



Japan Consortium for International Cooperation  
in Cultural Heritage

# Japan's International Cooperation in Heritage Conservation







JCIC-Heritage

## 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.



# International Cooperation Projects in Heritage Conservation by Japanese Experts

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Japan has consistently played an active part of 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/>).

Japan has engaged in over 1,500 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 site; 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 project 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 effort in the international cooperation for the world's cultural heritage.

Japan consortium for International Cooperation in Cultural Heritage  
March 2011



◀ Joint study of Ishigami sites, Nara

## Joint Research between the Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties and the National Research Institute of Cultural Properties of Korea

Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties  
Period: 2005 - Ongoing  
Target Country: Republic of Korea

### International Joint Research Background

Japan and the Korean Peninsula have retained a variety of historical and cultural relationships since olden times. For the purposes of academic and cultural exchange between Japan and the Republic of Korea (hereinafter referred to as Korea) as well as goodwill and joint research of both countries' cultures, the then National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Nara and the National Research Institute of Cultural Heritage of Korea entered into a goodwill joint research agreement in 1999. There had been frequent academic exchange between both research institutes even prior to this agreement, but signing an official agreement established a framework to continuously dispatch researchers and conduct joint research. As a way to develop this, the then National Research Institute of Cultural Properties and the National Research Institute of Cultural Heritage of Korea entered into a research and exchange agreement in 2005. This agreement was continued and joint research has been carried out yearly even after the National Institutes for Cultural Heritage was inaugurated due to subsequent reorganization. The Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties and the National Research Institute of Cultural Properties of Korea have conducted a wide variety of research on cultural property. A characteristic of both institutes is that their main field of interest is to excavate the ruins of ancient capital sites. The two main pillars of joint research between these research institutes are as follows. One is "joint research on the formation and development process of ancient capitals in Japan and Korea". While part of the first pillar, the second one is to carry out joint research based on an excavational research exchange agreement with the Gyeong-Ju National Research Institute of Cultural Heritage. These will be introduced below.



▲ Research exchange agreement signing ceremony (2005)



## Joint research on the formation and development process of ancient capitals in Japan and Korea

The ancient Korean Peninsula was dominated by the Three Kingdoms of Korea - Silla, Baekje and Goguryeo - and the Gaya confederacy, following which Unified Silla was formed. As shown in “Nihon Shoki” (the Chronicles of Japan), these kingdoms had a deep relationship with Japan.

The Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties has been researching the Heijo site focusing on the Heijokyu (Heijo Palace) and the Asuka-Fujiwara sites. National Research Institute of Cultural Heritage of Korea has also been researching ancient capital sites at Gyeong-Ju and Buyeo, enabling the academic achievements of such research to be mutually exploited. Therefore, focusing “on the formation and development process of ancient capitals in Japan and Korea”, joint research has dealt with excavational research exchange as will be described in the following section, as well as a comparative study of Japanese and Korean ancient capital city systems; a study of excavated remains in imperial palaces and temples; a study of old building restoration in regard to construction and technical methods; and a study of site maintenance and restoration techniques. In line with such themes, a number of researchers have been mutually dispatched, albeit for a comparatively short time, and joint research has been conducted making use of these researchers' expertise. Researchers have also been giving research presentations at their dispatch destinations. This has provided a unique opportunity to study the partner country's valuable remains and relics, and conduct expert discussions.

Japanese and Korean participants detailed the results of such joint research in a publication entitled “Memoirs of Cultural Heritage Studies in Korea and Japan”. Japanese and Korean versions were published in the respective countries enabling the academic findings to be widely shared in both countries. The first series was published in 2007, and “Memoirs of Cultural Heritage Studies in Korea and Japan” was published in Korea in 2010, and will be published in Japan in 2011.

