

● 2010 Survey for International Cooperation
Japan Consortium for International Cooperation in Cultural Heritage

● Survey Report on the Protection of
Cultural Heritage in the Republic of Armenia



2010 Survey for International Cooperation
Japan Consortium for International Cooperation in Cultural Heritage

Survey Report on the Protection of Cultural Heritage in the Republic of Armenia

March 2012
Japan Consortium for International Cooperation
in Cultural Heritage

Forward

1. This report presents the findings of a field survey on the state of cultural heritage in Armenia. The survey focused on hearings and field surveys, and includes information collected by the survey members in the year following the survey.

2. The editorial staff and authors involved in the creation of the report are listed below.

Authors: Chapter 1: Makoto Arimura, Naomi Hemuki, Tomomi Haramoto

Chapter 2: Makoto Arimura (Archaeology sections), Naomi Hemuki (Conservation sections)

Chapter 3: Makoto Arimura

Editor: Tomomi Haramoto

Preface

The Japan Consortium for International Cooperation in Cultural Heritage (JCIC-Heritage) collects a wide range of information to promote international cooperation on the protection of cultural heritage. In FY 2010, we conducted hearings in the Republic of Armenia (hereinafter referred to as “Armenia”) as a survey of the situation in a partner country.

Armenia is located in the South Caucasus on the western edge of Asia, a juncture of East and West where diverse cultures are woven together. At the same time, the South Caucasus has a tremendously complex history as a buffer zone for the conflicts between large Eastern and Western countries. Armenia has an extremely long history and is also known as the first country in the world to designate Christianity as its state religion.

Japan has provided a wide range of assistance to Armenia, this country with such a complicated history. For example, just looking at the current cultural relationship, many projects have been carried out with a focus on offering assistance and cooperation from Japan by supplying financial aid and equipment through such programs as the Supply of Equipment for Conservation of Historical Documents to the Matenadaran Follow-Up Project (FY 2001) under Grant Assistance for Cultural Grassroots Projects, and the Project for the Improvement of Musical Instruments of Yerevan State Conservatory (FY 2008) and the Project for the Improvement of Equipment for Restoration of Collections of the National Gallery of Armenia (NGA) (FY 2009), under general Cultural Grant Aid.

Meanwhile, it is important to bear in mind that Armenia was a member of the former Soviet Union. It has been 20 years since the break up of the Soviet Union, and relations with former Soviet countries have become increasingly important for Japan. Against this background, it is important to understand the current state of cultural heritage conservation in Armenia when considering what kind of assistance and cooperation should be provided by Japan to the Caucasus Region. We hope this report will be of use to individuals from various fields who are involved in international cooperation regarding Armenia.

As a final note, we would like to express our deep appreciation to the many individuals who have contributed to this undertaking, including members of the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Agency for Cultural Affairs, as well as all the relevant institutions in Armenia.

Contents

1. Survey Overview	1
1.1. Objectives and Members of the Survey	1
1.2. Reasons for Conducting a Survey on Armenia.....	1
1.3. Survey Methods	1
1.4. Record of Activities.....	2
1.5. Overview of the Institutions Visited and Interviewees.....	3
1.5.1. Ministry of Culture, Armenia.....	3
1.5.2. National Conservation Center of Armenia.....	3
1.5.3. History Museum of Armenia	3
1.5.4. National Gallery of Armenia (NGA)	3
1.5.5. Matenadaran.....	3
1.5.6. Scientific Research Center for the Historical and Cultural Heritage.....	5
1.5.7. Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography (Additionally surveyed in April)	5
1.5.8. JICA Liaison Office	5
1.5.9. Art Expo.....	5
1.5.10. Erebuni Fortress and Erebuni Museum.....	5
1.5.11. Etchmiadzin Cathedral and Museum	7
2. Cultural Heritage Protection in the Republic of Armenia	9
2.1. Overview	9
2.2. Current Status of Conservation of Cultural Heritage in Armenia.....	9
2.2.1. History Museum of Armenia	11
2.2.2. National Gallery of Armenia	15
2.2.3. Scientific Research Center of Historical and Cultural Heritage.....	17
2.2.4. Matenadaran Mashotots Institute-Museum of Ancient Manuscripts	19
2.2.5. Discussion on Conservation in Armenia	23
2.3. Current Status of Archaeological Surveys in Armenia.....	23
2.3.1. Survey Bodies	25
2.3.2. Application for Permission to Conduct Surveys	25
2.3.3. Registration of Sites and Objects.....	25
2.3.4. Education in Archaeology	25
2.3.5. Current Issues.....	25
3. Fields with Potential for Cooperation from Japan	26
3.1. Organizing Symposiums and Workshops	26
3.2. Cooperation with Universities	26
3.3. Assistance through the Provision of Equipment.....	27
4. Conclusion	28
5. List of local materials	29

1. Survey Overview

1.1. Objectives and Members of the Survey

Objectives of the Survey

JCIC-Heritage carries out partner country surveys for the purpose of promoting international cooperation for the protection of cultural heritage. There are two types of surveys conducted by JCIC-Heritage: emergency surveys for the rescue of cultural heritage damaged by natural disasters, etc., and ordinary surveys on the state of general damage to cultural heritage. This report concerns a general survey conducted in FY 2010 in order to get an idea of the current state of cultural heritage protection and international cooperation in Armenia, and to investigate the potential for cooperation by Japan.

Survey Members

Makoto Arimura: Research Fellow, Japan Center for International Cooperation in Conservation, National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo

Naomi Hemuki: Research Fellow, Japan Center for International Cooperation in Conservation, National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo

Tomomi Haramoto: Research Fellow, JCIC-Heritage



1.2. Reasons for Conducting a Survey on Armenia

After Armenia became independent from the former Soviet Union, the scholars who had led research up to that point left the country. Armenia has since encountered various problems establishing its own research system and cultivating human resources in a wide range of fields, including cultural heritage conservation, restoration, and archeological research. Therefore, the Armenian Government submitted a request to Japan for cooperation on cultural heritage conservation through JCIC-Heritage. Although Japan has provided cultural heritage cooperation to Armenia in the form of equipment and architectural surveys through ODA, there has been hardly any cooperation in the fields of conservation and restoration or archaeology, for which the Armenian Government is requesting assistance, and Japan has very little information about the situation in these fields in Armenia. Therefore, with the approval of the Planning Sub-committee, JCIC-Heritage sent a research team to obtain accurate information on the status of cultural heritage in Armenia to clarify the fields in which Japanese specialists and institutions might best provide cooperation.

