

TOBUNKEN NEWS no.4 DIGEST

National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo
13-43 Ueno Park, Taito-ku, Tokyo, 110-8713 JAPAN <http://www.tobunken.go.jp>



Amarbayasgalant Khiid

Exchange Program (Preliminary Investigation) in Mongolia

By Futagami Yoko, Japan Center for International Cooperation in Conservation

In preparations for the exchange program that has just started this fiscal year, we visited Mongolia from June 9 to 14. As part of this program, together with the Department of Intangible Cultural Heritage of the Institute, workshops related to the framework for the conservation of cultural properties including organizations and laws are being planned as are training programs to foster experts for the Center for Cultural Heritage of Mongolia under the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science of Mongolia. The meeting with the Director of the Department of Culture and Art of the Ministry was filled with a friendly atmosphere, and the

Director readily agreed to the conclusion of a statement and memorandum of mutual agreement with the Institute upon inaugurating the project.

We also inspected the Amarbayasgalant Khiid, one of the largest wooden structures of Mongolia located approximately 350 km north of Ulan Bator, the capital. This temple underwent investigations and restoration projects by Japanese experts dispatched through UNESCO from the early 1970's to the mid-1980's. However, it is poorly managed at present and an expert of the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science told us that immediate actions were

required. We confirmed that there was not only damage to the color of the building and its roof but also that the structure of the temple was suffering deterioration. Through the discussion at this meeting, the two countries have come to hold the wish to include building-related contents in the training program for experts that will be conducted from the next fiscal year on.

After our visit, we learned that demonstrations expressing dissatisfaction with the result of the election which had been held at the end of June led to a riot in Ulan Bator and that the mobs had set fire to the Center for Cultural Heritage, the counterpart of our Institute, resulting in damage to the building, equipment and cultural properties. We express our heartfelt sympathy to the staff of the Center. At the same time, we are seeking a possibility of emergency response by sharing information with the embassy and experts in related fields.



Inspection of the Amarbayasgalant Khiid

Preservation of the Buddhist Monastery of Ajina Tapa, Tajikistan

By Arimura Makoto, Japan Center for International Cooperation in Conservation

The Japan Center for International Cooperation in Conservation dispatched the 3rd mission of the UNESCO/Japan Trust Fund project, Preservation of the Buddhist Monastery of Ajina Tapa, Tajikistan from April

16 to May 9. The purpose of this project is the preservation of a Buddhist monastery made of mud bricks and/or pisé. The Center has been removing sand and weeds that have accumulated since past excavations in 60 -70s and conducting archaeological cleaning and soundings since 2006 in order to clarify the position and structure of the walls of the monastery.

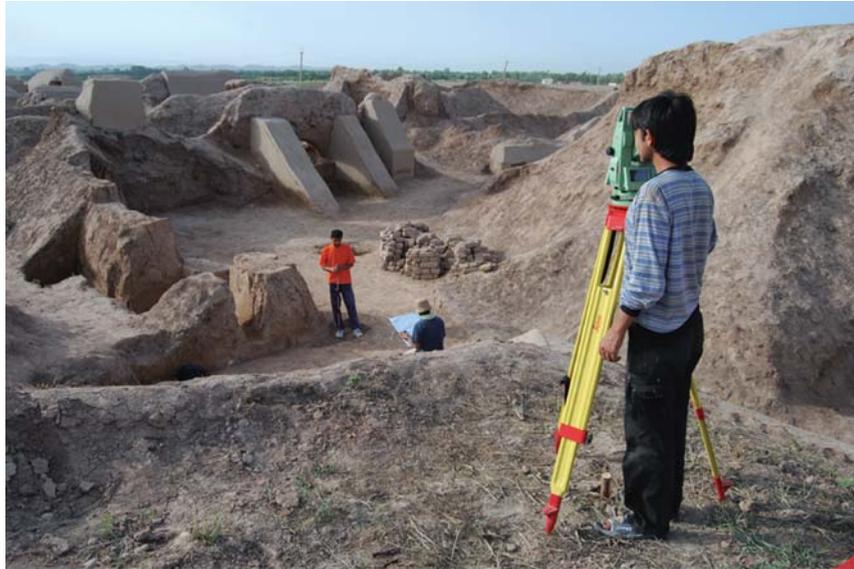
In this mission, we carefully studied the southeast wall facing the courtyard where a stupa is located, and confirmed the entrance that leads to the room where *Parinirvana Buddha* had been once placed. In addition, as a result of soundings at two points on the edge of the site, we were able to detect the outer wall of the Buddhist monastery and to confirm its original size. Such results provide information valuable for the conservation of Ajina Tapa. All archaeological investigations made at the site



The southeast wall facing the courtyard with a stupa that was found by investigation

were done with young Tajik archaeologists, whose cooperation was of great help. At the same time, we believe that it was meaningful

from the point of view of capacity building of local experts.



