

International Symposium on Cultural Heritage Disaster Risk Management

How We Protect Cultural Heritage from Disasters: Potential of Blue Shield II

Report

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Venue: Tokyo National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo, Japan

Organizer: Headquarters of the Japanese National Task Force for the Cultural Heritage Disaster Risk Mitigation Network (CH-DRM Net), National Institutes for Cultural Heritage (NICH), Japan

Co-organizer: Japan Consortium for International Cooperation in Cultural Heritage (JCIC-Heritage)
Japanese National Committee for International Council of Museums (ICOM)
JAPAN ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites) National Committee

Opening Remarks



Masami Zeniya

Executive Director, Tokyo National Museum

At the opening of this International Symposium on Cultural Heritage Disaster Risk Management, I would like to say a few words to the experts from home and from abroad. Thank you so much for taking time out of your busy schedules to be here. Today's symposium is being held by the National Institutes for Cultural Heritage (NICH). Cooperation is being provided by the Japan Consortium for International Cooperation in Cultural Heritage (JCIC-Heritage), the Japanese National committee for International Council of Museums (ICOM Japan), and the JAPAN ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites) National Committee.

This is a relatively new memory, but six years ago, on March 11, one week prior to today's date of March 18, the Great East Japan Earthquake hit the Tohoku region and others, causing unprecedented damage. One month from now, on April 16, we will mark the one-year anniversary of the Kumamoto Earthquake. At this point, I would like to express my deepest condolences to those who fell victim to the earthquakes. And, at the same time, allow me to offer consolation and support for those who have been working extraordinarily hard to reconstruct the communities in the affected areas. In fact, in addition to the Kumamoto Earthquake, 2016 has seen a total of 10 earthquakes with a seismic intensity of six or higher occur in such areas as Central Tottori, Hokkaido, Ibaraki, and off the coast of Fukushima Prefecture. This has been the most active period of earthquake activity since 2011.

One thing that we must also remember is Typhoon 10, which caused a great deal of damage in Hokkaido, Iwate and other Tohoku areas. So in recent years, we have not had to deal just with earthquakes, but also many other major disasters, such as landslides by heavy rain, storms and floods, and volcanic eruptions. This means that it is more and more important to consider how to work on DRR, in order to preserve our cultural heritage.

In 2014, NICH utilized the experiences of our cultural heritage rescue activities following the Great East Japan Earthquake to launch the National Task Force for the Japanese Cultural Heritage Disaster Risk Mitigation Network (CH-DRM Network, Japan) within the NICH. In collaboration with the Agency for Cultural Affairs, Government of Japan, this organization has built a network for the protection of our cultural heritage, in order to create a system for the rescue of our cultural heritage in times of major disaster. It has also trained human resources; collected, analyzed, and disseminated information; and conducted research, related to the protection and rescue of cultural heritage against major disasters that will occur in the future. We at the Tokyo National Museum are also working on this as an NICH member organization.

In regard to the recent Kumamoto Earthquake, NICH conducted a cultural property rescue operation with the Kyushu National Museum, also an NICH member organization, acting as the secretariat. The network cultivated by the Kyushu National Museum has been fully utilized to conduct collaborative activities, not just with the authorities of Kumamoto, but also with those of each prefecture in Kyushu, as well as with representatives of museums. In order for various organizations to conduct relief activities at times of disaster, we believe that it is necessary to further strengthen this network.

The theme for today's symposium, as part of the activities of the CH-DRM Network, is "How We Protect Cultural Heritage from Disasters: Potential of Blue Shield". The symposium is being attended by domestic and overseas experts in Blue Shield, and we hope that it will provide us the opportunity to learn about the potential of Blue Shield, as well as its issues and prospects in Japan. I sincerely hope that this symposium will be the starting point for establishing a cultural heritage disaster risk reduction network.

Finally, allow me to express my sincere appreciation to all the speakers and panel members, who have very willingly accepted our invitation to this symposium. Also, allow me to express my appreciation to the Agency for Cultural Affairs, and the organizations that have supported us for this symposium. Last but not least, I would like to express my appreciation to all of you here. I wish you success and continued good health.

This concludes my opening address. Thank you very much.

Opening Remarks

Hideyasu Yamazaki

Director-General of Cultural Properties Department,
the Agency for Cultural Affairs, Government of Japan



Thank you very much for being here to participate in the International Symposium on Cultural Heritage Disaster Risk Management.

We had the major earthquake in 2011, the Great East Japan Earthquake, and since then, we have suffered a variety of major disasters, including earthquakes, typhoons, and heavy rain storms. Accordingly, there has been major damage to cultural heritage, particularly in April 2016, when the Kumamoto Earthquake hit Japan. Many cultural properties were damaged.

In order to rescue and repair the cultural properties that had been damaged by these major disasters, the cultural heritage experts have been working overtime, including those from the NICH. Included in these projects are the rescue of properties and assessment of damage to architectural monuments, for which we are using the terms “Cultural Property Rescue Program” and “Dispatch Conservators for Historic Monuments Program”, respectively. The Agency for Cultural Affairs, in addition to calling for donations for these projects, is providing assistance in order to restore designated cultural properties in disaster stricken areas and support the NICH toward the establishment of a nationwide system for the prevention and rescue of cultural properties at the time of major disasters, based on the NICH’s experiences following the Great East Japan Earthquake.

In this symposium, we have case reports and a panel discussion with not only domestic experts but also overseas, from Latin America and the Pacific area, which cultural heritage have been damaged by earthquakes and typhoons, as was the case in Japan, and from Europe, internationally advanced area in the protection of cultural heritage. I am sure this will be a good place for us to exchange information. The Agency for Cultural Affairs is committed to working on further discussions as to how we can protect and preserve cultural heritage when disaster hits, in Japan or in other parts of the world.

Finally, starting with today’s organizer, the NICH, I would like to thank everyone involved in holding this symposium, and I wish good health and success in future activities to everyone in attendance. With this I would like to close my opening address. Thank you very much.

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The Hague Convention and Blue Shield Activities in the Pacific Region

Akatsuki Takahashi

Programme Specialist for Culture, UNESCO Office for the Pacific States



Let me begin by thanking the organizers for inviting me to this symposium today. On behalf of the UNESCO Office for the Pacific States, I would like to express my appreciation to the CH-DRM Network at NICH, Japan. I would also like to express my appreciation to the co-organizers: JCIC-Heritage, ICOM Japan, Japan ICOMOS, and all those involved in organizing this symposium.

UNESCO culture conventions and the Hague Convention

UNESCO was established in 1945 as a specialized agency of the United Nations (UN) with the aims to promote international cooperation in the fields of education, sciences, culture, and communication. Its headquarters is in Paris. It has more than 50 field offices in

different parts of the world. Having worked at the headquarters and the Office in Venice, I have been working at the UNESCO Office for the Pacific States since January 2010 which is located in Apia, the capital city of Samoa. The Office in Apia covers 16 member states in the Pacific region and Tokelau, an associate member of UNESCO (Fig. 1).

UNESCO has a broad mandate and it is especially known as a leader for cultural cooperation. Since its establishment, in order to protect and promote the cultural diversity in the world, UNESCO adopted several international conventions in culture as part of its normative function. Mr. Matsura, the former Director-General of UNESCO, during his term, revitalized some of these conventions, while adopting three new conventions, thus establishing a comprehensive system



Fig. 1

composed of the six conventions covering the entire culture sector (Fig. 2).

The Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict or the Hague Convention is the oldest one among them (Fig. 3). The Hague Convention covers the important cultural heritage: movable or immovable cultural properties, libraries, museums, archives, evacuation facilities, heritage cities, etc., and provides the legal protection of cultural property at peacetime and during a conflict. “In the event of”, a phrase part of the title of the convention, shows the fact that this convention attaches importance to preventive measures established in peacetime. The emblem of the Hague Convention is “Blue Shield”. The Hague Convention and its first protocol were adopted in 1954.

Strengthening the Hague Convention by the adoption of the 2nd Protocol

After the end of the Cold War in the 1990s, the

1954	--- The Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and the First Protocol (Hague Convention)
1970	--- The Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property
1972	--- The Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage
1999	--- The Second Protocol to the Hague Convention of 1954
2001	--- The Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage
2003	--- The Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage
2005	--- The Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions

Fig. 2 UNESCO International Conventions on Cultures (Six Conventions)

- The first international convention on cultural properties established after the World War II.
- Covering protection of cultural properties during armed conflicts, based on the legal protection of cultural properties provided at peacetime.
- Article 8 stipulates special protection for libraries, museums and other cultural properties that are particularly important.
- The First Protocol: Restriction on import of cultural properties flew out to other countries from occupied territory in the even of armed conflicts; and obligation to return in case of having them imported.

Fig. 3 The Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and the First Protocol (Hague Convention 1954)

civil conflicts brought out in the former USSR and the Balkan Region. Some cultural heritage belonging to different communities became the target of intentional attack due to their cultural values and were destroyed. With this background, the Second Protocol of the Hague Convention was adopted in 1999 (Fig. 4). Behind the adoption of the 2nd Protocol was the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) adopted in 1998. Article 8 of the Rome Statutes states that the Court shall have jurisdiction in respect of war crimes, including serious violations of the laws and customs applicable in international armed conflict, within the established framework of international law, which includes “intentionally directing attacks against buildings dedicated to religion, education, art, science or charitable purposes, historic monuments, hospitals and places where the sick and wounded are collected, provided they are not military objectives”. The Second Protocol contributed to improving the effectiveness of the Hague Convention in several aspects (Fig. 5) through the establishment of the Intergovernmental Committee of the Second Protocol and the establishment of the Enhanced Protection system, for example.

Criteria for granting the Enhanced Protection

Any cultural property as defined in Article 1 of the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict is eligible for enhanced protection, provided that it complies

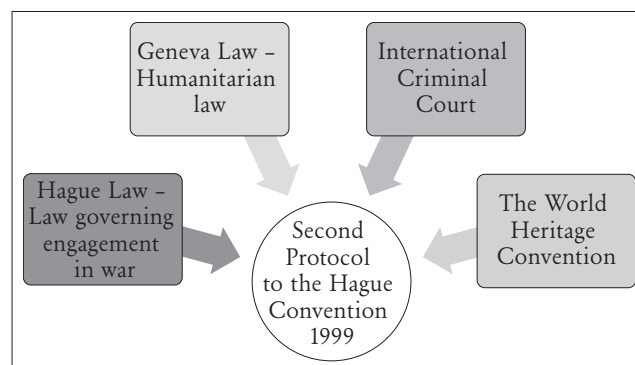


Fig. 4 Development of International Laws

- Enhanced protection (Article 10)
- Criminal responsibility (Chapter 4)
- Establishment of the Committee for the Protection of Cultural Property (Article 24)
- The role of an international non-governmental organization (International Committee of the Blue Shield) (Article 11 and Article 24)

Fig. 5 Improvement in the Hague Convention on the Second Protocol (1999)



Fig. 6

with the three conditions set forth in Article 10 of the Second Protocol: i) The cultural property must be of the greatest importance for humanity; ii) The cultural property must be protected by adequate domestic legal and administrative measures recognizing its exceptional cultural and historic value and ensuring the highest level of protection; iii) The cultural property must not be used for military purposes or to shield military sites.

