As of April 1, 2007, I have been appointed Director of the newly established Independent Administrative Institution, National Institutes for Cultural Heritage, in addition to continuing my role as the Director General of the National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo. The National Institutes for Cultural Heritage was established by integrating two former Independent Administrative Institutions, National Museum and National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, in order to execute the work of conserving and utilizing cultural properties, work that is common to both institutions, more effectively and efficiently and to pursue further development of each institution.

With this change in organization, the National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo has also undergone some changes: the Department of Fine Arts and that of Research Programming have been integrated and the Department of Conservation Science and that of Restoration Techniques have been integrated to form the Center for Conservation Science and Restoration Techniques. Moreover, in the new Department of Research Programming and the Center for Conservation Science and Restoration Techniques, by having researchers of the former hold concurrent positions in the Tokyo National Museum and researchers of the museums in the National Institute for Cultural Heritage hold concurrent positions in the latter, it will be possible to achieve closer communication between the museums and institutes and to construct a system for conducting a more integral management.

The establishment of the Institutes for Cultural Heritage means that the former organization, National Research Institute for Cultural Properties in Tokyo and Nara, which was established in April 2001, was dissolved. Nevertheless, it is hoped that the system of cooperation that the Institute in Tokyo and Nara have nurtured during the past six years will continue in the new organization as we continue to maintain the role of supporting the government's administrative work in the protection of cultural properties, paying special attention to the conservation of wall paintings in tumuli and to international cooperation in the conservation of cultural heritage.

This year, we will continue the projects of the 5-year plan that was started last year. Although some of the names of the departments in this
Institute have changed, the work that must be done will not change greatly. We will take this integration as an opportunity to continue our endeavors to conduct fundamental, practical and state-of-the-art study of cultural properties, including their conservation and utilization in museums, with greater awareness and to promote international cooperation.

We ask for your guidance and cooperation.
The 30th International Symposium on the Conservation and Restoration of Cultural Property
By Miyata Shigeyuki, Department of Intangible Cultural Heritage

The 30th International Symposium on the Conservation and Restoration of Cultural Property for the fiscal year 2006 was held at the Seminar Room of the Institute for three days from February 14. The theme for this Symposium was “Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage: International Cooperation and the Role of Japan”.

Awareness for the need to protect intangible cultural heritage has increased throughout the world since UNESCO’s “Proclamation of Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity” of 2001. The framework for protection is being formed by the “Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage” that went into force in April 2006. However, it is also a fact that, unlike the protection of tangible cultural properties, for which there is long history and much experience, there are still many issues regarding the protection of intangible cultural heritage that require careful debate.

In this Symposium experts on the protection of intangible cultural heritage were invited from five overseas nations (China, Korea, Indonesia, Philippines and Vietnam) and Japan to present reports on the condition of protection in their respective countries and the issues that they are faced with. Discussion was also held on matters related to international cooperation in this field. The program of the Symposium may be found on the web page of the Department of Intangible Cultural Heritage [http://www.tobunken.go.jp/~geino/pdf/sympo/symposium_agenda.pdf].

For many countries, with the exception of Japan and Korea, the protection of intangible cultural heritage is a new topic that must be dealt with although a basic framework has been established by the Convention. At this Symposium the overseas participants raised questions regarding such matters as community involvement, awareness raising among the young and other concrete issues. They also showed great interest in the experiences of Japan and Korea. Participants from Japan raised such questions as what kind of international cooperation may be considered for the protection of intangible cultural heritage that is a reflection of the cultural diversity of each country. We cannot say that we were able to find perfect solutions to these issues during this Symposium, but we believe that it served to open a door for further communication on the issue of the protection of intangible cultural heritage.

A detailed report of the Symposium will be published in the fiscal year 2007. Based on the
results of the Symposium, the Department of Intangible Cultural Heritage will strengthen collaboration with experts and organizations in Japan and abroad in order to construct a system for international research and cooperation in the protection of intangible cultural heritage.

