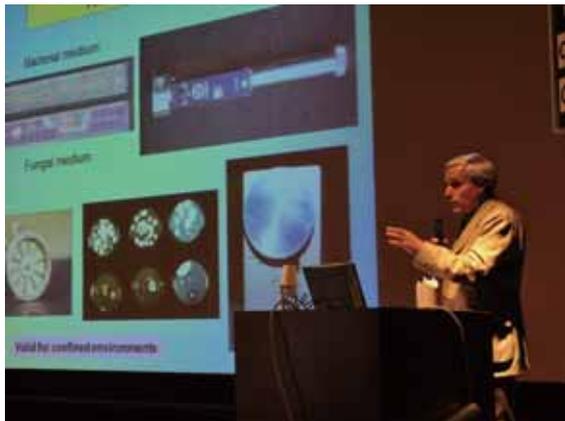


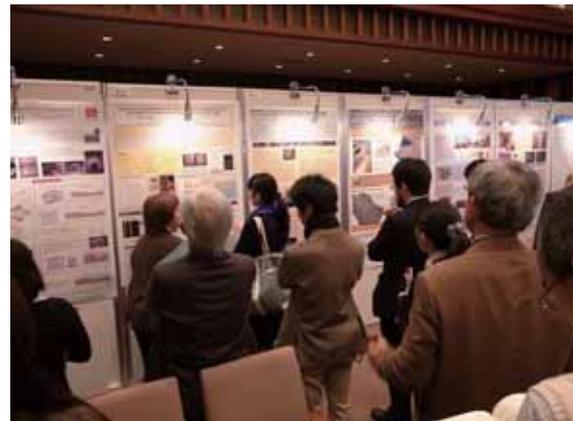


Report on the 36th International Symposium on the Conservation and Restoration of Cultural Property: Recent Topics on the Investigation of and Countermeasures for Biodeterioration of Outdoor/Indoor Properties and Disaster-affected Objects”

By Kigawa Rika and Sato Yoshinori, Center for Conservation Science and Restoration Techniques



Keynote speech by Dr. Piero Tiano from Italy



Poster presentations

Growth of microbes causes substantial deterioration of cultural properties, regardless of whether they are outdoors or indoors. Memories of the Great East Japan Earthquake are still fresh. The effects of water damage can soon lead to microbial deterioration of cultural properties that have been damaged by a disaster like an earthquake or tsunami. Surveys to ascertain the extent of damage and countermeasures against that damage are crucial. Thus, the Center for Conservation Science and Restoration Techniques hosted a symposium on the Microbial Deterioration of Cultural Properties at Heiseikan of the Tokyo National Museum from December 5 (Wed.)–7 (Fri.),

2012. Different departments of the Institute take turns hosting a symposium each year, and this year’s symposium marked the 36th International Symposium on the Conservation and Restoration of Cultural Properties.

The opening day of the symposium featured two keynote speeches by foreign experts, followed by a session on the biodeterioration of disaster-damaged cultural properties. The second day of the symposium featured a session on the biodeterioration of stone monuments and wooden structures outdoors. The final day of the symposium featured sessions on techniques to ascertain biodeterioration of cultural properties indoors and environmental factors for dete-

rioration. The 3 days of the symposium featured 15 lectures as well as 23 poster presentations by presenters from Japan and abroad. The symposium encouraged an active discussion among the 232 participants (421 participants in total). The symposium was attended by numerous foreign experts from countries such as Italy, France, Germany, Canada, China, and South Korea. Symposia on the specific topic of micro-

bial deterioration of cultural properties are seldom seen, and many of the experts from Europe who attended did so at their own expense. The symposium was truly an international symposium, allowing a substantial exchange of information. Sincere thanks are extended to the presenters and participants who enthusiastically collaborated with the Center for Conservation Science and Restoration Techniques.

7th Conference on the Study of Intangible Folk Cultural Properties held

By Imaishi Migiwa, Department of Intangible Cultural Heritage

On October 26th, 2012, the 7th Conference on the Study of Intangible Folk Cultural Properties was held with "Passing down Recollections and Records: Disasters and Intangible Folk Culture" as its theme. Following up on the 6th Conference on "Intangible Cultural Heritage in Post-earthquake Reconstruction" that was held in December of last year, this year's Conference delved further into the topic of disasters and intangible folk cultural properties.

Ways of passing down intangible folk cultural properties to future generations are normally an

extremely important topic, but this topic is particularly pressing in regions that were disrupted and depopulated by the tsunami and nuclear plant accident resulting from the March 11, 2011 earthquake. Thus, the 7th Conference covered "Records," which is one way of passing down intangible folk cultural properties. Invited to the Conference were 5 presenters who dealt with records in various capacities following the disaster and 2 commentators. These experts described and discussed previous efforts and issues and prospects for the future. Various recording techniques and uses of records were



the 7th Conference

presented during the Conference. In addition, the importance of a network linking efforts was again confirmed from various perspectives.