Cooperative work with young Tajik experts

Cooperation for the Establishment of the Conservation Center for Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM-CC) in Cairo: Workshop on the Conservation of Paper Materials

By Taniguchi Yoko, Japan Center for International Cooperation in Conservation

In cooperation with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the Japan Center for International Cooperation in Conservation has been providing technical advice to the Conservation Center for Grand Egyptian Museum. Between 24 and 28 February, the Center organized a conservation workshop on paper in Cairo for Egyptian conservators. A senior paper conservator, Sakamoto Masami, delivered a series of lectures on various manufacturing techniques of paper, both European and Japanese, their physical and chemical properties and characteristics. Following theoretical lectures on conservation and materials, some practical/technical sessions were delivered for long-scale preservation and mount-making as well as further conservation implementations.

In Egypt, museums hold artifacts made of a wide range of extremely challenging materials, such as papyri and textiles. Since most of the participants at the workshop are experienced in



Participants in the workshop

the field of conservation as professional conservators, they made quite positive remarks concerning the workshop as a whole. It has become a very important key workshop in order to begin further cooperation with the Grand Egyptian Museum.

Investigation of the Mural Paintings of the Dunhuang Mogao Grottoes and the Dispatch of Trainees

By Okada Ken, Japan Center for International Cooperation in Conservation

The fifth phase of the Joint Research on the Conservation of the Mural Paintings of the Dunhuang Mogao Grottoes is in its third year. Members of the National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo were



Joint investigation in Cave 285

sent to Dunhuang Mogao Grottoes for four weeks from June 1 and for 6 weeks from September 6 to conduct this year's Japan-China joint research. Continuing from last year, optical investigation that has been conducted until now in Cave 285, which has an inscription (A.D. 538 and 539) of the West Wei period, was continued and the conditions of the entire mural painting were examined. The condition of deterioration and preservation of the materials used for mural paintings differ depending on various conditions such as color, technique and the location of the paintings. If we understand these conditions, the results of the optical investigation will reveal much more information, resulting in new ideas about investigation and analysis. In addition, if specific materials and techniques result in different states of deterioration, that will provide much insight into future conservation and restoration work.

Furthermore, two graduate students with a master's degree went to the Mogao Grottoes from Japan with this investigation team. They were selected from different fields of discipline - conservation science and paintings - as trainees dispatched to Dunhuang by public announcement that has been implemented from 2007. They stayed in Dunhuang for five months until mid-October and received guidance from specialists at the Conservation Institute of Dunhuang Academy concerning diverse matters related to the protection of mural paintings.

Completion of the Recording of *Midori no Hayashi Gokanroku*

By Iijima Mitsuru, Department of Intangible Cultural Heritage

The National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo has been engaged in the recording of actual *kodan* performances since 2002 with the cooperation of Ichiryusai Teisui and Takarai Bakin.

We have asked Ichiryusai Teisui, a Holder of Important Intangible Cultural Property, to

record two long, serial *kodan* pieces: *jidaimono* (story of historical figures) and *sewamono* (story of the common people). The recording of *Midori no Hayashi Gokanroku*, a *sewamono*, was completed on February 13, 2008. This was the twenty-first recording session for Ichiryusai Teisui, and it took 7 years to complete the proj-

ect since the first session was held on June 11, 2002.

Midori no hayashi refers to thieves. *Midori no Hayashi Gokanroku* is a grand story of the lives of five chivalrous thieves like Robin Hood told one after another; their deeds leading to their execution are recounted.

As for *jidaimono*, *Tenmei Shichidan* was completed on December 26, 2005. Now *Sengoku Sodo* is being recorded.

Recording of a new, long *sewamono* is scheduled to begin next fiscal year.