Expert Meeting on Cultural Heritage in Asia and the Pacific - Strategy Development and Needs Assessment
By Inaba Nobuko, Japan Center for International Cooperation in Conservation

The Japan Center for International Cooperation in Conservation held an international conference from February 5 to 7, 2007 under the theme of "Present Position of Our Cultural Heritage in Asia and the Pacific: What Are the Real Issues - Identity, Development, Climate, or Something Else?" Six experts were invited from overseas for this occasion.

The Center has been providing discussion opportunities since 1990 for experts in Asia to exchange experiences and to build a network under the series title of "Seminar on the Conservation of Asian Cultural Heritage". This Seminar contributed much by covering a wide range of topics from case studies on the technical aspects of conservation to policies regarding cultural heritage and to urban/development issues. However, today, conditions concerning the conservation of cultural heritage are undergoing a great change internationally. In order for us to contribute better and more efficiently to heritage protection efforts in Asia and the Pacific region in the contemporary conditions that heritage conservation is facing, for this year we decided to hold a strategy meeting to identify the current needs and to shape the future direction of our activities.

Experts who possess rich experience with a broad outlook in international or government organizations were invited from Central Asia, South Asia, Southeast Asia and East Asia, and an expert in cultural landscape was invited from Australia. Based on their experiences, these experts provided us with their opinions as to what the problems are and what goals are being sought. The need for cooperation in conservation that extends beyond disciplines and borders

Uluru-kata Tjuta National Park (Australia), one of the important Asian sacred cultural landscape.
as well as the importance of a holistic approach to heritage conservation from value assessment to long-term plans for management were brought to light along with problems particular to each of the areas represented. The final day of the 3-day Seminar was opened to the public and 75 participants joined a very active discussion.

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**Expert Meeting for the Rehabilitation of the Prambanan Temple Compounds in Indonesia**

By Shimizu Shin’ichi, Japan Center for International Cooperation in Conservation

The investigation team that was dispatched last year conducted basic investigation of the Prambanan Temple Compounds, a World Heritage, which was destroyed by the earthquake that shook the Island of Java on May 27, 2006. The investigation included a survey of the condition of damage, history of restoration, ground property, vibration character of the structures and other issues. At a meeting of experts that was held at the site on June 29 and 30, 2007 the results of investigation, including that of the foundation and structures conducted by the Indonesian side, were discussed comprehensively. Based on this, fundamental ideas regarding the policy of restoration, including a partial dismantlement, and work procedures were decided. In addition, investigation items necessary to actually carry out restoration were discussed.

Japan’s technical cooperation will consist of providing necessary support for drawing restoration plans, within this fiscal year, for the Prambanan Temple, which holds a central position within the entire compound and whose early re-opening to the public is desired. In concrete terms, a seismograph will be installed to elucidate the vibration character of the structure and thereby propose necessary methods for structural reinforcement. In addition, orthographic images will be made and the condition of damage of each stone, method of restoration and areas of dismantlement will be indicated on

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Candi Garuda, Prambanan Temple
Project for the Preservation of the Buddhist Monastery of Ajina Tepa in Tajikistan
By Iwai Shumpei, Japan Center for International Cooperation in Conservation

From April 12 to May 18, the Japan Center for International Cooperation in Conservation sent the second mission team for the Project for the Preservation of the Buddhist Monastery of Ajina Tepa which is funded by the UNESCO/Japanese Funds-in-Trust.

Ajina Tepa is a Buddhist temple of the 7th to 8th centuries where a large stupa and a huge statue of Parinirvana Buddha (12.8m in length when reproduced) have been excavated. The purpose of this project is to conserve a Buddhist temple that has been constructed using mud bricks or pakhsa (pis). In cooperation with young Tajik archaeologists, the Center is engaged in the archaeological cleaning of the site, including removal of spoil and grasses that have accumulated after past excavations, in order to elucidate the location and structure of the walls and floor of the original Buddhist temple.