## Excavational research Exchange with the Gyeong-Ju National Research Institute of Cultural Heritage

The Gyeong-Ju National Research Institute of Cultural Heritage is part of the National Research Institute of Cultural Heritage of Korea, and is leading research on Silla cities in Gyeong-Ju. The Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties and the Gyeong-Ju National Research Institute of Cultural Heritage entered into an excavational research exchange agreement based on “joint research on the formation and development process of ancient capitals in Japan and Korea”, and both institutes have been conducting joint research on ancient capital sites since 2006. Both research institutes dispatch one researcher every year for a period of two months to join the partner country's excavational research team.

Researchers previously dispatched from Japan to Gyeong-Ju participated in studies of the Sacheonwangsa temple, the Tombs of Silla Jjoksaem site, and the Wolseong Moat, providing a valuable opportunity to experience sites and survey methods different to those of Japan. Further, researchers who came to Japan from Gyeongju participated in excavational research at the Heijokyu, Fujiwarakyu (Fujiwara Palace), Ishigami, and the Amakashi-no-oka Toroku sites. When asked their impressions, participants said it was mutually stimulating because of differences of ideas and methods in a variety of aspects such as surveying, conservation, and maintenance. Researchers stay for a relatively long time at their dispatch destination, so this excavational research exchange provides an opportunity for researchers to interact and experience the cultures of Japan and Korea. In addition to the academic results it produces, this project helps to train human resources at both research institutes and create friendship and goodwill between both nations.

As described, the Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties and the National Research Institute of Cultural Heritage of Korea are continuing to conduct joint research on a variety of themes. Both cultural property research institutes plan to further promote joint research.

(Shigeto Ishibashi, Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties)



▲ Research report meeting in Korea



▲ Study of Baekje pottery in the Fuyo National Museum



▲ Inspection of the Sungsan Mountain Fortress in Haman



▲ Joint study of Jjoksaem sites Gyeongju



◀ Nguyen Dynasty Hue Imperial Palace and Thin Minh Laurenovated by the joint research center established to work with local organizations

## Comprehensive academic research contributing to the conservation of the World Heritage site “Complex of Hue Monuments”

Waseda University UNESCO World Heritage Site Research Institute

Period: 1991 – Ongoing

Target Country: Socialist Republic of Vietnam



▲ Excavational research conducted beside the Can Chanh Dien Court tombs

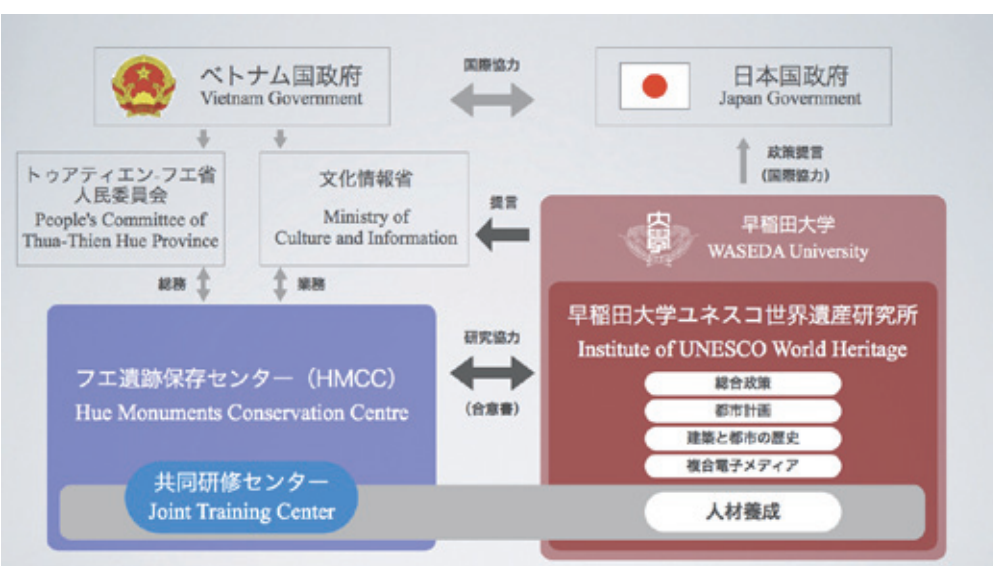
### Accepting Chinese culture and the uniqueness of Hue

The city of Hue in central Vietnam was the imperial capital of the Nguyen Dynasty (1802-1945), the first and the last dynasty which united the whole of Vietnam. It was surrounded by a French Vauban style shell as well as equipped with a Chinese style grid of streets and districts.

