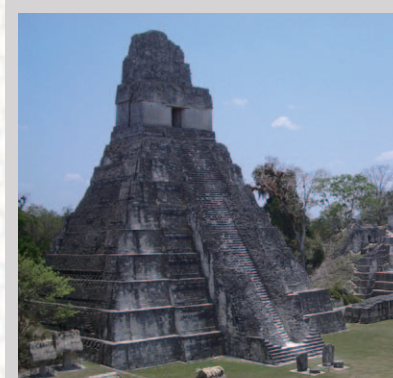




Japan Consortium for International Cooperation
in Cultural Heritage

Japan's International Cooperation in Heritage Conservation



2013 March



WHAT IS JCIC-HERITAGE?

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

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

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

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

OUR MISSIONS

- Promoting human relations among consortium members
- Expediting the collection and exchange of information concerning international cooperation
- Carrying out case studies and research on international cooperation in cultural heritage
- Publication and dissemination of activities on international cooperation in cultural heritage

■ 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.

ACTIVITIES



THE OPERATION SYSTEM

Various agencies organizations cooperate with each other to support the conservation of cultural heritage. They are called upon to collaborate with the aim of energizing international cooperation related to the preservation of cultural heritage. The consortium holds meetings targeting overseas regions respectively, and shares the most recent research on international cooperation for cultural heritage.

International Cooperation Projects in Heritage Conservation by Japanese Experts

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/>)

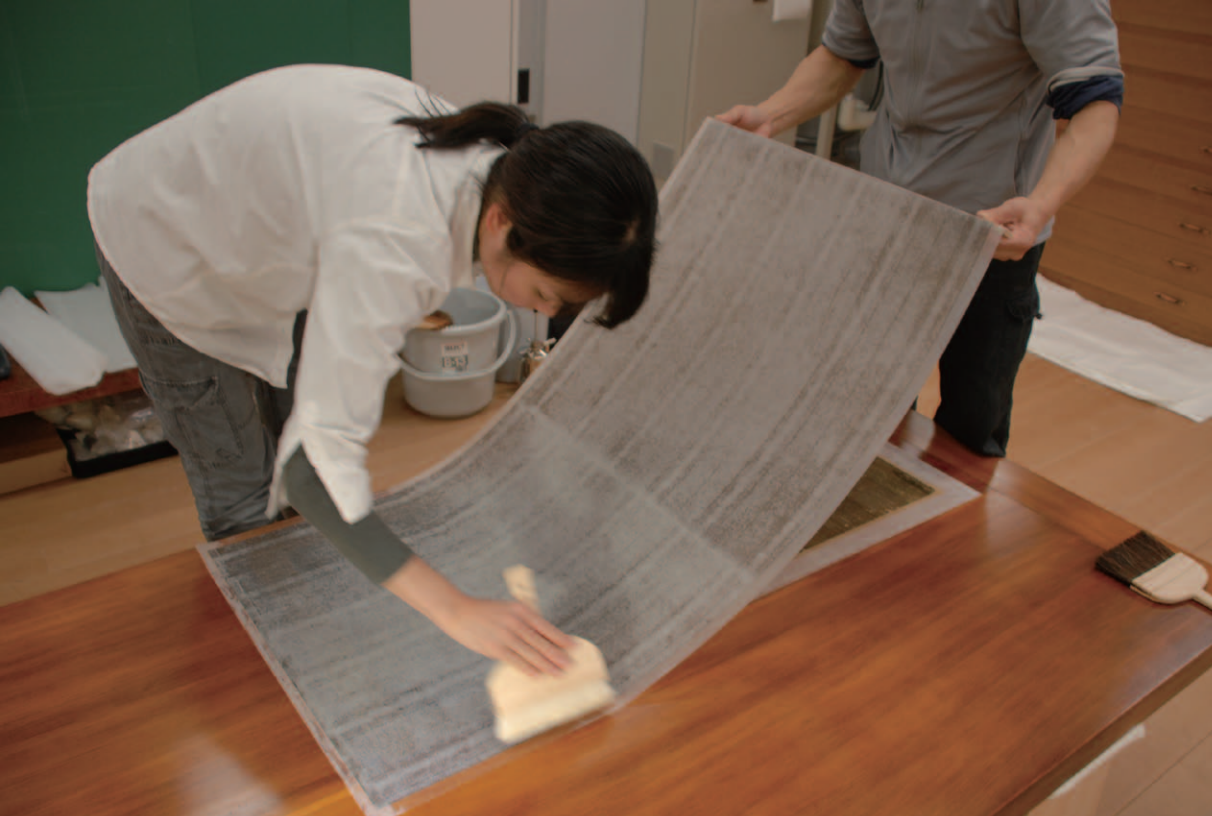
Japan has engaged in over 1,500 international cooperation project related to cultural heritage. These projects have taken diverse forms, such as the provision of equipment necessary for the preservation of cultural heritage; the implementation of academic studies; value assessment, conservation activities 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



