Completing Continuous Removal of the Kitora Tumulus Plaster

By Hayakawa Noriko, Center for Conservation Science and Restoration Techniques

The Center for Conservation Science and Restoration Techniques has been removing the mural paintings of Kitora Tumulus as part of a project "Investigation on Conservation for special historic site Kitora Tumulus" entrusted by the Agency for Cultural Affairs.

Following the first work of removing in May, we continued the work in two periods of three weeks each, from October 19 to November 6, and from November 16 to December 4. Although the work in autumn took longer than that in May, performing the removal over periods of three weeks each enabled efficient removal progress. All plaster on the ceiling was detached by this latest work, and we will be able to resume removal of the plaster on the side walls for the first time in two years.

We will continue to inspect the inside of the tumulus periodically, while irradiating UV-C to control microorganisms, and conduct removal again next year.

Photos of Kabuki Taken by Mr. Umemura Yutaka

By Ijima Mitsuru and Kaneko Takeshi, Department of Intangible Cultural Heritage

The Department of Intangible Cultural Heritage is proceeding with arranging Kabuki photos taken by Mr. Umemura Yutaka and donated in autumn 2007.

The photos include snapshots of actor interviews in 1955 and later as well as the photos of
backstage staff. They are highly valuable materials for studying the history of performance art.

The arrangement of these materials started in 2008, and some of the achievements were reported in Volume No. 3 of the Study Report on Intangible Cultural Heritage as an introduction of materials.

Because the number of photos is enormous, we are now currently focusing on the photos of Kabuki actors playing on stage, and proceeding with arrangements, while confirming the performance dates and actors chronologically. We have arranged 1,041 photos as of this October, and will complete the arrangements of monochrome stage photos in the Showa 30s (1955-1964) within this year, together with the work finished in the previous year and shown in the above-mentioned report.
Research on the Earthquake Resistance of Buddha Statues Enshrined in Hokke-do, Todai-ji Temple
By Morii Masayuki, Center for Conservation Science and Restoration Techniques

In Hokke-do at Todaiji temple, a lot of Buddha statues made of dry-lacquered and clay, including "Fukuuenjaku Kannon," are enshrined on the shumidan. It is estimated that a major earthquake will occur in the Nara Basin, so the possibility of earthquake resistance and planning of countermeasures are important for the Buddhist statues in Hokke-do. The Center for Conservation Science and Restoration Techniques measured the 3D shape of Buddha statues and preliminary survey for stability of the Hokke-do and its shumidan.

For 3D measurement, we adopted the simple shape measurement system based on stereo camera motion photography (currently being developed by Toppan Printing Co., Ltd.). We newly applied wireless system, so safe measurement became possible on the shumidan. As a result, measurement of the six statues was completed.

A specialist in wood structures was invited for preliminary survey for stability of the Hokke-do and its shumidan. We hope to use the results to continue the ambient vibration survey on the shumidan and temple buildings.

By Suzuki Tamaki, Japan Center for International Cooperation in Conservation

The National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo and the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) are conducting joint research on the conservation of the mural paintings of the Ajanta Caves under the framework of "the Exchange Program of International Cooperation of Cultural Heritage" commissioned by the Agency for Cultural Affairs and the government subsidized budget for "the Cooperative Project for the
Conservation of Cultural Heritage in West Asia.

In the third mission, undertaken from November to December 2009, we tried to solve various issues, including bat excrement, discoloration due to the yellowing of the previously-used varnish, and cracks and floating in the colored layers, and performed tentative cleaning of the mural paintings with ASI specialists.