The first and second criteria of the above three criteria are similar to those for the World Heritage listing. In order to obtain the Enhanced Protection under the Second Protocol, states parties need to meet the additional criteria, making a declaration that the heritage concerned is not and will not be used for military purposes. Thus far, the Enhanced Protection has been granted to some ten cultural heritage (Fig. 6). All of them have turned out to be the sites inscribed on the World Heritage List. The heritage under the Enhanced Protection can use a new emblem, which is the Blue Shield enclosed in a red frame.

The Blue Shield is not just an emblem of the Hague Convention but also the name of an international non-governmental organization (NGO). The Blue Shield (BS), as an international NGO was established in 1996 (Fig. 7) during the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR). The mission of the BS is to promote the disaster risk reduction of cultural heritage related to human-induced and natural

- An international non-governmental organization (NGO) established in 1996 as a consortium for the following five international NGOs during the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (10 years from January 1990). It carries out educational and support activities related to risk management in human-induced and natural disasters, from the neutral and independent standpoint:

- The International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS)
- The International Cultural Association (ICA)
- The International Council of Museums (ICOM)
- The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA)
- The Coordinating Council of Audiovisual Archives (CCAAA)

- An advisory board stipulated in the Second Protocol to the Hague Convention 1999.

Fig. 7 The International Committee of the Blue Shield

disasters. The BS is composed of key international NGOs such as ICOMOS for cultural properties, ICOM for museums, ICA for archives and IFLA for libraries. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) provides humanitarian assistance to protect human life in emergencies. The BS can be considered as the Red Cross for cultural heritage.

Article 24 of the Second Protocol to the Hague Convention mentions the International Committee of the Blue Shield (ICBS) as its advisory body along with

the ICRC. The BS encourages each country to establish a national committee (Fig. 8). At present, more than 20 countries including Australia, the UK, and the USA established its national committee. And the preparations for the establishment of national committees are underway in some 20 countries (Fig. 9). Some of the BS national committees have been actively pursuing international cooperation. For example, the US Committee provided important assistance to salvage cultural heritage that was affected by the earthquakes in Haiti and Nepal.

Blue Shield activities in the Pacific region

Now, I would like to talk about the BS activities in

the Pacific region. Most of the member states under the responsibility of the UNESCO Office in Apia are relatively young nations and four of them are the Least Developing Countries (LDC). When I joined the Office in 2010, the culture conventions, except the World Heritage Convention and the Intangible Cultural Heritage Convention, were not well known to them. Even the government officials responsible for culture had never heard about the Hague Convention. As a result, the promotion of the Hague Convention became one of my important missions. I needed to develop a strategy to promote the Hague Convention in the region that have not been impacted large-scale conflicts since the World War II. Developing a strategy, I have

- Structure: A national-level network of the five international NGOs related to cultural heritage (cultural properties, museums, libraries, archives and audiovisual archives) that comprise the International Committee of the Blue Shield (ICBS). They are accredited by the ICBS.
- Status: There are more than 20 national committees, and the other countries are preparing for its establishment.
- Application documents from BS website (<http://www.ancbs.org/cms/en/home/blue-shield-national-committees/9-on-file-past-damage/62-bs-docs>)

Fig. 8 The National Committee of the Blue Shield



Fig. 9 Distribution of National Committees of the Blue Shield (2016)

1. Resilience to climate change and disasters, and environmental protection
2. Gender
3. Sustainable and comprehensive economic development
4. Basic services - Education, medical care, and others
5. Governance and participation of communities
6. Human rights

Fig. 10 Coordination and Collaboration in the Pacific Area
- Thematic Priority Areas on the Pacific Region Strategy

come to know that the UN agencies in the Pacific developed a Medium-Term Strategy in consultation with Pacific island nations in order to promote “Delivery as One” approach (Fig. 10). The first priority of this Strategy is to enhance resilience to climate change and disasters, considering the fact that the island nations have been exposed to numerous natural disasters including cyclones. I myself experienced the devastating

impacts of the cyclones on the life of Pacific islanders (Fig. 11).

Impact of cyclones on cultural heritage

The Cyclone Evan made a landfall on Samoa in December 2012, causing significant damage to its infrastructure including cultural heritage. Samoa has traditional meeting house called “Fale”. Fig 12 shows the



Fig. 11 Natural Disasters in the Pacific: Cyclone, flood, earthquake, tsunami, etc.



Fig. 12 Fale: Traditional Meeting House in Vaimoso, Samoa
Left: Before, Right: After



Fig. 13 Vanuatu Culture Centre (National Museum, Library and Archives)
Left: Before, Right: After

traditional meeting house before and after the cyclone. As you see in the slide, the upper part of the tree near the traditional meeting house was blown away, while the building itself spared serious damages.

Another example is the Cyclone Pam that struck Vanuatu in 2015. The roof of the Vanuatu Culture

Centre (VCC) composed of the national museum, library and archives, in Port Vila, in Vanuatu sustained damage (Fig. 13). A branch of the VCC in the outer island Tafea was flattened (Fig. 14). However, the Nakamal, an important indigenous architecture in Port Vila, which is the Parliament House for traditional



Fig. 14 Culture Centre in Tafea
Left: Before, Right: After



Fig. 15

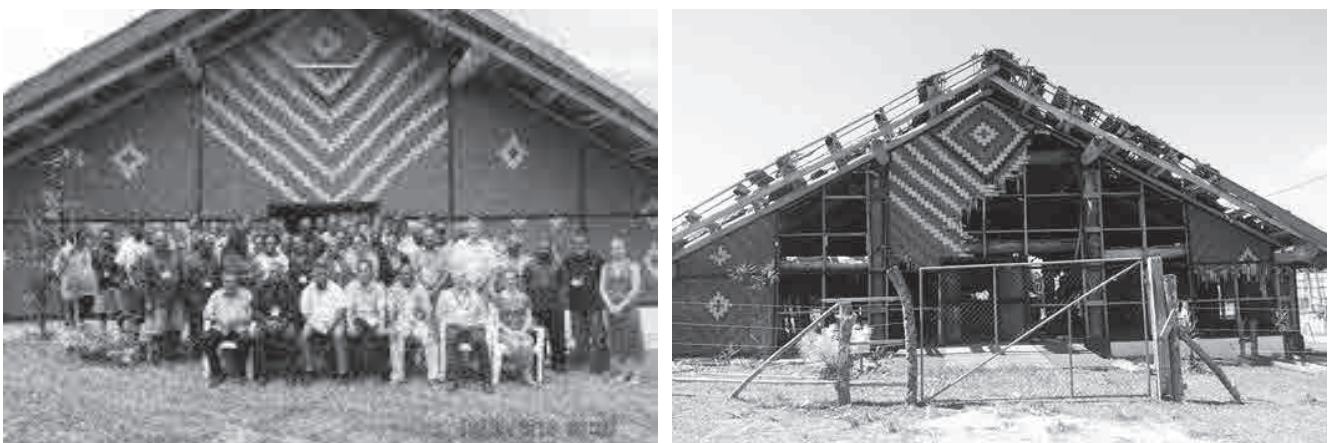


Fig. 16 Nakamal: Traditional Chiefs Assembly House in Vanuatu
Left: Before, Right: After

chiefs spared major damages thanks to the structure with high flexibility and the light materials used for the roof (Fig. 15). This traditional architecture is considered as the national treasures, where the traditional leaders assemble annually (Fig. 16).

The last example is about Levuka, the former capital of Fiji at a time the British colonized the country. Levuka Historical Port Town was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2015. Levuka was affected by the Cyclone Winston in 2016 and the salvage operations were carried out by the Department of Heritage of the Fiji government (Fig. 17). Fig 18 shows Navala village, one of the few remaining traditional settlements in Fiji. The village was not naturally formed one but it was established in the 1990s by attracting communities nearby. As you can see, the thatched houses damaged by the cyclone were covered with a plastic sheet in blue in the slide. We sent a team there to assess the damage sustained by this traditional buildings.

Natural disasters create critical situations, but it also brings opportunities. We obtained financial assistance

for recovery projects based on the post-disaster needs assessment following the cyclones. In the case of Vanuatu, we were able to organize the first Training Course on Disaster Risk Management of Cultural Heritage in Pacific Small Island Developing States in Vanuatu (Fig. 19).

Implementation Strategy for UNESCO's normative actions and operational activities in the Pacific

Now getting back to the topic of my presentation, I have started promoting the Hague Convention in the Pacific by using three frameworks, namely, the UN Medium-Term Strategy with its priority on climate change and disaster, the Blue Shield, and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR). The Sendai Framework is an action plan from 2015-2030 with the four priorities (Fig. 20) and the seven targets. These targets aim to reduce disaster mortality, the number of affected people, damage to critical infrastructure, disruption of economic activities and basic services,



Fig. 17 Levuka Historical Port Town



Fig. 18 Navala village – one of the remaining traditional settlements in Fiji.

and aim to increase the number of countries with national and local DRR strategies, the availability of and access to multi-hazard early warning systems, disaster risk information and assessments to the people.

The importance of DRR of cultural heritage was first included in the Kobe Framework of Action, the outcome document of the World Disaster Reduction Conference in 2005. Behind this were huge efforts

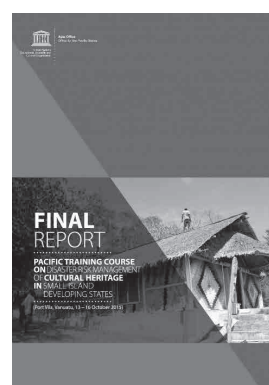


Fig. 19 The First Training Program on Disaster Risk Management of Cultural Heritage in the Pacific (October 2015, Vanuatu)

Priority Areas

1. Understanding disaster risk
2. Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk
3. Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience
4. Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response, and to “Build Back Better” in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction

Fig. 20 The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030

- Reference to cultural heritage (Paragraphs 5, 24 (d) and 30 (d))
- Reference to traditional, indigenous and local knowledge and practices (Paragraphs 7, 24 (i), 27 (h) and 26 (v))
- Disaster plans for heritage sites and cultural organizations should be incorporated as part of the regional and national plan.

Fig. 21 Cultures in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction

- Preparatory Meeting for the Establishment of the Blue Shield Pasifika (April 2016, Fiji) Attended by representatives from regional NGOs comprising the BS. Resource persons: BS Australia, the CH-DRM Net, Japan. Prepared regional action plans based on the Sendai Framework for DRR. Agreed on the establishment of interim BSP.
- Solidified the BSP structure through subsequent activities. Hosted the World Disaster Reduction Day event, published PR brochures, participated in seminars, promoted communications through Facebook, etc.
- The First Pacific Workshop on the Hague Convention (November 2016, Fiji) Attended by government representatives from 9 Pacific Island Nations. Resource persons: The BS Headquarters, and Interim BSP. Explained the benefit of ratification of the Convention and responsibilities as a State Party. Expressed strong interest in DRR measures against natural disasters. Developed an action plan for ratification.