◀ Restoration Technique of soko (lining)

Transfer of Japanese techniques for restoration and conservation of paper cultural properties

Masato Kato
Independent Administrative Institution National Research
Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo
Period : 1992 — Ongoing

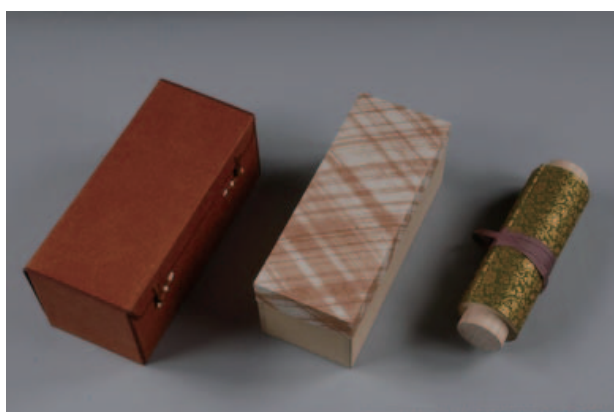
Outstanding techniques for restoration and conservation of paper-based cultural properties fostered in Japan

Japanese paper cultural properties have survived for over a millennium

In Japan, cultural properties with paper, such as paintings, calligraphy, and documents have been transmitted in diverse forms, including folding screens, hanging scrolls and books. The climate in Japan certainly cannot be said to be suitable for preserving natural organic material such as paper. Changing weather conditions also mean fluctuations in the preservation environment, which have a negative impact on artifacts. Moreover, during the warm and humid season mold, insects, and other organisms abound, and natural organic materials provide them with a good source of nutrients. Despite such harsh conditions, some of Japan's oldest paper cultural properties have been handed down from more than a thousand years ago, which is testimony to the outstanding traditional techniques for restoration and conservation of paper cultural properties that have been cultivated in Japan.

Techniques for the conservation of paper cultural properties

Conservation of paper cultural properties in Japan rely on traditional materials such as Japanese paper and wheat starch paste, and “soko” -a restoration technique based on Japanese traditional mounting - which makes the best use of these materials. Although this technique was first developed in ancient China, it has been adapted and cultivated for more than several hundred years since its arrival to reach its current form in Japan. We hope that we can contribute to the conservation of cultural properties worldwide by disseminating these techniques to various countries.



▲ Preservation system for scrolls consisting of mounts, a roller cramp, a paulownia box and a protective cover.

Hosting a training course to transfer the technique

International Course on Conservation of Japanese Paper

The National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo, has been co-hosting a training course entitled “International Course on Conservation of Japanese Paper” with ICCROM (International Center for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property) since 1992. We had initially conducted the training for those who were involved in conservation and restoration of cultural properties, but have narrowed down our target to conservators and restorers. As of 2012, 157 trainees have completed our training course. In this training program, we not only focus on the practice of restoration techniques based on Japanese traditional mounting, but also on understanding the background to the development of techniques and materials.

In 2012, we co-hosted another program in Mexico with ICCROM and INAH (National Institute of Anthropology and History of Mexico) as a part of the LATAM program, ICCROM’s program targeting the Latin America.

Other training programs

In Germany, we have been carrying out a workshop on folding screens and hanging scrolls in cooperation with the German Museum of Technology and the Museum of Asian Art, the National Museums in Berlin. The training course has been well received by curators of Oriental arts and students of Japanese studies since the content of the program concerns not only conservation and restoration but also production techniques and handling methods for Japanese arts and calligraphy.

In 2011, specialists from our Research Institute organized a training course in Egypt featuring restoration techniques using Japanese paper, which formed part of the larger project run by JICA, entitled “Project for the Conservation Center in the Grand Egyptian Museum.” In this course, we focused on disseminating ideas and knowledge related to the usage of Japanese paper and wheat starch paste as well as hands-on practice using these materials in the hope that these techniques may be applied to restoration of mummies and mural paintings.

Raising awareness of the training course overseas and challenges met in the diffusion of the technique

Praise from participants

The training course mentioned above received favorable comments from participants on surveys and other evaluations. Every time we offer the course, we receive many applications, and we find that quite a number of applicants were motivated by recommendations given by former participants. In addition, we receive many requests from participants to hold a similar training course in their home country. Such comments indicate that this training course has been highly successful.