1.3. Survey Methods

In response to the request from Armenia, JCIC-Heritage carried out a survey to determine the potential for cooperation that Japan might provide, mainly in the fields of conservation and restoration, and archeology, at museums and galleries. The survey was centered on the Cultural Ministry, and consisted of interviews with individuals and organizations involved in cultural heritage conservation and archaeological surveys, as well as on-site visits to exhibitions and restoration facilities.

Ms. Ani Avagyan, Head of the Education & PR Department, National Gallery of Armenia, who is an acquaintance of Mr. Arimura, kindly arranged an ex-ante meeting.

1.4. Record of Activities

Date	Venue	Action	Name of Interviewee or visited institution/site
Feb. 8 (Tue)	History Museum of Armenia	Visit	History Museum of Armenia
	National Gallery of Armenia	Interview	Mr. Ashot PILIPOSYAN (Deputy Director (Science Section) of the National Conservation Center of Armenia) Ms. Marine HAROYAN (ICOM National Committee of Armenia) Ms. Hripsime PIKICHYAN (President of Association of Museum Workers & Friends NGO) Ms. Ani AVAGYAN - (Director of ICOM National Committee of Armenia) Ms. Ruzan KHOJIKYAN - (JICA Program Coordinator in Armenia)
Feb. 9 (Wed)	Erebuni	Visit	Erebuni Fortress and Museum of the Establishment of Yerevan
	Ministry of Culture, Armenia	Interview	Ms. Arev SAMUELYAN (Vice Minister of Culture of Republic of Armenia) Ms. Sussanna KHACHATRYAN (Deputy Head of the Department of Foreign Affairs of Ministry of Culture of RA) Mr. Ashot PILIPOSYAN (Deputy Director (Science Section) of the National Conservation Center of Armenia) Ms. Ani AVAGYAN (Director of ICOM National Committee of Armenia) Ms. Ruzan KHOJIKYAN - (JICA Program Coordinator in Armenia)
	Scientific Research Center for the Historical and Cultural Heritage	Visit and Interview	Mr. Kozyun GHAFADARYAN (Deputy Director) Mr. Hovhnes SANANNYAN (Deputy Director) Mr. Galnik MOMJYAN (Ministry of Culture of Republic of Armenia, Responsible for International Cooperation) Ms. Ruzan KHOJIKYAN - (JICA Program Coordinator in Armenia)
	JICA Armenia Liaison Office		Ms. Ruzan KHOJIKYAN - (JICA Program Coordinator in Armenia)
Feb. 10 (Thu)	National Gallery of Armenia	Visit and Interview	Mr. Pharaon MIRZOYAN (Director of the NGA)
	History Museum of Armenia	Interview	Ms. Yelena ATOYANTS (Head of Department of Restoration, History Museum of Armenia) Ms. Armine ZOHRABYAN (Archaeologist)
	Matenadaran	Visit and Interview	Ms. Gayane ELIAZYAN (Head of Conservation Division) Interview conducted while observing restoration atelier.
Feb. 11 (Fri)	Dvin	Visit	Dvin
	Etchmiadzin	Visit	Etchmiadzin Cathedral and the Museum
	Art Expo	Visit	Art Expo

1.5. Overview of the Institutions Visited and Interviewees

1.5.1. Ministry of Culture, Armenia

The Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Armenia exercises jurisdiction over the protection of both tangible and intangible cultural heritage in Armenia. The History Museum of Armenia and Scientific Research Center for the Historical and Cultural Heritage are under its control. We interviewed Ms. Arev Samuelyan, Vice Minister of Culture of the Republic of Armenia, about the current status of cultural heritage conservation in Armenia, and the fields in which she believes Japan might best provide cooperation (Photo 01).

1.5.2. National Conservation Center of Armenia

The National Conservation Center of Armenia was established under the Ministry of Culture in May of 2010 to direct research and conservation on immovable properties. In partnership with the Italian Ministry of Culture, the center handles the restoration of churches, etc. In future, the ministry has plans to establish a section to handle the conservation of movable properties, and make the center a hub of cultural heritage conservation in Armenia. The National Conservation Center of Armenia is located near the Hrazdan River at the southern entrance of Central Yerevan (not visited). We interviewed Mr. Ashot Piliposyan, Deputy Director of the National Conservation Center of Armenia (Photo 02).

1.5.3. History Museum of Armenia

The museum faces Republic Square in the heart of Yerevan (Photo 03). It has a long history dating back to its predecessor organization, the Ethnographic Anthropological Museum-Library, founded in 1919. The current history museum came into being in 2003. It stores many precious archaeological and ethnic materials discovered and gathered inside Armenia. In addition to permanent exhibitions, it has a wide variety of special exhibitions. Between 2009 and 2011, the Museum refurbished its permanent exhibitions, including the Prehistoric Age, Bronze Age, Kingdom of Urartu, and Middle Ages exhibitions. The Museum consists of five research departments: Archaeology, Numismatics, Ethnology, Modern History, Conservation. The Director is Ms. Anelka Grigoryan. We interviewed Ms. Yelena Atoyants, Head of Restoration, and Ms. Armine Zohrabyan, Archaeologist (Photo 04). Details are provided in the next chapter.

1.5.4. National Gallery of Armenia (NGA)

The NGA stands next to the History Museum (Photo 03: the tall building in the middle) and houses artworks such as paintings and sculptures from Armenia, Russia, and other European countries. Despite its small size, it also exhibits Eastern arts from China and other countries. It is equipped with a restoration atelier that allows independent art conservation. The Japan International Cooperation Agency (hereinafter referred to as "JICA") also provided equipment for cultural properties heritage conservation in 2011 (FY 2009, Project for the Improvement of Equipment for Restoration of Collections of the NGA, a General Cultural Grant). We interviewed Mr. Pharaon Mirzoyan, Director of the NGA. Details are provided in the next chapter.