Kodan by Ichiryusai Teisui

Investigation of the Ways in which Information on Cultural Properties is Collected and Publicized in England

By Emura Tomoko, Department of Research Programming

For six days from March 3, 2008 three members of the Department - Yamanashi Emiko, Emura Tomoko and Nakamura Setsuko - visited libraries and research organizations in England to investigate the ways in which materials are collected and publicized. Visits were made, within this short period, to Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures, Witt and Conway Libraries of the Courtauld Institute of Art at the University of London, The British Museum, The British Library, National Art Library of the Victoria & Albert Museum, and School of Oriental and African Studies of the University of London. In addition to investigating their facilities, we exchanged opinions with researchers at each organization. Of these organizations, Witt Library, in particular, is one that is of special significance to the Institute since the first Director General of the Institute, Yashiro Yukio, is said to have felt the need for a library on materials related to art and obtained the idea for the founding of the Institute when he visited the Library, an extremely profitable experience in his own study of art history. According to the guest book at the Library, it was learned that Yashiro visited the Library nine times between 1924 and 1928. Such information was meaningful in understanding the situation surrounding the founding of the Institute and the significance of collecting and publicizing information on cultural properties. We hope to continue

exchange in research and to make use of such opportunities in the utilization of materials and the management of libraries.



At the office of Ms. Barbara Thompson, Witt and Conway librarian

DATE	NAME	ADDRESS
16 Jan 24	M. H. ...	115 Kensington Palace Rd., W.8
	Marshall Weston	7 City Road, London W.C.1
17 Jan 24	C. ...	53 ... Rd. W.14
18 Jan 24	Marguerite Helby	18 ... Street W.C.1
19 Jan 24	Marguerite Helby	W.C.1
19 Jan 24	Yashiro Yukio	59 The Vale, Grafton Green
"	F. ...	77 ... St. W.1
"	B. A. ...	4. A.A. ...
"	J. ...	22 Hyde Park Gate W.1

Witt Library guest book, entry for January 18, 1924

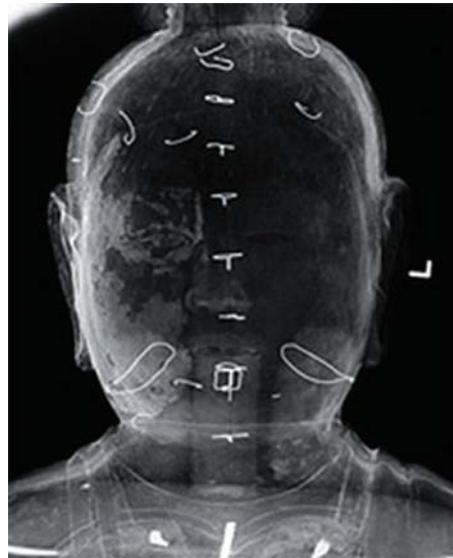
Investigation of Buddhist Statues at The Asian Art Museum of San Francisco

By Sarai Mai, Department of Research Programming

Tsuda and Sarai of the Department of Research Programming studied two Buddhist statues (Brahma and Indra), which were made in Japan during the Nara period, and collected relevant materials at The Asian Art Museum of San Francisco from March 10 to 12, 2008 as part of the Department's project on the study of art materials and techniques. These statues had originally been at Kohfukuji in Nara, but were bought by an American collector after they passed into private hands.

The two statues were made by a special technique that was used in the Nara period, hollow dry lacquer technique. The outer frame is composed of hemp cloth and urushi (lacquer) and the inside is left hollow except for an inserted wood that functions as support. Since a great amount of lacquer, which is very expensive, was needed and since such statues are not structurally strong, there are not many examples of hollow dry lacquer statues remaining today. In that sense, it may be said that these statues are extremely valuable.

A photograph taken at Kohfukuji some time around 1905 shows, among many damaged Buddhist statues, these two statues, also greatly damaged. Among the documents at The Asian Art Museum related to these statues are X-ray



X-ray image of the head of Indra (The Asian Art Museum of San Francisco)

images that provide some information concerning the restoration of the statues. For example, while the head of Indra is missing in the Kohfukuji photograph taken in the Meiji period, X-ray image of the statue unexpectedly shows the possibility that the head is that of the original. Knowledge obtained in this investigation needs to be further studied from many angles. We hope to continue the study of the technique and style of hollow dry lacquer statues with the cooperation of The Asian Art Museum.