Request for hosting the training course

Conservation and restoration using Japanese paper has become common in the West. For paper conservators and restorers in particular, it has become the global standard to use Japanese paper; many of them, however, acquire their knowledge indirectly through books and other publications. There is a growing demand for seminars and workshops on conservation of paper by Japanese experts. Although we receive requests from several countries each year to host seminars, we regret that we are unable to respond to them all, due to budgets, schedules, venues, and lack of human resources.



▲ Training – Making Japanese paper (International Course on Conservation of Japanese Paper)



▲ Training - Reinforcement of objects with Japanese paper and wheat starch paste (Project for the Conservation Centre in the Grand Egyptian Museum)



▲ Workshop: “The Use of Techniques of Japanese Paper Conservation outside Japan”

Diffusion of techniques and associated challenges

We cannot deny that we have faced some challenges regarding the diffusion of this technique.

For example, there is no clear definition of “Japanese paper,” which is an indispensable material for the technique concerned. Since there are various materials and methods for making Japanese paper, the term “Japanese paper” does not specify paper that is suitable for conservation and restoration of cultural properties.

As Japanese paper attracts more attention in the field of conservation, the number of vendors selling Japanese paper overseas has increased. However, Japanese paper is sometimes sold under the wrong name, and in some cases paper unsuitable for conservation is provided.

Now that Japanese techniques and materials for restoration and conservation of paper-based cultural properties are globally recognized as an outstanding method, we are gathering information on techniques and materials used overseas, and putting more effort into dissemination of proper understanding and teaching people the appropriate techniques and knowledge required to choose the right materials.

(Masato Kato, National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo)



◀ Bird's-eye view of Longvek

A training program on the conservation of Longvek and Oudong

Keiji Matsumura
Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties
Period : 2010 - 2013
Targeting Country : Cambodia



▲ Excavation at the Krang Kor site

Exploring the history of capitals in the post-Angkor period

The history of the Angkor Empire (9th -15th century A.D.), which is renowned for Angkor Wat, is gradually being brought to light through research on the abundant architecture and inscriptions from the relevant time period that remain within the country. By contrast, much of the history from the abandonment of the Angkor capital in the 15th century up to the time when France made Cambodia a protectorate remains shrouded in mystery, as there is little historical material from the period and few archaeological excavations or other studies have been carried out to date. Oudong and Longvek, the sites of the project, are former state capitals from this period known as post-Angkor.

After Angkor was abandoned by the regime of the time, the capital moved from Basan in Kompong Cham Province to Phnom Penh, the current capital, and furthermore to Longvek in Kompong Chhnang and to Oudong in Kandal Province. Longvek is said to have been established in the 16th century, and Oudong in the 17th, and the two capitals are also close geographically. The primary objective of our project, funded by the Agency for Cultural Affairs, Government of Japan, was to transfer various archaeological research techniques and methods to young Cambodian specialists. At the same time, we sought to contribute to the advancement of research on the post-Angkor period, which has been left unstudied.

The discovery of the Krang Kor site

We commenced our project in 2010. It was designed to provide young researchers who were graduates of the faculty of archaeology at the Royal University of Fine Arts an opportunity to learn onsite while taking part in the various tasks involved in the process of conservation of artifacts, from preparing and running an excavation, to establishment of reference points for measurements, Ground Penetrating Radar Surveys, the location, excavation, and documentation of artifacts, and creation of reports. The first fieldwork was carried out in the central part of Longvek, and the village of Krang Kor, located 15 kilometres northwest of Longvek. The location was chosen based on urgent reports by the local villagers of Krang Kor to the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts, regarding the discovery of artifacts in the area.

As a result of the excavation, several burials were discovered at Krang Kor, together with burial items including imported ceramics, earthenwares, iron knives, and glass beads. This marked the discovery of the Krang Kor site. From surface collection we found a set of imported ceramics mainly from the 14th to 16th centuries. Since it was still undetermined how many and what kind of sites remained at Longvek, we undertook excavations at three sites, including fieldwork and surface collection, with a view to making an inventory and a map. Together with the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts, we are now in the process of publishing the research results.

Training program for young Cambodian researchers and a new study on the post-Angkor period

From 2010 up to the present (October, 2012), we have carried out five fieldwork and training programs. Over 30 young researchers have taken part in the sessions. Moreover, the results of our project sparked growing interest among young researchers with regard to the study of cities in the post-Angkor period, trade in the same period as evidenced by excavated glass and ceramics, as well as research on the burial of the Krang Kor site. In addition, we expect that young researchers will take the initiative to carry out further research and excavation activities in Cambodia in the near future, as a result of the comprehensive training they have received ranging from preparation, excavation, and reporting results, to classification and conservation of artifacts.