In order to prepare a detailed plan for restoration that will make an estimation of the cost possible. For this purpose, another on-site investigation is scheduled to be made after September.
As a result of this investigation, it was found that the walls of the temple were constructed with mud bricks and *pakhsa* blocks although some walls had been built only with mud bricks. Moreover, what are believed to be fragments of mural paintings and polychrome statues were excavated in the process of finding out about the floor of the temple.

Joint work with young local archaeologists is a very stimulating experience for us and we hope to be able to contribute to the training of local experts.
Program for Capacity Development along the Silk Road
By Okada Ken, Japan Center for International Cooperation in Conservation

China, Japan and South Korea Cooperation Training Program for Cultural Heritage Preservation along the Silk Road is in its second year. Three courses are planned for this year, two in spring and one in autumn: one for the group on the conservation of earthen structures (in its second year of a 3-year program), another for the group on the conservation of excavated archaeological sites and objects and still another, on “paper cultural properties”, for the group on the conservation of museum collections.

The first two courses for spring were held at Hancheng city, Shaanxi province for three months starting on April 16. Hancheng city is a historic district where buildings of the Song, Yuan and Ming dynasties are buried. The area surrounding the city is a treasure house of cultural heritage with the Great Wall of China of the Qin dynasty and the tomb of Si Maqian located nearby. In autumn 2004 approximately 900 tombs assumed to be from the late West Zhou to the early East Zhou dynasties were discovered in the neighboring Liangdaicun village. Most of these tombs had not been plundered and a great number of gold vessels, lacquered drums and stone gongs have been excavated. Four of the major tombs are thought to have belonged to leaders of the area. Because of their significance, the tombs of Liangdaicun village have been designated Monuments and Sites under the National-level Conservation of China as early as in 2006.

Our training course is conducted with full support from the Shaanxi Provincial Cultural Relics Bureau and held at the site of a large-scale tomb in Liangdaicun village that is currently
The 5th phase of the Joint Research on the Conservation of the Mural Paintings of the Dunhuang Mogao Grottoes is in its second year. Staff of the National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo was sent to Dunhuang Mogao Grottoes for three weeks from May 8 to conduct the first half of this year’s joint investigation. Investigation that was begun last year was continued at Cave 285, which is considered very important because of the inscriptions of the years 538 and 539 found there and of its traditional Chinese subjects in addition to its Buddhist art. Photographs were taken and analysis using digital microscopes and visible spectroscopy were conducted.

Moreover, additional sampling was done not only from the walls of Cave 285 but also from those of Caves 268, 272 and 275, which are considered the earliest extant examples, to determine the period of the caves by radio-carbon dating in a joint study with Nagoya University. Various preparations were also made for the latter half of the joint investigation, which is scheduled for this summer, and for the joint research that will be conducted with the
staff of the Dunhuang Academy who will be visiting Japan after autumn.

Furthermore, three graduate students went to the Mogao Grottoes from Japan with this investigation team. They were selected by public announcement from different fields of discipline - namely conservation science, restoration of paintings and management of cultural heritage - as trainees dispatched to Dunhuang. They will stay in Dunhuang until mid-September and receive guidance from specialists at The Conservation Institute of Dunhuang Academy concerning diverse matters related to the protection of mural paintings. This training is expected to continue for three more years and will open the way for young Japanese specialists, who have little chance to directly study the conservation of mural paintings. We expect them to contribute to conservation in the future both in Japan and overseas.

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Conservation of the Wall Paintings of Takamatsuzuka Tumulus, a National Treasure

By Morii Masayuki and Kigawa Rika, Center for Conservation Science and Restoration Techniques

The dismantling of the stone chamber of Takamatsuzuka Tumulus started on April 5. With the dismantling and transporting to the Temporary Restoration Facility of the first stone of the west wall, on which is a painting known as Group of Male Figures, on June 26 and of the floor stone in August, this phase of the project was completed on August 22. The National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo is engaged in the work of conserving the wall paintings of Takamatsuzuka Tumulus, including the restoration of the paintings, biological investigation and environmental control.

