



IRCI

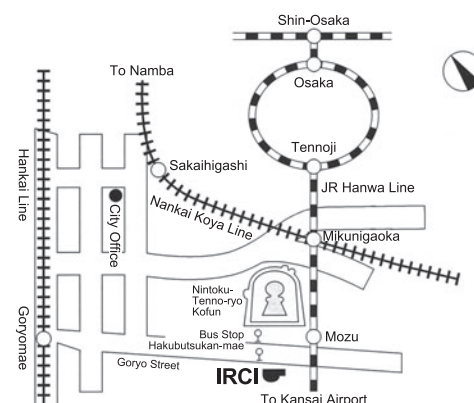
National Institutes for Cultural Heritage, Japan
**International Research Centre
 for Intangible Cultural Heritage
 in the Asia-Pacific Region**

2019



National Institutes for Cultural Heritage, Japan
**International Research Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage
 in the Asia-Pacific Region (IRCI)**

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IRCI and UNESCO

Introduction of IRCI

Greetings / Overview of IRCI

The International Research Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region (IRCI) was established in October 2011 as a Category 2 Centre of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). At the 35th Session of the General Conference of UNESCO held in 2009, the proposal of the "Establishment in Japan of the International Research Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region as a Category 2 Centre under the auspices of UNESCO" was approved. In August of the following year, an agreement was concluded between the Government of Japan and UNESCO, and the Centre officially opened as one of the institutions of the National Institutes for Cultural Heritage (NICH) of Japan. Its office is located in Sakai City, Osaka. IRCI aims to promote the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (the 2003 Convention) and its implementation, as well as to enhance the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage (ICH) through instigating and coordinating research in the Asia-Pacific region.

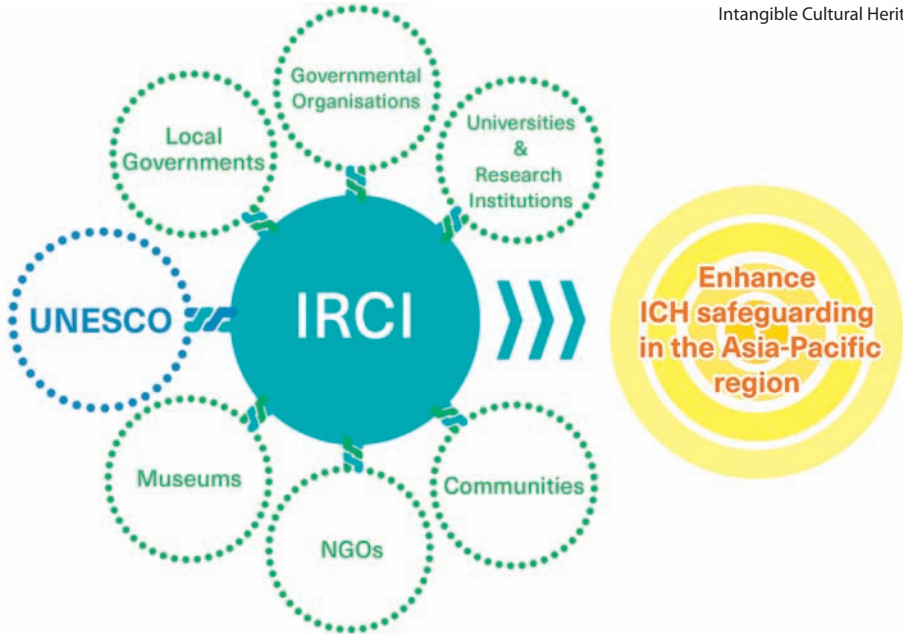
ICH such as oral traditions and expressions, performing arts, and rituals is living heritage that is transmitted from generation to generation. It can be said that ICH brings a mainspring of cultural diversity which is a source of unity, innovation and creativity. However, this rich cultural variety is currently endangered due to factors such as globalisation, ageing, disasters and conflicts. The safeguarding of ICH is now undeniably an urgent issue, and cross-border cooperation is crucial.

Based on these concerns, IRCI is working for the safeguarding of ICH in close cooperation with UNESCO and other related institutions such as universities, research institutions, governmental and non-governmental organisations, museums, and communities worldwide as a research hub in the region.

We appreciate your cooperation with the activities of IRCI.




Wataru IWAMOTO
Director-General,
International Research Centre for
Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region



IRCI instigates research for ICH safeguarding in cooperation with various institutions


Photo Credits and Captions on the front cover
(left to right, top to bottom):

1. Koshikijima no Toshidon (photo provided by Satsumasendai City Board of Education)
2. A craftswoman in Fiji (Fiji, 2017)
3. Discussion among Afghan researchers at a workshop (Tokyo, Japan, 2018)
4. Field research on traditional clay works in Trincomalee (Trincomalee, Sri Lanka, 2019)
5. Observation of traditional washi crafts in Kyoto (Kyoto, Japan, 2019)
6. Interview with local community members in Fiji (Fiji, 2017)
7. A practitioner of traditional crafts (Afghanistan, 2019)
8. Discussion among community members at a workshop (Vanuatu, 2017)
9. Discussion among experts at a workshop (Viet Nam, 2018)




United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Logo of UNESCO



Intangible
Cultural
Heritage

Logo of
UNESCO
Intangible
Cultural
Heritage



International Research Centre
for Intangible Cultural Heritage
in the Asia-Pacific Region

Logo of IRCI

Culture is an important element and heritage that imparts richness to nations. To transmit intangible cultural heritage through generations, connections among people are necessary. The IRCI logo incorporates the Japanese character for "culture" to indicate "people", who are the bearers of culture. This is symbolic of our vision of culture being transmitted from person to person within communities and groups. The background colours represent the Asia-Pacific region, with green signifying mountains, yellow the land, and blue the ocean.

UNESCO Category 2 Centres

Category 2 Centres are institutions that serve to contribute to the achievement of UNESCO's strategic objectives. There are currently seven UNESCO Category 2 Centres around the world, including Japan, in the field of the safeguarding of ICH. In the Asia-Pacific region, in addition to IRCI, there are Category 2 Centres in China and the Republic of Korea, with which IRCI cooperates and works in tandem. The three centres have different mandates: research for IRCI, information and networking for the International Information and Networking Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region (IHCAP) in the Republic of Korea, and training activities for the International Training Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region (CRIHAP) in China.

Operation of IRCI

IRCI activities are implemented with the approval of its Governing Board. The Governing Board is made up of ten experts and representatives of specialised institutions inside and outside Japan including a UNESCO representative. The Governing Board deliberates and approves all IRCI activities, including long-term and medium-term programmes, work plans, and reports. In addition, when planning research programmes, IRCI's Advisory Body provides their professional perspectives. Furthermore, Mr. Koichiro Matsuura, Former Director-General, UNESCO, was newly appointed as an honorary advisor of IRCI in October 2017 to provide advice and support concerning the operation of IRCI.