While the Angkor Empire attracts attention from all over the world, with support for research projects concentrated on the sites at Angkor, study of the post-Angkor period has just begun. In addition to the sites discovered in our project, fieldwork has confirmed more than fifty other sites in the area of Longvek and Oudong which require further investigation in the future.

(Akiko Tashiro, Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties)



▲ Training program on Ground Penetrating Radar Surveys



▲ Burial excavated at the Krang Kor site



▲ Artifacts excavated at the Krang Kor site



▲ Explanation of the site to the villagers of Krang Kor



Study and conservation of the Neolithic settlement of Göytepe

Yoshihiro Nishiaki

The University Museum, The University of Tokyo

Period : 2008 - Ongoing

Targeting Country : The Republic of Azerbaijan



▲ Excavation of Göytepe in progress

Investigating the northward diffusion of the food production economy

Research objectives

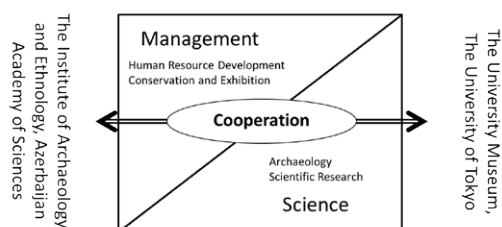
The world's oldest subsistence economy based on cereal cultivation and stockbreeding emerged in West Asia approximately ten thousand years ago. How did it spread to the surrounding regions? Much less has been discovered about the diffusion of this economy towards the north compared to westward expansion into Europe or to the east in Iran and Pakistan. How did this early agrarian society manage to get over the mountainous regions of Anatolia and the Caucasus? How did they interact with the hunter-gatherers native to the region? Research on the geographical expansion of the Neolithic economy presents extremely interesting challenges both in the field of archaeology and anthropology. In order to approach these issues, our team commenced fieldwork in the Republic of Azerbaijan in 2008.

Archaeology and cultural heritage conservation in Azerbaijan today

Following the independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan in 1991, the higher education system, which had been organized under the former Soviet Union, collapsed. In addition, opportunities for advanced education even within the new state institution were interrupted due to the political instability. This unfortunate situation has caused a serious lack of action in archaeological research, including the research on the Neolithic era mentioned above, as well as in human resource development in the field of heritage conservation.

Although our project in Azerbaijan had initially focused solely on scientific research, we were very happy to cooperate on the development of management and human resource training in heritage conservation at the request of the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography now that the political situation has stabilized.

Framework of cooperation on the investigation and conservation of the Göytepe site



▲ Schematic framework of cooperation on the investigation and conservation of the Göytepe site.

Göytepe, one of the oldest Neolithic settlements in the South Caucasus

Research history

In Azerbaijan, full-scale investigations regarding the origins of agricultural society had been suspended in the 1970s for the reasons mentioned above. In order to overcome this situation, in 2008 a young archaeologist, Dr. Farhad Guliyev from the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography, Azerbaijan, launched an excavation project at Göytepe, which was believed to be one of the oldest Neolithic sites in the country. We received a request for collaboration on this research via a French researcher who was a mutual acquaintance, and, since we shared the same interests, we decided to participate. We conducted a preparatory investigation in 2008, followed by full-scale fieldwork starting in 2009. In 2010, a new plan emerged to conserve and exhibit the site to the public. The University Museum, the University of Tokyo exchanged a memorandum of understanding with the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography. In response to this memorandum, the local state institution allocated a significant budget, which marked the formal commencement of the current conservation project.

Scientific research and conservation of the site

We believe that the exhibition of cultural heritage should be initiated and managed by the institutions of the state in which the heritage exists. Moreover, our team is not in a position to provide funds and/or human resources for an exhibition project. Instead, our expertise lies mainly in cooperation in the field of scientific research. The most feasible approach is for us to concentrate our efforts on collaboration on scientific research onsite and training of experts. Based on that, the state institutions can make a management plan for the conservation and public exhibition of the site. Although the two sides do not operate completely in isolation from each other, the responsibilities of each are clearly distinguished. Our project is now well underway, and in 2011, we took part in a training program sponsored by Azerbaijan to train young archaeologists from the CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States), providing part of the curriculum.

The emergence of a food production economy in the Caucasus

Research results

Our research at the site of Göytepe has revealed that the emergence of a subsistence economy based on cereal cultivation and stockbreeding in the South Caucasus dates back to at least the early 6th millennium BC. The community lived in a village consisting of a cluster of mud-brick buildings, and they survived by growing several species of crops and raising livestock. However, our excavation has not yet reached the oldest layers of this settlement. Therefore, we must wait for further results to determine whether there existed an even older village, and if so, what its economy was like and where it originated.