1.5.5. Matenadaran

The Mesrop Mashtots Institute of Ancient Manuscripts, commonly referred to as the Matenadaran, is one of the greatest museums of ancient manuscripts in the world, with more than 300,000 precious manuscripts in Armenian, including bibles, and other publications in the fields of literature, science, and medicine (Photo 05). The main role of the Matenadaran is conservation, recording, and storing of ancient manuscripts, and dissemination of information about them. We interviewed Ms. Gayane Eliazyan, Head of the Conservation Division (Photo 06). Details are provided in the next chapter.



01. Interviews with the Vice Minister of Culture at the Ministry of Culture



02. Interviews with the Associate Director of the National Conservation Center of Armenia



03. History Museum of Armenia



04. Interviews at the History Museum of Armenia



05. The Matenadaran



06. Explanation by the Manager of Preservation and Restoration at Matenadaran

1.5.6. Scientific Research Center for the Historical and Cultural Heritage

This Research Center is an institution under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Culture, which handles surveys, research, and the protection of cultural properties. The center employs approximately 50 specialists in the fields of archaeology, conservation and architecture (Photo 07). The current director is Mr. Hakob Simonian. The institute carries out excavation of archaeological sites, and conservation, and management of historical buildings, and is excavating the sites of Lchashen (Bronze and Middle Ages), and Schengavit (late Chalcolithic and Bronze Age). It is in charge of the registration of immovable cultural heritage. When an item is registered, its information and photos are recorded in a ledger called the Cultural Property Passport. Details are provided in the next chapter.

1.5.7. Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography (Additionally surveyed in April)

This Institute was originally founded in 1959 as the Historical Research Center at the National Academy of Sciences. It handles surveys and research related to archaeology, ethnology, and anthropology. It is located on the outskirts of Yerevan, and conducts a wide range of academic surveys, research and emergency archaeological surveys inside the country independently or in cooperation with teams from overseas. The institute has approximately 100 researchers assigned to six departments: Prehistoric Archaeology, Ancient Archaeology, Medieval Archaeology, Emergency Archaeology, Archaeological Science and Conservation. The current Director is Mr. Pavel Avetisyan (Photo 08). Details are provided in the next chapter.

1.5.8. JICA Liaison Office

As of 2011, the JICA Office was reorganized into the Liaison Office, which is staffed by a single employee, Ms. Ruzan Khojikyán who acquired a doctorate during her 10-year stay in Japan. Therefore, she is fluent in Japanese as well as her mother tongue, Armenian. She also speaks Russian and English. The Armenian government agencies respond very quickly to inquiries, and are very open and cooperative in providing information. Japanese ODA is now applied to projects related to a gas-fired power generation plant, a substation, and seismic isolation (the first two projects have been completed and JICA is currently handling seismic isolation only).

A seismic isolation project has been carried out by OYO International, which also has experience with NRICP. We were able to interview personnel at OYO International Co., Ltd. about the project (Photos 09 & 10). The interviewer was Ms. Ruzan Khojikyán, JICA Coordinator.

1.5.9. Art Expo

We visited the Art Expo, where museums under the Ministry of Culture set up individual booths to exhibit their achievements every year (Photos 11-14). We interviewed Mr. Ashot Piliposyan from the Scientific Research Center for the Historical and Cultural Heritage, and deputy director of the Center who handles registrations. We also met with personnel from the Archaeological Agency.

1.5.10. Erebuni Fortress and Erebuni Museum

The Erebuni Fortress in the suburbs of Yerevan is the remains of a fortified city from the Urartu kingdom (Photo 15). The remains have been largely reconstructed and maintained as a historical site. A museum exhibiting objects found at the remains has been established at the base (Photo 16). The Museum has a small conservation room that carries out restoration of earthenware.



07. Interviews at the Scientific Research Center for the Historical and Cultural Heritage



08. An Interview with the Director of the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography



09. Survey on the Landslide Layer by JICA Project



10. Scenery of Southern Part of Yerevan and Mount Ararat, where JICA Provides Assistance



11. Art Expo



12. The History Museum of Armenia Booth at the Art Expo

1.5.11. Etchmiadzin Cathedral and Museum

Etchmiadzin is located approximately 20km west of Yerevan and is the spiritual center of Armenia. There are many churches, including the chief cathedral of the Holy Armenian Apostolic Orthodox Church. The area has a long history, and one of its cities, Vagharshapat, served as the capital in the 2nd century. During the spread of Christianity in the 4th century, a church was built on the site where the Etchmiadzin Cathedral now stands. Etchmiadzin Cathedral has been remodelled several times, most notably an extensive remodelling that took place in the 17th century (Photos 17 & 18). The cathedral and churches of Etchmiadzin and the archaeological remains at Zvartnots were listed as UNESCO World Heritage sites in 2000.

Etchmiadzin Cathedral has a museum exhibiting treasures owned by the church. We can view holy relics and items used in rituals, and manuscripts related to the Armenian Apostolic Orthodox Church.



13. The Scientific Research Center for the Historical and Cultural Heritage Booth at the Art Expo



14. Explanation of Exhibition by Ashot Piliposyan, the National Conservation Center of Armenia, at the Art Expo



15. Erebuni Remains



16. Erebuni Historical Museum



17. Etchmiadzin Cathedral 1



18. Etchmiadzin Cathedral 2

2. Cultural Heritage Protection in the Republic of Armenia

2.1. Overview

In Armenia, the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Education and Science manage cultural heritage protection. The Ministry of Culture handles the registration, protection and utilization of immovable and movable properties, and the National Academy of Sciences under the Ministry of Education and Science oversees research. The Ministry of Culture manages institutions including the History Museum of Armenia and the Scientific Research Center for the Historical and Cultural Heritage, while the Ministry of Education and Science manages the National Academy of Sciences Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography, the Matenadaran, and other organizations. These museums and research institutions have their foundations in organizations established under the former Soviet Union, and rather than having specific roles, they carry out overlapping projects and research. To address this situation, the Ministry of Culture is currently promoting reform of research institutions through merger and abolition for the purpose of consolidating and concentrating cultural heritage protection activities. For that purpose, the Ministry of Culture recently established the National Conservation Center of Armenia as the base for the conservation of cultural heritage in Armenia.