The 7th Conference was also attended by many relevant personnel from regions potentially slated to suffer a large-scale disaster in the future. Steps that can be taken and steps that should be taken to prepare intangible folk cul-

tural properties for crises in the near future, such as massive disasters, the falling birthrate, aging of the population, and depopulation of rural areas, are important topics warranting future discussion.

A report on the Conference's proceedings was published in March 2013.

UNESCO Japanese Funds-in-Trust Project "Preservation of the Cultural Heritage Complex of Thang Long, Hanoi"

By Tomoda Masahiko, Japan Center for International Cooperation in Conservation

A project to preserve the Thang Long Imperial Citadel site, a World Cultural Heritage located in the heart of Vietnam's capital city, has been undertaken since 2010 with the close cooperation of Japanese and Vietnamese experts. The NRICPT has been commissioned by the UNESCO Office in Hanoi as the base for Japanese efforts. During the first half of this year, the following efforts were undertaken.

a) Field Study on Preservation of Excavated Remains

From August 7 to 9, 2012, a field study was conducted at the excavation site next to the site where the new Parliament House is being constructed. Sensors to measure moisture migration in the soil where archaeological remains are located were replaced and added. An additional test area was established to measure inhibition of surface evaporation by a sand layer covering. An outdoor exposure test was also begun to examine the effectiveness of conservation techniques using brick specimens with physical characteristics similar to ancient bricks unearthed from the site. Automated monitoring of local meteorological conditions will continue. Analysis of the data obtained will lead to proposals for appropriate conservation approaches.

b) Workshop on Historical Studies

On August 21, 2012, a workshop was co-organized with the Thang Long—Hanoi Heritage Conservation Centre (TL Centre) and the Institute of Vietnamese Studies and Development Sciences, Hanoi National University (IVIDES). The on-site workshop cov-



Setting up an exposure testing stand



Workshop on Historical Studies

ered the layout of the central area of the Thang Long Imperial Citadel and its comparison to other ancient capitals in East Asia. The workshop featured presentations by Japanese and Vietnamese experts based on their studies of historical records and results of recent excavations as well as a discussion. The layout and history of the Thang Long Citadel, much of which are still unclear, was actively discussed.

In addition, "Selected Japanese and Vietnamese Papers on the Thang Long Citadel" was published in conjunction with the workshop.

c) Workshop on Archaeological Artifacts

From September 10 to 12, 2012, the 1st workshop on archaeological artifacts excavated at the Thang Long site was held in Hanoi. The workshop was co-organized with the TL Centre and enjoyed the cooperation of the Institute of Archaeology, the Imperial City Research Center, and the Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties (NNRICP). Participating Japanese and Vietnamese experts shared their knowledge and exchanged opinions on ceramics and roof tiles with regard to classification of their styles, techniques used to produce them, and sites where they were produced. These discussions took place while experts directly viewing unearthed objects. The participants were again reminded of the importance of such a joint study.

d) Invitation of a Vietnamese Expert

From September 10 to 28, 2012, an expert on wood material from Vietnam Forestry University was invited to the NNRICP to carry out joint experiments on techniques to conserve excavated wooden objects. Different laboratory experiments were conducted, including identification of tree species and examination of the effectiveness of resin impregnation, using test



Discussion among archaeologists in an artifact sorting area



Resin impregnation at the NNRICP

pieces unearthed from the Thang Long site along with fresh specimens from Vietnam.

The Second Research Exchange with the South Korean National Research Institute of Cultural Heritage

By Takakuwa Izumi, Department of Intangible Cultural Heritage

The second research exchange between the Department of Intangible Cultural Heritage and the South Korean National Research Institute of Cultural Heritage has begun according to the agreement signed November, 2011. Following Takakuwa's research in Korea in May, 2012, Ms. Lee Myoung-Jin, a researcher from Korea, visited Japan in July, 2012, and conducted research on *Kyogen* for a month.

The ideas regarding intangible cultural heritage in Korea are different from those in Japan: the Korean ICH does not distinguish important



Interview with Nomura Mansaku, a *Kyogen* performer

intangible cultural properties from important intangible folk cultural properties, as they do in Japan.

Most performing arts in Korea can be categorized as important intangible folk cultural properties under the Japanese classification system, and also the basic idea of “what is traditional?”

differs from Japan to Korea. Thus, it is necessary to learn the differences in order to compare performing arts and their protection systems. However, during her visit, Ms. Lee seems to have deepened her cognizance of the meaning of tradition in Japan while interviewing the *Kyogen*

Training for Museum Curators in Charge of Conservation

By Yoshida Naoto, Center for Conservation Science and Restoration Techniques

Training for Museum Curators in Charge of Conservation is intended to imbue curators with the knowledge and skills needed to conserve cultural properties. This year’s training was conducted over 2 weeks starting on July 9th, 2012, and participants consisted of 30 curators and administrators from around the country. The training curriculum primarily consisted of lectures and practice in 2 areas: (1) conservation conditions grounded in the natural sciences and (2) causes of the degradation of different types of cultural properties and steps to prevent that degradation.