Toward the construction of an archaeological park at Göytepe

The site of Göytepe is one of the largest and oldest Neolithic villages known in Azerbaijan, and furthermore it is the first prehistoric site to have been fully investigated since the state achieved independence. It is comparable to the Toro site in Shizuoka, Japan. Because of its unique value, the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography put forward a project to establish an archaeological park at Göytepe. The plan is to cover the site with a large roof structure to protect the archaeological remains, and to construct a new museum next to the site. The facility will thus give the public an opportunity to see the on-going excavation at the site and will allow us to disseminate world-class research results at the museum. To date, a road to access the site from the nearby highway, as well as a fence with a temporary gate to protect the site have been constructed. We are very honored to continue our collaboration on this wonderful project until its completion.

(Yoshihiro Nishiaki, The University Museum, The University of Tokyo)



▲ Excavation at the CIS training workshop



▲ Remains of Neolithic mud-brick architecture



▲ Members of the excavation team in Göytepe



▲ Temporary gate of the Göytepe Archaeological Park



▲ Access road to the Göytepe Archaeological Park



◀ The GEM-CC

Project for the Conservation Center in the Grand Egyptian Museum

Japan International Cooperation Agency,
Peace Building and Regional Development Division 2,
Economic Infrastructure Department
Period : June 2008 - March 2016
Targetting Country : The Arab Republic of Egypt

Cooperation for securing employment in Egypt

Principles of Japan's cooperation with Egypt

Egypt is a country where a great number of historical ruins and artifacts have been discovered, and its great history is so well known that it requires no explanation. JICA is involved with a program for “Tourism Development,” under the rubric of “Realization of Sustainable Growth and Employment Creation”, which is one of the main areas of Japan’s cooperation with Egypt. Egypt’s tourism sector accounts for 4.3% (2009/2010) of the country’s GDP, and 12.6% (2008) of its jobs. In 2009, the total number of tourists visiting the country was 12.54 million, income from which amounted to 11.6 billion dollars. In 2011 Egypt underwent a political transformation and the number of tourists declined, along with income from tourism. Nevertheless, the tourism industry remains an important sector accounting for a significant share of the nation’s employment.

Construction of the Grand Egyptian Museum and cultural properties

On 15th May 2006 JICA signed a loan agreement regarding “The Grand Egyptian Museum Construction Project”. The current project goes together with that loan, and is designed to provide training courses on the conservation of artifacts for the staff of the Grand Egyptian Museum Conservation Center (hereinafter GEM-CC), an institution established by the Egyptian government. The Egyptian Museum (hereinafter EM), established in 1902, has served as Egypt’s central institution for tourism, but there have been issues of aging and insufficient exhibition and storage space at the facility. The Grand Egyptian Museum (hereinafter GEM) will accommodate approximately 100,000 artifacts, including some from the EM. The staff of the GEM must carry out conservation of the artifacts that are to be displayed in the new museum as well as conducting appropriate management. Over 150 staff members are assigned to the GEM-CC.



▲ Japanese Paper for Conservation Treatment

Project Activities

Background

This is first time JICA has become involved in a project concerning the conservation of cultural resources, and a good deal of time was required to prepare for the official commencement of the project. In order to facilitate the project, we began by dispatching experts based on the recommendation of the National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo, and have since sent a number of missions to Egypt. Meanwhile, we carried out basic training courses where it was judged feasible to do so, on topics including textile and photographic techniques. In November 2009, we sent an investigative team made up of eleven experts from various fields with a view to drawing up a fully-fledged training program. Based on the outcome of this investigation we created a “Plan of the Capacity Development Program for GEM-CC staff-members” which has become the foundation of our current project.

Plan of the Capacity Development Program for GEM-CC staff-members

The GEM-CC handles many different types of artifacts, ranging from wood, textiles, and glass, to mummies. In addition, the work involves not only restoration and conservation of the artifacts, but encompasses diverse areas such as database construction and utilization, collection management, IPM, occupational health and safety, packing and transportation of artifacts, and improvement of management. In order to deliver the comprehensive content of this program, we receive support from the National Research Institute of Cultural Properties, Tokyo, with regard to assigning experts. The lecturers, venue, materials, and plan are selected to ensure that the implemented training effectively meets the needs of the Egyptian staff. As of winter 2012, we have carried out twenty-one training courses on site in addition to eleven sessions in Japan. We endeavor to take a flexible approach to running the program, requesting experts from other countries to conduct courses in fields that would be difficult for Japanese experts.