UNESCO's Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) was founded in 1945 for the purpose of promoting international collaboration in the fields of education, science, culture, and communication. Among its activities is the adoption and implementation of the legal instruments such as international conventions. Regarding culture, there are a total of seven conventions, from the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (World Heritage Convention), which was adopted at the 17th Session of the General Conference (1972), to the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, which was adopted at the 33rd Session of the General Conference (2005). Among them is the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (the 2003 Convention), which was adopted in 2003, about thirty years after the ratification of the World Heritage Convention which aims to preserve and protect tangible cultural heritage.

The 2003 Convention was the outcome of discussions held at UNESCO since the 1950s for the purpose of safeguarding folklore, including oral traditions and folk arts. The Convention has four objectives: (1) to safeguard intangible cultural heritage; (2) to ensure respect for the intangible cultural heritage of the communities, groups and individuals concerned; (3) to raise awareness at the local, national and international levels of the importance of intangible cultural heritage; and (4) to provide for international cooperation and assistance.

Intangible cultural heritage is defined in the text of the Convention as follows: "practices, representations, expressions, knowledge, skills - as well as the instruments, objects, artefacts and cultural spaces associated therewith - that communities, groups and, in some cases, individuals recognise as part of their cultural heritage" (Article 2(1)). More specifically, they are: (1) oral traditions and expressions, including language as a vehicle of the intangible cultural heritage; (2) performing arts; (3) social practices, rituals and festive events; (4) knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe; and (5) traditional craftsmanship. States Parties to the Convention are required to draw up inventories of their own intangible cultural heritage (Article 12).

There are two organs through which decisions regarding the Convention are made. One is the General Assembly of States Parties, which meets every other year to decide strategic directions to be taken for promoting the objectives of the Convention. The other is the Intergovernmental Committee, which is made up of member states elected by the General Assembly. The Intergovernmental Committee, composed of 24 states, is held once a year and works for the concrete implementation of the Convention. Its most important roles are to deliberate on inscriptions on two lists of intangible cultural heritage and to decide on good safeguarding practices of intangible cultural heritage.

In Articles 16 and 17, the 2003 Convention requires inscriptions on two lists, namely the "Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity" (Representative List) and the "List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding" (Urgent Safeguarding List). The Representative List of the 2003 Convention takes the standpoint of not placing higher value upon one intangible cultural heritage than the other. The Representative List is merely to identify the diverse intangible cultural heritage of humanity around the world, and aims to bring international awareness. In the implementation of the 2003 Convention, more emphasis is placed on the Urgent Safeguarding List than the Representative List, and in this regard, it differs from the World Heritage Convention. The 2003 Convention focuses on the practitioners' daily lives in relation to ICH, and thus encourages the participation of communities to which the practitioners belong (Article 15).

Many member states that have ratified the 2003 Convention currently suffer from poverty, low rates of literacy, a lack of experts, a lack of interest among young people, urbanisation, conflict, and war. For this reason, assistance in developing legal systems, training of human resources, financial assistance, sustainable education, and so forth are seen as necessary. As particular emphasis is placed on the Urgent Safeguarding List laid forth in Article 17, it follows that an appropriate framework for international assistance and safeguarding measures need to be developed.

IRCI has implemented research projects in close cooperation with UNESCO and other related institutions such as universities, research institutions, governmental and non-governmental organisations, museums, and communities worldwide. One example is a community-led documentation of intangible cultural heritage in danger of disappearing since 2012, conducted through discussions with practitioners of arts and craftsmanship and government officials. With a focus on the process by which elements of intangible cultural heritage have become in danger of disappearing, IRCI has used a variety of methodologies to make audiovisual documentation. As a research institution, IRCI aims to share the outcomes of such research with the communities and contribute to safeguarding intangible cultural heritage. This is because, as stated above, the 2003 Convention places strong emphasis on communities, in other words, people who maintain and transmit intangible cultural heritage.

What is Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH)?

ICH is living cultural heritage. Although it transforms over time, it is transmitted from generation to generation and gives us cultural identity and richness. In the text of the 2003 Convention, the following examples of ICH are provided:

Oral Traditions and Expressions

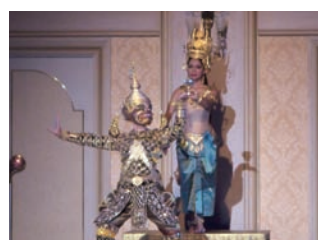


Hudhud chants of the Ifugao (Philippines)
© 2008, by J. Uñalvia/NCCA-ICH,
with the permission of UNESCO



Tradition of Vedic chanting (India)
© Sangeet Natak Akademi, New Delhi, India,
with the permission of UNESCO

Performing Arts



Royal ballet of Cambodia (Cambodia)
© International Research Centre for Intangible
Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region
(IRCI), 2013



Ca tru singing (Viet Nam)
© 2006, Vietnamese Institute for Musicology,
Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism
of Vietnam, with the permission of UNESCO

Social Practices, Rituals and Festive Events



Mask dance of the drums from Drametse (Bhutan)
© 2007, by Institute of Language and Cultural
Studies – Sentsokha Bhutan,
with the permission of UNESCO



Royal ancestral ritual in the Jongmyo shrine
and its music (Republic of Korea)
© National Research Institute of Cultural Heritage,
2008, with the permission of UNESCO

Knowledge and Practices Concerning Nature and the Universe



Acupuncture and moxibustion
of traditional Chinese medicine (China)
© Institute of Acupuncture and Moxibustion,
2009, with the permission of UNESCO



Tugging rituals and games (Cambodia,
Philippines, Republic of Korea, Viet Nam)
© Vietnam Institute of Culture and Arts Studies,
2013, with the permission of UNESCO

Traditional Craftsmanship



Indonesian Batik (Indonesia)
© Batik Museum Institute, Pekalongan, 2008,
with the permission of UNESCO



Ojiya-chijimi, Echigo-jofu (Japan)
© 1998, by Association for the Conservation
of Techniques for Echigo-jofu, Ojiya-Chijimi,
with the permission of UNESCO

Activities of IRCI

Strategies and Projects for FY 2019

To safeguard ICH in the Asia-Pacific region, IRCI has carried out a range of activities utilising networks both within and outside Japan. In FY 2019, IRCI is pursuing the following five projects under two activity focuses:

Promoting Research for ICH Safeguarding

1. Research Database Improvement (FY 2016 – FY 2019)
2. Research Data Collection (FY 2019 – FY 2021)
3. Organising the Researchers Forum (FY 2019)
4. SDGs¹: ICH's Contribution towards the Goal of Quality Education (FY 2018 – FY 2019)

Research on ICH Safeguarding and Disaster Risk Management

1. Study of Emergency Protection of Endangered ICH in Conflict-Affected Countries in Asia (FY 2017 – FY 2020)



¹ SDGs is an abbreviation for Sustainable Development Goals and was adopted as a new agenda for "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals" at the General Assembly of the United Nations in September 2015. The SDGs consist of 17 universal goals and specific 169 targets to achieve the 17 goals and realise a sustainable world.