The environment team constructed a chamber with insulation walls on the mound surrounding the Tumulus in order to maintain the temperature and humidity inside the stone chamber stable. As excavation of the mound area progressed, the stones that compose the stone chamber became exposed. Efforts were made to minimize the impact of changes in outside temperature and humidity. Changes in the environmental condition inside the stone chamber were made to occur gradually; lifting and falling of the wall surface and sudden growth of fungi were prevented by controlling temperature and humidity inside the insulated chamber.

The restoration team removed the plaster that covered the spaces between the stones and applied synthetic fiber paper to the surface of the paintings in order to transport them safely. Materials needed as well as the timing for doing this work was carefully considered so as to

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*left: Facing the first stone of the east wall (with the painting of "Group of Male Figures")

*right: Removing the facing from the second stone of the east wall (with the painting of "Seiryu", the blue dragon)*
reduce the risk of fungal growth. Moreover, every time a stone was taken out, the biology team investigated the microorganisms within the Tumulus. As the stone chamber was dismantled piece by piece, the environment team covered what was still left of the chamber with insulation in order to keep the humidity around the paintings stable.

Stones taken into the Temporary Restoration Facility will undergo photographing, sampling and cleaning. They will then be taken into the restoration workroom. After the facing on the surface is removed, the condition of the wall paintings will be observed and recorded in order to collect information necessary for the restoration of the wall paintings which will be conducted over a long period of time.

The 20th Seminar on the Conservation of Modern Cultural Properties
By Nakayama Shunsuke, Center for Conservation Science and Restoration Techniques

Modern Cultural Properties Section of the former Department of Restoration Techniques held the 20th Seminar on the Conservation of Modern Cultural Properties on March 10 at the Seminar Room on the basement floor of the Institute. The topic of this year’s Seminar was “Operation of Tramcars and the Conservation of Cultural Properties”. At this Seminar, focus was placed on old tramcars, especially on those that are still in operation.

In order to acquire an understanding of the difference between the conservation of cultural properties and actual problems encountered in operating old tramcars, lecturers from several railway companies presented reports on maintenance and repair necessary to operate such tramcars. Mr. Fujimoto Hideki of Hiroshima Electric Railway Co. Ltd. spoke on the present situation in Hiroshima and on the tramcar that had been damaged by the atomic bomb. Mr. Miyazaki Teruaki of Kumamoto City Transportation Bureau spoke about the history and present condition of the tramcars in Kumamoto city as well as on their future. Mr. Endo Noriyasu of the Bureau of Transportation, Tokyo Metropolitan Government spoke on his experience with the conservation and restoration of the only one daruma-type tramcar remaining in Tokyo.

In this Seminar we learned that there are many old tramcars remaining in companies that operate tramcars in Japan and that much work is being done to conserve and operate them. We also understood that although continuing to use what is old and conserving it as cultural property may appear contradictory, it is really a matter that needs to be considered from many points of view. Thus, the Seminar was very meaningful.

Presentation at the 20th Seminar on the Conservation of Modern Cultural Properties
A Study on Yashiro Yukio’s View of Asian Art
By Tanaka Atsushi, Department of Research Programming

A meeting of The Japan Art History Society was held for three days, from May 25 to 27, at Kyushu University, Kyushu National Museum and Chikushin Jogakuen University. On the first day I presented a paper entitled "An Aspect of Modernism in Asia as Seen from the Trademark for Jintan".

The name Jintan in the title, of course, is a trade name; it is a product that is still being sold on market. (Originally, it was sold as a portable medicine for all purposes and from the 1920s as a breath care product. It is now sold as a non-medical product.) From the time of its first sale in 1905, the image of the name Jintan on the breast of a gentleman with a beard in full regalia has been known throughout the nation due to advertisement on newspapers and billboards as a trademark for this product. Moreover, from the very beginning there was an attempt to expand its market not just domestically but also to mainland China, which shares the same kanji culture. As a result, by the end of the Second World War the company had branches throughout Asia and were engaged in advertising activities in different districts that were no less active than in Japan.