We established a joint research contract with Doshisha University on digital documentation for mural painting conservation and jointly performed three-dimensional measurement to create drawings of the current status of the Cave No. 2 and No. 9. We executed these conservation and measurement procedures together with Indian specialists and shared knowledge on conservation of cultural heritage and performed technical exchange aiming at capacity development and transfer of techniques.
Conservation and Restoration of Mural Painting Fragments in Tajikistan and Capacity Building (Sixth Mission)
By Kageyama Etsuko, Japan Center for International Cooperation in Conservation

The Japan Center for International Cooperation in Conservation dispatched the 6th mission for Conservation and Restoration of Mural Painting Fragments in the collection of the National Museum of Antiquities of Tajikistan as part of an exchange program commissioned by the Agency for Cultural Affairs from October 4 to November 17, 2009. Together with the four Tajik trainees, we restored the mural painting fragments excavated from the Kara-i Kakhkaha (Shahristan) site in northern Tajikistan in continuation of the previous mission. Joining the mural fragments of plant pattern excavated from the same site and cleaning were finished and securing the joined fragments on a new support (mount) was completed by the previous mission. As finishing work, in this mission we coated the missing part on the surface and the sides with filling agent and attached a bracket to the back.

On October 28, we installed the mural paintings in the exhibition room of the Museum under the auspices of the Japanese Embassy Provisional Acting Ambassador in Tajikistan and the participants in the workshop of Conservation and Restoration of Mural Paintings unearthed in Central Asia 2009. All participants shared the delight of the Tajik trainees, who joined and cleaned the mural painting for themselves and first exhibited it. We will cooperate in fostering conservation experts in Tajikistan through the restoration/conservation work.

Networking Core Centers Project: Training Workshop in Mongolia’s Amarbayasgalant Monastery for Building Restoration
By Akieda Yumi Isabelle, Japan Center for International Cooperation in Conservation

We dispatched four experts from Japan from August 18 to 29 as part of the Networking Core Centers Project in Mongolia and held a training workshop on the conservation and restoration of wooden buildings at the Amarbayasgalant Monastery in northern Selenge Province. This was the second workshop in 2009 jointly planned by the National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo, and the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science of Mongolia. The purpose was to contribute in capacity build-
ing for the conservation and repair techniques of wooden buildings in Mongolia.

The workshop allowed students of the Architecture Department of the Mongolian State University of Scientific Technology to learn about the preliminary surveys needed for conservation/repair and design, and basic methods of drawing a plan as based on site survey. In classroom lectures the students learned the methods of repairing and surveying the buildings of cultural heritage in Mongolia and Japan, and in field practice they measured the buildings of Amarbayasgalant Monastery.

Japanese temple/shrine master carpenter who had been dispatched by UNESCO as instructor during the repairs of the Monastery in the 1980s also participated to this training, so that the students could receive practical training on concrete methods of survey, drawing, and planning.

Although it was the first time for the students to survey a historic wooden building by actually touching it, the lecturers could see that through the training process their view about buildings was being formed by on-site experience.

In Mongolia, where there are few experts majoring in the conservation of cultural heritage buildings, we believe that the students have demonstrated the potential capacity of the future of the conservation of wooden buildings.

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**International Course on the Conservation of Japanese Lacquer**

By Kitano Nobuhiko, Center for Conservation Science and Restoration Techniques

From September 2 to 15, the Center for Conservation Science and Restoration Techniques held an international course on the Conservation of Urushi [Japanese Lacquer] jointly with the ICCROM (International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property). This course consisted of lectures, practices, and an informational tour. Nine trainees from eight countries [Austria, Germany, the UK, Poland, Russia, Portugal, Canada and the US] participated in this course and learned the history of urushiwari, the science and survey methods of lacquer, traditional urushiwari techniques, and repair philosophy and methods of urushi objects and lacquer coat-
ing, from each specialist. On the study tour, trainees visited the outskirts of Joboji-machi of Ninohe City, which produces nearly 80% of urushi made in Japan. They first toured to the Hachinohe City Jomon Museum and Goshono Jomon Museum to see the excavated lacquerware in the Jomon Period, which forms the roots of urushi in the Japanese islands, and then viewed the urushi sap collecting at Joboji-machi and the creation of urushi sap collecting tools at
adjacent Takko-machi in Aomori Prefecture. At the Ashiro Lacquerware Technological Center in Hachimantai City, they viewed actual Japanese lacquer refining work, and also saw the urushimuro (a warehouse for urushi coating) and urushi paint tools that were used from the Taisho Era to the beginning of Showa Era and are rare nowadays.