Research Projects

Projects in FY 2019

Promoting Research for ICH Safeguarding

This project was implemented to collect information on safeguarding ICH research in the Asia-Pacific region and promote this research. IRCI conducted a systematic collection of the dispersed research information and obtained an overview of the safeguarding ICH research by mapping the research and researchers.

Under this project, we (1) organised international conferences, (2) conducted literature surveys, and (3) constructed and optimised the research database. At the conference, researchers and experts discussed the challenges concerning safeguarding ICH. Through the Literature Survey, information of 31 countries and 1 region in the Asia-Pacific region was collected (as of March 2019). The research database is available on IRCI's website (<https://www.irci.jp/ichdb/>), and it presents the information collected through the survey.

In FY 2019, IRCI will launch a new project, "Research Data Collection", in collaboration with research institutions in the region and strengthen institutional partnerships. Optimisation of the research database will also continue for the year.



1. Research Data Collection (FY 2019 – FY 2021)

IRCI completed the Literature Survey in FY 2018 and collected various data mainly in cooperation with researchers in the Asia-Pacific Region. Through the survey, some issues and challenges were identified. These include the diverse quality of collected data because of the different ways of understanding ICH, the uneven distribution of research resources at the local level, and a high risk of loss of the archived data due to poor storage conditions. In order to address these issues, a new mechanism needs to be established to collect and update the research data sustainably in accordance with the development of ICH research.

In FY 2019, IRCI launched a new project to further improve data collection in cooperation with research institutions (such as universities and museums) in the Asia-Pacific region. This long-term project will ensure sustainable data collection and develop a cooperating mechanism to update the database.

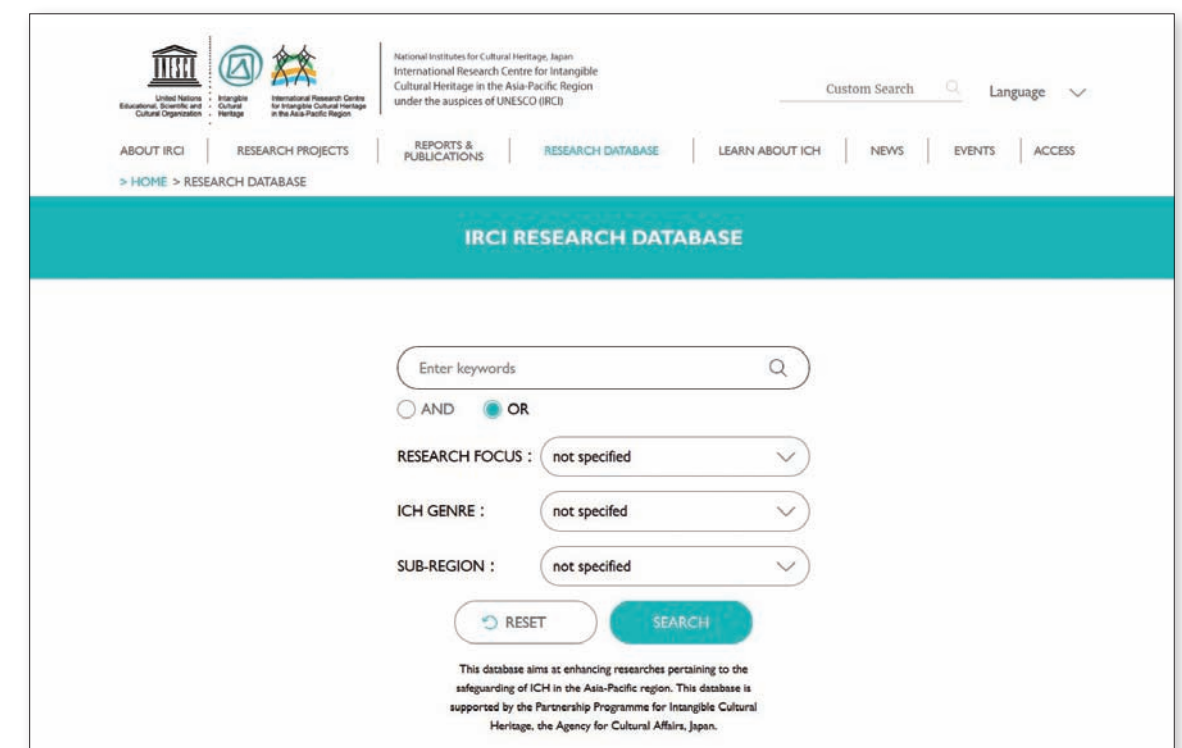
2. Research Database Improvement (FY 2016 – FY 2019)

Since FY 2014, the IRCI research database has provided information on ICH safeguarding in the Asia-Pacific region, including literature, experts, and institutions, aiming at effectively promoting ICH safeguarding. As of March 2019, more than 2,500 pieces of data were stored, and domestic and international users can still widely access the database.

In FY 2018, IRCI conducted a research study on the current situation of archiving and the database to assess the needs of universities and libraries in relation to their databases in Myanmar, which is one of the countries with a long history of research and accumulated information on research but underdeveloped digitisation and archiving.

In FY 2019, the final year of the project, IRCI will develop guidelines for improving the database based on the research results in Myanmar. The guidelines will reflect the requests and opinions from users and experts.

IRCI aims to improve the database, in order to provide more valuable information to researchers, experts, students, cultural bearers of ICH, and local governmental officials. The improved database will be opened to the public in March 2020.



3. Organising the Researchers Forum (FY 2019)

Recently, an increasing interest in ICH in the Asia-Pacific region has increased the expectation for research on safeguarding ICH. In response to this expectation, IRCI needs to instigate the research by providing a forum for academic discussion among the researchers in the region and strengthening the researchers' network.

In FY 2019, IRCI will organise the Researchers Forum to share information on the current situation and the role of research in safeguarding ICH in the Asia-Pacific region and exchange views on the contributions of the research to society.

IRCI plans to organise the forum in cooperation with the Tokyo National Research Institute for Cultural Properties under the theme of Sustainable Development and ICH research.

To disseminate the outcome of the discussion and to instigate safeguarding ICH, the proceedings will be published.

4. SDGs: ICH's Contribution towards the Goal of Quality Education (FY 2018 – FY 2019)

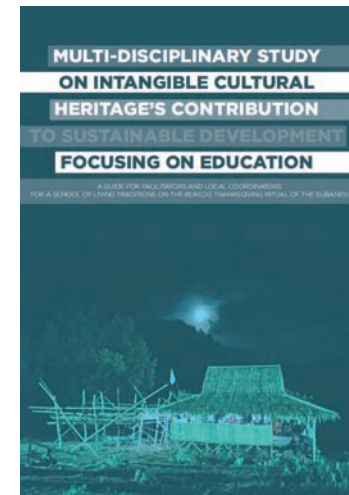
On 25 September 2015, the 70th General Assembly of the United Nations adopted a new agenda “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”. This agenda sets Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) based on the successes and lessons learned from the previous Millennium Development Goals. The SDGs consist of 17 universal goals and 169 targets to achieve the 17 goals and realise a sustainable world.

