

Medium-term Programme (FY 2016-2020)

I. Duration

The duration of the medium-term programme is 5 years from FY 2016 to FY 2020.

II. Main Line of Action

(1) Focusing on and within the geographic limitation to the Asia-Pacific region, perform the functions outlined in Article 4 Paragraph 2 of the Agreement between the Government of Japan and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) regarding the establishment, in Japan, of an international research centre for intangible cultural heritage in the Asia-Pacific region under the auspices of UNESCO (Category 2) (hereinafter referred to as "the Agreement"), through promoting research activities on the following domains in consistent with UNESCO's Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (hereinafter referred to as "the 2003 Convention"), whereby contributing to the enhancement of the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage and the research for safeguarding:

- (i) Current status of researches on the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage;
- (ii) Policies and various methodologies for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage;
- (iii) Good practices of the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage.

(2) Instigate the following activities during the course of implementing what mentioned in Paragraph (1) above:

- (i) Participation of young researchers who are engaged in the research on the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage into the activities of International Research Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region (hereinafter referred to as "IRCI");
- (ii) Collaboration with researchers and research institutions;
- (iii) Organising international experts meetings and research workshops to discuss various methodologies and practices of the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage.

(3) Conduct following activities in the Asia-Pacific region with a view to contributing to II (1) of the long-term programme:

- (i) Plan and implement research activities, with special attention to

contributing to UNESCO's Medium-Term Strategy (37C/4), particularly its Strategic Objectives 7 (protecting, promoting and transmitting heritage) and 8 (fostering creativity and diversity of cultural expressions), as well as MLAs specified in Programme and Budget (C/5);

- (ii) Contribute to the promotion of international cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region in the field of the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage, in accordance with the Medium term program of the National Institutes for Cultural Heritage;
- (iii) Within the framework of IRCI's objectives specified in Article 4.1 of the Agreement, contribute to the projects carried out by Sakai City to promote intangible cultural heritage for the general public.

III. Specific Contents of Activities

(1) Promote research for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage, through conducting the following activities regarding the practices and methodologies of safeguarding, in cooperation with research institutions and researchers working in the Asia-Pacific region:

- (i) Instigate research activities and develop the researchers' community through international conferences, experts meetings, and publications;
- (ii) Examine and develop strategies for optimizing the use of research data, while collecting research information.

(2) Conduct research on the current status and the cases of the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage in the Asia-Pacific region that are endangered by disasters such as natural hazards, as well as research on the role of ICH for disaster preparedness and in the post-disaster recovery process, in consideration of UNESCO's focus in the Medium-Term Strategy (37C/4) on the response to post-conflict and post-disaster situations (PCPD).

(3) In accordance with Article II(3)(iii) of Main Line of Action above, contribute to the following projects carried out by Sakai City for the general public:

- (i) Projects to disseminate information on intangible cultural heritage in cooperation with relevant research institutes and universities;
- (ii) Projects to enhance understanding of intangible cultural heritage.