“Case studies” that involved putting conservation conditions into effect in actual settings took place at the National Museum of Japanese History in Sakura city, Chiba prefecture. Participants divided into 8 groups and conducted field studies and assessments of set conditions such as temperature, humidity, and illuminance. The following day, they reported their results.

Training participants are anticipated to constitute a local nexus for conservation of cultural properties as they continue their work in museums. Application guidelines are distributed to individual facilities via municipal boards of education every February or so, so we look forward to your application.



Practice identifying insect pests that damage cultural properties

Architectural survey training at the temple of Ta Nei in Cambodia

By Sato Katsura, Japan Center for International Cooperation in Conservation

An architectural survey training course began at the Ta Nei temple in Angkor as a new human resource development project based on a cooperation agreement with the Cambodian government’s Authority for the Protection and Management of Angkor and the

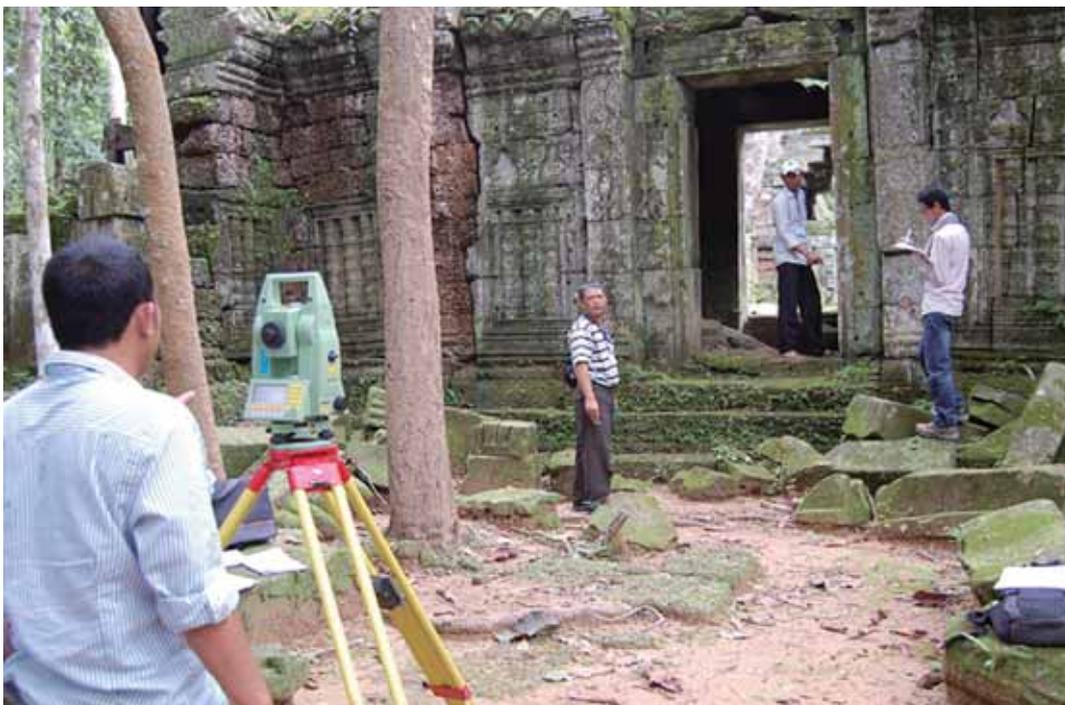
Region of Siem Reap (ASPARA). This training course provides a combination of classroom lectures and field practices, with the goal of learning by the Cambodian staffs the basic sequence of steps for surveying architectural remains using GPS and a total station and CAD draw-

ing. This was the first of four planned training courses through the next fiscal year. Twelve young and core staff members, who specialize in architecture and archeology, from the ASPARA, the Preah Vihear National Authority and the JASA team participated in the training, which

took place for five days from July 30 through August 3, 2012. The trainees were all enthusiastically making an effort to learn the skills. The current goal is to complete an up-to-date planimetric map of the entire temple complex.



Hands-on training for how to work with a total station



State of the measurement survey

Conference held prior to publication of the Archive of Art Studies: Yokoyama Taikan's *Yamaji* [the Mountain Path]

By Shioya Jun, Department of Art Research, Archives, and Information Systems

As mentioned in previous updates, the Institute has studied *Yamaji* by Yokoyama Taikan since 2010 through joint research with Eisei Bunko. Results of the 4th survey of the piece, occasioned by its restoration, are finally being summarized. A conference primarily for individuals involved in the surveys was held at the Institute on August 3rd, 2012. At the conference, the individuals listed below (including myself) reported on their own research topics related to *Yamaji* (individuals are listed in the order in which they made presentations):

Takegami Yukihiro (Association for Conservation of National Treasures), Arai Kei (Tokyo University of the Arts), Taira Yuichiro (Tokyo University of the Arts), Ogawa Ayako and Miyake Hidekazu (Eisei Bunko), Hayashida Ryuta (Kumamoto Prefectural Museum of Art), Sato Shino (Yokoyama Taikan Memorial Hall), and Noji Koichiro (Nerima Art Museum)

Presenters discussed the piece with personnel of the Department of Art Research, Archives, and Information Systems.