Fig. 22 Activities to Promote the Hague Convention and its Protocols in the Pacific region

made by numerous experts engaged in the heritage risk management. The Sendai Framework for DRR further these efforts, emphasizing the importance of DRR of cultural heritage, in particular, developing the cultural heritage DRR strategy of cultural heritage and institutions and integrate it into the DRR plan of national and local government (Fig. 21).

Promotion of the Hague Convention in the Pacific region

Based on this strategy, I first extended support first to the establishment of an NGO, and then approached member states' government in order to promote the Hague Convention in the Pacific (Fig. 22). As the first step, UNESCO organized a Preparatory Meeting for the Establishment of the Blue Shield Pasifika (BSP) in Suva in April 2016. Pacific island states have a small population and limited resources. They have been establishing a regional committee, instead of a national committee, to join the network of the international NGOs. The same approach was adopted to establish a regional organization of the Blue Shield. The Preparatory Meeting was attended by representatives from the Pacific NGOs that are associated with the four pillar agencies comprising the Blue Shield. The experts from the Blue Shield Australia, the CH-DRM Net, Japan and Japan ICOMOS attended the Meeting as resource persons. The Meeting concluded in agreeing to the establishment of an interim BSP.

In October 2016, Mr. Ronald Porcelli, attending today's symposium, join the UNESCO Office in Apia.



Mr. Porcelli was a graduate of UCLA School of Law specializing in international law and admitted to the bar. He undertook a four-month internship at the Secretariat of the Hague Convention at UNESCO headquarters. With his assistance, UNESCO in Apia organized the First Pacific Workshop on the Hague Convention. The Workshop was attended by government officials from nine Pacific island nations and Dr. Peter Stone, the Secretary-General of the Blue Shield as a resource person. At this Workshop, we introduced the Hague Convention in terms of its history, its improvement by the Second Protocol, and the benefit and obligation of a state party. The participants expressed strong interests in DRR measures against natural disasters with the absence of the ongoing conflicts within the region. Each participant developed an action plan at the Workshop for follow up actions in each country.



Fig. 23 BSP brochure

The interim BSP has been carrying out several activities, for example, the publication of brochure (Fig. 23), the organization of a thematic session “Build Back Better and Heritage Safeguarding” at the Pacific Platform for Disaster Risk Management that is held every year by the UN in the Pacific. They provided technical assistance for the strengthening DRR measures of museums and conducted awareness-raising for police and customs. In order to formally establish BSP, they have received the support letters from the four pillar organizations that consist of the BSP. They are preparing a formal application form and send the documents to the BS in the coming months for its formal establishment (Fig. 24).

The future BS activities include the BS General Assembly (Vienna, September 2017), the Symposium to be organized by the BS Australia (Canberra, January 2018). The Interim BSP intends to participate in these meetings, building its capacity and preparing a report.

A Way Forward

To summarize, the NGO in charge of the cultural heritage risk management was established and the first ever Pacific Workshop on the Hague Convention was held, deepening the understanding of the Hague Convention by officials and other stakeholders. Nonetheless, there are a lot of tasks to be tackled (Fig. 25). These tasks are: to lobby to encourage member states to integrate cultural heritage risk management strategy in their disaster risk management plans; to support capacity building activities for managers of cultural heritage and institutions, to support the institutional development of BSP, and to support the national process towards ratification of the Hague Convention in Pacific island states. In order to achieve these tasks, three frameworks that were mentioned before, namely, the Sendai Framework for DRR, the Blue Shield and the Hague Convention and its Protocols will continue to be promoted and used as

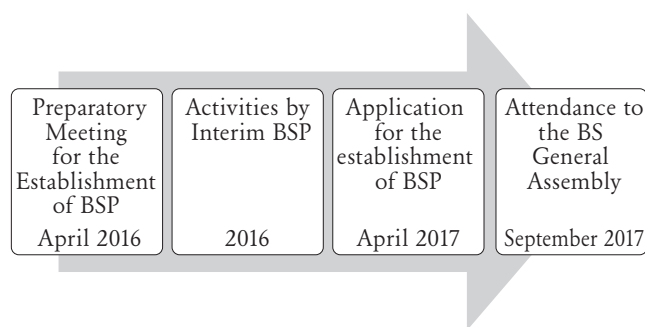


Fig. 24 Process of Establishment of the Blue Shield Pasifika (BSP)

- To promote comprehensive diffusion and utilization of the three international frameworks (the Sendai Framework for DRR, the BS, and the Hague Convention and its Protocols) and lobbying to encourage member states to integrate disaster reduction strategies for cultural heritage into their risk management plans
- To provide training to cultural organizations on disaster risk management for cultural heritage
- To support the institutional development of BSP
- To add the Pacific Island Nations to the State Parties of the Hague Convention and its Second Protocol

Fig. 25 Future Tasks

an integrated tool.

To conclude, I would like to underline that the Blue Shield provides an ideal tool as a framework to coordinate the cultural heritage disaster risk reduction efforts in a flexible manner. They hold the great potential addressing the multi-hazards risks to the cultural heritage and institutions. This symposium will provide an opportunity for us to listen to diverse projects and activities of the Blue Shield. It is my hope that this symposium will allow us to exchange information and provide a way forward to develop a Blue Shield that would meet the specificities of Japan. Thank you for your attention.



Recent interest in Blue Shield (BS) globally and in Japan

From the recommendations of the International expert meeting on cultural heritage and disaster resilient communities within 2015 UN-WCDRR (Sendai and Tokyo)

Kanefusa Masuda

Visiting Researcher,
Promotion Office, CH-DRM Network, NICH



Thank you for the introduction. I would like to provide a report from the perspective of Blue Shield on the issue of cultural heritage disaster prevention in Japan in recent years.

Twenty-two years ago, in 1995, a major earthquake occurred in Kobe. It hit the city from directly below, claiming 6,000 lives. Many fires occurred, killing 500 people (Fig. 1). This earthquake is said to be the beginning of a period of strong earthquake activity in the Japanese archipelago that will last 50 or 60 years until the next occurrence of the Nankai and Tonankai earthquakes. So it is possible that powerful earthquakes could from directly below in inland areas, anytime and anywhere. Ten years after that, in 2005, the United Nations Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction was held in Kobe, with UNESCO's participation. Discussions were held on disaster risk reduction for cultural heritage sites, and on how to protect cultural heritage sites, museums, libraries, and archives in various parts of the

world from earthquakes and fire. International recommendations were made.

In 2011, the Great East Japan Earthquake hit. Immediately after the earthquakes, fires occurred. The earthquake caused a tsunami, and triggered complex disasters that involved accidents at nuclear power stations (Fig. 2).

Most cultural heritage sites in Japan are made of wood and paper, and can be restored in the case of collapse during an earthquake. However, if burned in a fire associated with an earthquake, their value is lost, and national treasures and important cultural assets cannot be reconstructed. The main hall of Kiyomizu Temple, which is a national treasure in Kyoto, could burn down if there was a fire caused by earthquakes on the street, below Kiyomizu slope. Local people, if they have more fire hydrants, can help to put out fires in their homes, and at the same time, protect the cultural heritage site (Fig. 3). So we are also taking measures.



Fig. 1 Jan.17, 1995 Kobe Earthquake
→2005 UN-WCDRR Kobe



Fig. 2 Sea Oil Fire (Natori city, Miyagi prefecture)

On the surface of the planet, there are many seismic zones around the boundaries of tectonic plates. Approximately one-quarter of all world heritage sites are located close to one of these (Fig. 4). Protecting cultural heritage sites common to mankind from natural disasters such as earthquakes is an international social issue. Japan is a developed country, located in an active seismic zone. So we expect it to make a major contribution to the world in terms of crisis management measures for cultural heritage sites.

Italy has the largest number of world heritage sites, and recently there have been earthquakes there. Fig. 5 is Ferrara, a cultural heritage city. And here again, it is necessary to take comprehensive risk measures in order to reduce the risk to architecture, art pieces, museums, libraries, archives, and so on. After a disaster, we require relief and reconstruction. UNESCO's Blue Shield activities hope to establish an international network to accomplish this.

In March 2015, four years after the Great East Japan Earthquake, the next conference for disaster risk reduction after Kobe was held in Sendai (Fig. 6). Experts from

various cultural heritage fields, including UNESCO and international NGOs such as ICOM and ICOMOS, attended this event and provided recommendations to the world on a disaster prevention plan for the next 15 years (Fig. 7). At the time of this conference, a major hurricane occurred in the Republic of Vanuatu in the South Pacific, causing damage to cultural heritage sites.

These recommendations have four major pillars. As was discussed before, first we need to have a good understanding of the disaster risks. Second, we have to perform good disaster risk management. Third, the communities should have resilience against disasters, and preparations for disasters should be considered an investment in the future. Finally, if there is a disaster or accident, effective emergency measures are necessary. At the stage of restoring, rebuilding, and reconstructing after a disaster, a recommendation was made to "Build Back Better", or in other words, to recover to a level superior than that before.

To this end, at the national level and the regional level, and also the international level, 34 recommendations were made in detail. These recommendations

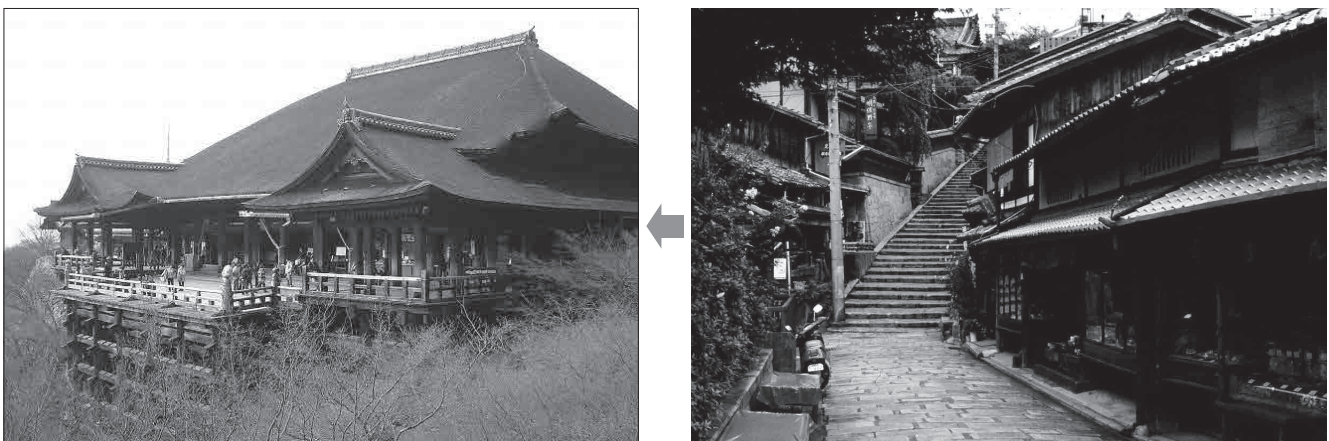


Fig. 3 Vulnerability of Earthquake Fires at World Heritage Sites in Wooden Cities and Kiyomizu Temple, Kyoto