They ended the tour with a visit to Chusonji Temple's Konjikido Hall. Most trainees who participated this time belonged to art galleries and museums that owned urushiware works from Japan and had trouble in handling them or were otherwise involved in actual restoration sites. Therefore, they had very high awareness of the surrounding issues and were very earnest. One of their comments made a particular impression on me: "I learned a bit about Japanese lacquer, but I had an even better experience for my future carrier because I was able to learn by watching and studying the actual objects and work process."

Training Course for Museum Curators in Charge of Conservation
By Yoshida Naoto, Center for Conservation Science and Restoration Techniques

We held the 26th training course during a period of two weeks starting July 13, and participants included 31 curators working at museums from Iwate in the north to Okinawa in the south. The participants are specialists in various fields from archeology to contemporary art, but in these training sessions they focused on basic knowledge and technology concerning the museum environment, deterioration, and restoration of various cultural properties. The course included lectures and practical training on conservation.

A practical museum environment training case study was carried out at the Natural History Museum and Institute, Chiba. Participants were divided into eight groups, each of which investigated the temperature, humidity, illumination, and disaster prevention equipment and presented their results the following day.

This training series has now attracted a total of 597 individuals, all of whom are at the forefront of conservation of cultural properties in museums. Going forward, we will hereafter try to further enhance the training content while valuing the input of on-site professionals.

Practice: Curators in the training course

International Symposium "Restoration of Japanese Paintings - Advanced Technology and Traditional Techniques"
By Kato Masato, Center for Conservation Science and Restoration Techniques

We held the 33rd international symposium on the conservation and restoration of cultural property "Restoration of Japanese Paintings - Advanced Technology and Traditional Techniques" at the Heiseikan of Tokyo National Museum for the three days
from November 12 to 14. Four lectures were given from foreign countries and eleven from Japan on the restoration of Japanese paintings in order to recognize anew the materials and techniques by confirming the current status inside and outside Japan scientifically and objectively, as well as to promote the conservation and utilization of Japanese paintings owned widely in the world by sharing the knowledge acquired here. Over 350 people - restorators, conservation scientists, curators and manufacturers of traditional materials - participated in the symposium. A proceeding on the details of lectures and discussions will be issued next year.

**Lecture on the Current Status of Cultural Property Protection in Iraq**  
*By Abe Masashi, Japan Center for International Cooperation in Conservation*

On December 2, we hosted a lecture by Ms. Amira Edan al-Dahab, the chief of the secretariat of Iraq National Museum, at the meeting room on the basement floor of the National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo. The news on the 2003 looting of the Iraq National Museum in chaos after the Iraq War shocked the world. The Iraq National Museum resumed operation at last in February 2009, supported by the international community, including Japan, Italy, and many other countries.

Ms. Amira came to Japan this time under the auspices of the Foreign Ministry’s "Invitation for Promoting Partnership in the 21st Century", and took this opportunity to hold a lecture. She reported on the long path from the looting of the Museum to its re-opening and the numerous troubles that accompanied each step with showing many photos. Ms. Amira also referred to the training of Iraqi conservators that is held by the Japan Center for International Cooperation in Conservation, funded by grants from the UNESCO/Japanese Funds-in-Trust and the
Institute, and the government subsidized budget, and repeatedly asserted that the continuous support from Japan is indispensable to restore the cultural properties in Iraq.