Meanwhile, Italy and France have actively provided assistance for the protection of cultural heritage in Armenia. Italy and Armenia entered a Bilateral Agreement on the Protection of Cultural Heritage on April 6, 2011 (<http://www.armtown.com/news/en/azg/20110408/2011040801>). Hasmik Poghosyan, Minister of Culture, and Bruno Scapini, the Italian Ambassador to Armenia, signed the Agreement. It will be in effect for two years, and Politecnico di Milano handles the project on the Italian side, with a total budget of 1.274 million euros. This cooperative project provides seminars for the purpose of cultivating human resources for the conservation of movable and immovable properties, and includes plans to install an art conservation laboratory at the NGA, and a conservation room for archaeological objects, including metallic, wooden, earthenware and other items, at the History Museum of Armenia and the Erebuni Historical and Archaeological Museum-Reserve.

The French Academy of Sciences (Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique: CNRS), has carried out joint archaeological surveys with the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography, National Academy of Sciences of Armenia since 1998. In 2010, CNRS and the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography entered into an agreement on research cooperation for the *Projet de Laboratoire International Associé (LIA) franco-arménien, HEMMA « Hommes et environnements en milieu montagnard, le cas de l'Arménie (LIA "HEMMA" Project)*. The French representative is Ms. Christine Chataigner of the Maison de l'Orient et de la Méditerranée (MOM) and the Armenian representative is Mr. Pavel Avestivan of the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography. This project has become an interdisciplinary project with the participation of a wide variety of researchers in archaeology, including members from the MOM Orientale at CNRS and the University of Montpellier in France, and the Institute of Geological Sciences in Armenia. The project targets a wide span of time, from prehistoric times to the Kingdom of Urartu in about 1000 BC, to pursue research on approximately 10000 years of interaction between people and the environment.

2.2. Current Status of Conservation of Cultural Heritage in Armenia

During this survey, we interviewed individuals involved in the management of cultural heritage institutions in Armenia. We also visited conservation facilities that allowed access and interviewed specialists who worked on site.



Conservation laboratory



Scientific Research Center of the Historical and Cultural Heritage

2.2.1. History Museum of Armenia

Interviewees

Ms. Anelka Grigoryan, Director

Ms. Armine Zohrabyan, Archaeologist

Ms. Yerena Atoyants, Head of Conservation Laboratory

Basic Information

- All items housed at the Museum are owned by the History Museum of Armenia.
- All operational expenses for conservation are provided by the Government of Armenia. There is no funding from external sponsors.
- The Museum has a designer responsible for everything from showcases to the creation and presentation of exhibitions at the Museum.

Activities at the Museum

- Over the past two years, archaeological objects from the Kingdom of Urartu were moved from the 2nd to the 3rd floor, and a new exhibition was opened.
- (In autumn 2011) A new exhibition room was designed jointly with Italy. In February 2011, the display space was expanded with the opening of three new exhibition rooms.
- (In autumn 2011) Collections were loaned to Italy for a special exhibition. Ms. Iveta Mkrtychyan, the Vice Director, personally oversaw transportation of the collections.

Facilities & Equipment of Conservation Laboratories

(Although we could not visit these laboratories when we conducted the partner country survey for JCIC-Heritage, we were able to gain access during the current survey with permission granted following the preparatory mission for the April 2011 agreement.)

- Three conservation laboratories are located at the far end of the 1st floor of what is referred to as the backyard, an area inside of the museum building not open to the general public. Furthest back is the laboratory for metal objects (Photo 19), followed by the dyed textiles and carpets lab in the middle (Photo 20), and the lab for metals and wood articles, pottery and ceramics, glass objects and other materials in the front.
- The laboratories are general-use rooms and are not equipped with any special facilities for conservation work. Therefore, they do not have air-conditioning systems, draft (dust and solvent exhaust ventilation) systems, or emergency showers. With the exception of one room, there is no access to water.
- In terms of light source, the rooms have windows facing the outside, fluorescent lights on ceilings and walls, and lights on magnifying lenses (Photo 21).
- In terms of scientific analysis devices, there are only stereomicroscopes.
- The rooms are equipped with general tools required for conservation work.
- It is difficult and sometimes impossible to purchase consumable supplies and special materials in Armenia. They ask individuals travelling abroad to places such as Europe to purchase products, or they use alternative materials for their work.



19. Conservation laboratory for metal objects



20. Interview with specialists at the conservation laboratory for dyed textiles and carpets



21. Working table in the conservation laboratory

Human Resources in Cultural Heritage Conservation

- There are five specialists working at the facility.
- One female scientist specializing in metals (mainly iron) is assigned to the rear room for metal objects. She handles surveys and research as well as conservation work. Two female specialists are assigned to the middle room for dyed textiles, one for textiles and one for carpets. Two female conservation specialists are assigned to the general conservation room at the front for metals and archaeological objects. One is Ms. Yelena Atoyants, a specialist in metal objects conservation, who also serves as head of these three laboratories.
- Ms. Atoyants also works at the Scientific Research Center of the Historical and Cultural Heritage, the details of which are described later.

Cultivation of Human Resources for Cultural Heritage Conservation

- There is no specialized higher educational organization that handles the cultivation of human resources in cultural properties conservation in Armenia.
- Before gaining independence from the Soviet Union, there were some opportunities to receive education and attend seminars for cultural properties conservation in the Soviet Union or surrounding countries. However, such chances dwindled to almost zero after Armenia became independent.
- Most of the Armenian specialists in charge of cultural properties conservation are from universities of fine arts, craftsmen in traditional arts, or scientists. Their knowledge and techniques have been accumulated through experience.
- Ms. Atoyants, head of the conservation laboratory, has attended seminars for cultural properties conservation in Moscow and Saint Petersburg in Russia, and in France and Egypt.
- Ms. Atoyants recognizes human resource cultivation as a priority issue; however, there are no opportunities to provide education to the young generation except at the conservation laboratories at museums and research centers.

Other

- A storage facility for archaeological objects is located in the area of the museum building known as the backyard. There are also storage rooms for textile and wooden articles, and there is a manager in charge of each storage facility.
- Archaeological objects are stored in separate paper boxes (Photos 23 & 24), and are very carefully organized and recorded (Photo 25).
- The numbering of articles, boxes, and shelves is also managed carefully.
- Museum employees are keenly aware of security. Guards pay close attention to the articles in each exhibition room, and it is necessary to obtain permission from museum staff to pass through several doors with security locks to gain access to the backyard. Each room has a lock, which must be locked when leaving the room even for a short period of time.