It is also known as one of the fiercest battlefields in the Vietnam War, literally resulting in “a broken country with the river and mountain remained” as a famous lyric by Tu Fu. However, the framework of the dynasty’s imperial capital has been preserved, and there are still some ruins from place to place. With reference to those pictures taken in a modern era, it would be possible to restore the total image of the city.

The “Doi Moi” reform generates a new hope, vibrancy, hardiness and freshness throughout the country after a long dark time, and especially I have found that it matches the scenic beauty of Hue.

A special attention should be paid to a slight roof inclination adopted in the Complex of Hue Monuments, which originated in the ancient Chinese architectural style in an arid region, although Vietnam climatically has many typhoons and rains. While it adopted a Chinese architectural style in general, it has a stronger contrast and more rhythmical patterns in its components which cannot be found, for example, in the imperial tombs scattered in deep mountains. It also adopted in the Imperial Court the ranking beam frame techniques, which were viewed only in top-class Chinese buildings, creating a continuous space with a unique horizontal impression.





## Comprehensive academic joint study ranging from the establishment of maintenance and conservation methods for cultural heritage to regional planning

The Japanese government provided assistance in inscribing the Complex of Hue Monuments on the UNESCO World Heritage List, and Mr. Nakagawa, the representative of this research, visited there in 1991 as a consultant under the UNESCO/Japan Trust Fund to provide technical guidance to the local parties involved with the Complex. The Hue Monuments Conservation Center (HMCC) was already active at this time, but the policy on cultural property conservation and restoration remained unclear. So, a lecture on Japanese, Egyptian, and Asian cultural property conservation and restoration techniques and research was delivered to cultural property officials gathered from across Vietnam. In addition, the Hue remains were inspected, and discussions on wooden buildings and general repair techniques were made with the HMCC staff.

In 1995, Mr. Phung Phu, the Assistant Director of the HMCC, and Mr. Le Dang Truong, a carpenter, were invited to take part in cultural property conservation and restoration training course funded by the UNESCO/Japan Trust Fund for the preservation of the World Cultural Heritage. Then, a full-scale investigation of the Imperial Palace City of Hue and a restoration study on the Can Chanh Dien Court, which is the main complex of Tu Cam Thanh (Vietnamese Forbidden City), were undertaken with a grant from the Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research provided by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology.

Still continues collaborative and joint research between HMCC and the Hue University College of Sciences (Urban Planning), and established was the joint research center by renovating small palaces within the Imperial Court of Hue and facilities in the city. The center built a bilateral VPN information network and is accumulating academic data to facilitate the Conservation Science Center.

## Town planning to secure cultural heritage authenticity and make use of the historic environment

Certainly the research findings are of great value to Vietnam because they contain the most important and largest volume of academic data to contribute to the reconstruction of the Nguyen Dynasty Imperial Court.

When the Prime Minister of Vietnam visited Japan, the Governor of Thua Thien-Hue Province, who exercises control over the said cultural heritage, was also a member of the visiting party. He requested that Japanese organizations join a project of the reconstruction of the Can Chanh Dien Court in a framework of cultural exchange between the two countries; his request is still under negotiation. To say concretely, the Ministry of Planning and Investment of Vietnam has added a restoration plan of the Can Chanh Dien Court to its shortlist of its proposed projects and it has been negotiating with the Japanese government since 2009.

On the other hand, the Complex of Hue Monuments was the first cultural heritage inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1993, which triggered the promotion of a tourism policy and the development of conservation and restoration projects.