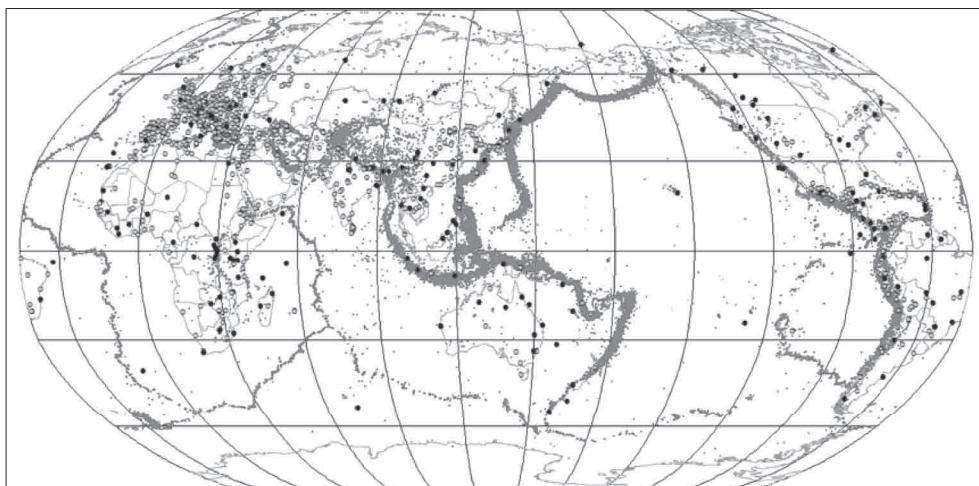


Fig. 4 World Heritage sites located on the Earthquake Zones
 ● : Earthquake, ● : Cultural and Mixed Heritage, ○ : Natural Heritage

cover all of the diverse cultural heritage areas, including moveable, immovable, and intangible assets, and diverse man-made and natural disasters (Fig. 8).

Section 5 of the second pillar is a recommendation for the government of each country to support the creation of a network like Blue Shield on a domestic and international level, as preparation for disaster prevention. Today's symposium can be said to be one response by Japan to the international recommendations.

Now, I would like to show you a short video. This was made by Japan for an international conference. You can see the use of Blue Shield in Western Europe.

Various forms of culture and cultural heritage are important for supporting the development of a social economy that focuses on people. However, it seems that every year, precious cultural heritage sites around the world are being lost due to disasters.

On March 11, 2011, the Great East Japan Earthquake occurred. The earthquake and the tsunami that followed left 15,000 people dead and 2,600 people unaccounted for. It has been four years since then. Many people still live in temporary housing. There are many people who cannot return to their hometowns.

The disaster affected our cultural heritage, damaging



Fig. 5 Ferrara, World Heritage site

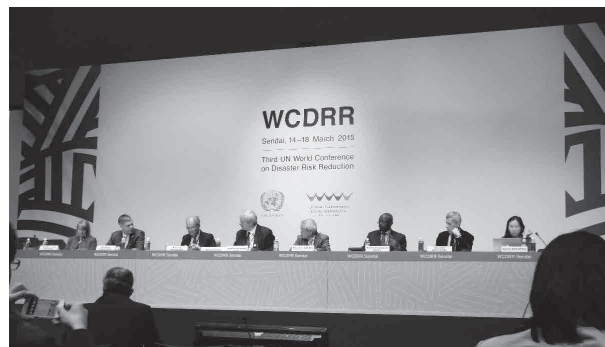


Fig. 6 International Expert Meeting on Cultural Heritage and Disaster Resilient Communities within 3rd UN-WCDRR March 2015 (Tokyo/Sendai)
Vanuatu was attacked by Large Hurricane Pam during the meeting.

744 cultural assets protected under the Act on the Protection of Cultural Properties in 19 prefectures. But in fact, even more cultural assets were affected. In Kesennuma City, in Miyagi Prefecture, the areas that faced the bay were hit by the tsunami. One of seven registered cultural assets buildings was washed away, and six were seriously damaged. Owners who had once given up on preservation are now being supported by funds from local people and domestic and foreign private funds, and are waiting for the day upon which they can make a full-scale recovery.

In Katori, Chiba Prefecture, earthquake tremors and liquefaction damage spread to a national important preservation district of historic buildings. However, the local people of the area, in the year that the earthquake occurred, held their festivals as usual and prayed for reconstruction. These efforts were performed by the district in unity, and received substantial support from both inside and outside Japan. What was the driving force for the behavior of the people?

The Great East Japan Earthquake not only affected the buildings, the scenic sites, and other tangible assets, but also intangible assets, such as annual events and festivals. The tools, costumes, and masks, etc., required for dances were washed away by the tsunami, and many of the bearers of cultural tradition lost their lives. Some villages also broke apart as people moved away following evacuation. However, because the festivals were a shared culture common to the local community, there were many people who wanted to bring them back. Volunteers from nearby towns and villages, and people who shared the same culture made repairs and renovations to the damaged tools and lost costumes, thanks to support from private funds and private companies, and the people prayed, played, and danced once again. Such

intangible heritage assets support the rebuilding of the mind, and tangible heritage assets support the inheritance of memories, and thereby they brought vitality to the rebuilding of life and the town recovery efforts.

After the Great East Japan Earthquake, through the cooperation of industry, academia, and government, a total of 6,811 people in Japan participated in the rescue, first aid, and temporary storage of movable heritage assets in 90 places in the four Tohoku prefectures afflicted by the disaster. In addition, a large number of architects assessed the damage to over 4,000 buildings. In what way are we able to maintain and expand this network? This is a major challenge that we are faced with.

Every region in the world faces disasters. Culture is vital for people in disaster-afflicted areas to regain their ties, and to tackle the rebuilding of life. Therefore, with an eye on the various heritage assets that are rooted in our lives, it is important to protect these with the positioning of a local and national disaster prevention plan. Since peacetime, the cultivation of human resources, the promotion of research, the building of networks, and the construction of partnerships have been needed. It is also incredibly important to expand cooperative relationships among the international community through initiatives such as Blue Shield activities. Cultural heritage is the foundation for the construction of disaster-resistant town planning. Focusing the light on such special features, protecting cultural heritage assets in surrounding areas, and passing these along safely to the next generation, is now required.

Our experiences with the Great East Japan Earthquake, as you have seen, have revealed that cultural heritage, particularly intangible cultural heritage, as memories common to a community, gives power to

The priority areas of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 – 2030,	
Priority 1:	Understanding Disaster Risk
Priority 2:	Strengthening Disaster Risk Governance to Manage Disaster Risk At the National and/or Local Levels, At the Global and/or Regional Levels
Priority 3:	Investing in Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience, At the level of National / Local, World / Regional
Priority 4:	Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response, and to “ Build Back Better ” in recovery, rehabilitation, and reconstruction, At the both levels

Fig. 7 Recommendations of International Expert Meeting on Cultural Heritage and Disaster Resilient Communities (1)

Cultural heritage: Wide Fields	
•	Immovable (monuments, sites, etc)
•	Movable (objects in museums, etc)
•	Urban areas and landscapes
•	Archives and libraries
•	Intangible (traditions, festivals,etc)
Different types of hazards	
earthquakes, tsunamis, floods, drought, famine, disease, landslides, fire, and deliberate acts of vandalism, conflict and terrorism . Disasters are often complex with vulnerability to one type of hazard increased due to the occurrence of another.	
2.5 National governments should support national and international networks such as Blue Shield and other networking platforms.	

Fig. 8 Recommendations of International Expert Meeting on Cultural Heritage and Disaster Resilient Communities (2)



Fig. 9 Fire Hydrant of World Heritage “The Historic Villages of Shirakawa-go and Gokayama”

the reconstruction of communities after a disaster. In Japan, we have many disaster risk reduction measures for cultural heritage assets, such as Shirakawa village (Fig. 9). But we still have many challenges that will cut across various fields when even more powerful earthquakes occur. We would like to establish a Blue Shield national committee, one of UNESCO's international efforts. We would also like to ask for your support and cooperation, so that we can make more comprehensive preparations.

Thank you for listening.



Activities of Blue Shield Netherlands



Andrea Kieskamp

Vice President, Blue Shield Netherlands

First of all, on behalf of the Board of Blue Shield Netherlands, I want to express my gratitude for the organization of this conference to invite Blue Shield Netherlands to share its experiences. And a special thanks to Mr. Atsuro Tamura and Mr. Kanefusa Masuda of the National Institute for Cultural Heritage. And I want to thank Yuki for her excellent service and patience.

As a national Blue Shield committee, it feels like a privilege to have our headquarters in the Hague, city of peace and justice; being the cradle of several international peace treaties.

And here you see the Peace Palace in miniature (Fig. 1) – in our tourist attraction Madurodam. Here you find our small country even smaller.

But let's take a short look at the international initiatives on the protection of cultural heritage that eventually led to the Hague Convention, the establishment of the Blue Shield, and the establishment of the national Blue Shield Committees. But, first of all, I would like to show you a small film about the Hague, our residence. <<Video broadcasting>>



Fig. 1

Just a little bit of promotion. We hope you all come to the Netherlands.

The first international conference took place in 1899 and was convened on the initiative of Tsar Nicholas II of Russia (Fig. 2). First aim was the reduction or limitation of armaments. The final acts were signed by the delegates of 27 countries, including Japan and the Netherlands. A second conference took place in 1907, initiated by the President of the United States, Theodore Roosevelt. Along with the Geneva Conventions, the final Hague conventions were among the first formal statements of the laws of war and war crimes in the body of secular international law. Unfortunately, the two conventions could not prevent the devastations of the First World War. They did not apply to those who were not a party to it.

The lawyer, writer, painter, and archaeologist,



Fig. 2

Nicholas Roerich born in Russia and immigrated to the United States, was a dedicated activist for the cause of preserving art and architecture during times of war (Fig. 3). In 1929, he started a project for the protection of cultural values. And it was not until 1935 that the Roerich Pact was signed in Washington by 22 American states. The Banner of Peace is a distinctive sign for the identification of protected objects. It was also approved (Fig. 4). It was designed by Roerich as the synthesis of all arts, sciences, and faiths, within the circle of culture. Although the Roerich Pact had no global impact, it stimulated more concrete plans in the protection of cultural heritage.

In 1939, the Dutch government came up with a draft for “the International Convention for the Protection of Monuments and Works of Art in the Event of Armed Conflict”. A diplomatic conference was talked about, but later war broke out. The Second World War came as a shock. A large quantity of cultural property was pilaged, looted, and annihilated (Fig. 5). After the atrocities committed in World War II, UNESCO, founded in 1945, was the appropriate forum for conducting the preservation of world heritage since their Charters stated responsibility for this.

In 1948, UNESCO found the Dutch Government willing to take the initiative to establish a new Convention. It took until 1944 for the first multilateral treaty universally dedicated to ensuring the protection of cultural property during armed conflict. Between April 21 and May 14 in 1954, meetings were held in the Hague, and this resulted in “the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict”, often referred to as the Hague Convention 1954 (Fig. 6).