Current Issues

- Although the museum's collection is growing each year, there is a serious lack of specialists in charge of conservation, especially for organic materials. There are some specialists in charge of organic materials such as leather and paper at the Matenadaran; however, a cooperative relationship has not yet been established. Therefore, the History Museum can only perform minimum cleaning so as not to risk damaging the historical objects.

- Without scientific devices for analysis, they are unable to perform scientific surveys and research before beginning the process of conservation. In future, they hope to conduct scientific analyses and surveys before treatment to promote work efficiency and to carry out further research on the material.
- The objects registered in the museum collection may not be removed from the museum. However, there are no well-equipped conservation rooms, and absolutely no scientific analysis devices. Thus while they lack the facilities to perform the work within the museum, they are unable to outsource scientific analysis to external institutions. They are interested in such scientific analyses, which they consider the most effective way to promote efficiency in conservation work.
- While many specialized works on cultural properties conservation are available, the majority are written in English, and a lack of staff with proficiency in English interferes with their ability to gather information.

2.2.2. National Gallery of Armenia

When we visited the National Gallery of Armenia for a survey in February 2011, we visited 18 exhibition rooms and received explanations provided by a guide. We then visited the rooms for conservation laboratories and interviewed specialists there. When we visited this location again in October 2011, we saw devices provided by JICA.

Interviewees

Mr. Pharaon Mirzoyan, Director
Head of Conservation Laboratories

Activities at the National Gallery of Armenia

- The Project for the Improvement of Equipment for Restoration of Collections of the National Gallery of Armenia was executed as a General Cultural Grant Aid Project (FY 2009) by JICA with an emphasis on exhibitions and conservation laboratories. The equipment was scheduled to arrive in July 2011; however, it was delayed about three to four months and arrived in October.

Exhibitions

- The condition of the majority of paintings exhibited is relatively good.
- The temperature of the exhibition rooms is not controlled.
- Although the windows have curtains, they are extremely thin and there are gaps that allow sunlight into the rooms.
- Paintings on the walls are tied to pipes with string and wire or hung from holes in long, thin metal strips. Only pictures in heavy frames have floor-based wooden supports attached to the bottom of the frame.
- The surfaces of some paintings are protected with a sheet of glass placed on the frame. However, it is hard to see the pictures due to the reflection of sunlight.

Facilities and Equipment in the Conservation Laboratories

- Conservation laboratories are located on the third floor of the area known as the backyard of the museum, which the general public is not allowed to enter. There are three rooms, each of which handles specific materials: one for wood, porcelain, and pottery (Photo 26), one for pictures (Photo 27), and one for paper.
- The laboratories are not specially designed for conservation work, and they lack air-conditioning or exhaust ventilation systems for the preservation of cultural properties.



26. Conservation laboratory for wood, porcelain and pottery



27. Conservation laboratory for pictures

- The laboratory for wood, porcelain, and pottery is relatively large, measuring approximately 17 m². It is mainly used for wooden furniture and picture frames. Conservation work for porcelain and pottery is performed at a desk in a corner of the room.
- The laboratory for paintings has one entrance, but is divided into small rooms on both sides of the entrance. The main room is a space measuring more than 33 m². It is here that most of the tools are found (Photo 28). The room to the back left is for paintings, and the room to the back right has racks for storing pictures on paper, shelves and desks. A variety of equipment provided by JICA is installed in this laboratory (Photo 29), such as suction tables, hot spatulas, digital cameras and peripheral devices, microscopes, etc.
- The room for conservation of paper material measures 17 m². A restoration table provided by JICA is installed in the middle, surrounded by paper materials stored in piles.
- Specialized equipment for conservation, such as museum cleaners, is also provided.
- No freight elevator was observed.

Human Resources in Cultural Properties Conservation

- There are five specialists assigned to the museum.
- The head of the conservation laboratories is a specialist in the conservation of paintings. There are two more specialists assigned to the room, an older male specialist in conservation of wooden materials and a young female specialist in the restoration of porcelain and pottery. The specialist in wood is in charge of the conservation of wooden picture frames and wooden furniture, and the female specialist is in charge of the conservation of porcelain objects and statues as well as pottery.

Training for Human Resources for Cultural Properties Conservation

- They invite specialists in conservation from Russia and Italy and hold seminars to train human resources. They also conduct scientific analyses. The Director is proud of having the only professionally outfitted laboratory for conservation in Armenia.
- The specialist in the conservation of wooden materials acquired his skills from his father and participated in advanced programs given at ateliers in Saint Petersburg and Leningrad to master the skills of restoration.
- Other restoration specialists also attended advanced programs provided by Russia, Italy, and France.
- These specialists mastered their skills not through training at institutes of higher education, but through acquiring knowledge and skills from senior specialists while doing actual conservation work. They often take opportunities to improve their skills through human resource cultivation seminars provided by partner countries.

Current Issues

- There are no special problems.

2.2.3. Scientific Research Center of Historical and Cultural Heritage

We were able to visit this center with cooperation from the Ministry of Culture (Photo 30). When we visited in February, the director was not there. We interviewed two Associate Directors and visited the conservation laboratory. When we visited in April, we were able to meet and interview the Director.



28. Work table in the conservation laboratory for pictures



29. Equipment provided by JICA, conservation laboratory for pictures



30. Scientific Research Center of the Historical and Cultural Heritage

Interviewees

- Mr. Hakob Simonyan, Director
- Mr. Kozyun Ghafadaryan, Associate Director
- Mr. Hovhannes Sanannyn, Associate Director

Basic Information

- The major activities of this center are the registration of cultural properties the issuance of cultural property registration passports, and the provision of legal support (Photo 31). It also provides monitoring.

Facilities and Equipment in the Conservation Laboratory

- The organization has two buildings, one across from the Ministry of Culture on Yerevan's main street, and the other near the Hrazdan River on the outskirts of town. We were able to visit the building near the Ministry of Culture; however, we were unable to visit the organization's other building.
- The center's building is extremely old. There is an atrium space in the middle of the building, and the upper part of the atrium is surrounded by a corridor along which the rooms are located.
- One room at the center is used for conservation of archaeological objects in a wide range of materials excavated from sites (Photo 32).
- The room is not designed for conservation. It lacks air-conditioning and exhaust ventilation appropriate for cultural heritage protection (Photo 33).
- The archaeological objects are stored in empty electric appliance or sweets boxes (Photo 34). Small objects are stored in zip-lock vinyl bags before being placed into the boxes.
- Materials and tools are procured at bazaars or imported. Some tools are handmade, such as tools for measuring earthenware (Photo 35).