Before its inscription, the Complex was conserved only for the prevention of further damage and destruction. The administration on cultural heritage protection aimed to maintain the current condition by formulating policies to protect the Complex from natural disasters and by requesting the international community to provide the minimum funds needed for these policies. After inscription, unguided repair work started without relevant laws and regulations such as Cultural Property Preservation Law, and there is even a danger that it would lower the value of the cultural heritage itself. We have transferred research methods and technologies to overcome this problem; we have consistently pursued policies to share knowledge about how best to carry out conservation and restoration as well as town planning that makes use of the historic environment through collaborative activities. The result is that young researchers are currently being trained with a shared awareness of issues.

(Takeshi Nakagawa and Kenta Kiya, Waseda University)



▲ Ceremony of bygone days at Can Chanh Dien Court



▲ GPS training conducted with local staff



▲ International workshop held at the Nguyen Dynasty Hue Imperial Palace and Duyet Thi Duong (Royal Theater)

▼ The current Can Chanh Dien Court which was destroyed by fire due to the Vietnam War leaving only the tombs





◀ Ta Nei site

# Joint research on the biodeterioration of and conservation measures relating to the Ta Nei site in the Angkor complex

National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo  
Period: 2000 - Ongoing  
Target Country: Kingdom of Cambodia



▲ Microorganisms grown on stone surface

## Problems concerning the conservation of the Ta Nei site

### Introduction to the Ta Nei Site

The Angkor complex is the remains of the capital city of the Angkor dynasty (circa 9<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> century). A large collection of sites such as Angkor Wat are concentrated here. Located to the northwest of Angkor Thom, the Ta Nei site is a temple ruins built during the reign of King Jayavarman VII from the end of the 12<sup>th</sup> to the beginning of the 13<sup>th</sup> centuries similar to the Bayon temple. While the grounds of most ruins are actively used such as to cut trees or relay stone blocks, the Ta Nei site remains virtually untouched.

### Biodeterioration Problems

Similar to other sites within the complex, the Ta Nei site is mainly constructed of sandstone and laterite stone, but the surface of the stone is overgrown with living organisms such as lichen and mosses, and due to lack of maintenance this has become conspicuous. While such organisms are often removed as part of standard maintenance of the ruins due to a recognition that they cause the deterioration of the ruins, a radical solution is difficult without knowing the full effect of these organisms.

### Project Details

This project attempts to verify the attributes of the organisms growing on the surface of the ruins and the exact effect the organisms are having (or not having) on the ruins. The aim of this is to identify what kind of state the organisms should be maintained in the future to keep the ruins in good condition and what concrete measures should be taken to ensure that state.



▲ Installation of an automatic weather station



## Taking various measurements at the Ta Nei site

### Environmental Observation

To understand the site's environment, a weather station has been installed at the site since 2000, automatically measuring items such as temperature, humidity, wind speed and direction, and insolation. This data collection is carried out by Cambodian researchers who underwent training in Japan. Aside from where the weather station is installed, a fisheye lens has been used to shoot hemispherical photography at places where typical organism species can be seen. This enables a survey to be made of how sunlight hits different parts of the site.

### Identifying the Organisms

Together with the National Museum of Nature and Science, Tokyo, we surveyed and identified organism types growing on each section of the ruins. 34 genera and 41 species of lichen; 8 families 8 genera and 9 species of bryophytes with 2 families, 2 genera and 3 species of marchantiophyta were identified and algae was also observed at the Ta Nei site. Generally, lichens thrive in sunny, dry places while mosses thrive in places with little sun and moist places such as water channels.

### Deterioration Status Survey

We verified what kind of differences could be found between the stone under points where each type of organism is growing and stone where they are not. Rebound hardness test with an Equotip tester and magnetic susceptibility measurements were carried out on the places where the stone surface was exposed after removing mosses; places where lichen is flourishing; and places where fresh stone is exposed by fracture surface or peeling plaster were subject to the same conditions, making other conditions same. We also took bounding stones home to Japan for analysis.