Conserving Energy for Museums
By Ishizaki Takeshi, Center for Conservation Science and Restoration Techniques

On December 8, 2009, we held a seminar on the theme of "energy conservation at museums with a view to maintaining an appropriate environment for cultural properties" in the seminar room of the National Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo, for the second straight year. This year, Dr. Stephan Simon from the Rathgen Conservation Laboratory in Germany gave a lecture under the title of "Conserving energy at museums and the conservation environment in exhibition/storage facilities in Europe", and Professor Hokoi Shuichi from Kyoto University gave a lecture titled "Conserving energy for museums in a warmer environment". Moreover, Dr. Ashie Yasunobu from the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport presented a lecture under the title of "Approaches for achieving sustainable urban spaces in a low-carbon society". Finally, Dr. Kanba Nobuyuki from the Tokyo National Museum presented a lecture under the title of "Conserving cultural properties coexisting with a low-carbon society" and introduced the activities in place at the Museum. A total of 75 people participated in the seminar and held active discussions.
The 23rd Conference on International Cooperation on Conservation titled "Why have Sites Remained?" was held on October 8, with 43 participants. When considering site conservation, damaged sections are generally investigated and the cause of the deterioration is studied. At this conference, however, we selected well-conserved sites, examined why they have remained undamaged, and aimed to consider the conservation of damaged sites going forward. Three presentations were made and overall discussions were held: Ms. Paola Virgili from the Rome Cultural Heritage Preservation Bureau, Italy presented "Augustus Pantheon and Hadrian's Pantheon: Studies, digs, research and diagnosis for future conservation and prevention", Mr. Harada Masahiro from the Tottori Buried Cultural Property Center presented "Conservation Environment of Aoyakamijichi Site", and Mr. Cecep Eka Permana from the University of Indonesia presented "Rock art in South Sulawesi, Indonesia". Conference participants understood the background and scientific conditions for site survival, and shared useful information for future site conservation.

The Center for Conservation Science and Restoration Techniques held a workshop at the conference room on the basement floor of Institute on November 20, 2009, as part of its research into measures against biodeterioration of cultural heritage. This workshop was for experts actually engaged in work at field sites and performed in round-table format so that specific discussions were fully executed. First, Mr. Harada Masahiko at the Nikko Cultural Assets Association for the Preservation of Shrines and Temples gave a lecture titled "Hidden insect damage at the Nikkosan Rinno-ji Temple Hondo - Treatment and Repair" and talked about actual cases of damage by *priobium cylindricum*, which was probably the first case seen in an important cultural property. Mr. Komine Yukio of Japan Institute of Insect Damage to Cultural Properties gave a detailed report on an actual insect damage survey. Professor Fujii Yoshihisa at the Graduate School, Kyoto University gave a lecture on field surveying using resistographs and acoustic emission, and Mr. Torigoe Toshiyuki at the Kyushu National Museum gave a lecture on the detection of interior insects in analysis example of actual damaged wood using an X-ray CT for cultural heritage. Based on these lectures, active discussions were made on the future surveys and treatments and how those results are utilized in planning basic experiments and future repair.

Workshop: Nondestructive Examination of Biodeterioration of Cultural Heritage, Insect Damage Examination, and Use of Examination Results in Repair
By Kigawa Rika, Center for Conservation Science and Restoration Techniques

23rd Conference on International Cooperation on Conservation
By Kuchitsu Nobuaki, Japan Center for International Cooperation in Conservation

Overall discussions
Specialists Conference on the Conservation of the Thang Long Citadel Ruins
By Tomoda Masahiko, Japan Center for International Cooperation in Conservation

The Thang Long Citadel in the center of Hanoi, the capital of Vietnam, contains the ruins of buildings and section facilities of successive emperors, including the Ly Dynasty (11-13th century). A large amount of relics also were examined during the survey accompanying the rebuilding of the parliament house, and conservation support assistance will continue based on the agreement between the Japanese and Vietnamese governments. The emergency unearthing research has reached a tentative conclusion, and the significant issue is how to conserve and make use of the unearthed ruins and relics.