Presentations covered a range of topics,

including reports on the restoration, analysis of the piece based on surveys, and re-examination of points raised during presentations. Multiple researchers investigated a single work from multiple perspectives. Such an approach is unprecedented in the study of modern Japanese-style painting, making the conference a groundbreaking event. We summarized the results in volume 6 of the Archive of Art Studies (published by the Institute) for publication this spring.



Conference underway

The Networking Core Centers for International Cooperation on Conservation of Cultural Heritage Project for the Protection of Cultural Heritage in the Kyrgyz Republic and Central Asia

By Abe Masashi, Japan Center for International Cooperation in Conservation

The Japan Center for International Cooperation in Conservation has been conducting a four-year training program in the Kyrgyz Republic since 2011 to protect Central Asian cultural heritage. This program was commissioned by the Agency for Cultural Affairs, Japan, and plans are to hold a series of workshops covering documentation, excavations, conservation, and site management.

This year, the third workshop was held from September 1 to 17, 2012. The main topics of

the workshop were “archaeological excavations” and “conservation of archaeological objects.” The workshop was organized jointly with the Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties and the Institute of History and Cultural Heritage, National Academy of Sciences, Kyrgyz Republic. A total of 14 trainees participated in the workshop. They came from Kyrgyz, Armenia, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, and Afghanistan. Trainees excavated the site at Ak Beshim with trainers and studied

the basic methods of excavations and conservation of archaeological objects on-site.

The Japan Center for International

Cooperation in Conservation plans to organize training workshops next year as well.

Project to Support the World Heritage Serial and Transnational Nomination of the Silk Road: Training Workshops in Kazakhstan and the Kyrgyz Republic

By Abe Masashi and Kume Shogo, Japan Center for International Cooperation in Conservation

Currently, five Central Asian countries and China are undertaking various activities to facilitate the serial nomination of historical sites along the Silk Road for inscription on the World Heritage List in 2014. The Japan Center for International Cooperation in Conservation (JCICC) participates in the UNESCO/Japanese Funds-in-Trust Project to support the World Heritage Serial and Transnational Nomination of the Silk Road. As part of the project, JCICC is undertaking various activities in Central Asian Countries. This year two training workshops were held in Kazakhstan and the Kyrgyz Republic.

In Kazakhstan, a second training workshop on geophysical surveys was held from September 19 to 24, 2012. The workshop was co-organized with Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties and the Kazakhstan Archeological Expertise Scientific Research Organization. A total of 12 trainees, including eight Kazakhs, 2 Kyrgyzs, one Tajik, and one Uzbek, participated in the training workshop. The training workshop was held at the Boraldai



On-site training using a Total Station

burial mounds. After last year's workshop, Kazakhstan purchased geophysical survey equipment and Kazakh specialists actively included geophysical surveys in their archaeological research. Hopes are that this workshop will motivate other Central Asian countries to conduct geophysical surveys in their own countries.

In the Kyrgyz Republic, a training workshop on archaeological documentation was held from September 19 to 25, 2012. The workshop was organized jointly with the Institute of History and Cultural Heritage, National Academy of Sciences, Kyrgyz Republic. A total of eight young Kyrgyz archaeologists participated in the workshop. After three days of lectures on archaeological documentation at the National Academy of Sciences, trainees studied topographic mapping using Total Station, leveling, and photogrammetry at the site in Ak Beshim. The trainees gained a better understanding of archaeological documentation through the workshop.

The Japan Center for Cooperation in Conservation will continue to support the World Heritage Serial and Transnational Nomination of the Silk Road next year as well.



Geophysical survey training

International training in Conservation of Japanese Paper in Latin America conducted

By Kusunoki Kyoko, Japan Center for International Cooperation in Conservation

Training in the Conservation of Japanese Paper in Latin America was conducted jointly by the Institute, ICCROM, and INAH (Mexico's National Institute of Anthropology and History) as part of the ICCROM-LATAM Program (conservation of cultural heritage in Latin America and the Caribbean). Training took place at the INAH from October 17th to 30th, 2012 and was participated by 12 experts in restoring cultural properties from 9 countries: Venezuela, Cuba,

Ecuador, Brazil, Peru, Columbia, Argentina, and Mexico.

Training sought to provide participants with basic knowledge of traditional Japanese paper, adhesives, and tools. It also sought to enhance participants' understanding of Japanese mounting and restoration techniques by having them practice reinforcing, mending, and attaching a backing using actual Japanese paper, adhesives, and tools. The first half of the training consisted of lectures by Japanese experts on materials and tools used in mounting and restoration techniques and then practice by the participants. In the latter half of the training, lecturers from Mexico, Spain, and Argentina with experience conserving works using mounting and repair techniques described how Japanese materials, tools, and techniques were actually used to restore cultural properties in Europe and the US, and then attendees practiced those techniques. Given the likelihood that Japanese mounting and repair techniques will be used to conserve cultural heritage in different countries, plans are to conduct similar training sessions in the future as well.