Main components of the convention: Elaborate definition of ‘cultural property’, including movable property, immovable property, buildings where movable property is preserved, and monumental centers, city or historical neighborhoods; General protection: all property defined benefits from protection. In times of peace, states undertake action to protect cultural property against foreseeable effects and armed conflict; Special protection: in case of conflict, no military use is made of the objective in question; Protection of transport of cultural property: under certain conditions immunity for transport of cultural property is guaranteed against destruction, seizure, and capture; Personnel ensuring protection: to be respected and to be allowed access to the cultural property for which they are responsible; Extending the application to non-contracting parties: even if you are not a party to the treaty, you are bound by it.

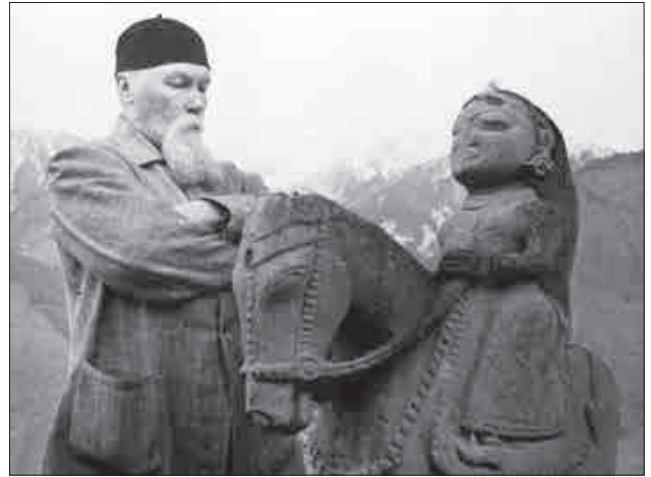


Fig. 3 Nicholas Roerich (1874-1947)

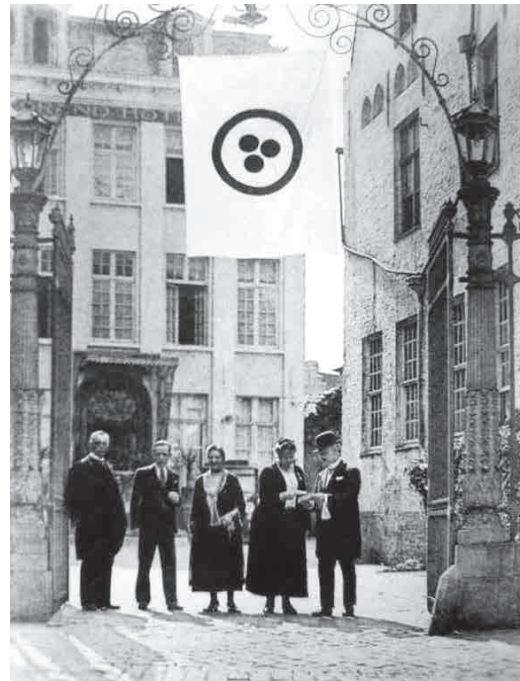


Fig. 4 Delegates of the second international conference dedicated to the Roerich Pact, Bruges, August 1932 (Above them hangs a Banner of Peace)



Fig. 5 American soldiers Discover a work of Art looted by the Nazis (National Archives)

These agreements on paper prove to be difficult in practice. Armed conflicts changed in nature during the decades that followed the adoption of the Convention. Special protection proved a problem because of increasing politicization resulting from the Cold War and the tension that affected relations between the states. Another reason it did not work was that fact that in reality the states were not altogether that willing to divert roads or not to use ports near these special protected properties in the event of conflict. UNESCO showed initiative to intervene between warring countries many times. It expressed its concern but also tried to stimulate to seeking a solution for ensuring the protection of human life as well as educational, scientific, and cultural institutions, and natural heritage, threatened by the conflict.

Real life started to play a part in what was agreed upon in the Convention. The war in former Yugoslavia represents a turning point with systematic mutual destruction of the other's heritage. It was also an important factor in the adoption of the Second Protocol. The destruction of the Mostar bridge (Fig. 7) and the bombing of Dubrovnik historical city, on the list of World Heritage of Humanity, have become symbols of the total neglect of the protection of and disregard for cultural property. What it showed was the fact that the destruction had become intentional, and that the destruction of culture had actually been the objective. It was not a question of destroying the property itself

but destroying community life. These destructive acts were aimed at small communities and their religious life. And so you see, it is all about war. Not so much about natural disaster. But we will get there.

The Yugoslav Armed Force were aware of the provisions of the convention and the protocol, because Yugoslavia was very active, not only in dissemination but also in the reaffirmation and development of humanitarian law. This made clear that the knowledge of the provisions of the Hague Convention is not sufficient: political willingness is also a necessity for its implementation.

Other conflicts like the First Gulf War and the conflict in Afghanistan in the late 1980s showed the pillage and theft in archaeological sites and museums, and the trafficking of all sorts of historical treasures in countries involved. It called for a second protocol to the Hague Convention to fill loopholes and insufficiencies, especially in regard to introducing sanctions for those who violate provisions concerning the protection of cultural property. The second protocol was agreed upon in 1999.

You already heard about the pillars of Blue Shield, so I will go a little bit faster to talk about the Blue Shield network. At the moment we have 26 national Blue Shield committees, and 25 national Blue Shield committees under construction. The activities of these committees are building an expert network and a database of in total 450 experts worldwide; assessments, fact



Fig. 6 The Red Cross for cultural property – Hague Convention, 21 April – 14 May 1954



Fig. 7 Mostar bridge

finding missions, for example in Libya, Egypt, Mali; help putting together watch lists and no-strike lists; rescue missions—I will tell you later about it; alerts of crisis, and share information with national committees.

Some points of concern for the Blue Shield network: Blue Shield sets the terms for official recognition, as a Blue Shield committee (Fig. 8). It preserves a uniform formation of all committees, but it is also rather limited, for not every country can deliver a representative from either one of the four pillars. The formation may be uniform, but the implementation of the Hague Convention is different in each country. Therefore, not all committees have the same mission statement, means, and level of responsibility. For example, in the Netherlands the official side of implementing the Hague Convention is being covered by the government, without the Blue Shield committee being involved. We are just 'extras' in that respect.

Blue Shield Netherlands was established in 2003. It is a foundation, not an association with members. It has no legal status, and has a voluntary board. We have an advisory board: National cultural heritage organizations; the Prince Claus Fund; Heritage for Peace; ICOM; CMIC, our Civil and Military Interaction Command, from our Ministry of Defense; the Netherlands National Commission for UNESCO, the Ministry of Education, Culture, and Sciences.

Some points of concern for our national committee: Blue Shield Netherlands has no paid secretariat, and

has a voluntary board. Success depends on the amount of time they can and want to invest. We depend too much on enthusiastic board members. Having no structural funding is something holding us back from getting active. The lack of structural income makes it more difficult to present a stable organization. There is no actual conflict or disaster nearby, so government support is not a priority, especially in times of budget cuts. Our main activities focus on awareness raising in the heritage sector and supporting joint projects with heritage institutions and other organizations.

Since our establishment, we have faced several natural hazards in Europe and Asia. While our national committee was under construction, there was a flooding in Prague, Czech Republic. The request reached Blue Shield Netherlands under construction, via the Dutch Ambassador to the Czech Republic. He contacted the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sciences, and they contacted Blue Shield Netherlands. We were sent on a fact finding mission, together with colleagues from the government agency for cultural heritage. The Dutch Government transferred an amount of money to Blue Shield Netherlands, to arrange for needed equipment, material, shipping etc (Fig. 9). Blue Shield Netherlands made sure it got there, and it was properly distributed.

But, not everybody was happy. Blue Shield Netherlands had more information than the people there. They felt overruled and intimidated, for they were still in shock and not ready to accept help. All



Fig. 8 1996 International Committee of the Blue Shield (ICBS)



Fig. 9 2002 Prague, Czech Republic

turned out, and it turned out to be a grand project to get more neighboring countries involved in emergency preparedness. That is still going on today. It is maintained and practiced.

The second natural disaster was in our own country, in 2002, in our small city Wijk bij Duurstede (Fig. 10). The request for help reached us via the regular archives network. We were able to alert our network for salvage, storage, freeze drying facilities that were needed. Everybody was happy. The request was done by the organization that was victim, and they wanted and accepted help.

In 2004, a tsunami took place during the night following Christmas Day in Banda Aceh, Indonesia (Fig. 11). We were contacted via our personal network about

the problems, but it was made clear that no help was wanted from the Netherlands because of our colonial past.

Then in 2009, an earthquake took place in L'Aquila, Italy (Fig. 12). The request for help was received by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. We were starting to get organized, the government wanted to fund an operation, when talks were cancelled. Italy just withdrew its request for help and decided it had enough experts to do the job themselves.

In the same year, 2009, there was a collapse of the Cologne archives in Germany (Fig. 13). Blue Shield Netherlands offered our assistance to Blue Shield International, and Blue Shield Netherlands and Blue Shield France supported Blue Shield International.



Fig. 10 2002 Wijk bij Duurstede, the Netherlands



Fig. 11 2004 Banda Aceh, Indonesia



Fig. 12 2009 Aquila, Italy



Fig. 13 2009 Cologne, Germany

First we were welcomed to do a fact finding mission. After that, the German contacts decided when people could come and help, where they were to stay, how many of them at a time they could accommodate, and what their work would be. It was a very successful operation: a little over 120 people went with Blue Shield to Cologne on a rescue mission. The Germans had everything fully under control and well arranged. All we had to do was show up.

It proved difficult for some of our experts to accept that just simple activities were wanted at the time, or that in this specific instance the specialist expertise was not wanted. Also, volunteers were not sensitive to the stress of the personnel of the archives. There was a lot of tension in the workplace (Fig. 14). People were unsure about their jobs, since a lot of the archives seemed to have been lost. People were tired and gutted that this had happened. Some of the volunteers were rather upset that their suggestions to improve restoration work were not welcomed. Blue Shield learned in the evaluation that it did have a very extensive network it could fall back on, but it did not communicate enough with volunteers after they got back from the mission. It was more or less over as everybody stepped off the bus.

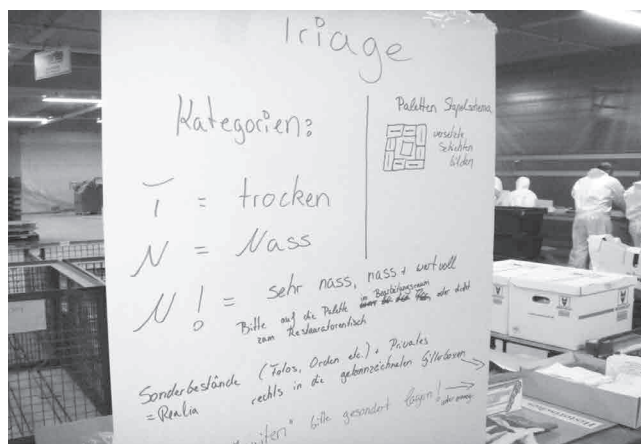


Fig. 14



Fig. 15

Then in 2011 there was a CMIC operation (Fig. 15). A huge training in civil and military operation in the Hague. It was usually focused on humanitarian aid, but in this case cultural heritage was also included in the scenario. Blue Shield delegates were to play the role of the heritage workers, not wanting to do with the military.