Towards Sustainability

In the beginning of the project, there was an exploratory period during which experts from both countries tried to identify each other's capabilities. By 2009, we had come up with a Capacity Development program suited to the wide-ranging work of the GEM-CC, including conservation and restoration, scientific analyses, and collection management, while respecting the traditional technologies and ideas in Egypt. Subsequently, we carried out various training courses and technical support in the fields of preventive conservation, conservation, and conservation science. Through these activities, a method of transferring international standard techniques and new ideas from the Japanese side to the GEM-CC staff began to take root in Egypt. Meanwhile, as the scope of support broadened, organizational and operational challenges arose with regard to how the multi-faceted results of Capacity development might be put into practice and promoted in GEM-CC.

As construction of the museum progresses, a vast number of artifacts to be stored in the GEM are scheduled to be transported to the museum from all across Egypt. In order to restore, manage and display these pieces appropriately, the staff of each section of the GEM-CC must further develop their knowledge and techniques. It is also an urgent task to build an organization and system whereby the accumulated techniques and experience can be efficiently and independently managed by the GEM-CC and further exported and shared with outside institutions. We will continue to offer unflagging technical support towards the building of a firm foundation for the museum, as we approach its opening in 2015 and the accomplishment of our project goal: The GEM-CC functions as integrated center for conservation study according to international standard under self-sufficient management.

(Japan International Cooperation Agency, Peace Building and Regional Development Division 2, Economic Infrastructure Department)



▲ Packing and Transportation in the GEM-CC



▲ Textile: Group Work for Conservators



▲ Textile: Group Work for Scientists

Management of the world heritage sites of Maya Civilization: North Acropolis project at Tikal



▲ Tikal Temple 1 and the Great Plaza seen from North Acropolis

Seiichi Nakamura

Center for Cultural Resource Studies, Kanazawa University, Institute of Human and Social Sciences

Period : April 2012 - March 2016 (1st period)

Targeting Country : The Republic of Guatemala

Japan's international contribution to the Tikal National Park, mixed world heritage site

Tikal National Park, the Republic of Guatemala

Guatemala is a country where native Mayans make up nearly half of the population, and it is a land throughout which the ancient Maya civilization prospered. Tikal National Park, located in the northern part of the country, was registered as a mixed world heritage site by UNESCO in 1979. In terms of natural heritage, it is a tropical rain forest of rich biodiversity extending over 576 square kilometers. As for cultural heritage, it is one of the largest ancient city ruins of Maya civilization, encompassing 100 square kilometers of urban area that was ruled by thirty-three kings or more between the 2nd and 10th centuries AD. In the 1960s, an extensive investigation, including large scale excavation and restoration of ancient structures, was conducted in Tikal after a part of tropical jungle had been cleared beginning in 1956. In the 1980s the site became the subject of tourism-oriented projects, among which was the construction of an airport outside the park, together with a paved road connecting the airport and the Tikal site. The site has become one of the most popular cultural tourist sites in the country.

The establishment of the Center for Conservation and Investigation of the Cultural Heritage at Tikal National Park (CCIT)

While the Tikal National Park has seen remarkable development as a cultural tourist site, problems have emerged regarding restored structures due to insufficient conservation and maintenance management of the ruins. Recognizing the urgent need to resolve the situation, the government of Guatemala requested us to carry out a cultural cooperation project under the auspices of the Japan Foundation in 2005 to investigate the current status of cultural heritage in Tikal National Park and the feasibility of cooperation. Based on the outcome of the investigation, the Center for Conservation and Investigation of the Cultural Heritage at Tikal National Park (CCIT) was built under an agreement between the two countries, using the scheme of Cultural Grant Assistance administered by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan in 2010, with a view to carrying out a sustainable and long-term international cooperation project despite the harsh natural environment of the tropical rain forest.



▲ An overview of the Center for Conservation and Investigation of the Cultural Heritage at Tikal National Park (CCIT)



▲ Structure 5D-22 in the North Acropolis, showing the state of erosion and dissolution

Kanazawa University's project at the Tikal Center for Conservation and Investigation of Cultural Heritage (CCIT)

Tikal Center for Conservation and Investigation of Cultural Heritage (CCIT) as a hub for broad international cooperation

The establishment of CCIT is the core project of a broadly-based cooperative plan organized collectively by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, the Japan Foundation, JICA, and universities and research institutions in Japan, to support the conservation and enhancement of utilization of the world heritage sites of the ancient Maya civilization which existed in an area crossing the borders of five countries from Mexico to Central America. This Center was built at Tikal in Guatemala, the centre of Classic Maya civilization, but we anticipate that our project will lead to international cooperation with other countries that are carrying out conservation and enhancement of utilization of world heritage sites of the Maya civilization.

