

## **Keynote Speech “Intangible Cultural Heritage and Local Communities”**

### **Abstract**

It has been 16 years since the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage was adopted at the 32nd session of the UNESCO General Conference. While inclusion in the “Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity” has become a social phenomenon, there is no question that the resultant increased level of interest in intangible cultural heritage has encouraged the rediscovery of knowledge, techniques, festivals from local communities, thereby fostering community pride amongst local residents. When people feel pride in themselves and their culture, they are empowered to confront the various issues and challenges facing them. This lecture will survey movements around the world related to intangible cultural heritage and consider the role that creative succession of tangible and intangible heritage plays in achieving a sustainable society.

### **Speaker’s Profile**

After graduating from in Kyoto University’s Faculty of Letters, he completed the doctoral program at Osaka University’s Graduate School of Letters in 1989 for his PhD degree. Following his time as an assistant professor at Osaka University’s School of Letters, he began working at the National Museum of Ethnology, Japan, from 1988. He assumed the role of Director-General of the National Museum of Ethnology, Japan in 2017 and became President of the Society for Ethno-Arts in 2019. He specializes in anthropological research on arts and rituals in Africa as well as research on of cultural representation in museums. His main publications related to intangible cultural heritage include *Preserving the Cultural Heritage of Africa: Crisis or Renaissance?* (Yoshida et al. (eds.), James Currey and UNISA Press, 2008) and *Bunka no Hakken* (Discovery of the Culture, Iwanami Shoten Publishers, 1999, 2014 in Japanese), etc.