Thus, in my presentation I explained, through the visual image presented by the advertisement for Jintan, how the company tried to present its product and how, on the other hand, people of Asia viewed this product. By selecting this topic as an aspect, I discussed the issues related to the study of art history and administration associated with fine arts from the 1910s to the 1930s from the point of view of modernism in Asia.

In my presentation, I placed focus on the study of Asian art that Yashiro Yukio (the director of The Institute of Art Research, the forerunner of this Institute, in its early years), Odaka Sennosuke (1901-33; a researcher in the Institute) and others conceived and the investigations that they conducted in different areas. The reason for doing so was that since one can already find a Jintan advertisement in the photo-
A photograph taken during a field trip to China by Yashiro Yukio and his team in 1940. It is clear that at that time there was an advertisement for Jintan on a gate in Beijing.

As is well known, wood core dry lacquer and hollow dry lacquer are two typical sculptural techniques of the Tempyo period (8th century) in Japan. While in the former lacquer stiffened with plant fibers is applied to roughly carved sculpture, in the latter the surface of a roughly formed clay mold is first covered with hemp cloth and the clay removed before applying lacquer stiffened with plant fibers to the surface. A great difference between the two is that since the inside of a statue using the latter technique becomes hollow, it is overwhelmingly lighter. Many of the existing examples of hollow dry lacquer statues have been transmitted at government-managed temples of the Tempyo period, such as Todaiji, Kofukuji, and other similarly large temples. From this it is assumed that these statues were made specifically at government-managed studios.

The Seated Bodhisattva with One Leg Pendant at Ryugeji in Kanagawa prefecture, the subject of this research, was found from a storehouse in the temple complex in June 1998 with its head, body, both arms and legs disassembled in
pieces. Two years were spent from 2000 to restore the statue, whose appearance now is suggestive of what it must have looked like at the time of its construction. Based on the style of the statue, it is assumed to have been made at a government-managed studio in the vicinity of Todaiji.

The reason that this statue received much attention lies in the fact that, since it was discovered in pieces, it was possible to observe the details of the interior surface. Given that there are not so many hollow dry lacquer statues of the Tempyo period remaining today, it also provided an opportunity to conduct a detailed study of the hollow dry technique of the Tempyo period. In the process of investigation it was found that the number of pieces of hemp cloth that was applied was less when compared with examples of hollow dry lacquer statues hitherto known, that sand was used on the surface of clay mold to make it easier to remove the clay, and that the inside of the statue was coated with black Japanese lacquer (urushi) after the clay mold had been removed. Such is information that could not have been obtained only by observing the surface and is believed to be very important information that will lead to an understanding of the technique of hollow dry lacquer. Results of this study was published in March as Ryugeji, Seated Bodhisattva with One Leg Pendant, Archive for Art Studies, vol. 4.
Featuring the Monthly Report on the Website
By Katsuki Gen'ichiro, Department of Research Programming

The National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo features reports on the activities of the Institute every month on its website [http://www.tobunken.go.jp/english/katudo/index.html]. The aim of this Monthly Report is to provide the most recent information concerning the various activities undertaken by the Institute as a whole or by its individual Departments and Centers. For example, in this issue a report is made of investigation conducted by researchers on damages caused to cultural properties by the earthquake that shook Noto Peninsula on March 25 within a month of the disaster. There is another report on the various activities undertaken to conserve the mural paintings of the Takamatsuzuka Tumulus.

Self-evaluation for the Fiscal Year 2006
By Nakano Teruo, Department of Research Programming

The National Research Institutes for Cultural Properties in Tokyo and Nara conduct self-evaluation of their work based on their 5-year plan and annual plan. The results of this self-evaluation are reflected on their projects to improve the administration of both Institutes. Self-evaluation for the fiscal year 2006 was recently completed and its report was printed.