So the conclusions were, how did requests for help reach Blue Shield Netherlands? That was either the Dutch Embassy, their own heritage network, the Blue Shield personal network, or Blue Shield International. And what were the keys to success (Fig. 16). In general, for Blue Shield national committees: even if you have no legal status, build and cherish your network, work on their commitment, take care people will recognize you as an important player in the field and know where to find you. A good central committee in the country concerned in case of a natural hazard is very important. In case of an emergency, if you send volunteers, make sure what their role will be. Experienced professionals sometimes find it difficult to accept that they cannot fully expose their expertise. Make them aware of the fact that the task might not be very satisfactory to themselves, but it is for the party that sent out the request. Take into account that you are part of a larger organization. Do not go for your own profit, but for the people that need help. Forget about your ego. Inform and prepare your volunteers well. Manage their expectations. People tend to do more than what is expected from them, but this may cause frictions and works counter-productive. Gather information on the local situation. Be sure that the people concerned are properly informed and ready to receive help. Make sure you know on what level agreements are made and if the ones occupied with the field work are also informed. Make volunteers aware of the stressful situation for the professionals in the affected area. Prepare volunteers to be respectful towards the area and the people they work with. Respect the approach of the host country, and do not interfere if you are not asked to. Organize a proper evaluation that can be used afterwards to make help

Effective coordination by the country/region/institution where the disaster took place

Blue Shield:

- Gather information on the local situation
- Guide your volunteers:
 - extensive briefing
 - how to behave: respect, no ego
 - expectation management
 - 1 volunteer: first point of call
 - follow-up

Fig. 16 Key to success

even better in case of a new emergency. And aftercare, do not forget the volunteers after they have left the affected area. Keeping them informed is important for their commitment. And one volunteer is the point of call for all volunteers, and responsible for their work.

So, what can the Blue Shield national committees do? Apart from the expert network, awareness raising among heritage professionals and the public is very important. Two inspiring examples. Blue Shield Norway reissued a set of “Cultural Property Awareness Playing Cards”, to teach the basics of Cultural Property Protection (Fig. 17). The goal was awareness raising among military sent on a mission. These cards were originally made for US military during Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan, and Exercise Bright Star in Egypt. A traveling photo exhibition for the public space as a partner of the Netherlands Commission for UNESCO, aimed at awareness raising amongst the general public (Fig. 18). The exhibition traveled in several European countries.



Fig. 17



Fig. 18



Fig. 19 3D scanning Hippolytus church, Groningen

The northern province of Groningen is facing regular earthquakes due to the extraction of natural gas in the region. Many buildings, including beautiful historical churches are damaged. Blue Shield initiated a project on 3D scanning and cultural property protection with Delft University of Technology, Museum Mauritshuis in the Hague, and the Foundation of Churches in the province of Groningen (Fig. 19). 3D scanning makes it possible to create a fully 3D representation of a building, colors included, that can be used for restoration. Students are asked to invent applications requested by heritage institutions. The Mauritshuis, for example, housing a wonderful collection of 17th century art, is experimenting with 3D prints of paintings. It is an interesting project in which scientists and heritage professionals try to find solutions for the protection of cultural heritage.

Blue Shield Netherlands is welcoming Japan to the international Blue Shield family. Since the establishment of ANCBS (Association of National Committees

of the Blue Shield), which will no longer exist as soon as the new statutes of Blue Shields are approved at the General Assembly in September this year, the international network was not very strong. Blue Shield Netherlands took the initiative to organize a meeting for all organizing committees in Milan, at the ICOM General Conference (Fig. 20). Our goal was to exchange ideas, learn from each other, initiate partnerships, and help each other if possible. The meeting was chaired by Robyn Ridett (Fig. 21), right on the photo, Blue Shield Australia, and member of the interim board of Blue Shield International. On the left, Angela Dellebeke, Secretary-General of Blue Shield Netherlands, opening the network and inspiration meeting. Peter Stone (Fig. 22), UNESCO chair holder in Cultural Property Protection and Peace, of the University of Newcastle, and Chair of Blue Shield UK, and Secretary-General of Blue Shield, informed the participants of recent developments and plans for Blue Shield: Developing a strategic plan; Creation of a new website, containing

templates for each national committee to present itself; Application of the interim board for Cultural Property Protection Fund, this might generate the means for the installation of a paid secretariat for Blue Shield.

Over 50 delegates from 17 national committees were present and shared experiences, good practices and ideas, in sub-groups during the meeting (Fig. 23). The groups came back with conclusions, ideas, and recommendations for the interim board. The most important recommendations: creation of a new website with an effective online platform for all national committees; draw up and distribute a transparent procedure on how the approval of a national committee application is processed, who is responsible for what and what is the response time; organize a communication team or working group, to improve communication within the entire network and get all committees involved by sending regular updates about all their activities; and discuss a request for structural financial support from the founding fathers ICOM, ICOMOS, ICA, and



Fig. 20



Fig. 22



Fig. 21



Fig. 23



Fig. 24

IFLA (Fig. 24).

Japan and the Blue Shield network, Japan can play an important role within the network of national committees. Other countries, for example, can learn from the expertise on earthquakes. On the other hand, Japan might learn from the expertise of other countries. For example, the Netherlands in the field of water management. With the meeting in Milan, we hoped to have started a trend. A trend of more interaction between the national committees. Of sharing each other's experiences, best practices, and expertise. I hope Japan will be represented at the Blue Shield General Assembly in Vienna in September. I hope it will join our email group. You have seen that in a lot of countries, a Blue Shield national committee is under construction. Lebanon just joined this group, and a few countries in Latin America will also join. And I think the next



Fig. 25

ICOM General Conference in Kyoto in 2019 is an excellent opportunity to organize a joint program for all committees, as a follow-up after the successful meeting in Milan (Fig. 25). And I sincerely hope ICOM Japan will join. In this first network meeting, we informed each other about our activities. If Blue Shield keeps its promise, and a brand new website is launched, we will be better informed about worldwide activities of the national committees. So in Kyoto, we could focus on an important theme in this era of climate change: the Blue Shield and natural disaster relief. The Netherlands is at your service. Thank you very much.

References

- [Fig. 1] Available at:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v64HUf7oXO4>
 [Fig. 5] Available at:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h0iL7k_R0LM



Disaster Risk Reduction Guatemala, Latin America and the Caribbean

Samuel Franco Arce

President, ICOM-LAC Regional Alliance, Guatemala



Good afternoon.

First of all I would like to express my great gratitude and appreciation for inviting me and giving me the privilege to travel from the other side of the planet, to this beautiful country, to share some of our experiences in Latin America. I would like to divide this presentation into three sections. First of all I would like to talk a little bit about the members of ICOM in Latin America, who are 19 different countries, that include most South American countries, that you can see on the screen (Fig. 1). I am from Guatemala, and am based there. We are part of the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Alliance (LAC). Those are the countries.

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------|
| • Argentina | • El Salvador |
| • Barbados | • Guatemala |
| • Bolivia | • Haiti |
| • Brasil | • Mexico |
| • Chile | • Panama |
| • Dominican Republic | • Paraguay |
| • Colombia | • Peru |
| • Costa Rica | • Uruguay |
| • Ecuador | • Venezuela |

Fig. 1 ICOM-LAC



Fig. 2



Fig. 3

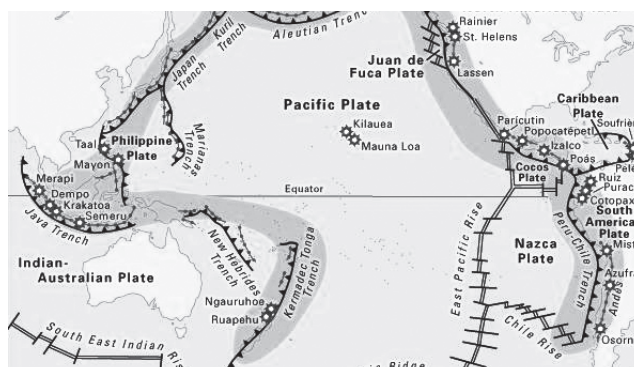


Fig. 4

Even though we are far away, we may be very close in some common problems that we share. We are part of the famous Ring of Fire, which is a volcanic area (Fig. 2). I would like to show some different views from this geographical area. On this one, we can see the different plates that are located in your country and Guatemala (Fig. 3). For those who might like to know where Guatemala is, it is right in the middle of Central America, just here. We are in between the Cocos Plate, the North American Plate, the Caribbean Plate, and the South American Plate. We are in between the four plates (Fig. 4). Guatemala is the number four country, according to the United Nations University list of endangered countries. I would like to mention that the

Pacific holds the number one place. Vanuatu is in the most endangered. Tonga is number two. Number three is the Philippines. Number four is Guatemala. And in the top 10 there are three other countries from Central America, Nicaragua, El Salvador, and Costa Rica. And other countries in the top 10 are the Salomon Islands, and Papua New Guinea. So we are talking about the same areas.

Those are the most endangered parts, taking into the account of the geographical position, and also the development of the infrastructure. Because most of the funds for risk reduction activities in these countries, at least in Latin America, are originally destined for education or the development infrastructure of the countries. Unfortunately, due to all these emergencies that we have, these funds are diverted to emergency. So that is why we are always poor. It is not that we do not want to progress. The money comes, but it has to go to these emergency cases that we have every year, or very often.

I would like to give you an idea, first about volcanic events, like eruptions (Fig. 5). Historically, they have also been in the same area, with the exception of Alaska,

in the United States. But mainly the Tambora volcano, Krakatoa in Indonesia, and these two in Alaska, then Colombia, Philippines. This is Guatemala. We have 108 thousand square kilometers, and 33 volcanos. Five of them are active all of the time. This is the common view every day, we wake up like this every day. This is where I live (Fig. 6). It is the Old Guatemala city. This is called La Antigua Guatemala, which means the Old Guatemala city, because it was established in 1531 by the Spanish. It was the first Spanish city built in Mesoamerica. The capital of the Central America Federation, before El Salvador, and Nicaragua were named. But it was a unique country. All the way from Guatemala to Panama. And this was the main city, which is nestled among three volcanos (Fig. 7). This one is always active. This is the Fire volcano. Last week, it was creating eruptions beyond 5,000 meters above sea level. And they are forecasting that this year it will be more active. We have to live with it, and be prepared.

Because of this volcanic situation, this former city had a big earthquake in 1772, so it had to be moved to another valley, to where Guatemala City is now

- 1815, Mount Tambora, Indonesia
- 1883, Krakatoa, Indonesia
- 1912, Novarupta, Alaska
- 1980, Mount Saint Helens, USA
- 1985, Mount Ruiz, Colombia
- 1991, Mount Pinatubo, Phillippines

Fig. 5 Major volcanic events



Fig. 6



Fig. 7

currently. This still remains. You can see the remains of the earthquake. This is the activity we see normally (Fig. 8). It is beautiful, from the romantic point of view. We are better to say it is beautiful, instead of dangerous, because it can be such a scene. This photo was taken last month.