Kanazawa University project

Kanazawa University signed an agreement with the Vice-ministry of Cultural and Natural Heritage of the Ministry of Culture and Sports of Guatemala in June 2011 with a view to taking part in the project as a representative of Japan's research and educational institutions. And on the same day, the Institute of Human and Social Sciences exchanged a memorandum of understanding with the Vice-ministry of Cultural and Natural Heritage of the Ministry of Culture and Sports of Guatemala with view to carrying out research and conservation of Tikal site while undertaking a comprehensive heritage management project in Tikal to deal comprehensively with proposals ranging from planning of investigation and restoration at the Tikal site to general conservation studies, and development of the site as a community resource. After CCIT was established and handed over to the government of Guatemala in July 2012, Kanazawa University commenced a heritage management project to carry out detailed research on the North Acropolis based at this Center. Our goal is to undertake the first phase of our research by March 2016, by carrying out excavation and conservation work on places that have not yet been investigated, in addition to drawing up a comprehensive, area-wide conservation plan and utilization program for the site in consultation with the Guatemalan authorities.

Assessment by Guatemalan staff and outlook for the future

Assessment by Guatemalan staff

The CCIT was the first permanent institution equipped with up-to-date research instruments to be established in the Tikal National Park. At the opening ceremony, the President of Guatemala expressed his gratitude to the Japanese government for its cooperation. The Ministry of Culture and Sports of Guatemala anticipates that this institution will play a major role in the development of human resources through the advancement of joint research and cross cultural and academic exchange between students and scholars from both Japan and Guatemala.

Tasks and prospects

Two major tasks may be raised: first, the Guatemalan government must take responsibility for the long-term maintenance and management of the CCIT as the hub of the project. Secondly, the CCIT should support the ongoing trend toward cooperation and collaboration among Maya civilization heritage parks in various countries, and promote their independence by cooperating on educational programs concerning heritage management as a comprehensive field of research. Furthermore, we look forward to developing the current North Acropolis project in Tikal in conjunction with our leading graduate program for training cultural resource managers.

(Seiichi Nakamura, Kanazawa University)



▲ Plastered stone mask at North Acropolis covered with mold and moss



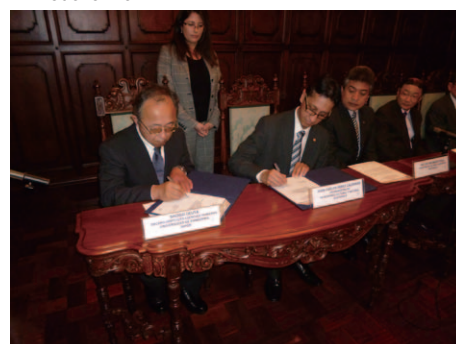
▲ Surveying of the North Acropolis



▲ North Acropolis seen from the Temple 1



▲ The Guatemalan President, giving a speech at the opening ceremony of the Center for Conservation and Investigation of the Cultural Heritage at Tikal National Park



▲ The signing of the memorandum for the project in Tikal (photograph by Kanazawa University)



Investigation of actual conditions regarding cultural heritage protection in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Japan Consortium for International Cooperation in Cultural Heritage (hereafter JCIC-Heritage)

Period : 20th - 29th February 2012

Targeting Country : The Republic of the Union of Myanmar



▲ Devout local Buddhists



▲ Pagoda interior with murals

The opening of an unexplored country in South East Asia – Beginnings of civilian rule in Myanmar and heritage protection

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar is situated between India and the People's Republic of China. Throughout its history, the country has been home to numerous tribes and has seen the rise and fall of a number of kingdoms. Many important cultural heritage sites survive, testifying to the existence of a rich civilization in the past. Renowned sites in the country include the ruins of ancient cities founded by the Pyu tribes, or the Burmese, particularly the site of Bagan's Temples, which is extremely famous for its landscape featuring innumerable pagodas. Yet, there are still many cultural heritage sites that have not yet received recognition and protection. Although Myanmar is a member state of the World Heritage Convention, none of its cultural properties have been inscribed on the World Heritage List to date.

Although the country had been under a military dictatorship since the 1960s, Myanmar has seen rapid progress in the shift to civilian rule since 2011. Following this political shift, several high level meetings were held between Myanmar and Japan, with the agenda of building a new relationship between the two countries. Both sides agreed to make promotion of international cooperation in the field of cultural heritage protection a centerpiece of cultural exchange. Accordingly, JCIC-Heritage received a request from the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs to carry out studies with a view to making a concrete plan for cooperation on cultural heritage protection.