A demonstration of mending techniques



A presentation involving active use of Japanese mounting and restoration techniques

Lecture on Textile Conservation

By Ishii Mie, Japan Center for International Cooperation in Conservation

On October 19, 2012, the Japan Center for International Cooperation in Conservation organized a lecture by Ms. Ann French, collections care manager and textiles conservator of the Whitworth Art Gallery, University of Manchester entitled "The Ancient, the Historic and the Contemporary: The Textile Collections of the Whitworth Art Gallery, and their Conservation." Since its founding in 1889, the Art Gallery has amassed a host of textile objects ranging in date from the 3rd century AD Egypt to contemporary Japanese textiles. Ms. French described the Art Gallery's textile collection as a reference for textile techniques and design. Ms. French cited examples of innovative methods of display and storage used to make the collection's 20,000 textile pieces accessible to researchers as well as school children. Ms. French also answered questions about the conservation of Japanese kimono,



Lecture by Ms. Ann French

fabric scraps, and paper patterns, which led to an active discussion with the audience. Despite the specialized nature of the lecture, many people attended. The Center hopes to continue such lectures to share information on the conservation of cultural heritage abroad.

Workshops on the Conservation and Restoration of Japanese Lacquer Ware in the framework of the Cooperative Program for the Conservation of Japanese Art Objects Overseas

By Yamashita Yoshihiko, Center for Conservation Science and Restoration Techniques

The Japan Center for International Cooperation in Conservation conducted workshops on the Conservation and Restoration of Japanese Lacquer Ware at Museum of the East Asian Art, Cologne, Germany from November 2 to 16, 2012. The workshops were held as part of the Cooperative Program for the Conservation of Japanese Art Objects Overseas with cooperation of the museum.

The workshops targeted students, researchers, curators, conservators, and restorers and were attended by a total of 19 people from 11 different countries including the U.S. and Australia as well as European countries such as Sweden, Portugal, and the Czech Republic.

The lectures covered concepts of restoration, materials, damage, survey techniques, and case studies of restoration of lacquer ware, while practica consisted of exercises related to various types of conservation and restoration techniques, such as facing, cleaning, consolidation, and pressing of urushi lacquered films. Both the lectures and the practica were very well-received.

Based on an idea of Dr. Schlombs, the director of the Museum of the East Asian Art, the museum enhanced exchanges with workshop participants through a tour guided by Dr. Rosch, the vice director.

Japanese lacquer ware have been exported since the 16th century and have been stored in museums, art museums and palaces all over the

world. Workshops should help participants gain knowledge and learn techniques to keep these

lacquer ware safe and pass them down to future generations.



Introduction to traditional Japanese lacquer materials and techniques (workshop I)

Workshops and International Seminar on the Conservation of Archaeological Metal Objects in the History Museum of Armenia

By Hemuki Naomi, Japan Center for International Cooperation in Conservation

As a part of the Networking Core Centers for International Cooperation in the Conservation of Cultural Heritage Project commissioned by the Agency of Cultural Affairs, the Japan Center for International Cooperation in Conservation conducted work-

shops on the conservation of archaeological metal objects in the History Museum of Armenia in November 2012 at the museum. The 3rd domestic workshop for Armenian experts was conducted during November 6–17, 2012, and 8 of the participants had attended the previous workshop. Continuing from the previous workshop, the 3rd workshop expounded further on elemental analysis of metal surfaces using a handheld XRF analyzer following surface cleaning of archaeological metal objects to remove corrosion and deposit. Participants also practiced corrosion inhibiting, surface coating, adhering and filling defects. Participants learned techniques to treat materials in order to facilitate their conservation and display.

An international workshop was held with 4 Armenian experts as well as 6 expert invitees concerning archaeological metal objects from 5 countries— Georgia, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Russia. Also giving presenta-



Practice during a domestic workshop



Exchange of opinions among participants in the international workshop practicum

tions were Armenian archaeologists and scientists who study archeological metals in Armenia. Attendees gave presentations on the study of Armenian metal objects and on the current state of museums and conservation in their own countries. The workshop contributed to foster the exchange of information and establish

wider networks.

The next set of workshops will cover advanced cases. Plans are to summarize research on fabrication techniques and have participants use the conservation knowledge and skills they learned in previous workshops.