Human Resources in Cultural Properties Conservation

- The center has a director, two managers, and 50 other staff members. However, there are only five specialists in conservation. Ms. Yerena Atoyants, of the History Museum of Armenia, provides instruction for cultural heritage conservation work.
- There are also specialists in archaeological objects classification in addition to specialists in conservation.

Training for Human Resources for Cultural Heritage Conservation and Restoration

- There is a person from the State Academy of Fine Arts (sculpture) who has studied specialized knowledge and skills related to conservation under the direction of Ms. Atoyants (Photo 36).

Current Issues

- The personnel do not have experience in the conservation and restoration of special objects such as textiles.
- Because the laboratory lacks an exhaust ventilation system, a vacuum cleaner is used to clean the dust from objects immediately after excavation. However, the dust from the vacuum cleaner is expelled into the room, which raises health concerns.
- There is no chance to train young specialists.



31. Cultural property registration passports



32. Conservation laboratory



33. Working table in the conservation laboratory



34. Temporary storage status of archaeological objects



35. Tools for measuring earthenware



36. Specialists in archaeological objects classification

2.2.4. Matenadaran Mashotots Institute-Museum of Ancient Manuscripts

In February 2011, when we visited the Matenadaran for the survey, the head of the conservation division showed us around the conservation laboratories. In November 2011, when we visited for the second time, the operation had moved to a new building, and the division head again showed us the laboratories.

Interviewee

Ms. Gayane Eliazyan, Head of Conservation Division (Photo 37)

Activities at the Institute and Museum

- JICA provided equipment in 2002, which enhanced work efficiency. In 2008, JICA held cultivation seminars for human resources as a follow-up project after providing equipment. The seminars were held for only a very short time, so further cooperation is requested.
- The institute was named the World Book Capital for 2012 by UNESCO. The Matenadaran will assume a central role in the project.
(<http://www.yerevan2012.org/institutions/matenadaran/>)
- On September 20, 2011, a new building was completed (Photos 38 & 39). The new building is a long extension connected to the back of the old building. All the facilities, including the laboratory, exhibitions, and the library, have been moved from the old building to the new building. After the remodelling of the old building is completed, it will be open to the general public, while the new building will be used exclusively for research, except for the conservation lab and the library. The remodelling will be completed in May 2012.
- By the end of 2011, the Matenadaran archive's collection as restored by a German volunteer will be published in both German and Armenian. We wanted to include the survey, research results and content related to conservation; however, due to the lack of funds, we will publish a guidebook for the collection instead.

Facilities and Equipment in the Conservation Laboratory

- The old facility for conservation is located in the area known as the backyard, to which the general public does not have access, and includes three conservation laboratories (Photos 40 & 41). These laboratories are, however, not separated according to materials.
- All members of the staff handle all materials and all processes for conservation. One room is named "Japan" because equipment provided by JICA is stored there (Photo 42). Japan provided the Matenadaran with a leaf casting machine, suction tables, laminating machines, cutter, and paper for conservation, all of which are well cared for (Photos 43 - 46).
- To prevent damage by insects and bacteria, there is a room for fumigation. Before the conservation process begins, objects are placed in the fumigation room for 24 hours.
- New conservation laboratories are located on the third floor of the new building. These laboratories are extremely large compared to the old ones, and face the corridor. The laboratory walls on the corridor side are almost all glass.
- The new building has a special elevator with vibration suppression equipment suitable for transporting objects.



37. Explanation by the head of conservation division, Matenadaran



38. Main gate of Matenadaran, old building



39. Matenadaran new building



40. Conservation work on ancient manuscripts, 1
(Conservation laboratory in the old building)



41. Conservation work on ancient manuscripts, 2
(Conservation laboratory in the old building)



42. New conservation room, Matenadaran

Human Resources in Cultural Properties Conservation

- Four specialists are involved in conservation work in each room.
- Avoiding an assembly-line approach, each individual is responsible for conservation work from the beginning to the end for each piece.
- A German volunteer regularly provides technical support for conservation work at the Matenadaran.

Training for Human Resources for Cultural Properties Conservation

- We did not survey human resource training.

Current Issues

- The institute can handle paper and leather material conservation on its own; however, there are no specialists to restore the metal ornaments used on ancient manuscripts, which is a significant problem.
- Equipment provided by JICA has been out of order for more than two years; however, they don't know where to consult for repairs.

2.2.5. Discussion on Conservation in Armenia

There are institutions and facilities handling cultural properties conservation in Armenia; however, the number of these facilities and organizations is relatively low, and each is limited in scope. There were many cultural properties conservation facilities in Armenia during the time of the Soviet Union; however, since the Soviet Union collapsed and Armenia became independent in 1991, the Government of Armenia has pursued a policy of centralization and integration, under which there has been a vigorous move to concentrate institutions and facilities for cultural properties conservation in Yerevan, and to consolidate of research institutions. This naturally causes specialists to be concentrated in Yerevan, which exacerbates the lack of specialists in local regions.

The current issues in conservation in Armenia can be divided into three main areas; first, a lack of human resources, especially younger specialists; secondly, an absence of human resource training and education systems for conservation specialists; and thirdly, economic problems.

First of all, there are very few Armenian specialists in conservation and restoration working at museums and related institutions and facilities. The extremely low number of young specialists is a particularly serious issue, and the reason for that low number can be traced to the second problem, the lack of institutions and systems for the training of human resources in the field of conservation. They are trying hard to train young people interested in conservation work by providing on-the-job training and experience to those who have a background in museology or in cultural, historical, or artistic studies. However, the OJT opportunities that can be offered are quite limited, which slows the expansion of knowledge and skills. Thirdly, they have a financial problem. National museums and research institutions operate on limited governmental funding, which impacts the funding that can be used for conservation. The wages paid to specialists are also very low at approximately 120 US dollars per month. Therefore, not many people are attracted to the work, which is one of the reasons for the lack of human resources. It is a vicious circle.