Survey in Myanmar and collaboration among domestic and international institutions

Dispatch of team to investigate cultural heritage protection

Since its establishment in 2006, JCIC-Heritage has been collecting information required for the promotion of international cooperation on cultural heritage protection. As a part of this mission, JCIC-Heritage has been conducting a series of surveys in partner countries. Based on a discussion in its Subcommittee for Planning regarding the request from the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, JCIC-Heritage decided to send an investigation team to identify potential needs in the field of cultural heritage protection and to collect information regarding the current situation of cultural heritage in Myanmar. The investigation team led by Professor

Yoshiaki Ishizawa (Sophia University, and the Chairperson of JCIC-Heritage) conducted its survey in February 2012. While focusing on clarification of the items for which Myanmar was requesting cooperation, the team collected information and held discussions with the persons in charge at Myanmar's representative cultural heritage sites such as Bagan's Temples, the wooden structures in Mandalay, as well as museums and libraries in local areas.

Collaboration with various institutions

During this survey, the team also held meetings with the UNESCO Bangkok Office, the Embassy of Japan in Myanmar, and the JICA office in Myanmar for the purpose of collecting information regarding the activities of other international organizations, in addition to hearing the expectations of other institutions in Japan. Our counterpart for this survey was the Department of Archaeology, National Museum and Library, and the Department of History Research in the Ministry of Culture, Myanmar.

Prior to this survey, JCIC-Heritage shared information with Myanmar studies experts in Japan, and learned that the International Research Center for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region was also planning a survey regarding intangible cultural heritage in Myanmar. Both institutions are now working in close cooperation on this subject.

Towards cultural heritage protection in Myanmar

Current state of cultural heritage in Myanmar

Through this survey, we became aware that the majority of tangible heritage has deteriorated badly and is in critical condition. Particularly in the case of the site of Bagan's Temples where the number of tourists has been growing dramatically since 2011, the current infrastructure is approaching the limit of what it can handle. In the 1990's, Professor Yukio Nishimura (University of Tokyo) drafted a plan entitled "Preparation of a Master Plan for the Preservation of the Historic Area of Pagan" funded by the Japan Funds-in-trust for the Preservation of the World Cultural Heritage. Incorporating the ideas of that plan, the foremost challenge is how to achieve sustainable development that strikes a balance between cultural heritage protection and community development, while also placing particular emphasis on urban environmental issues and income disparities. Meanwhile, conservation facilities and research functions at museums are severely underequipped. Moreover, specialists are desperately needed in every sector. Finally, it must be kept in mind that the majority of the cultural heritage sites are living heritage, which are places of worship for the nation's many devout local Buddhists.

Current situation of international cooperation

In response to this situation, several international cooperation projects have been taking place and more are under way. In regard to the archaeological sites in Bagan, China and India have already started international cooperation projects for the conservation of specific sites. Furthermore, UNESCO has commenced a project including human resource training in the archaeological sector with the Italian Funds-in-Trust.

In the future, Myanmar is expected to receive growing cooperation from Japan and other countries for projects not limited to cultural heritage protection, but encompassing other sectors including development. Coordination among these projects will thus become more vital than ever. Japan has been promoting international cooperation on cultural heritage protection for over two decades, and the knowledge we have gained in those years will be put to the test in Myanmar.

A Japan-wide framework for International Cooperation

While continuing to collect information, JCIC-Heritage is holding discussions with a wide range of related institutions to examine the form of Japan's international cooperation on cultural heritage protection. JCIC-Heritage has set up a new working group on Myanmar, and is now building a framework to bring together Japan-wide cultural heritage protection projects related to Myanmar. This survey results will be compiled and published, and should serve as a foundation for promoting support efforts under a united Japanese framework.

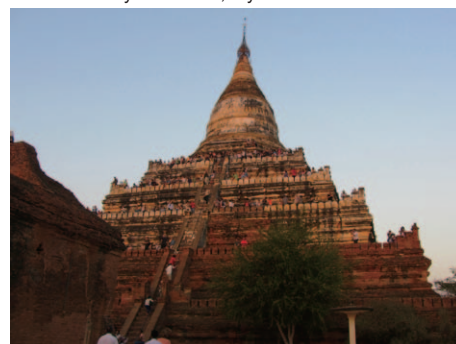
(Rei Harada, Japan Consortium for International Cooperation in Cultural Heritage)



▲ Wooden structures in Mandalay suffering from deterioration due to age



▲ Interview with the Director General of the Department of Archaeology, National Museum and Library in the Ministry of Culture, Myanmar



▲ Site overwhelmed by crowds of tourists



▲ Bagan Archaeological Museum



▲ Throne displayed in the National Museum of Myanmar



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