Also, earthquakes are created because of this position among the plates. Here, there is also some history of some of the most significant earthquakes (Fig. 9). Just in Guatemala we have 200 seismic shakes a day. Of course they are all under one degree on the Richter scale, but it is always shaking. We had a big one in 1976. 23,000 people died. It was one of the biggest ones. The biggest one was in Peru, in 1970. It was 7.9. And then Chile, is another country that has 8.3 or 8.8, almost reaches 9.2 on the Richter scale. But those are all countries in the Ring of Fire. So these are some of the quake casualties, and the years. In Haiti these were the casualties. And then the list of other countries. This is very high risk, moderate, and low danger. But basically the whole Ring of Fire is very active in terms of seismic movement (Fig. 10). Fig. 11 is where Guatemala is located, here. You see this is a fault that goes through the middle of the country. Here is El Salvador, all of Central America. You have the Cocos Plate, Caribbean Plate, the North American Plate, and the South American Plate. There is a lot of tension



Fig. 8

- 1939, Chile, 8.3 Richter scale, 28,000
- 1960, Chile, 9.5 Richter scale, 1,500
- 1964, Alaska, 9.2 Richter scale, 140
- 1970 Peru, 7.9 Richter scale, 70,000
- 1972, Nicaragua, 6.2 Richter scale, 19,320
- 1976 Guatemala, 7.6 Richter scale, 23,000
- 1985, Mexico, 8.1 Richter scale, 5,000
- 1999, Colombia, 6.4 Richter scale, 1,900
- 2010, Chile, 8.8 Richter scale, 525
- 2011, Japan, 9.0 Richter scale, 16,000
- 2015, Ecuador, 7.8 Richter scale, 700

Fig. 9 Earthquakes

between those plates. And they say almost every 50 or 60 years these quakes are bound to happen. The last big one was in 1976, so we are about to have the next one. So we are always prepared for the next one. This gives another view. You see the fault really goes here, it is really marked. These are some of the remains of the 1772 earthquake, the city has been rebuilt, Antigua

Riesgo sísmico en América Latina

América Latina y el Caribe están entre las regiones más expuestas a terremotos en el mundo



Fig. 10

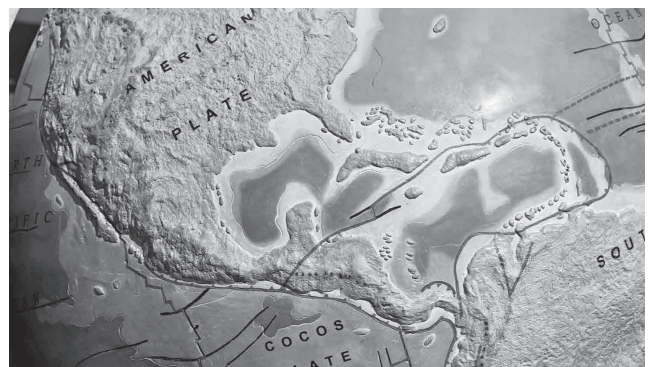


Fig. 11



Fig. 12

Guatemala (Fig. 12).

Other problems we have are more recent, because of climate change. But management of human costs, such as throwing trash, these are plastic bottles and remains of trash. Unfortunately we have that bad habit, to throw trash in the rivers. We have lived through several tropical storms in the last ten years. And this can give you an idea. Of course we have 30-35 hour continuous rain. But these rains wash away all the garbage. So this garbage blocks the bridges (Fig. 13). This is a bridge that was totally blocked by garbage. This is a human cause, combined with a natural disaster, but this could be mitigated if we were more careful about our cultural habits about throwing garbage.

In 1976, this earthquake was really badly managed, when 23,000 people died. For example, we have colonial art, because of the Spanish historical heritage that we have. And a lot of these churches or buildings were collapsed because of the earthquake, but some pieces could have been saved—some wooden pieces and objects, or statues (Fig. 14). But, unfortunately, by 1976 we were very inexperienced. And the response

agency, which includes the army, the Red Cross, the firemen—but usually the army bulldozers that take care of demolishing. So a lot of this art that could have been saved by demolishing them, because there was no guidance, no knowledge about how to handle cultural heritage by the army. It was not a bad intention, but of course human lives are a priority. This is also from the same earthquake. But the army, for saving people's lives, came with a good intention, demolished the walls, but did not take care to save objects, like they did for example in Nepal in the 2015 earthquake. A lot of the wooden objects were saved. This was also the 1976 earthquake.

And then the earthquake in Haiti in 2010, for example, which was a very big one (Fig. 15). Here they had the intervention of the Smithsonian, ICCROM, and a few agencies. And a lot of objects were restored. Fig. 16 is the team from the Smithsonian. You can see Corine Wegener, who was here a couple of years ago, or last year. The Smithsonian people were a team that did a very good job in Haiti. That was the first time that Haiti got international aid and response. Unfortunately



Fig. 13



Fig. 14



Fig. 15

all the funds were overfunded, and it was a mess how to manage all the funds, because they were coming from different NGOs in the world, but who would manage them, where would they go, into which bank account. So a lot of the funds were mismanaged, because of this administrative mess, which is very important after a disaster.

Going back to tropical storms, we had hurricanes in the Caribbean that also affect the mainland, like Mitch, Stan, Agatha, those are the names of the hurricanes that we have had during the last years. Fig. 17 is the history of some of the most significant tropical storms, even in the United States. Hurricane Katrina really affected New Orleans. Stan in Mexico and Central America. And Mitch, which was also very deadly. Because they start in the Caribbean, but they come to the mainland, mainly in Central America and they fade in Mexico. Sometimes they go all the way to Florida.

Rain and tropical storms damage our pre-Spanish sites. You know in Central America we had the Mayan civilization in Mexico and Guatemala. Fig. 18 is Tikal, which I will show a wider picture later. This picture



was taken last year. We did a risk assessment exercise there, and this is the main temple, which is deteriorating because of rain and wind. Those are agents that really damage stones. You might think that stones would resist many years. This are from 250 years after Christ, but now they are getting really damaged because of rain and winds. One big problem is also that the roots of the trees are very short, and do not support the wind. So sometimes they fall on archaeological objects, and



Fig. 16

- 1976, Vargas, Venezuela
- 1992, Andrew, The Bahamas, USA
- 1998, Mitch, Central America, Mexico
- 2004, Charley, Jamaica, Cuba, USA
- 2004, Ivan, Venezuela, The Caribbean, USA
- 2005, Wilma, Antillas, Central America, USA
- 2005, Katrina, The Bahamas, USA
- 2005, Stan, Mexico, Central America
- 2016, Mathew, Colombia, Venezuela

Fig. 17 Hurricanes – tropical storms

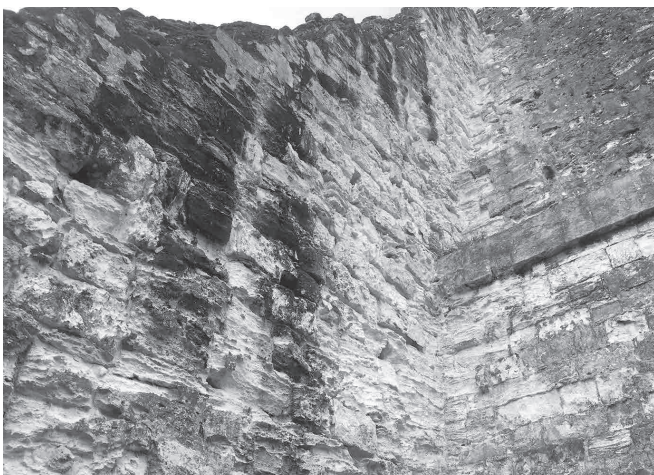


Fig. 18

break them.

Tsunamis are also present in Latin America (Fig. 19). We have had in Puerto Rico, Mexico, Chile, Colombia, Nicaragua—Chile recently. Chile is becoming really endangered. They have had a lot of natural disasters in the past few years. Chile and Guatemala have Blue Shields. Those are the two countries in Latin America for obvious reasons.

El Niño and La Niña are other natural phenomenon that occur every now and then, every five years (Fig. 20). And they really create a lot of tropical storms, because of temperature changes in the climate, but they basically produce tropical storms.

Fires are also a problem. Fig. 21 is a historical site

in this city. It was the historical center. A lot of restaurants and vendors have gas cylinders for cooking and selling food, and so on, and they do not handle them well, or the seals are too old. There was a big fire last year that burnt an entire block. It could be a hundred meters by a hundred meters of buildings. Fortunately thanks to the Japan agency, I should mention, international development agency, who had just donated some fire hydrants for water, they were very close to the area. Otherwise all these buildings in the next block would have been on fire. They managed to put the fire out. We just did a risk assessment. This is the house of the culture, the museum, the archive, the library, in that province and village. This is a high risk—we just did a

- 1918, San Fermín earthquake, Puerto Rico
- 1932, Jalisco earthquakes, México
- 1960, Valdivia earthquake, Chile
- 1979, Tumaco earthquake, Colombia
- 1992, Nicaragua earthquake, Nicaragua
- 2010, Chile earthquake, Chile
- 2015, Chile earthquake, Chile

Fig. 19 Tsunamis

- El Niño is the phenomenon associated with the unusual large warming that occurs every few years and that changes the local and regional ecology. Most dangerous and destructive
- La Niña is the opposite, consisting of a basin-wide cooling phenomenon of the tropical Pacific.

(Trenberth 1997)

Fig. 20 El Niño y La Niña



Fig. 21

risk assessment—because it is surrounded by vendors with gas cylinders, and a lot of cracks on the walls, and a lot of problems.

We have a lot of human caused problems (Fig. 22). Guatemala is in the top five countries in the world for violence. This could be deaths, looters, vandalism, gangs—gangs are very famous. It is a big problem, like an army. We do not have international wars, but a lot of internal conflicts, social and political protests, unstable political governments that create protests in the streets. They do a lot of graffiti or break historical glass, and monuments. That is another dangerous agent. Drug dealers—Mexico and Guatemala are the bridge for cocaine and heroin going into the United States. According to the last survey of the American Embassy, 65% of the cocaine that goes to the United States stops in Guatemala.

What does that have to do with cultural heritage? The thing is that drug lords live in Guatemala and Mexico, and now they are commissioning looting of archaeological and colonial art for laundering money. So they want to deal with cultural heritage. A lot of private collections have been stolen in the last 2 or 3 years, and a lot of archaeological sites have been sacked, and they go to drug dealers, who sell them, or who knows what. But those are agents of ruin.

Also badly planned tourism. For example, we are having a big meeting of Blue Shield Latin America in Habana, Cuba, next September. Because Cuba has just changed. Now is a historical time, because they are opening up after Fidel Castro died, and are opening their doors to tourism. The historic Habana, UNESCO World Heritage Site, has been very well preserved. They have a very good system in Cuba. But we are worried that this tourism that will come is going to have an impact, definitely. It will cause an impact if it is not properly managed. Tourism can destroy things.

And of course armed conflicts. In Guatemala, Chile we had revolutions. We had an armed conflict that lasted 35 years, from 1956 to 1986, we had an internal armed conflict with rebels, like in Colombia, FARC and so on. That also creates problems.