Conservation of the Mural Paintings of Kitora Tumulus, a Special Historic Site

By Morii Masayuki, Center for Conservation Science and Restoration Techniques

The National Research Institute of Cultural Properties, Tokyo is engaged in research project for the conservation of the Kitora Tumulus, a Special Historic Site. This is a project that has been entrusted to the Institute from the Agency for Cultural Affairs. In this project, the interior of the stone chamber is inspected regularly and its mural paintings on the plaster are being detached.

Particularly, the painting of the astronomical chart on the ceiling has been detached sequentially ever since a part of the astronomical chart had fallen and was found on the floor in July 2007.

Initially, only small areas of the painting where the risk of exfoliation was very high were detached. However, with improvement in the tools used to detach paintings, it is now possible



Wall paintings of Kitora Tumulus (painting of the astronomical chart on the ceiling) after having detached the northern half

to detach a square piece of the mural painting about 10 cm on a side. As a result, the northern half of the astronomical chart has been detached as of the end of June 2008. The paintings will

continue to be detached on a regular basis. As for the painting of the astronomical chart on the ceiling, our goal is to detach the entire painting within this year.

Lecture by Dr. Chen Fang-mei of the Graduate Institute of Art History, National Taiwan University

By Shioya Jun, Department of Research Programming

As part of the research project "Research on Materials for the Study of East Asian Art", the Department of Research Programming has been studying the relationship between man and objects under the theme of "Dynamics of Interaction between Objects and People". The aim of the study is to see how the connection among people plays a role in the value formation of objects such as works of art and cultural properties. On Tuesday, January 15, we invited Dr. Chen Fang-mei of the Graduate Institute of Art History of the National Taiwan University, who contributed to



Dr. Chen Fang-mei



View of Yinshan Temple at Danshuei (before 1991)

our Department's periodical, *Bijutsu Kenkyu* (The Journal of Art Studies) volume 391, a paper on how ancient bronzes were appreciated in Sung dynasty China.

In her presentation entitled "The Issue of the Sacred Space Constructed at: Yinshan Temple at Danshuei and Ethnological Awareness: A Study of Art in the Social Context", Dr. Chen spoke about how the thoughts of the Han people who immigrated to Taiwan from the end of the 18th to the beginning of the 19th centuries, especially that of the Hakka people from Tingzhou in western Fujian province, were

given form. Although a minority group, these people erected Yinshan Temple at Danshuei in northern Taiwan. Dr. Chen confirmed that the arrangement and decorations of the temple complex are reminiscent of what existed in their place of origin, Tingzhou. The subject of the presentation was concerned with the history of pre-modern Taiwan, with which we are not so familiar, but the assertion of identity associated with migrating people was in line with the theme of our study and discussions on the question of self-expression of minority groups followed the presentation.

Presentation by a Visiting Researcher

By Tanaka Atsushi, Department of Research Programming

Wu Chinghsin (Taipei, PhD student at UCLA), a visiting researcher at the Department of Research Programming for a year from September 2007, presented the results of her study at the Department's research seminar on March 26. She has been studying how the world of modern Japanese art, especially of the 1920s, accepted European art. In her presentation entitled "Classic or Avant-garde, Christianity or Buddhism - Religious Paintings

of Koga Harue Dating to the 1920s", Wu discussed how paintings by Koga with religious themes or motifs correlate with European art, from those of El Greco and other classics to the modern age, that was introduced to Japan in the 1920s. The presentation was followed by active exchange of opinion with researchers of the Department whose fields of discipline include modern art as well as Buddhist art. We hope that Wu will continue to pursue her research.