26th Study Meeting on the Conservation of Modern Cultural Heritage, "Conservation and Restoration of *Goryosha*, Japanese Imperial Carriages"

By Nakayama Shunsuke, Center for Conservation Science and Restoration Techniques

Goryosha, Imperial carriages, refers to special railway cars and automobiles used by Japanese Emperors and other members of the Imperial family. Since railways were introduced in Japan in the Meiji Period, the imperial carriages have been created. The first Imperial carriage is considered to have great cultural and artistic value, therefore, it has been designated as an Important Cultural Property. However, information on the object was not readily available. Thus, the Center for

Conservation Science and Restoration Techniques held a study meeting entitled "Conservation and Restoration of Goryosha, Japanese Imperial Carriages" in the Institute's basement seminar hall on November 30, 2012.

The imperial carriages are said to be "moving works of art and craft" or "distillations of the culture of the Meiji Period." They were specifically made for the Imperial family to use by employing the latest technologies and techniques at that time, so their furnishings and

other features are extraordinary and remarkable. The carriages currently on display are 6 at the Railway Museum and 2 at the Museum Meiji-Mura. However, visitors are only able to look at their furnishings and exquisite interior decoration details through glass. At the study meeting, firstly, a specialist of industrial heritage talked about the technical aspects of the Imperial carriages and the development of the railways in Japan. Secondly, curators of the 2 museums preserving and displaying the Imperial carriages presented the characteristic furnishings and interiors of the objects. They also revealed approaches to and difficulty with daily maintenance and the way to display. Then, 2 conservators who worked to restore the Imperial carriages on display at the Railway Museum talked about actual restoration work done on the objects. It was worthy of special mention that an expert of industrial cultural heritage from Taiwan reported the Imperial carriages that were produced and left in Taiwan under



A presentation with technical drawings

Japanese rule between 1895 and 1945.

The study meeting focused on not only the technical viewpoint of conserving railway cars, but also their cultural value in terms of the history of art and craft. The meeting had over 53 attendees and ended with a lively question and answer session with the presenters.

7th session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage

By Miyata Shigeyuki, Department of Intangible Cultural Heritage

The 7th session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage was held at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris from December 3 to 7, 2012. The session was attended by 2 experts from the Institute, Miyata Shigeyuki of the Department of Intangible Cultural Heritage and Futagami Yoko of the Department of Art Research, Archives, and Information Systems. Grenada had planned to host the session but withdrew in August due to fiscal reasons. Uncharacteristically, the session was held at the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris. UNESCO's own fiscal predicament resulted in a number of complaints about logistics, e.g. only limited copies of session documents were available and there was no video streaming of events at the second venue.

During the session, 4 nominated files were

inscribed in the "List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding," 27 were inscribed in the "Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity," and 2 safeguarding practices were registered as "Best Safeguarding Practices." Nachi no Dengaku [a religious performing art performed at the Nachi fire festival] had been nominated by Japan for the Representative List but a preliminary review by the Subsidiary Body led to the nomination being referred back to the Submitting State. State members of the Committee deemed the nomination to have satisfied the criteria for inscription, so Nachi no Dengaku was ultimately inscribed. This situation was not unique to Japan. Many nominations were inscribed despite being referred back to the Submitting State. A guideline of 1 nominated file per country has essentially been instituted. To limit the

overall number of files to evaluate, Committee Members are scrutinizing each nomination rather carefully. Last year's 6th session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the ICH and the June session of the General Assembly of the State Parties to the Convention for the Safeguarding of the ICH had been marked by a rift in opinions. In contrast, the 7th session featured few sharp disagreements between Committee Members. The session consistently featured a generally accommodating atmosphere. Because of regional divisions, countries in Africa had submitted few nominations, but proposals from those states increased considerably during the 7th session. Capacity building has taken place in the region since the Convention for the Safeguarding of ICH took effect, and those efforts appear to have finally come to fruition. For the first time, Japan has been chosen as a member of the Subsidiary Body to evaluate nominations for inscription on



7th session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage

the Representative List in 2013. Given this opportunity, the Department of Intangible Cultural Heritage hopes to capitalize on its expertise in order to help with the Subsidiary Body's evaluations.

11th Expert Working Group Meeting for the Safeguarding of the Cultural Landscape and Archaeological Remains of the Bamiyan Valley World Heritage Property

By Suzuki Tamaki, Japan Center for International Cooperation in Conservation

In conjunction with UNESCO and research institutions from at home and abroad, the National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo and the Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties have long labored to conserve cultural heritage in Afghanistan. Research institutions in different countries and Afghanistan have cooperated specifically to safeguard the Bamiyan Valley site, primarily via UNESCO/Japanese Funds-In-Trust project for Safeguarding of the Bamiyan Site. Safeguarding of the site is a key component of the Cooperation on Conservation of Cultural Heritage in West Asia made possible by an Institute fund to cover operating expenses.

An expert working group meeting is held annually to discuss guidelines for the preservation and use of the site. This year, the meeting was held in Aachen, Germany from December 10 to 11 under the joint auspices of UNESCO

and the RWTH Aachen University. The meeting was attended by experts from Afghanistan, Germany, France, and Italy and from international bodies such as UNESCO, ICOMOS, ICCROM, and UNOPS. Japanese experts from



A Meeting at the RWTH Aachen University

the Institute, the Nara Institute, and Mukogawa Women's University were also in attendance. In addition to the ongoing topics of conservation of wall paintings and preserving fragments of the Buddha statues, the meeting featured reports on the current state of ruins located throughout the valley and road and airport improvement plans.