Goal 4 of the SDGs stipulates that we need to “ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all” and Target 4.7 states that by 2030 we need to “ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including among others through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship, and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture’s contribution to sustainable development”.

The unique knowledge of communities on their natural and social environments and their sustainable methods for using their natural resources are included in ICH. This is why education utilising ICH is indispensable for the acquisition of the knowledge and skills necessary for sustainable development and the achievement of Target 4.7, where the “appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture’s contribution to sustainable development” is stated.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

17 GOALS TO TRANSFORM OUR WORLD



◀ Guidelines for Non-formal Education in the Philippines

▶ Guidelines for Formal Education in Viet Nam



With this background, IRCI planned this project to develop the guidelines for the utilisation of ICH in formal and non-formal education, and to implement ICH in various educational fields. The guidelines are designed for teachers, administrators, cultural bearers of ICH, and students to recognise the importance of ICH, contribute to improving the quality of the education, and acquire the knowledge necessary to utilise ICH in education.

To achieve these objectives, IRCI launched the project in FY 2018 in collaboration with the Vietnam Museum of Ethnology (VME), the Vietnam Institute of Educational Sciences (VNIES), and the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA). We also conducted field surveys and organised expert meetings.

In Viet Nam, in FY 2018, when new national educational programmes were introduced, formal education guidelines were created that integrated elements listed in UNESCO's ICH list into the school curriculum for the lower secondary level. In FY 2019, the guidelines will be introduced to pilot schools, and IRCI will assess the effectiveness of the guidelines through monitoring processes. After completing a series of monitoring processes, IRCI will further develop the educational materials through workshops held with experts.

In the Philippines, guidelines were developed for “School of Living Traditions (SLT)” in FY 2018. The SLT is a community-managed non-formal learning centre that is geared towards safeguarding traditional culture and where a living master teaches traditional knowledge to children. The guidelines considered a traditional ritual of a small ethnic group in Mindanao as an ICH element. In FY 2019, the guidelines will be distributed to SLTs in Mindanao and to libraries, educational materials will be created, and their effectiveness will be assessed.

These activities create better educational materials and methodologies, apply ICH elements into education, and this project provides inclusive and equitable quality education.



Discussion at International Symposium
(Nara University of Education, Japan, January 2019)

Research on ICH Safeguarding and Disaster Risk Management

IRCI conducts research on the current status of cases of ICH in the Asia-Pacific region that are endangered by conflict, their safeguarding, and the role of ICH in post-disaster or conflict-affected situations.

1. Study of Emergency Protection of Endangered ICH in Conflict-Affected Countries in Asia (FY 2017 – FY 2020)

Cultural heritage has been destroyed in many armed conflicts in the Asia-Pacific regions as exemplified by the Bamiyan Buddha Statues or Palmyra. Recently, while international frameworks for restoration and protection have been formed for the conservation of “tangible” cultural heritage in danger, little research or discussion has been carried out on the safeguarding of “intangible” cultural heritage. As ICH is “living”, inheritable cultural heritage, various factors such as the practitioners’ deaths, forced migration, or displacement resulting from armed conflicts or long-term political instabilities cause a decline in ICH such as craftsmanship, performing arts, festivals, and rituals, which have been passed down many generations. However, the important roles of ICH in empowering people, revitalising communities, and restoring lost connections with the past have been recognised gradually.

Recently, more international attention has been paid to this theme, and UNESCO has emphasised the response to post-conflict and post-disaster situations in its Strategic Objectives and Medium-Term Strategy. The past sessions of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage included the agenda “Intangible Cultural Heritage in Emergencies”.

With this background, in FY 2017, IRCI began a four-year research project for safeguarding ICH in emergencies in conflict-affected countries in Asia, focusing on three countries: Afghanistan, Timor-Leste, and the Northern and Eastern Provinces of Sri Lanka. In FY 2017 and FY 2018, in cooperation with governmental agencies and universities in the three countries, IRCI conducted preliminary surveys to investigate the current status of ICH and discussed the research plans. The research plans were arranged separately to reflect the countries’ specific conditions because the aftermath of the conflict in each country is considerably different. For example, field research in Afghanistan focused on the rituals inherited by women, and in Northern and Eastern Sri Lanka traditional craftsmanship and related rituals and festivals were the focus. In Timor-Leste, the research focused on the visual recording of the rituals on the verge of extinction. In FY 2019, IRCI will continue this research, and analyse the results to discuss the risk factors that threaten ICH and find effective measures to safeguard ICH.

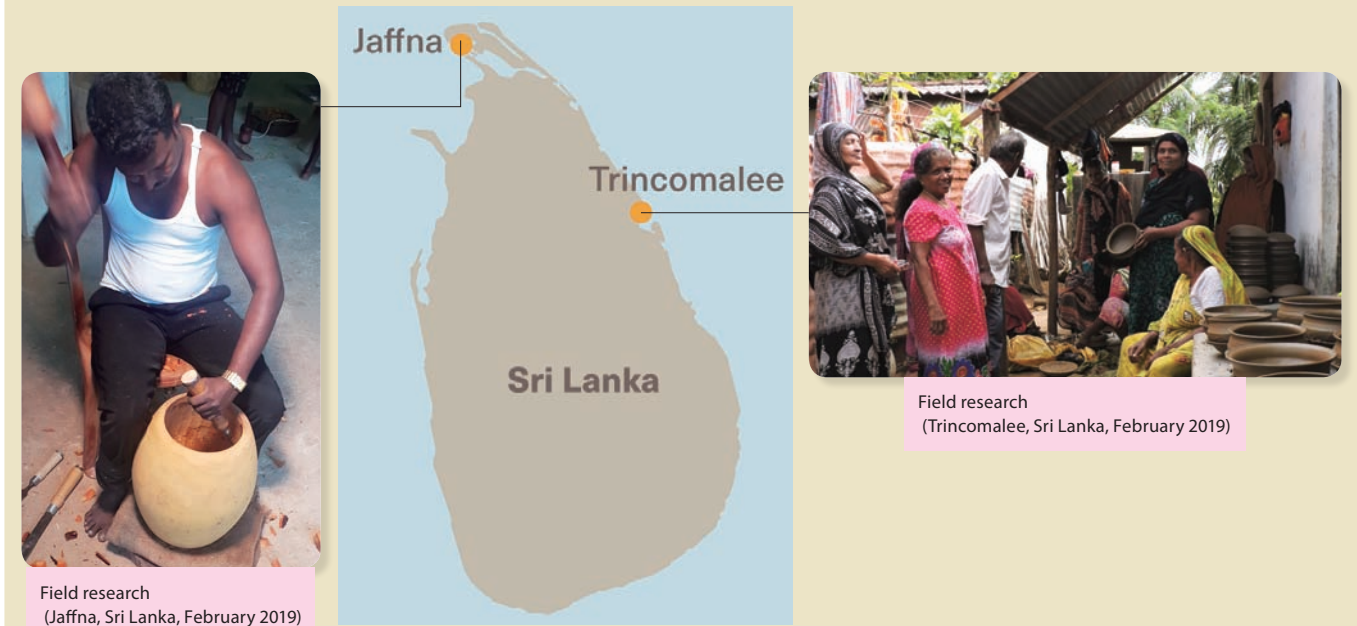


Presentation by Afghan researchers at the IRCI Meeting for Study of Emergency Protection of Endangered ICH in Conflict-Affected Countries in Asia (Tsuruoka, Japan, December 2018)



Field visit of a workshop (Kasuga Shrine, Tsuruoka, Japan, December 2018)

Targeted research areas



Field research (Jaffna, Sri Lanka, February 2019)

Field research (Trincomalee, Sri Lanka, February 2019)



Field research (Manufahi, Timor-Leste, 2017)



Achievements of Research Projects completed by FY 2018

Research for Safeguarding Endangered ICH

From FY 2012 to FY 2016, IRCI conducted projects with a focus on ICH in danger of disappearing.