In this conference, archaeology, architecture, history, sociology, and conservation planning experts from the Japan-Vietnam Joint Expert Committee for Archaeology, Architecture, History, Sociology and Conservation visited Vietnam and discussed future cooperation with the Vietnamese members and relevant organizations. At the general meeting on July 28, representatives of the Agency for Cultural Affairs and Japanese Embassy in Vietnam also attended. We discussed both medium- and long-term plans and short-term issues, such as the millennium anniversary of the construction of the capital in Hanoi in next year and the completion of a new congress hall within three years. We agreed to provide expert support in the area of conservation of ruins and relics and arrangement and exhibit plans in addition to conventional research on the ruins' value.

This dispatch to Vietnam was conducted as part of the research using the scientific research fund of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology. Hereafter, more effective assistance is anticipated in coordination with the UNESCO/Japanese Funds-in-Trust.
Participation in symposium simultaneously held with “Art of the Samurai” exhibition
By Suzuki Norio, Director General

The exhibition “Art of the Samurai - Japanese Arms and Armor, 1156-1868” was held at the Metropolitan Museum of Art (referred to as “Met” hereafter) in the United States from October 21, 2009 to January 10, 2010. Masterpieces of Japanese arms and armor from ancient times to the modern age were exhibited. The exhibition proved very popular not only with people from the US but also with people from countries all over the world, and no less than 300,000 people visited the exhibition during these three months. This exhibition also displayed swords, armors, saddles, quivers, and other pieces owned by the Met that were restored in the “Cooperative Program for the Conservation of Japanese Art Objects Overseas,” conducted by the National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo. At the symposium held under the title “The Sunday at the Met” (November 8, 2009), which was related to the restoration of Japanese cultural properties, we had some presentations as follows. Mr. Ogawa Morihiro from the Met, responsible for the exhibition, explained the exhibition and the handling of swords, and Mr. Victor Harris, the former Keeper at the Department of Japanese Antiquities at the British Museum in the UK, gave a presentation on Japanese swords and their beauty. Mr. Fujishiro Okisato and his son Tatsuya, Japanese sword polishers, demonstrat-
43rd Public Lecture: The Dynamics of Interaction between Objects and People
By Tsuchiya Takahiro, Department of Research Programming

ed how to polish a Japanese sword and gave some explanations. In addition, I presented an overview of efforts to conserve Japanese works of art in foreign collections and the philosophy and principles of restoring Urushi art objects in Japan. Over 700 people participated in this symposium, not only from the US but also from countries all over the world, which greatly surprised those connected with holding the exhibition - it was the first time such an enormous number of people had come to the Met since its founding. On the following day, a program called “The Scholars’ Day” (November 9) was held in the exhibition hall. It targeted restoration specialists and curators all over the US, and similar presentations were made. These days there is concern that the amount of research being done in the US on Japanese art and culture is falling, and that Japan’s presence in this respect is dwindling. So I feel this exhibition at the Met was revolutionary as an attempt to stimulate and develop such research. I pay my heartfelt respects and gratitude to Mr. Ogawa Morihiro, the special consultant on Japanese arms and armor at the Met, who spent over 10 years planning and executing this exhibition, and made enormous contributions to international exchange and the spread of Japanese culture and art, and to the Met.
The Institute holds a public lecture every autumn in order to disclose the results of our research on art history. This public lecture is the 43rd with the first held in 1966. Since 2006, we have established a common theme titled “The Dynamics of Interaction between Objects and People”, and four researchers from both within and outside the Institute gave presentations on October 2nd and 3rd.