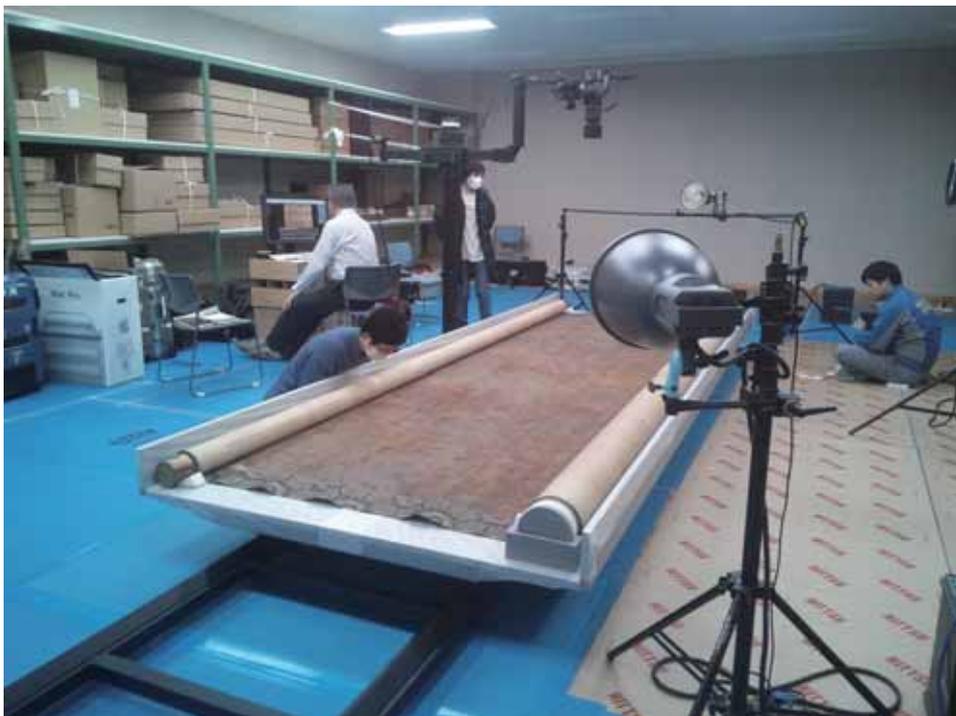
In addition, blueprints for an envisioned museum, facilitated by a research agreement between the Institute and Mukogawa Women's University, were presented at the meeting. The meeting led to a practical discussion of both tourism development and long-term preservation of the site.

An optical study of the *Taima Mandala*

By Kobayashi Tatsuro, Department of Art Research, Archives, and Information Systems

The *Taima Mandala* is a pictorial depiction of the teachings of Japanese Pure Land Buddhism showing primarily the Pure Land Paradise of Amida based on the *Commentary on the Meditation Sutra* by the monk Shandao from Tang Dynasty China. The work has been passed down by the Taima-dera temple in Nara, leading to its name. Vast numbers of works depicted the same images even in later ages and can be found around the country, but the basis for these works is the Taima Mandala, which the Institute studied. The massive work has been designated a National

Treasure and extends more than 4 meters in width and height. The work is thought to have been produced in the 8th century, though some believe it to have been produced in Tang China while others think it was produced in Nara. A major feature of this key mandala is that scenes are depicted by weaving, i.e. figured brocade, rather than pictures painted on silk canvas, as was normally the case. However, the work has unquestionably deteriorated over a span of more than 1000 years. Massive restoration in the Kamakura and Edo periods only just managed to keep the work intact. Scenes are apparent as a



Study and photography of the "Taima Mandala"

result of patching that was done during those periods, but the ground weave has been severely damaged. The extent of original figured brocade that remained and the features of that brocade were somewhat unclear.

The mandala had long been out of public view, but the mandala was slated for exhibition during a special exhibition, *Taima-dera Temple*, by the Nara National Museum starting on April 6 of this year. Prior to exhibition, the Institute's Department of Art Research, Archives, and Information Systems conducted an optical study of the mandala from December 17 to 21, 2012 at the Nara National Museum as part of a joint research project with the Nara National Museum. Shirono Seiji, Kobayashi Koji, Sarai Mai, and Kobayashi Tatsuro of the Department of Art Research, Archives, and Information

Systems participated in the study. A railed platform was crafted for extensive photography. The work was placed on the platform and then photographed with a high-definition digital camera. The total surface of the work was divided into close to 150 segments, allowing viewing of the extremely elaborate weaving of the mandala. High-definition digital images were taken with visible light, and sections were photographed in greater detail with fluorescence and infrared light. During the study, macro-photographs were taken on portions where the original figured brocade appeared to have survived. Very few portions were found to have the original weave of the figured brocade, providing a key springboard for future studies. This study also helped to facilitate exhibition of the work at the Nara National Museum.