Meeting of Experts on the Conservation Project for the Stone Statues of the Tombs of Tang Dynasty in Shaanxi

By Okada Ken, Japan Center for International Cooperation in Conservation

This fiscal year is the final year of the project for the conservation of stone statues of the tombs of Tang dynasty that has been conducted jointly with the Xi'an Centre for the Conservation and Restoration of Cultural Heritage in China since 2004. For two days, on June 23 and 24, a meeting of Japanese and Chinese experts was held in Xi'an City where last fiscal year's were reviewed and evaluated. From Japan, Mr. Nishiura Tadateru (professor of Kokushikan University, conservation of cultural properties) and Mr. Nedachi Kensuke (professor of Kyoto University, history of art) attended as experts. During the last fiscal year, of the three target mausoleums of this project, archeological investigations and maintenance work were conducted particularly for the east, west and north gates of the Qiaoling Mausoleum which is the tomb of Emperor Ruizong of Tang. This time, Japanese and Chinese experts investigated the site in the pres-

ence of many local onlookers. In addition, the great Sichuan Earthquake that struck Shaanxi province on May 12 notably enlarged the crack on the lion statue placed at the south gate of the Shunling Mausoleum, another target mausoleum. For this reason, meteorological observation instruments were installed shortly after, and they were inspected on this occasion.



Japan-China experts meeting



A banner of "Ardent Welcome" displayed at the site of Qiaoling Mausoleum

1st Seminar on Traditional Restoration Materials and Synthetic Resins: Deterioration of Metals Used on Urushi Objects

By Kitano Nobuhiko, Center for Conservation Science and Restoration Techniques

The Technical Standard Section of the Center for Conservation Science and Restoration Techniques held a seminar entitled Deterioration of Metals Used on Urushi Objects in the Seminar Room of the Institute on February 27 (Wednesday). In addition to lectures by Kitano of the Technical Standard Section and Ms. Sano Chie of the Conservation Science Section, three persons were invited and asked to speak: Mr. Takahashi Takahiro, professor at the Kansai University and the director of the Kansai University Museum; Mr. Kitamura Shosai, an urushi artist and a Holder of Important Intangible Cultural Property (Living National Treasure); and Mr. Naruse Masakazu of the Office of the Shosoin Treasure House, Imperial Household Agency. Recently, deterioration of metals like *makie* powder and *fukurin* (metal coverings) on urushi objects is becoming a subject of discussion. Perhaps for that reason, there were many participants at this seminar in spite of the fact that it was held toward the end of the fiscal year, a very busy time for everyone.

At the seminar, Kitano first spoke on excavated *makie* objects of the modern period (17th - mid-19th centuries) on which there is severe deterior-

ation. Then Mr. Takahashi explained the history of urushi objects using metals in Japan, China and the Korean Peninsula from the point of view of the history of urushi craft. He also spoke on some points related to environmental conditions in museums. This was followed by a valuable presentation, from the point of view of a conservator, by Mr. Kitamura on the restoration and reproduction of urushi objects designated as national treasures and important cultural properties that he himself had been engaged in. He introduced details that only someone who has actually worked on these objects could know. Next, Mr. Naruse spoke about the results of analysis of metals used on urushi objects from the ancient to the medieval periods, focusing on urushi objects in the collection of Shosoin, as well as on the conditions of their deterioration. Finally, from the point of view of conservation science, Ms. Sano spoke on the relation between deterioration of metals and the conservation environment in museums and the use of wooden storage boxes. Since the presentations by the three invited speakers were based on actual work, they were very convincing and there were many questions from the participants.

21st Conference on the Conservation of Modern Cultural Properties - "Conservation and Utilization of Aircrafts"

By Nakayama Shunsuke, Center for Conservation and Restoration Techniques

The Modern Cultural Properties Section of the Center for Conservation Science and Restoration Techniques held a conference on January 25 in the Seminar Hall of the Institute. Three lecturers were invited for the occasion: Dave Morris of the Fleet Air Arm Museum in England, Nagashima Hiroyuki of the Japan Aeronautic Association and Hirayama Sukenari of the Hirayama Ikuo Museum of Art.

Dave Morris presented us with a detailed explanation of the restoration of a Corsair aircraft

that he undertook. His presentation introduced us to matters, including minute details that only someone who has actually worked on the restoration of the aircraft could provide. Nagashima spoke about the conservation of aircrafts, taking as an example the conservation of a Nakajima Type 91 Fighter exhibited at the Tokorozawa Aviation Museum. Hirayama used photographs and video image taken during restoration to speak about treatments provided in the restoration of Aichi Type Zero

Reconnaissance Seaplane that was salvaged from the ocean at what is now Minamisatsuma city, Kagoshima prefecture, a restoration that was undertaken when he was working as a member of the restoration group at the Kanoya Air Base of Japan Maritime Self Defense Force.

