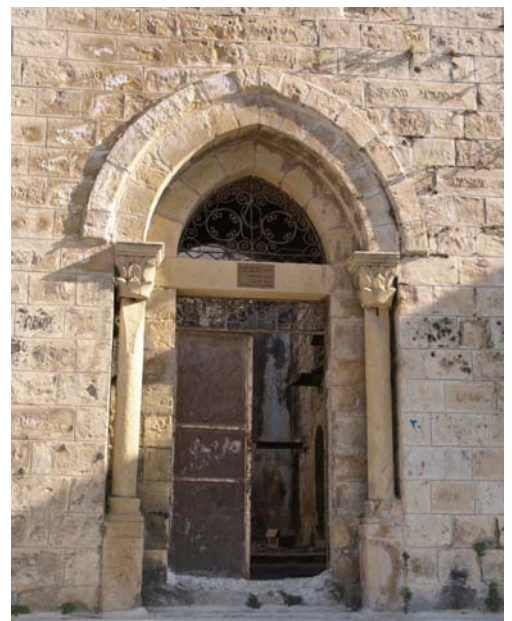
Planned Opening of the Eco-Museum in 2011

This project promotes the Eco-Museum concept, which entails the preservation and creation of landscapes, and embraces the entire city of Salt. Various parties, such as the residents, governmental organizations, NGOs, private sectors, and donor agencies cooperates in Salt's town planning and throughout this procedures the living heritage of Salt shall be inherited preciously, hence to succeed as an internationally recognized tourism site. The core museum will officially open in 2010, and by 2011, the living heritage city of Salt will show its unique Eco-Museum feature to the Arab world.

(Noriaki Nishiyama, Kyushu University)



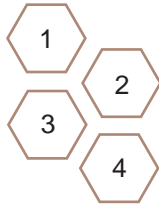
Suq (public market)



Traditional entrance



Meeting in an office inside a restored house



Cover Imagees

1. Old Walled City of Shibam
2. Royal Palace in Sumbawa
3. Northern Library in Bayon
4. Mogao Grottoes



JCIC-Heritage

JAPAN CONSORTIUM FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION
IN CULTURAL HERITAGE

13-43 Ueno Koen, Taito-ku,
Tokyo, 110-8713 JAPAN
Tel: +81-3-3823-4841 Fax: +81-3-3823-4027
13-43 Ueno Koen, Taito-ku, Tokyo, 110-8713 JAPAN
<http://www.jcic-heritage.jp>