## Influence of organisms at the Ta Nei site

### Survey Results

It was revealed that the hardness and magnetic susceptibility of the stone directly under the mosses is lower than the fresh stone and the stone covered with lichen. While the hardness of the stone covered with lichen has a slightly low value, large differences were not discovered in the magnetic susceptibility and a significant reduction in physical properties could not be detected. A microscopic observation found that the surface layer of the stone covered with mosses has a large number of pores, and it was confirmed that the stone under mosses is deteriorating.

### Verifying Cause and Effect

The direct cause and effect relationship between lichen and stone disintegration could not be identified at this point. It was confirmed that the stone under the mosses is disintegrating, but decisions on how to deal with existing mosses will depend on whether the mosses accelerated the stone disintegration or the mosses started to grow after the stone disintegrated. Therefore, stone was placed at the site after its initial physical properties had been measured, and mosses are being grown on the stone surface to verify how physical property changes come about.

### Examining Ways To Manage the Problem

We insist that replicating the environment of places with mosses in places without mosses, or more specifically, attempting to improve sunlight and moisture conditions, would help to prevent further stone disintegration. On the other hand, testing is ongoing to verify the results and the effect on the stone when the existing organisms are cleaned off. Methods to remove organisms with absolute certainty and not cause a change to the stone's physical properties in the process are being examined.

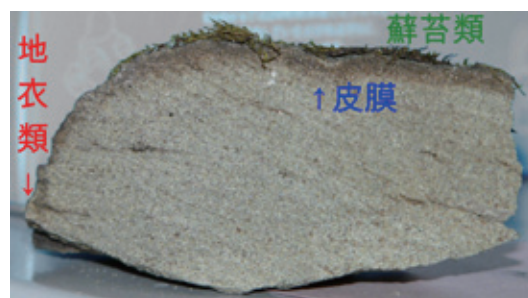
(Nobuaki Kuchitsu, National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo)



▲ Identification of microorganisms



▲ Measurement of magnetic susceptibility



▲ Weathering crust



▲ Fresh samples of sandstone planted at the site



▲ On Site experiment of cleaning of stone surface



▲ Punaka Dzong

# Survey on the Protection of Cultural Heritage in the Kingdom of Bhutan



▲ Kyichu Lhakang



▲ Paro Dzong

Japan Consortium for International Cooperation in Cultural Heritage

Period: 14th to 23rd February, 2010

Target Country: Kingdom of Bhutan

## A Country Still Strongly keeping traditions of Buddhist Culture

Bhutan is known as a country of devout Buddhists where the teachings of Buddhism remain strong in all aspects of people's life even today. Despite being neighboring to the two vast powers of China and India, the country retains its own unique traditions, and large numbers of cultural heritage and traditional techniques still play a significant role in people's everyday lives.

Typical tangible cultural heritage in Bhutan includes Dzong(building doubles as prefectural office and monastic center), Lhakhang(temples), Gompa(monastery), Chorten(Buddhist stupa), and old folk houses. Movable assets are represented by Buddhist-related such as Buddhist statues, paintings and scriptures, while the most well-known intangible cultural heritage are a Tibetan Buddhist mask dance called Cham, a yearly festival called Tsechu, and traditional arts and crafts such as textiles.

## Dispatching a survey team to Bhutan

Eastern Bhutan was struck by an earthquake in 2009, causing damage to a large number of temples and folk houses. Information about disaster-affected cultural heritage reached the Japan Consortium for International Cooperation in Cultural



Heritage via UNESCO which requested a field survey for support purposes.

Japanese cooperation in the conservation and restoration of historic buildings was provided for 10 years from 1992 by the Agency for Cultural Affairs. However, there has been hardly any information on local cultural heritage protection since this cooperation, and it is recognized that studying the protection status is required when providing any form of support. It is also recognized that widely grasping cooperation needs relating to movable and intangible cultural heritage is required since cooperation has rarely been provided for cultural heritage other than buildings. Thus, the Japan Consortium for International Cooperation in Cultural Heritage to decided to send out a survey teams.