In addition, there is difficulty in accessing information on conservation, and an absence of networks among specialists. There are no documents on conservation written in Armenian except those related to churches and sculptures, which prevents people from obtaining more up-to-date information. Even in the City of Yerevan, there is no functional network among specialists in different institutions. Therefore, there are few opportunities for them to discuss or consult on matters related to conservation.

In an attempt to address these problems, Armenia has submitted an urgent request to Japan for assistance in holding workshops for the purpose of training specialists, exchanging information on recent technology and knowledge,



43. Equipment provided by JICA. 1



44. Equipment provided by JICA. 2



45. Equipment provided by JICA. 3



46. Equipment provided by JICA. 4

and in establishing networks for specialists. It is necessary that Armenian specialists have access to information and learn about a wide variety of cases. To make this happen, it is necessary to organize their many years of experience, and to bring their knowledge and skills up to the global standard through systematized knowledge and information.

2.3. Current Status of Archaeological Surveys in Armenia

Armenia has countless archaeological heritage sites, including sites from a range of eras such as Paleolithic Age sites that show the history of early humanity, sites from the Bronze Age, the Kingdom of Urartu, the Roman and Hellenic Periods, and the Middle Ages. Unfortunately, problems with financing and with the survey system mean that not enough surveys are being conducted at levels that meet global standards. During this survey, we visited the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography at the National Academy of Sciences of Armenia and interviewed its director, Mr. Pavel Avetisyan.

2.3.1. Survey Bodies

Several institutions in Yerevan, such as the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography at the National Academy of Sciences of Armenia, the archeological departments at Yerevan State University and other universities, and the Scientific Research Center for Historical and Cultural Heritage under the Ministry of Culture carry out archaeological surveys. In addition, regional museums also conduct surveys, although the number is limited. Archaeological surveys carried out by foreign organizations are allowed only through joint research with domestic institutions in Armenia.

2.3.2. Application for Permission to Conduct Surveys

Organizations that wish to carry out archaeological surveys are required to submit applications. The applications are screened by the Archaeological Survey Council at the Ministry of Culture. If an application is approved, the organization is granted permission to conduct surveys. After the completion of excavation surveys each season, organizations are required to submit reports. Important objects found during excavations must be stored at the History Museum of Armenia within 2.5 years after excavation.

2.3.3. Registration of Sites and Objects

Based on the reports submitted by the survey organization, the Scientific Research Center for the Historical and Cultural Heritage creates a passport registering the information regarding the sites and objects.

2.3.4. Education in Archaeology

Universities such as Yerevan State University that has Faculties of History are able to provide opportunities for students to learn archaeology. Yerevan State University, for example, has a master's program in archaeology. The screening of doctoral candidates is performed by a council established by the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography and candidates working on their dissertation are required to have one researcher from the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography as their adviser.

2.3.5. Current Issues

Armenia lacks facilities to perform archaeological analyses. During the Soviet era, analyses could be carried out at Russian archaeological research facilities. However, since Armenia became independent in 1991, it has become difficult to access facilities in Russia. Therefore, Armenia currently relies on analysis at research facilities in the U.S. and France.

Furthermore, Armenia has long wished to establish cultural heritage conservation centers and secure specialists for conservation. Currently, objects found in remains surveyed by the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography are sent to Ms. Yelena Atoyants at the History Museum of Armenia for conservation work. However, due to the growing number of objects in need of conservation, and a lack of facilities and human resources, many metal objects are on a waiting list for conservation.

Also, there is very little funding allocated by the institute; and while some funding for emergency excavation is included under the city development budget, funding from government and private organizations is almost non-existent. Therefore, it has become usual for researchers to pursue joint projects with funded teams from overseas.

This problem is not confined to the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography. The salary for researchers at national research institutions is low (about 100 US dollars per month); therefore, many researchers have second jobs. The financial environment for surveys and research is very severe.

3. Fields with Potential for Cooperation from Japan

Armenia has a historically complicated relationship with its neighbours. Therefore, the country views history and culture as important in maintaining its identity. Because of this, the population is highly interested in the country's history and culture, and the government is actively involved in historical and cultural heritage conservation. However, the problems encountered by many former members of the Soviet Union, such as the lack of funds and the difficulties in the cultivation of young human resources resulting from the collapse of the previous educational system, are pervasive in Armenia.

With this situation in mind, we interviewed personnel at organizations involved in cultural heritage protection in Armenia to ascertain what assistance might be provided.

3.1. Organizing Symposiums and Workshops

As mentioned above, the common issue among former members of the Soviet Union is the cultivation of young specialists. Russia functioned as the center for training of human resources during the Soviet era. Individuals from the other countries received training at medium and long-term seminars in Russia or through the dispatch of Russian specialists. However, after the disintegration of the Soviet Union, this system collapsed, and independent countries had to conduct their own training.

Meanwhile, there is the problem of a lack of instructors. The generation trained in Russia have either retired during the 20 years since independence, or the techniques they learned have been rendered obsolete by recent technology.

To address this problem, a proposal was made to provide a training program in Japan of several months duration for one or two specialists, which would constitute long-term assistance. However, such a proposal would create a significant burden on the Japanese organization handling the training. We might also consider the merit of providing short-term training and workshops for specialists. There is the option as well to create programs under the Japanese government's system for protection of cultural properties overseas, or by utilizing funding provided by private companies. Such a strategy would promote technical interaction and opinion exchanges among researchers, which would contribute to the cultivation of human resources in Armenia.

3.2. Cooperation with Universities

The level of curriculum development in cultural heritage protection differs according to the field. While universities such as Yerevan State University have relatively developed majors in archaeology and history, no universities or research institutes offer programs in conservation. As interviews with specialists during this survey made clear, there is no way for individuals in Armenia to become specialists in conservation other than through on-site experience. Under such a system, however, there are few opportunities for systematic learning of recent principles and methodologies for conservation, and the time required to accumulate experience can be lengthy. To improve the curriculum for cultural heritage protection and conservation, therefore, it is important to cooperate with the relevant departments, such as archaeology, art, and architecture, at Yerevan State University and the Armenian State Pedagogical University with regard to providing advice and exchanging opinions. It is hoped that improving education at universities will, in the long run, lead to human resources cultivation in cultural heritage protection.