On October 2nd, Tsuchiya Takahiro, a researcher in the Department of Research Programming of the Institute, presented a lecture titled “Creating a ‘foreign country’: A Study of the Genjo Sanzo-e”, and Mr. Tsukamoto Maromitsu, a curator of The Museum Yamatobunkakan, presented a lecture titled “Japanese Buddhist Monk Viewed from the Song Dynasty: Buddhism/Land and the World of Exchange of Cultivated Things”: They intended to dig into how Japan in medieval times and China during the Song Dynasty viewed and recognized each other, using a picture scroll from the Kamakura Period, the transfer/exchange of cultivated things in the eastern Asia, and the social context of the time.

On October 3, Nakano Teruo, the Deputy Director General of the Institute, gave a lecture titled “Optical Investigation of Central Asian Mural Paintings Brought Back by the Ohtani Mission” and Mr. Shirasu Joushin, lecturer at Hiroshima University, had a lecture called “The Tibet Ohtani Mission and the Tibetan Religious World”. They tried to reevaluate the works discovered by the Ohtani mission from the viewpoint of art history based on recent optical investigation, and reviewed the responses of Japan, England, China and Russia concerning the activities of the Ohtani mission at that time.

These four individuals' presentations reexamined the relationship of Asia to Japan in respective pre-modern and modern periods from the viewpoint of the broad effects and actions of goods, art objects, cultivated things and cultural properties, and the various activities of the people related to those goods. They were well suited to the common theme of “The Dynamics of Interaction between Objects and People” and were very exciting. The audience on these two days number totals of 133 and 125 people respectively, and questionnaires taken on both days showed that the lectures satisfied many people. We would like to continue disseminating the Institute's research results in the future.

In December 2009, we created a new English version of the National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo’s Kids Pages. The English version is composed of the “All our tasks”, “Active in the world”, “Why and what? Tobunken”, and “Link to cultural properties” pages in the same way as in the Japanese version.

Recently, the Institute has increasingly conducted activities linking to people overseas, including international cooperation for conserving and restoring overseas cultural properties originating in Japan and promotion of research collaboration with overseas researchers. These trends can also be seen in the Japanese Kids’ Pages “Tobunken shigoto zenbu [All our tasks]” and “Sekai de no katsuyaku” [Active in the world].

We created the English Kids’ Pages with the hope that children around the world will learn about activities of the Institute in the same way as Japanese children. The English Kids’ Pages are very unique among the websites in a country where English is not used as a native language, and are also the first cultural properties website for children.

Please visit the Kids Pages [English version]: http://www.tobunken.go.jp/english/kids/index.html
Publications

*The Hikone Screen, National Treasure*
A report on the National Treasure *The Hikone Screen*, a masterpiece of genre paintings created during the early Edo Period. The Institute had held a joint investigation of *The Hikone Screen* with the Hikone Castle Museum. This report includes high-resolution digital images, near infrared images, luminescence images and pigment materials analysis that were used to study the fine detailed expressions of *The Hikone Screen*. 2008, Chuo Koron Bijutsu Shuppan (+81-(0)3-3561-5993), Price: ¥27,300

*Collected Works of Yanagisawa Taka*
This publication records the research papers of the late Yanagisawa Taka, researcher emeritus of the Institute, focusing on his papers previously published in magazines, catalogues and reports. Yanagisawa's survey methods that actively employ optical and scientific techniques are linked to the research methods used at the Institute today. 2006, Chuo Koron Bijutsu Shuppan, Price: ¥36,750

*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

*DVD - A Guide to Museum Pest Control*
This DVD shows the strategies for pest control in museums based on IPM (Integrated Pest Management) and covers topics from general sanitation to various treatments. 2004, Kuba Pro Co. Ltd. (+81-(0)3-3238-1689), Price: ¥4,410

*English version of Conservation of Industrial Heritage 2 - Conservation of Vesseles*
Examples of the conservation of all types of vessels, from wooden boats to huge steel ships, in Japan and abroad are introduced. 2004, Office HANS, Price: ¥3,150

*Conservation of Sites and Water -22nd Conference on International Cooperation in Conservation -*