1. Documentation of ICH as a Tool for Community-led Safeguarding Activities (FY 2012 – FY 2014)

Audio-visual documentation of ICH is crucial for restoring and reviving ICH that is in danger of disappearing. To ensure the continued transmission of ICH, it is extremely important for the practitioners involved to be aware of and identify endangered elements of ICH, and then to lead the effort to document them, and plan their documentation with a view to utilising that record. Based on this concept, IRCI implemented the project from FY 2012 to FY 2014. This project was created to propose concrete and detailed guidelines that included how to document ICH. In the next step, to verify that the guidelines are of practical use to communities, practitioners of ICH from six communities in five countries were enlisted to look at elements of their communities' ICH currently endangered. They were asked to discuss within the community the best plans for having the practitioners of the community lead efforts to film the parts that were endangered as well as the elements of ICH itself, and how to utilise the recorded footage. Eventually, IRCI held discussions again with practitioners of ICH and researchers concerning plans to utilise documentary footage, and the outcomes of those discussions were compiled in 2016 as a case study.



Presentation by a local officer of Timor-Leste in charge of culture at a workshop (Tokyo, Japan, March 2015)

2. Safeguarding the Intangible Cultural Heritage for the Promotion of Cultural Identity and Community Resilience in Timor-Leste (FY 2013)

Timor-Leste is a new country, which became independent in 2002, and its national framework for safeguarding its cultural heritage and its museum infrastructures are still in the development stage. IRCI, in response to an urgent request from the Government of Timor-Leste and the UNESCO Office in Jakarta, from 22 to 26 October 2013, conducted a study tour for governmental officers of Timor-Leste concerning cultural administration.

The nine participants from Timor-Leste visited museums and institutes involved in the good practices of ICH safeguarding, promotion, and transmission by institutions and local communities in Japan (for example, The Tokyo National Museum; The National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo; The National Theatre; The Namahage Museum, and The Oga Shinzan Folklore Museum, Yuki City and Mashiko City) and held a discussion session with the administrative officers and transmitters engaged in ICH safeguarding. In the final day of the tour, they thoroughly discussed safeguarding measures to resolve the issues of Timor-Leste.

The final report of the tour and their discussions was published in March 2014 and the report is available on IRCI's website.



Discussion on the challenges of transmitting ICH among the participants (Tokyo, Japan, October 2013)

3. Research for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage on the Verge of Extinction: Vietnamese ICH Element Dong Ho Woodblock Printing (FY 2013 – FY 2015)

In the village of Dong Ho in Bac Ninh Province in the north of Viet Nam, woodblock prints have traditionally been created as talismans to decorate the Lunar New Year festivals. However, a decline in the number of woodblock craftsmen as well as rapid urbanisation and industrialisation has brought about changes to the lifestyles of the people of the village, and the transmission of Dong Ho woodblock printing techniques is now in danger. Given these circumstances, the Government of Viet Nam has issued an urgent request to IRCI, and as a result a joint research project for the safeguarding of the woodblock techniques was carried out from FY 2013 to FY 2015. In the project, basic surveys and analysis of critical factors were conducted in cooperation with the Vietnam National Institute of Culture and Arts Studies (VICAS)

and visits to crafts studios in Kanazawa city, Japan, created discussion on good practices of ICH safeguarding measures in Japan. In addition, final workshops were organised in Dong Ho village and in Hanoi. At these workshops, discussions that summarised the outcomes of the project were held among practitioners, researchers, and administrative officials. Japanese experts were also invited to present proposals for transmitting woodblock printing based on examples in Japan of safeguarding and reviving ICH. The proceedings were put together as the result of the project in its final year and published as a report. The most significant accomplishment of this project is that a community museum for practitioner-led sustainable safeguarding is now planned with its establishment underway in Dong Ho village.



A practitioner of Dong Ho Woodblock Printing in the community (Bac Ninh Province, Viet Nam, January 2015)

4. Research for Endangered Traditional Handicrafts in Post-Conflict States (Sri Lanka) (FY 2013 – FY 2015)

In the Northern and Eastern provinces of Sri Lanka, which have been the most affected by the civil war until 2009, the alleviation of poverty and the establishment of sustainable livelihoods are particularly urgent matters. As part of those efforts, IRCI decided to focus on the importance of reviving ICH such as traditional textiles and women's handicrafts that have been passed down to surviving women as a potential way to reconstruct their livelihoods, thus contributing to sustainable peace building. The project was implemented in cooperation with the Government of Sri Lanka with the purpose of reviving these handicrafts. Through the project from FY 2013 to FY 2015, workshops and field surveys were conducted in 10 areas and IRCI held numerous dialogues with representatives of the craftswomen and the government officials of Sri Lanka. Also, recommendations for craft revitalisation were made. Furthermore, over a two-year period, IRCI invited practitioners, government officials, and researchers to Japan for intensive discussion sessions on the recommendations. IRCI played a role in providing those stakeholders with common understanding and recognition about further challenges and the key issues for reviving these handicrafts. Sustainable transmission of traditional culture by local people plays a major role in the process of building stability and peace for all countries that have experienced conflict and war. IRCI hopes to use its case study of this project and its practical research on restoration and revitalisation in other countries.



Meeting on further cooperation and sharing the final report with Hon. Minister Douglas Devananda, Ministry of Traditional Industries and Small Enterprise Development (Colombo, Sri Lanka, September 2014)

5. Study of Legal Systems related to Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Greater Mekong Region (FY 2013 – FY 2016)

To safeguard ICH, each country must establish legal systems to suit its own particular circumstances because if such systems do not exist and elements of ICH have yet to be identified, it is difficult to implement measures that lead to sustainable transmission. Some countries are currently trying to draft relevant laws, but because many of them have no experience in creating laws concerning ICH, there is a great need for advice and support from foreign experts with extensive experience. With the cooperation of the Faculty of Law of Kyushu University, IRCI began a project to study the legal systems of the countries in the Greater Mekong region. The aim of the project is to analyse the issues involved in the process of drafting legislation through field research and international workshops, and ultimately to create a “tool-kit” for planning legal mechanisms. In Japan, as a result of the Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties, policies to preserve these elements of ICH were implemented. In addition, local government authorities have in place ordinances to safeguard cultural heritage. Since these experiences in Japan are useful for countries now seeking to draft laws, the IRCI international workshop in 2015 aimed to learn ordinances to safeguard ICH and activities for the transmission of ICH by practitioners in Japan. In 2016, IRCI organised the final workshop in cooperation with Vietnam National Institute of Culture and Arts Studies (VICAS) in Viet Nam, where the outcomes of the whole project were produced.