As all three of the lecturers spoke from their own experience, their presentations were very convincing. There were many questions from the audience and the conference ended well past its schedule.

Seminar of the Center for Conservation Science and Restoration Techniques, "Solving the Mystery of the Triangular-rimmed Bronze Mirrors with Mythical Figure and Animal Designs - Materials, Techniques, Places of Manufacture"

By Sano Chie, Center for Conservation and Restoration Techniques

In-depth studies on the materials and manufacturing techniques of cultural properties provide important information that contributes to their conservation and restoration as well as their historical studies. This time, the triangular-rimmed bronze mirrors with mythical figure and animal designs, which have been excavated in large quantities from early tumuli, were selected as the topic of study. There has been an ongoing dispute about whether they are Wei mirrors or Japanese mirrors. We examined how historical information, such as when they

were produced, can be derived from a study of information related to their manufacture, such as their materials and shape. As lecturers, we invited Professor Fukunaga Shin'ya, who brought epoch-making progress in the study of the triangular-rimmed bronze mirrors with mythical figure and animal designs by introducing the method of categorizing such mirrors according to the shape of knob holes and the lines on the outer circumference, and Dr. Mabuchi Hisao, who reached a new interpretation regarding the material of the mirrors by measuring the lead isotope ratio of many bronze wares. Mr. Namba Yozo and Mr. Saito Tsutomu joined the panel discussion and there was a lively exchange of views. Dr. Mabuchi suggested a new interpretation regarding the time of manufacture of the mirrors. It was truly a meaningful seminar that enabled us to understand the profoundness of historical study using natural scientific methods. (Friday, June 20, 2008 at the seminar room of the National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo; 60 participants)



Presentation at the seminar

31st International Symposium on the Conservation and Restoration of Cultural Property

By Inuzuka Masahide, Center for Conservation and Restoration Techniques

The 31st International Symposium on the Conservation and Restoration of Cultural Property was held in the Seminar Room of the National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo from February 5 to 7, 2008. The Center for Conservation Science and Restoration Techniques was in charge of this year's symposium on the "Study of Environmental Conditions Surrounding Cultural Properties and Their Protective Measures". Lectures were given by 7 experts from abroad and 8 experts from Japan.

Presentations by Japanese experts focused mainly on environmental and biological control at Takamatsuzuka Tumulus, whose dismantlement was conducted the fiscal year of 2007. Experts from abroad spoke on the wall paintings of Lascaux Cave where they are faced with similar problems, and we were able to have a meaningful exchange of opinions. There were also exchange of information and opinions on conservation measures at other decorated tumuli, international activities in the conservation of cultural properties and non-destructive methods of examination.

Expert Meeting on Cultural Heritage in Asia and the Pacific, "Cultural Heritage of Central Asia and the Japanese Contribution"

By Kageyama Etsuko, Japan Center for International Cooperation in Conservation

The Japan Center for International Cooperation in Conservation has been holding international conferences and workshops in order to promote exchange among experts engaged in the protection of cultural heritage in Asia. From the fiscal year 2007, an expert meeting will be held every year at various locations in Asia in order to construct further network among experts. For the first year, focus was placed on Central Asia and the meeting was

held in Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan. In addition to Uzbekistan, experts were invited from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan as well as from UNESCO to present reports on the present condition and issues related to activities for the protection of cultural heritage in their respective countries and to hold discussions. The meeting was followed by visits to archaeological sites, historic



A scene from the meeting



Visit to the restoration studio for mural paintings at the Institute of Archaeology, Uzbekistan

buildings, museums and an archaeological institute in Samarkand, and opinions were exchanged on methods for the conservation and exhibition of cultural heritage. The participants commented that it was very meaningful to learn

about the different issues that Japan and other countries are faced with and to hear case studies of activities for the protection of cultural heritage. They also expressed their desire to continue collaboration and to exchange information.