The Department of Art Research, Archives, and Information Systems hosts its 46th public lecture series

By Tsuda Tetsuei, Department of Art Research, Archives, and Information Systems

This year marks the 46th public lecture series of the Department of Art Research, Archives, and Information Systems. Lectures on the topic of Dialogues on Objects and Images were given in the Institute's basement seminar hall starting at 1:30 PM on both October 19 and 20, 2012. Cultural properties and artworks are immobile objects that engender vivid imagery in people's minds. With this in mind, the lecture series seeks to inform

more people of new information about the Objects and Images they encounter every day.

Presentations were made by Pai Shih-ming, an Associate Professor at National Taiwan Normal University (on the 19th, entitled *Firsthand Experiences from Ueno Modern to Modern Culture: The modern Japan that CHEN Cheng-po encountered*) and Marukawa Yuzo, an Assistant Professor at the International Research Center for Japanese Studies (on the



Lecture by Dr. Pai Shih-ming



Lecture by Dr. Pai Shih-ming

20th, entitled The Lines and Dots of Art History that Engender Mental Associations: What can be gleaned from archives). Presentations were also made by Yamanashi Emiko, Assistant Director of the Department of Art Research, Archives, and Information Systems (on the 19th, entitled Painters who Depicted the Mausoleum of the Tokugawa

Shoguns) and Tanaka Atsushi, Director of the Department of Art Research, Archives, and Information Systems (on the 20th, entitled October 20th, 1912: Ueno & Art) from the Institute. Despite the great weather on both days, lectures on the 19th had an audience of 96 and lectures on the 20th had an audience of 80.

7th Public lecture of the Department of Intangible Cultural Heritage

By Takakuwa Izumi, Department of Intangible Cultural Heritage

On December 8, 2012, the Society to Preserve Yamaguchi's Sagi School was invited to present a public lecture at the Heiseikan. The lecture was entitled "Carrying on Yamaguchi's Sagi school of Kyogen (traditional Japanese comic theater): Recordings in the Department of Intangible Cultural Heritage of the National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo." The Department of Performing Arts, the predecessor of the Department of Intangible Cultural Heritage, began recording the Yamaguchi's Sagi school of

Kyogen in 1958. The performer is now deceased, and the recording features many pieces that are no longer passed on. While enjoying and analyzing these pieces, attendees discussed the future preservation of Yamaguchi's Sagi school of Kyogen. Attendees also enjoyed Miyagino and Busu, both of which have been passed on. The Sagi School is a style that disappeared from central Japan during the Meiji Era, and its pieces are seldom performed in Tokyo. Attendees expressed great thanks for this meaningful opportunity.



7th public lecture

Publications

Yokoyama Taikan, Mountain Path – Artwork Archive for Art Studies, volume VI

Focusing on *Mountain Path* (1911), a painting by the renowned modern nihonga master Yokoyama Taikan, this volume presents the results of joint research conducted by the Institute and the Eisei Bunko Museum, including pigment analysis and newly discovered information uncovered in the painting restoration process, along with critiques and other documents from the time of the painting's debut. 2013, Chuokoron Bijutsu Shuppan (+81-(0)3-3561-5993), Price: ¥ 7,350



Compilation of dated inscriptions on Japanese painting - 15th Century

This fundamental research material compilation presents a chronological arrangement of transcriptions into modern Japanese of 833 dated inscriptions from among those found on paintings created primarily in Japan during the entire 100-year period of the 15th century, the height of Japan's Muromachi period. This volume continues on from the 1984 publication, *Compilation of dated inscriptions on Japanese painting 10th - 14th Centuries*. 2011, Chuokoron Bijutsu Shuppan (+81-(0)3-3561-5993), Price: ¥ 19,950



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, not for sale



Conservation Environment for Cultural Properties

Subjects of the training course for curators were revised and a new subject, "Conservation theory for cultural properties in museums", was added in the course. The Center for Conservation Science and Restoration Techniques edited a textbook for this new subject. 2011, Chuokoron Bijutsu Shuppan, Price: ¥ 1,995



Conservation of Industrial Heritage 11: Conservation and Restoration of Audio-Visual Recording Media

A study meeting was held on January 14, 2011 at the Institute on the conservation and restoration of audio-visual recording media. This book is a record of the lectures presented at the meeting by administrators and persons actually engaged in the conservation of such heritage. In Japanese, 2012, not for sale



Selected Japanese-Vietnamese papers on the Thang Long Citadel

This work comprises a collection of representative papers primarily on the archaeology, architecture and history of the Thang Long Imperial Citadel site in Hanoi, Vietnam, which have been presented both in Japan and Vietnam to date. Together with their mutual translations, it is expected to serve as a basic reference material for study of this site where the Institute cooperates on the conservation. Japanese/Vietnamese, 2012, not for sale