Discussion among experts at the final workshop (Hanoi, Viet Nam, December 2016)

Promoting Research for ICH Safeguarding

Since FY 2016, IRCI has conducted Literature Survey as one of the activities of the project “Mapping Studies on the Safeguarding of ICH”.

1. Literature Survey (FY 2016 – FY 2018)

As there is currently a lack of information on the research and experts of safeguarding ICH in the Asia-Pacific region, IRCI conducted Literature Survey to collect and analyse information systematically on the existing literature, research institutions, and experts and obtain an overview of the current situation of the research in the region. By the end of FY 2018 (March 2019), 31 countries and 1 region in the Asia-Pacific region were surveyed.

In FY 2018, the final year of the project, the project was reviewed by experts on the request of IRCI. Based on these reviews, IRCI created the *Report on the IRCI Literature Survey on Intangible Cultural Heritage Safeguarding Research (2016–2018)* and this was published online.

Surveyed countries and region:

Australia, Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Cook Islands, Fiji, French Polynesia, India, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Palau, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Viet Nam (31 countries and 1 region).

Research on ICH Safeguarding and Disaster Risk Management

IRCI conducted research on the current status of ICH in the Asia-Pacific region that is threatened by disasters, and the role of ICH for disaster preparedness and in post-disaster situations.

1. Research on ICH Safeguarding and Natural Disasters (FY 2016 – FY 2018)

Many countries in the Asia-Pacific region are frequently exposed to various natural hazards, which are risks for cultural heritage. There has been a growing international awareness about the disaster risk management (DRM) of cultural heritage; for example, UNESCO's Medium-Term Strategy (2014–2021) emphasises the urgent need to respond to post-conflict and post-disaster situations. However, these efforts are focused on the protection of tangible cultural heritage, while effective measures for safeguarding ICH are yet to be developed.

With this background, in FY 2016, IRCI began a two-year project titled, “Preliminary Research on ICH Safeguarding and Disaster Risk Management in the Asia-Pacific Region”.

In FY 2018, the “Asia-Pacific Regional Workshop on ICH and Natural Disasters” was held in Sendai, Japan in cooperation with the Tokyo National Research Institute for Cultural Properties (co-organiser), and the Center for Northeast Asian Studies, Tohoku University (cooperating body), and 45 researchers and observers from 10 countries in the Asia-Pacific region attended the workshop. There were active discussions focusing on the following themes: 1) Natural Hazards/Disasters and the transmission of ICH; 2) Challenges and lessons learnt from disaster experiences, and the potential of local knowledge; and 3) Enhancing dialogue between ICH and disaster risk management. Not only ICH specialists and researchers but also specialists from the field of disaster research and disaster risk management joined the discussion, which strengthened the mutual understanding and cooperative ties between researchers and specialists. The participants observed the performance and practice of “Shishifuri” in the town of Onagawa-cho as an example of ICH's contribution to the recovery from disasters.

Reflecting on the discussions held at this three-day workshop, the workshop participants adopted “Statements and Recommendations for Safeguarding ICH in Disasters and Mobilising ICH for Disaster Risk Reduction”, and the proceedings of the discussions were published in March 2019. Both the recommendations and proceedings are available on the IRCI's website. The proceedings are also available on the PreventionWeb website managed by the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR; <https://www.preventionweb.net/publications/view/64596>).



Discussion at a workshop (Sendai, Japan, December 2018)



Observation of “Shishifuri” performance (Onagawa, Japan, December 2018)

Cooperative Projects with Japanese Academic Institutions and with Sakai City

IRCI instigates research for safeguarding ICH in cooperation with various institutions.

In FY 2018

- IRCI and the Tokyo National Research Institute for Cultural Properties co-organised the “Asia-Pacific Regional Workshop on ICH and Natural Disasters” in cooperation with the Center for Northeast Asian Studies, Tohoku University (Sendai and Onagawa, Japan, December 2018).
- IRCI organised an International Symposium on the “Multi-disciplinary study on intangible cultural heritage’s contribution to sustainable development: Focusing on education” in cooperation with Nara University of Education (Nara University of Education, Japan, January 2019).
- IRCI and the Center for Southeast Asian Studies (CSEAS), Kyoto University co-organised the lecture by Virgilio S. Almario, the National Artist for Literature and the Chairman of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) with the theme of “Reconstructing the National Memory towards Nation-Building” (Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Kyoto University, Japan, January 2019).
- IRCI supported the symposium held by Sakai City by exhibiting information panels at the venue (Tokyo National Museum, July 2018).

IRCI will further strengthen ties with academic institutions at home and abroad in order to promote safeguarding ICH.

Collaboration regarding projects between Japanese Academic Institutions and IRCI



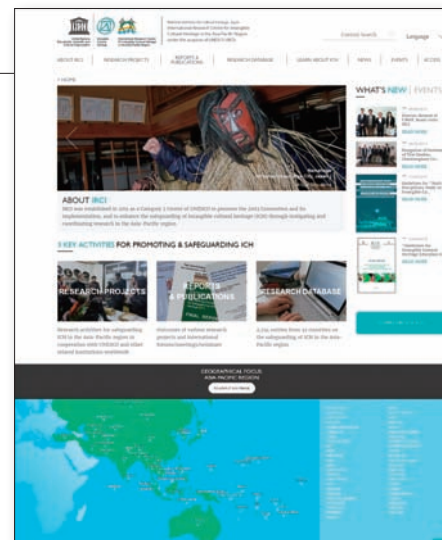
Lecture by Virgilio S. Almario “Reconstructing the National Memory towards Nation-Building” (Inamori Foundation Building, Kyoto University, Japan, January 2019)

Annex

Website Information (<https://www.irci.jp>)

IRCI is updating its activities and information about ICH on the above website to provide the latest information.

IRCI looks forward to your visit.