The number of items related to research and projects in 2006 totaled 89: 1 for improving managerial efficiency, 40 for the Institute in Tokyo and 48 for the Institute in Nara. This number is less than that in the previous year since in this period of the 5-year plan research and projects from previous fiscal years were reconsidered, adjusted and integrated. As usual, each of the Departments and Centers of both Institutes prepared its record of performance and self-evaluation form. On May 17 and 24, the Evaluation Committee studied these and presented their comments. From this year all the Departments and Centers at the Institutes presented reports of all their projects to the Committee. Moreover, rather than evaluating project by project, the Committee was asked to present a comprehensive evaluation of the activities of the Institutes as a whole along a list of pre-established evaluation items. Taking into account the evaluation and comments made by the Committee, a summation of the self-evaluation was made. It was confirmed that all the projects had proceeded well and that the initial aims of the projects had been achieved. As for future issues, it was decided that there is a need to actively incorporate funds from outside sources, install large research apparatuses and improve our facilities.

The gist of the results of self-evaluation was reported to the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology.
Publications

*Nihon no Bijutsu (The Art of Japan) No.492 Cultural Properties and Technology, The Work of the National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo*

Various matters related to cultural properties are discussed by referring to actual cases of investigation and research employing technology. These include: scientific investigation of cultural properties, conservation environment and deterioration, assessment of restoration materials and techniques as well as their improvement and development, conservation of modern cultural properties, international cooperation and technology in the conservation of cultural properties, cultural properties that are not tangible and their techniques as well as methods for their documentation. 2007, Shibundo (+81-(0)3-3268-2441), Price: ¥1,650

*Ju-ichimen Kannon, Color on Silk, National Treasure*

A report on the National Treasure/Ju-ichimen Kannon, an outstanding example of a Buddhist painting of the late Heian period (12th C) in the collection of the Nara National Museum. Various types of images, including those that enable an understanding of the layer-structure of the painting and those that provide information concerning the shape and distribution of pigment particles and the condition of the silk painting support, are used to study the delicate expressions found on this Buddhist painting. 2006, Chuo Koron Bijutsu Shuppan (+81-(0)3-3561-5993), Price: ¥19,850

*Collection of Writings by Kuroda Seiki*

Collection of writings by Kuroda Seiki, pioneer of Western-style paintings of modern Japan, and records of interviews published in newspapers and magazines. The collection consists of 152 writings including Kuroda's comments on his own works and proposals concerning administration related to fine arts. 2007, Chuo Koron Bijutsu Shuppan (+81-(0)3-3561-5993), Price: ¥16,800

*Liturgy of Buddhist Services at Todaiji in March*

A collection of reports on the liturgy of Buddhist services held at Todaiji temple in March by Sato Michiko, researcher emeritus of the Institute. Formerly reported in periodicals, they have been republished. 4 volumes, 2005, Hozokan (+81-(0)75-343-5656), Price: ¥58,000

*Museum Pest Cards*

Handy-sized cards of 33 major museum pests giving information about characteristics, size and damage to cultural properties. The cards were originally introduced by Tom Strang of the Canadian Conservation Institute and Rika Kigawa of this Institute during the joint IPM Workshop 2004. They are conveniently portable and we hope that they will be utilized on site at museums and other related facilities. 2007, Kuba Pro Co. Ltd. (+81-(0)3-3238-1689), Price: ¥600

*Conservation of Industrial Heritage 5- Conservation of Large Scale Structures*

Examples of conservation of large scale structures such as bridges and locks both in Japan and abroad are investigated, and attempts to solve problems related to these are introduced. Conservation of Industrial Heritage 4-Conservation of Railways II [English version] has also been published. 2006, Editori R (+81-(0)3-3793-6640), not for sale

*Mural Paintings of the Silk Road: Cultural Exchanges between East and West*


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