"International Cooperation in Living Heritage", a Workshop of the Japan Consortium for International Cooperation in Cultural Heritage

By Toyoshima Hisano, Japan Center for International Cooperation in Conservation

International Cooperation in Living Heritage, a workshop organized by the Japan Consortium for International Cooperation in Cultural Heritage (President: Hirayama Ikuo), the secretariat of which has been entrusted to the Japan Center for International Cooperation in Conservation, was held on January 9. In this workshop various topics related with international cooperation in conservation are discussed. The workshop in January, which is the second in a series of such workshops, focused on the living heritage, in other words on "heritage that is kept alive and utilized". Over 100 experts from various disciplines participated. In the keynote lecture, Dr. Richard Engelhardt, Regional Advisor for Culture in Asia and the Pacific at UNESCO Bangkok, spoke on the background that led to the concept of living heritage, the importance of international coopera-

tion in conservation that includes the local people, and the role that Japan is expected to play in conservation. Case studies were also introduced, including academic research and practical restoration projects undertaken in Vietnam by Showa Women's University and the study on living heritage in Southeast Asia by Dr. Miura Keiko of Waseda University. In the panel discussion, topics such as what kind of problems are faced at sites, what needs to be conserved in the context of changing systems of value and how Japan can cooperate in the conservation of living heritage were discussed actively among the panelists and the audience. The Japan Consortium for International Cooperation in Cultural Heritage plans to hold workshops regularly in the future and to provide support in constructing a network of experts related with international cooperation in conservation.



Poster session at the workshop

Conclusion of the Statement of Mutual Agreement with the Division of Folklore and Folklife of the National Research Institute of Cultural Heritage, Korea

By Miyata Shigeyuki, Department of Intangible Cultural Heritage

Conclusion of the statement of mutual agreement on exchange between Japan and Korea on research concerning the conservation of intangible cultural heritage with the Folkloric Studies Division of the National Research Institute of Cultural Heritage, Korea.

This statement of mutual agreement is based on the agreement for research exchange between the Independent Administrative Institution, National Research Institute for Cultural Properties of Japan and the National Research Institute of Cultural Heritage of the Republic of Korea that was concluded in 2005 and prescribes, in concrete terms, arrangements for research exchange in the field of intangible cul-

tural heritage between the Department of Intangible Cultural Heritage of our Institute and the Folkloric Studies Division of our counterpart in Korea.

The agreement was concluded with signatures at the National Research Institute of Cultural Heritage, Korea on June 3, 2008. From now on, the two parties will exchange researchers, provide training and other programs and hold discussions to realize future collaborative researches in accordance with this agreement. It was also decided that the results of these undertakings would be published in the form of collected papers of the joint research in March 2011.

Conclusion of an Agreement on Cultural Exchange with the Korean National University of Cultural Heritage

By Goto Yoshinobu, Department of Management

On May 13, 2008, an agreement on cultural exchange was concluded between the National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo and the Korean National University of Cultural Heritage. The agreement pertains to the promotion of comprehensive exchange, and its aim is for the Institute and the University to contribute toward promoting protection of cultural heritage

by through cultural exchanges in the fields of academic research and education.

The signing ceremony was held at the Institute with the attendance of 4 representatives of the Korean National University of Cultural Heritage, including President Rhie Jong Chul. In the presence of many staff members of the Institute, President Rhie and Director General Suzuki Norio signed the cultural exchange agreement.

The Korean National University of Cultural Heritage was established under the Blue House for the purpose of protecting and transmitting traditional cultures, and consists of 6 departments including Cultural Properties Management, Traditional Landscape Architecture, Traditional Architecture, Traditional Art and Crafts, Archaeology, and Conservation Science. Comprehensive exchange in a wide range of fields can be expected in the future.



Ceremonial photo with the party of the Korean National University of Cultural Heritage

Signing of an Agreement for Cooperation in the Conservation of Cultural Heritage in the Republic of Tajikistan

By Yamauchi Kazuya, Japan Center for International Cooperation in Conservation

On March 20, 2008, an agreement and a memorandum for cooperation in the conservation of cultural heritage were signed between the Institute of History, Archaeology and Ethnography, Academy of Science, Tajikistan and the National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo.

According to the agreement, which is a general agreement, the Institute of History, Archaeology and Ethnography and our Institute will cooperate in conducting activities for the conservation of cultural heritage in Tajikistan, and capacity building and transfer of technology will be con-

ducted by means of actual work of conservation and workshops. The memorandum concerns the conservation project for the mural paintings in the collection of the National Museum of Antiquities, Tajikistan affiliated to the Institute of History, Archaeology and Ethnography, and cooperation with regard to capacity building and transfer of technology related to that project. The Japan Center for International Cooperation in Conservation will begin the actual work outlined in the agreement and the memorandum from the fiscal year 2008.