A Tibetan Buddhism scholar with nearly ten years experience as a consultant to the National Library of Bhutan participated in the survey. From the fact that Bhutan is a Buddhist country, a large number of the National Library's collection is Buddhist scriptures, so this library differs significantly from ordinary libraries in that it is a sutra library that stores Buddhist scriptures. Further, many of the items stored in the National Museum are Buddhist paintings and statues. This survey reminded us that it is necessary to thoroughly understand the spirituality rooted in Mahayana Buddhism when considering protection for cultural heritage in Bhutan due to the country's emphasis on the intangible aspects of its tangible heritage.

## For long-term Cooperation in Bhutan Cultural Heritage

As pointed out in the past expert surveys, our generally held concept of cultural heritage does not exist in Bhutan. Based on Buddhist thinking, cultural heritage deemed worthy of protection by the Bhutanese is in essence spiritual rather than physical. However, this study revealed that this stance is changing in line with modernization. In particular, this study showed that because experts practically involved in the conservation of tangible cultural property are learning techniques and ideas abroad, they are starting to share international ideas about cultural heritage protection.

Oral traditions and traditional weaving techniques emphasized in Bhutan are in danger of dying out in the midst of globalization, and a desire to take measures to support them was shown in this study. In addition, conflicts of opinion concerning whether the earthquake-damaged buildings should be protected by improving their earthquake resistance with modern technology, and whether culturally-valuable traditional styles should be protected were also unearthed by this study. There are hopes that Japan can provide support in a number of areas such as conducting scientific assessments of traditional building technology and improving traditional buildings based on such assessments.

Due to differing ideas about cultural heritage, it is hard to see where Japan can cooperate with Bhutan. It is, therefore, necessary to fully examine how Japan can provide steady cooperation in areas identified in this study, and ensure that this leads to long-term support.

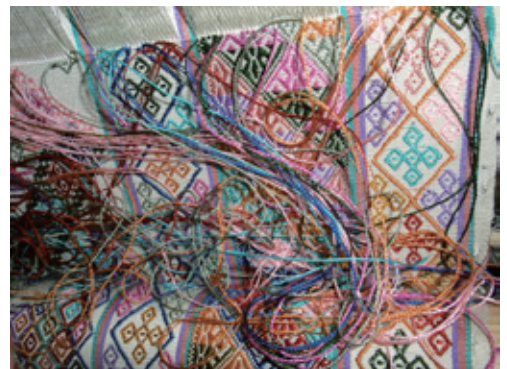
(Tomomi Haramoto, Japan Consortium for International Cooperation in Cultural Heritage)



▲ Ordinary housing in Bhutan



▲ Items from the collection of the National Library



▲ Traditionally woven fabric

▼ Tsechu at Punaka Dzong



▲ Changangkha Lhakhang







◀ Umm Qais site

# Third Country Cultural Heritage Training (Republic of Iraq)

The Institute for Cultural Studies of Ancient Iraq,  
Kokushikan University  
Period: 2004 to 2009  
Target Country: Republic of Iraq



▲ Training scene - practical surveying lesson

## Ancient Civilization of Mesopotamia

Mesopotamia which boasts one of the oldest civilizations in the world originated in the Republic of Iraq. The history of Iraq starts from the Paleolithic Period as indicated by the caves and rock remains in the mountainous area of Northern Iraq. Then there was the Neolithic Period shown by the domestication of crops and animals in the plateau and the base of the Fertile Crescent. Then it gradually became more urbanized shown by the city-state of Sumer in south Mesopotamia which saw the birth and development of civilization; Akkad in central Mesopotamia which ruled the whole of Mesopotamia; the Old Babylonian Empire, Assyria in north Mesopotamia which ruled the Orient; and then there was the rise and fall of the ancient civilization of the Neo-Babylonian Empire in central Mesopotamia. Further, the Islamic civilization started to flourish in the empire capital of Baghdad in the Abbasid Caliphate of the Islamic Age. As described above, Iraq has a long history of civilization, and is a cultural superpower in terms of its legacy of plentiful and excellent cultural heritage.