3.3. Assistance through the Provision of Equipment

JICA provided equipment for paper and book binding conservation to the Matenadaran in 2001 (Supply of Equipment for Conservation of Historical Documents to the Matenadaran Follow-Up Project). In the interviews at the Matenadaran, they expressed their desire for continued support for equipment, especially for the procurement of Japanese paper necessary for paper conservation. The Matenadaran currently procures Japanese paper for conservation via Italy. Some of the equipment provided from Japan is already out of order and requires repair or adjustments. Considering the situation, we recognized the necessity for some kind of follow-up after the provision of equipment for the Matenadaran.

Meanwhile, JICA executed grant aid through the Project for the Improvement of Equipment for Restoration of Collections of the National Gallery of Armenia in 2011. It is not clear how JICA came to provide the equipment; however, we have heard that no one was dispatched from Japan to explain about or adjust the equipment when they actually provided it. We must say that there is a lack of detailed support provided along with such equipment.

We have no doubt that it is necessary for cultural heritage protection in Armenia to consider cooperation through Japanese ODA, which has sufficient funding. However, we must keep in mind that equipment should be provided based on consideration of the needs, human resources, and level of technology in the partner countries. It is also necessary to provide support after the provision of equipment. It is similar to the procedures for selling Japanese automobiles overseas. If we simply provide equipment without considering these factors, the project may end up providing materials that can't be used in the foreign countries. In order to successfully supply equipment, it is essential for the Japanese research institutions and universities that carry out surveys and research on site to maintain close communication with Japanese government institutions, including JICA, on a daily basis.

4. Conclusion

Armenia is a country with a long history, and much of its cultural heritage is also symbolic of the identity of the Armenian people. For that reason, the government positions cultural heritage protection as a vital national policy, and is actively engaged in related activities. However, with the rapid disintegration of systems after the collapse of the Soviet Union, cultural heritage protection began to encounter difficulties. In this context, a survey including hearings and visits at relevant institutions in the capital of Yerevan was conducted to investigate the potential for cooperation from Japan, by acquiring a grasp of the status of cultural heritage protection and the current state of international cooperation in Armenia.














We could see from very cooperative attitude of the relevant institutions during this survey that Armenia is currently extremely proactive with regard to cultural heritage protection. The organizations and protection systems necessary for safeguarding of the heritage are in place, and it was clear as well what kind of international cooperation is required from other countries in that context.


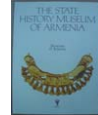




Nevertheless, at the various museums, galleries, and other institutions, we could see that the most severe problem was the lack of personnel involved in conservation, restoration and protection of cultural heritage due to the disintegration of the human resources training system that existed under the former Soviet Union. In terms of the human resources training required by Armenia, there is significant potential for Japan to cooperate by using its technology and human resources to provide assistance through workshops and support and advice for universities. Furthermore, it was clear from this survey that, while the various equipment that Japan has provided to date is being used with great care, some pieces are in need of repair. As the country that supplied the equipment, we have a responsibility to conduct follow-up assistance as well, after the initial support.

With regard to assistance such as human resources training and provision of equipment, cooperation is more effective if the receiving country has the will and the systems to utilize the results of cooperation. That Armenia has this will and the systems in place is an important factor in considering cooperation in the future.

Although both the history and the present situation of the Caucasus region are complicated, by engaging in international cooperation on cultural heritage in the Caucasus countries, including Armenia, Japan will also have the opportunity to contribute to the stability of the region through the safeguarding of cultural heritage.

5. List of local materials

ID	Title	Author	Publisher	Date	Appearance
Map					
	The Roads of Armenia	G. Beglaryan	Yerevan: Collage LLC.	2010	
	Yerevan	G. Beglaryan	Yerevan: Collage LLC.	2010	
	Armenia and Mountainous Karabakh	G. Beglaryan	Yerevan: Collage LLC.	2010	
Book					
	Southern Caucasus	G. Beglaryan	Yerevan: Collage LLC.	2010	
	Vital Agreements for Armenia	H. Azatyan	Yerevan: National Academy of Science of the Republic of Armenia, Institute of History	2004	
	St. Etchmiadzin				
	Culture of the Armenian Khachkar (Cross-Stone)	G. Mkrtychyan (ed.)	Yerevan: Nushikyan Printing House	2010	
	The Invention of History: Azerbaijan, Armenia, and the Showcasinf of Imagination	R. Galichian	London: Gomidas Institute; Yerevan: Printinfo Art Books	2009	
	The Pre-History of the Armenians, Volume 1	G. Soutanian	London: Bennett and Bloom	2003	
	The Pre-History of the Armenians, Volume 2: The Proto-Armenian Hieroglyphic Inscriptions of Aram	G. Soutanian	London: Bennett and Bloom	2004	
	The Pre-History of the Armenians: Volume 3: The Anatolian Hieoglyphic Inscriptions of the Proto-Armenians	G. Soutanian	London: Bennett and Bloom	2009	
	Atlas of Communication Routes of Armenia and Artsakh	R. Hovhannisyan	Yerevan: "EKARAN" JSC of the Ministry of Education and Science of RA	2001	
	Pharaon Mirzoyan	K. Mikaelian	Yerevan: Noyan Tapan Publishing House	2008	

	A Glance from the Bronze Age: Findings from the Bronze Age Burial Mounds in Armenia IV-I Millennia B. C.: From the Collections of the History Museum of Armenia	History Museum of Armenia	History Museum of Armenia	2010	
	The State History Museum of Armenia	Museums of Armenia	Watertown: Armenian Library and Museum of Armenia		
				2006	
				2008	
Pamphlet					
	Guidebook of Artexpo 2011 (with CD)	Ministry of Culture of RA	Ministry of Culture of RA	2011	
	Culture 09 Introduction booklet of Cultural Ministry	Ministry of Culture of RA	Ministry of Culture of RA		

Japan Consortium for International Cooperation in Cultural Heritage
2010 Survey for International Cooperation
Survey Report on the Protection of Cultural Heritage in the Republic of Armenia

Published: March 2012

Published by: Japan Consortium for International Cooperation in Cultural Heritage
13-14, Ueno Park, Taito-ku, Tokyo, 110-8713 JAPAN
Tel. +81-3-3823-4841