Timeline of Research Projects

		FY 2012 - FY 2015				FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019
Promoting Research for ICH Safeguarding			Organising International Conferences						
				Conducting the Literature Survey					
				Constructing Research Database					
				Mapping Studies on the Safeguarding of ICH		Research Database Improvement			
									Research Data Collection
							IRCI Reserachers Forum on ICH Safeguarding (International Symposium Negotiating Intangible Cultural Heritage)		Organising the Researchers Forum
Research on ICH Safeguarding and Disaster Risk Management									SDGs: ICH's Contribution towards the Goal of Quality Education
								Research on ICH Safeguarding and Natural Disasters	
Research for Safeguarding Endangered ICH								Study of Emergency Protection of Endangered ICH in Conflict-Affected Countries in Asia	

International Meetings and Workshops

Project / Theme	Year	Month	International Meeting / Workshop	Co-Organiser	Cooperating institutions / experts / researchers
Multi-disciplinary Study on ICH's Contribution to Sustainable Development — Focusing on Education	2019	1	IRCI's International Symposium on "Multi-disciplinary Study on Intangible Cultural Heritage's Contribution to Sustainable Development: Focusing on Education"		Nara University of Education
Asia-Pacific Regional Workshop on ICH and Natural Disasters	2018	12	Asia-Pacific Regional Workshop on Intangible Cultural Heritage and Natural Disasters	Tokyo National Research Institute for Cultural Properties	Center for Northeast Asian Studies, Tohoku University
Study of Emergency Protection of Endangered ICH in Conflict-Affected Countries in Asia	2018	12	IRCI Meeting for Study of Emergency Protection of Endangered ICH in Conflict-Affected Countries in Asia		Tsuruoka City Kurokawa Noh Preservation Society
Mapping Studies on the Safeguarding of ICH	2017	7	International Symposium "Glocal Perspectives on Intangible Cultural Heritage: Local Communities, Researchers, States and UNESCO"	Center for Glocal Studies(CGS), Seijo University, Japan Agency for Cultural Affairs, Japan	Mr. Tomiyuki Uesugi (Director/Professor, Center for Glocal Studies(CGS), Seijo University)
	2016	11	IRCI Experts Meeting on Mapping Project for ICH Safeguarding in the Asia-Pacific Region		
	2015	12	IRCI Experts Meeting on Mapping Project for ICH Safeguarding in the Asia-Pacific Countries	Aigine Cultural Research Center, Kyrgyzstan	
	2015	1	International Experts Meeting of the Project "Mapping Research on the Safeguarding of ICH in the Asia-Pacific Region"	Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia	
	2014	2	Preliminary Meeting of the Project "Exploring Research for the Safeguarding of ICH in the Asia-Pacific Region"	UNESCO Bangkok Office, Thailand	
Researchers Forum on ICH Safeguarding in the Asia-Pacific Region	2017	11	International Symposium "Negotiating Intangible Cultural Heritage"	National Museum of Ethnology, Japan Agency for Cultural Affairs, Japan	Mr. Yoshitaka Terada (Professor, Center for Cultural Resource Studies, National Museum of Ethnology) Mr. Shota Fukuoka (Associate Professor, Department of Advanced Human Sciences, National Museum of Ethnology) Mr. Taku Iida (Associate Professor, Center for Cultural Resource Studies, National Museum of Ethnology)
Research on ICH Safeguarding and Natural Disasters	2017	1	Preliminary Research on ICH Safeguarding and the Disaster Risk Management in the Asia-Pacific Region: International Working Group Session		Tokyo National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Japan
Study of Legal Systems Related to ICH in the Greater Mekong Region	2016	12	IRCI Final Workshop on the Study of Legal Systems Related to ICH in the Greater Mekong Region		Mr. Toshiyuki Kono (Professor, Faculty of Law, Kyushu University, Japan) Ms. Susan McIntyre-Tamwoy (Associate Director, Extent Heritage Pty Limited, Australia) Vietnam National Institute of Culture and Arts Studies (VICAS)
	2015	12	IRCI Second Workshop on the Study of Legal Systems Related to ICH in the Greater Mekong Region		Mr. Toshiyuki Kono (Professor, Faculty of Law, Kyushu University, Japan) Ms. Susan McIntyre-Tamwoy (Associate Director, Extent Heritage Pty Limited, Australia) Ms. Katie O'Rourke (Director, Katie O'Rourke Consulting, Australia) Mr. Steven Van Uytsel (Associate Professor, Faculty of Law, Kyushu University, Japan) Toyama Prefecture, Toyama City, Takaoka City, Kyoto City, Japan NOUSAKU Corporation, Japan Musashigawa Studio, Japan
	2014	12	IRCI First Workshop on the Study of Legal Systems Related to ICH in Southeast Asia	Faculty of Law, Kyushu University, Japan	Mr. Toshiyuki Kono (Professor, Faculty of Law, Kyushu University, Japan) Mr. Steven Van Uytsel (Associate Professor, Faculty of Law, Kyushu University, Japan)
Research for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage on the Verge of Extinction: Vietnamese ICH Element Dong Ho Woodblock Printing	2015	1	Workshop on the Roles of the Community Centre in ICH Revitalization: A Case Study of Dong Ho Woodblock Printing	Vietnam National Institute of Culture and Arts Studies (VICAS)	Government of Viet Nam Bac Ninh Province, Viet Nam Mr. Seishi Namiki (Professor, Kyoto Institute of Technology, Japan)
Research for Endangered Traditional Handicrafts in Post-Conflict States (Sri Lanka)	2015	12	Discussion Meeting on Endangered Traditional Handicrafts in Sri Lanka		UNESCO New Delhi Office, India National Craft Council (NCC), Sri Lanka Ms. Himali Jinadasa (Director-General, Sri Lanka Export Development Board (SLEDB)) Mr. Seiki Ishii (Product Designer, SEIKI DESIGN STUDIO, Japan)
Documentation of ICH as a Tool for Community-led Safeguarding Activities	2015	3	Intensive Working Session on ICH Documentation as a Tool for Community-led Safeguarding Activities		
	2014	2	Workshop for Community's Young Film Makers for ICH Audio-Visual Documentation		
	2013	2	Workshop on ICH Documentation as a Tool for Community Safeguarding Activities		
	2012	3	Intensive Researchers Meeting on Communities and the 2003 Convention		
Safeguarding the ICH for the Promotion of Cultural Identity and Community Resilience in Timor-Leste	2013	10	Study Tour for ICH Experts of Timor-Leste	UNESCO Jakarta Office, Indonesia	Agency for Cultural Affairs, Japan National Institutes for Cultural Heritage, Japan (Tokyo National Museum, Tokyo National Research Institute for Cultural Properties) Oga City, Akita, Yuki City, Ibaraki, Japan
Research on the 2003 Convention	2013	1	2013 IRCI Meeting on ICH — Evaluating the Inscription Criteria for the Two Lists of UNESCO's ICH Convention		Maison des Cultures du Monde (MCM), France
	2012	6	The First ICH-Research Forum: The Implementation of UNESCO's 2003 Convention	Maison des Cultures du Monde (MCM), France	
Current Status of ICH, in Particular, Research and Studies on ICH in Urgent Need of Safeguarding	2012	8	International Field School Alumni Seminar on Safeguarding ICH in the Asia-Pacific	Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn Anthropology Centre (SAC), Thailand	
Symposiums in Cooperation with Sakai City, Osaka, Japan	2016	11	2016 International Symposium on ICH Safeguarding in the Asia-Pacific Region "Transmitting Art and Spirit of ICH"	Agency for Cultural Affairs, Japan Sakai City	Japan Arts Council
	2013	8	International Symposium in Celebration of the 10th Anniversary of the Convention for the Safeguarding of ICH	Agency for Cultural Affairs, Japan Sakai City	Japan Arts Council
	2013	2	Symposium on ICH in the Asia-Pacific Region "ICH in the Asia-Pacific Region — Current Status and Important Issues"	Sakai City	National Museum of Ethnology, Japan
	2011	10	IRCI Opening Commemorative Symposium	Agency for Cultural Affairs, Japan Sakai City	Japan Arts Council