## The Iraq War and Cultural Heritage

The looting of the National Museum of Iraq during the Iran-Iraq War, the Gulf War and the Iraq War which broke out in March, 2003 is still fresh in our minds. Further, the Museum of Iraq was not the only place affected. The central library and university library were also looted, causing immeasurable damage. Security remains unstable in Iraq and valuable cultural heritage has been damaged in recent years such as the illegal digging of remains. Further, some cultural heritage has been taken out of the country and there currently seem to be little prospect of the post-war recovery of cultural heritage.



◀ Kish site (used as a communication base for the U.S. army since the end of the Iraq War)



## Support to Recover Cultural Heritage in Iraq

The International Coordination Committee for the Safeguarding of the Cultural Heritage of Iraq was established by UNESCO to start working on the recovery of cultural heritage in Iraq. Based on the advice of that Committee, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), UNESCO, the Department of Antiquities of Jordan and the Institute for Cultural Studies of Ancient Iraq, Kokushikan University co-hosted third world cultural heritage training. It was decided at an experts conference held in September, 2004 that training would be held at the Umm Qais site in Iraq's neighboring country of Jordan, and 15 Iraqis and 5 Jordanians were invited for training from spring, 2005. The objective was to provide training in various areas and put this into practice at the Umm Qais site. These training areas included studying locational conditions, environmental research (geography and environment teams), excavational research (archaeology team), conservation and restoration (conservation science, civil engineering and construction team), and then applying such cultural Heritage (cultural heritage team). One to two month training was provided for 15 people in the summer and two week training for 4 people in the spring. Lecturers were mainly made up of members of the "Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology's Academic Frontier" Project - "Cultural Heritage studies for the Reconstruction of Social Infrastructure in Post-war Iraq"(2005 to 2009) (Research representative: Ken Matsumoto). Further, German and Umm Qais investigation team researchers and UNESCO experts also took control of training. This training continued until the summer of 2007, and subsequent training was implemented up to the summer of 2009.

## Umm Qais Site in Jordan

The Umm Qais site, where Iraqi researchers were trained and investigative research was undertaken, is known as one of the ten cities of the Decapolis (federation of 10 cities) of the Hellenistic and Roman eras. The city was called Gadara in ancient times. There was a colonnaded street stretching east to west for 1.7 km in this city of Gadara, and a theater, a nymphaeum, baths, imperial forum, an octagonal hall, and an amphitheater line both sides of the street. The section of the site targeted for training and investigative purposes was the area inside the city gates of the early Roman era. As well as being a public facility, this place allows us to investigate the everyday lives of ordinary citizens throughout the Hellenistic, Roman, Byzantine, and Umayyad eras. In regard to the findings of the excavational research, a large facility with a mosaic floor and a building that appears to be the house of a citizen were excavated. Coins, tiles, and fragments of earthenware, glass and animal bones were also collected from the site. Discussions are ongoing with the Department of Antiquities of Jordan about how to restore and conserve this excavated street, buildings and relics, as well as about how to use them for educational and tourist purposes.

Further, exchange between a girls' junior high school near the Umm Qais site and Misono Elementary School in Tokyo was conducted via the Internet. Such activities foster deeper mutual understanding of the importance of cultural heritage and of other cultures.

## Training Results and Future Issues

Investigative research at Umm Qais and cultural exchange activities were used to train Iraqi researchers, increasing awareness of cultural heritage protection and activities in Iraq. Further, these trainees have applied knowledge, skills, and experiences gained through this training to training and awareness-raising activities in Iraq, and these activities have gained a high reputation.

There are plans to carry out training with leading technology, and there have also been requests to implement training for even more Iraqi people involved in cultural heritage activities. The day when order is restored and cultural heritage training can be carried out in Iraq itself is awaited.

(Ken Matsumoto, Kokushikan University)



▲ Damaged National Museum of Iraq



▲ Exchanging works such as calligraphy pictures



▲ The colonnaded street of Umm Qais



▲ The excavated area of the Umm Qais site



▲ Computer and GPS training



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JAPAN CONSORTIUM FOR  
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN CULTURAL HERITAGE

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