Result of Self-Evaluation for the Fiscal Year 2007

By Nakano Teruo, Deputy Director General

The Evaluation Committee considering the self-evaluation of the National Research Institutes for Cultural Properties in Tokyo and Nara was held on May 19, 2008. On this occasion, we presented to the Committee reports on all the projects that were executed during the fiscal year 2007 as member institutes in the Independent Administrative Institution, the National Institutes for Cultural Heritage. The status of all the projects was explained in terms of their implementation and/or results, and the Committee members were asked for their opinions. At a later date, we compiled our self-evaluation, taking into account the evaluations and opinions of the Committee members. The following is the outline of the completed self-evaluation regarding the projects executed by the National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo.

The projects drawn up by the National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo during the fiscal year 2007 with the aim of fulfilling its mid-term plan encompassed a wide range of activities, including surveys and research, international cooperation, publicizing and transmitting of information about the results of the surveys and research, and render-

ing of cooperation and advice to such bodies as the national government and local public bodies. The activity most highly evaluated by the Committee was our cooperation with the projects related to the conservation of the wall paintings of Takamatsuzuka and Kitora Tumuli. Both Institutes, Tokyo and Nara, were praised for achieving results in this difficult task beyond those planned for, in the midst of the great interest and scrutiny from the whole nation. Regarding the projects for international cooperation, it was noted that a maturing cooperative relationship was being developed with China and South Korea, and that further assistance had been rendered to such countries as Cambodia and Afghanistan under difficult conditions. In addition, our contribution to human resources development through the improvement of the knowledge and skills of people associated with various cultural properties, an endeavor achieved by hosting training and providing positive advice, was highly evaluated. However, it cannot be said that our efforts have been adequately conveyed to the general public and an improvement in our ability to publicize information is expected. As a result of the self-evaluation, we concluded that all the projects for

the fiscal year 2007 had proceeded well and that sufficient results had been achieved. The results of this self-evaluation will be reflected in future

project planning and the improvement of the administration of the Institute.

Publications

Investigative Report on the Handscroll "Autobiography" by Huai-su

A report on the investigation of Autobiography by Huai-su in the collection of the National Palace Museum using optical methods. Huai-su of T'ang dynasty is famous for the graceful style of calligraphy. This report contributes a new perspective to the discussion of the scroll. Color illustrations of high-resolution digital images and images by optical methods, such as infrared, and a report by Prof. Ho, a researcher of the National Palace Museum, are included. 2005, The National Palace Museum, Taipei, Price: NT\$ 800



Catalogue of Exhibits from Art Exhibitions of the Showa Era (Pre-World War II volume)

This publication records exhibit lists from major art exhibitions held by 32 organizations from Showa 1 (1926) through the end of World War II in Showa 20 (1945). The lists include information on 70,000 art works and 10,000 artists. 2006, Chuo Koron Bijutsu Shuppan (+ 81-(0)3-3561-5993), Price: ¥26,250



Research and Reports on Intangible Cultural Heritage

Research and Reports on Intangible Cultural Heritage has been published since 2006 by the Department of Intangible Cultural Heritage. It contains academic papers, research reports and translations of classic documents into modern Japanese. The articles can be downloaded as PDF files from the website of the Department(http://www.tobunken.go.jp/~geino/index_e.html).



Science for Conservation

Science for Conservation has been published since 1964. It contains articles on studies of conservation and restoration of cultural properties conducted by the Institute. The articles can be downloaded as PDF files from the website of the Center for Conservation Science and Restoration Technique(http://www.tobunken.go.jp/%7Ehazon/hazon_pdf.html).



Utilization of Railway Heritage

In the past, six books have been published on various issues related to the conservation of modern cultural heritage. From now on, focus will be placed on their utilization. The first volume of this series will delve into matters related with the utilization of railway heritage. 2008, not for sale



Preliminary Report on the Safeguarding of the Bamiyan Site 2006 -6th and 7th Missions -Recent Cultural Heritage Issues in Afganistan Preliminary Report Series 2

This report is a summary of the achievements by the 6th and 7th missions for "The Preservation of the Bamiyan Site" as part of the projects by the Japan Center for International Cooperation in Conservation, "Cooperative Projects for the Conservation of Cultural Heritage in West Asia". 2007, not for sale