IRCI Meeting for Study of Emergency Protection of Endangered ICH in Conflict-Affected Countries in Asia (Tsuruoka, Japan, December 2018)



Asia-Pacific Regional Workshop on Intangible Cultural Heritage and Natural Disasters (Sendai, Japan, December 2018)

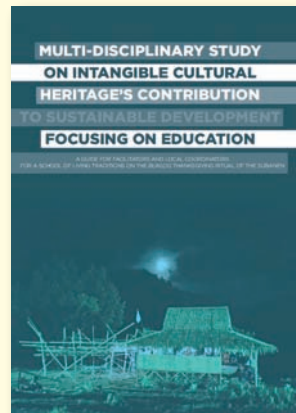


International Symposium "Negotiating Intangible Cultural Heritage" (Osaka, Japan, November 2017)

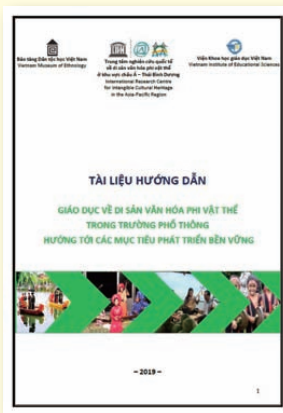


Final Workshop on the Study of Legal Systems Related to Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Greater Mekong Region (Hanoi, Viet Nam, December 2016)

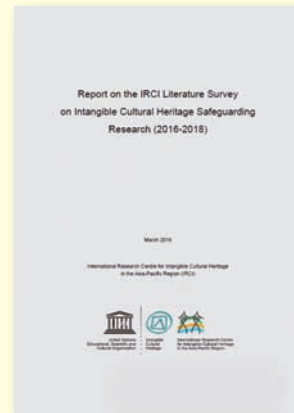
Reports and Publications



Guidelines for the “Multi-Disciplinary Study on Intangible Cultural Heritage’s Contribution to Sustainable Development Focusing on Education” for Non-Formal Education in the Philippines (online version) (May 2019)



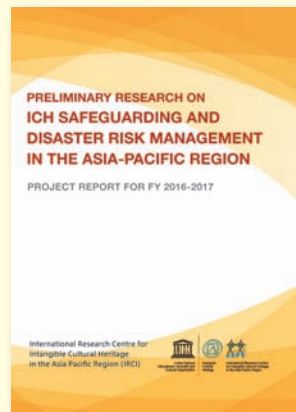
Guidelines for Intangible Cultural Heritage Education in Vietnamese Schools towards Sustainable Development Goals (Vietnamese edition, online version) (April 2019)



Report on the IRCI Literature Survey on Intangible Cultural Heritage Safeguarding Research(2016–2018) (online version) (March 2019)



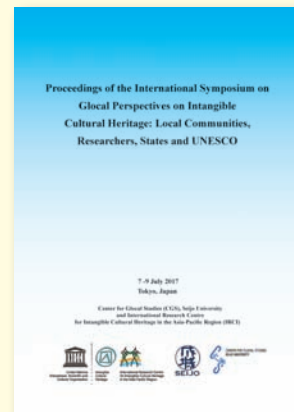
Proceedings of the Asia-Pacific Regional Workshop on Intangible Cultural Heritage and Natural Disasters (March 2019)



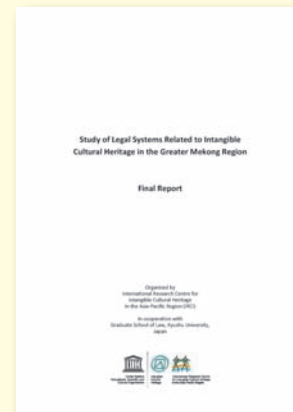
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International Symposium Negotiating Intangible Cultural Heritage Report (March 2018)
ISBN 978-4-9909775-0-4



Proceedings of the International Symposium on Global Perspectives on Intangible Cultural Heritage: Local Communities, Researchers, States and UNESCO (November 2017)



Study of Legal Systems Related to Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Greater Mekong Region (March 2017)



International Symposium on ICH Safeguarding in the Asia-Pacific Region: Transmitting Art and Spirit of ICH (March 2017)



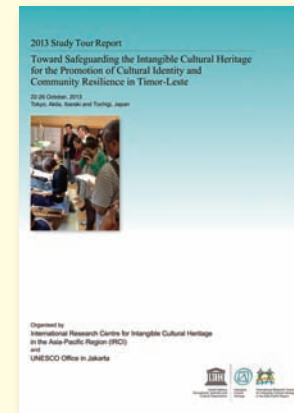
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ISBN 978-4-9906647-4-9



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ISBN978-4-9906647-7-06647-7-0



2013 Study Tour Report: Toward Safeguarding the Intangible Cultural Heritage for the Promotion of Cultural Identity and Community Resilience in Timor-Leste (March 2015)
ISBN 978-4-9906647-5-6



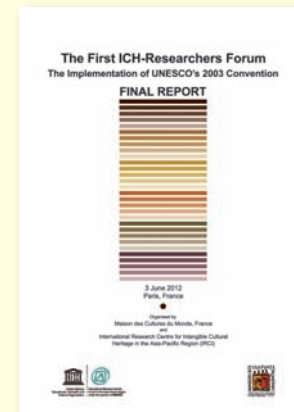
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ISBN 978-4-9906647-3-2



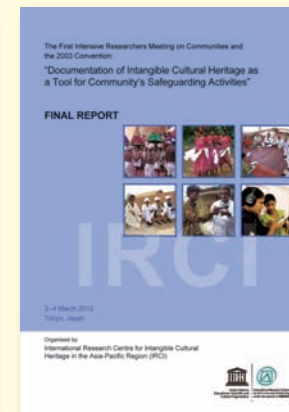
2013 IRCI Meeting on ICH: Evaluating the Inscription Criteria for the Two Lists of UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage Convention (Final Report) (March 2013)
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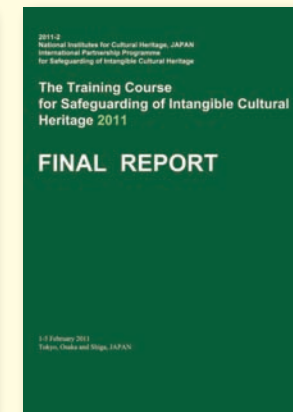
2012 International Field School Alumni Seminar on Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia Pacific (February 2013)



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