Illicit traffic is a main issue that we address in our Blue Shield community, because it is related to disasters. There is a disaster and people take opportunity. So we just had, last December, a regional meeting organized by UNESCO, INTERPOL, and the Spanish Cooperation Agency. We talked about the importance of capacity building, publishing lists of cultural objects, object ID, which is an identification, international standard, to identify objects, so INTERPOL, customs at airports and borders, can have these files on

- Thefts, looters
- Vandalism, gangs
- Social and political protests
- Drug dealers
- Badly planned tourism
- Armed conflicts

Fig. 22 Human caused



Fig. 23

their computers, with information about objects that were stolen (Fig. 23). We are encouraging all museums and collectors to use this object ID, which is an international standard paper or form, because that is very familiar to INTERPOL.

And work as regional networks. Here we included 7 countries in the Caribbean, Cuba, Dominican

Republic, all the Central American countries, and Peru.

We have our own illicit traffic, our own red list, published from Central America and Mexico, because we are a region (Fig. 24). Red lists are very expensive. If we wanted to produce our own Guatemalan red list, this is published by ICOM. But just to give you an idea, when we asked to publish our red list, only on Guatemala, it would cost us 93,000 euros. I do not know why. We said forget it, we will stay with the Central American red list, it is already published. We encourage during the Blue Shield workshops talking about red lists.

It is important to have all these emergency response teams (Fig. 25). For example, in Guatemala, the first emergency response team was created in 1969. That is the one we work with. The idea is that experts from museums, archives, libraries, and the national emergency response agencies, which include all these other forces, work together, as a network, because we all need each other. We need to advise all these people how to handle cultural heritage, and we need them to use their infrastructure. If you want to arrive at an emergency site fast you need a helicopter. They have a helicopter. They have cranes. They have all the infrastructure, these agencies, because we are prepared. We have been working at this since the 60s.

Some of these networks include CONRED, which

is the National Coordinator for disaster reduction in Guatemala, the National Institute of Seismology and Volcanology, Metrology, and Hydrology, which we can monitor on our website everyday, what is happening, how is the tide in the sea, how is the wind, is a hurricane coming, and so on (Fig. 26). And we have a Central American coordinator network for disaster prevention, which is connected to every country in Central America. Chile has its own, which works with the Interior Ministry. The Caribbean has a disaster emergency management agency, and other emergency response agencies. And then other agencies that cover worldwide. It is a global facility for us. It is from one country, the region, and the planet. We have to be all connected, because we are on the same planet.

The Central American risk reduction national coordinators support the Hyogo Framework 2005, and the Sendai Framework for Risk Reduction recommendations. So we follow, and also we have ratified both Hague Convention protocols, the very same year that they were published, or subscribed.

I will talk in this part a little bit about the formation of Blue Shield Guatemala. We started in 2012 (Fig. 27). By that time I was the president of ICOM Guatemala. And we organized a Latin American and Caribbean meeting, and we invited the president of the



Fig. 24 Red list

- Coordination of cultural emergency response teams with experts of museums, archives, sites, libraries, and the National Emergency response agencies who include the Army, Police, Firemen, Red Cross and others (Blue Shield).

Fig. 25 Emergency Response Teams

- CONRED, National Coordinator for Disaster Reduction, Guatemala
- INSIVUMEH, National Institute of Seismology, Volcanology, Meteorology and Hydrology
- CEPREDENAC, Central American Coordinator for Disaster prevention
- ONEMI, Chile, National Office of the Interior Ministry for Emergencies
- CDEMA, Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency
- CDERA, Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency
- CRID, Regional Disaster Information Center for LAC
- GFDRR, Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery

Fig. 26 Networking

International Committee of Blue Shield (ICBS) at the time. And we were already signaling, or marking some sites, with the help of the Ministry of the Exterior and the Ministry of Culture. This was the first time we invited the president of ICBS, to give a presentation on Blue Shield, and to start talking about the issue. The next year, with the help of the Ministry of the Exterior, and ICOM of Guatemala, we invited different people to have a meeting, to present the Blue Shield proposal, to do what we have seen today, yesterday, and whatever we want to promote Blue Shield. We had the presence of the four pillar people, the institutions, and also the agencies of response, the Ministry of Defense, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of the Interior, the secretary of the President, the Red Cross, the firemen—we had 40 people (Fig. 28). This is the meeting. We did a different survey of what they think, if they considered if Blue Shield was important. Unanimously everyone responded yes, it is a priority.

This was the first launch of the project. We proceeded to mark some places (Fig. 29). This is the National Palace, where the President works. This is the entrance of Tikal, on of the archaeological sites. And some of

the smaller sites in colonial towns, like Antigua. We especially concentrated on three World Heritage Sites. Two are archaeological Tikal and Quirigua, and the colonial city of Antigua.

Later, in 2014, we participated at the Blue Shield General Assembly. And also celebrated 60 years of the Hague Convention. It was in Rome, in April 2014, organized by the Newcastle University, Vienna, and World Archaeological Institution, and so on. There, we also had presentations from the Carabinieri, who in Italy was the first military force involved in cultural heritage. They have a special force, brigade, for cultural rescue in Italy, and also NATO people. NATO, in Brussels, are committed to Blue Shield. And here we see Peter Stone, France Desmarais from ICOM, and the current president of Blue Shield now, Karl von Habsburg. And then, in 2015, we needed to be trained, because this was something new for us. We can have intuition, but we needed to be professionally trained. So the Smithsonian, UNESCO, ICCROM, and in this case UNESCO Netherlands, in collaboration with Dutch partners, organized a course that is called Culture Cannot Wait, First Aid to Cultural Heritage in



Fig. 27



Fig. 28



Fig. 29



Times of Crisis. It is a course that is held every year. They train 20 different people, from the most dangerous countries in the world. We do a lot of simulations with the firemen, like earthquake simulation, the use of fire extinguishers, and also equipment (Fig. 30).

Then after we participated in this meeting that was mentioned by Andrea in Milan, last year in 2016, we began the idea to train in Latin America (Fig. 31). Replicate the teachings, the learning, the knowledge with workshops, risk assessment, emergency preparedness, manuals, practical simulation activities, and also—this is very important—the emergency kit box. Like I was saying yesterday, in Guatemala, we are recommended to have a backpack next to our bed, with flashlights, batteries, walkie talkies, some first aid, basic materials, food water, your passport, your family documents—the original ones in a plastic ziplock bag. And also every institution should have a kit box. Usually with wheels, so anyone can move it, because the emergency kit box of a museum or archive could be a rubbish container with wheels. There you would have any tools you would need. Some working tools, like to break walls, because sometimes you are enclosed in a room because of an earthquake, or enclose in a museum, so you must have access to tools to break the walls, hammers, screwdrivers, all these types of things you might need in times of emergency.



Fig. 30

We started the capacity building with help. We managed after the Netherlands experience, we had the opportunity to apply for a project that was sponsored by the Prince Claus Fund. They have a cultural emergency response program. They provided 10,000 euros to do some capacity building. ICOM and UNESCO also got involved. So we started sending invitations. Also the Ministry of Culture joined us. We started workshops in different parts of the country, inviting the army. This is the conservation center of Tikal, which was donated by Japan (Fig. 32). In Tikal this is the center. And we had some lecture, theory, and practical. We talked about the different agents of disaster. We also had the UNESCO representative from Guatemala, who came to talk about the Hague Convention. This is from the national agency for risk reduction, who gave us some guidelines and normatives that we should follow (Fig. 33). This is Tikal, where one of the workshops were conducted (Fig. 34). We had different ones in different areas, in Antigua, in Tikal, and Guatemala City of course. This is Antigua, the World Heritage Site. So we had groups of 20 participants, because that is a good number to have exercises, including people from museums, libraries, archives, the army, and other cultural



Fig. 31



Fig. 32

institutions.

We also did risk assessment exercises in the site, like this object that was recently damaged by a falling tree. And then, at the end, we gave some diplomas, which were signed by a UNESCO representative and the Ministry of Culture. People were eager to go, because some people like diplomas. It is important to have official recognition, because Blue Shield is not as well recognized as the Red Cross. As soon as you see the Red Cross you immediately know it is something associated with an accident, or hospital. But if you see this sign, it is important to do a sensibility campaign about what this is, beginning with schools. Because people pass in front of these signs and they do not know. It is an important activity you have to do if you do it here in Japan, I am sure you will publish a lot of educational papers and pamphlets. And you can have creative ideas, like the cards shown by Andrea, for the army, for children, and so on.

We also did a lot of training—these are mainly staff from different museums (Fig. 35)—how to use fire extinguishers, the different types, because it is very important to know what type of fire extinguisher you are going to use in your area, in your collection, and



Fig. 33



Fig. 34

the things you should know about fire extinguishers. Everybody looks at fire extinguishers, but most of them after the risk assessment were five years outdated. They were dry. They would not function in an emergency situation, so we have to train them to check them periodically, like every year or six months you have to recharge them, depending on the material, if it is dust, powder, liquid or gas. Also, we are creating a regional training center, because sometimes we can go on location, but we cannot always go to every single village in Latin America or in the country. We setting a permanent location, so we can train people and have the infrastructure to do practical simulations, to start a fire, to demolish a house, to do these types of simulations with children, how to store and handle objects, materials that you should have, such as sponges, zip locks, gloves, paper—basic stuff you can buy anywhere, but do not think of (Fig. 36).

Also, part of our training, we concentrate on



Fig. 35



Fig. 36

intangible cultural heritage, because it is very important. As was mentioned by Mr. Masuda before, in Japan it looked very good in the film, in terms of realizing how important it is to preserve, for example, Fig. 37, shamans, medicine men have sacred places where they do their ceremonies. That could be marked by a Blue Shield for example. Or, where they have performances of the Voladores, sometimes people fall and dies, they are ready to die (Fig. 38). If somebody dies it will be good luck for the next year. This is a holy place. If an earthquake happens here, and this collapses and is destroyed, what will happen we do not know. Also the knowledge of intangible things, such as carpets for the holy week, kites for the Day of the Death, deities that are not Christian, idols, traditional dancers, and so on



Fig. 37



Fig. 38

(Fig. 39). It is important—we basically train during this capacity building workshops, how to do field work documentation, before and after, and field work on intangible cultural heritage, to have some data, before an earthquake happens.

Fig. 40 is Nepal, it is far from Guatemala. But by the time we were in Netherlands, in 2015, after the last day of the workshop of the course, was an earthquake in Nepal. So I volunteered, it was only me, to go to Nepal to document intangible cultural heritage. It was



Fig. 39



Fig. 40

important to see the impact. As we saw in the Japan film, the same thing happened in Nepal. They were dancing in the rubble, the chariots came out. This year, it was stronger, the faith of the people, because these are spiritual activities, especially this one. This picture was taken the day after the earthquake (Fig. 41). But here is the Kumari House, the palace where the Kumari lives, which is the living goddess in Katmandu. She survived the earthquake, and she was in there. Four months after the earthquake, they had a festival where she comes out on the streets in her chariot. We were interested in documenting the impact of the earthquake on this tradition. And it was stronger. It was amazing to see how the chariot was going in the rubble and the wood. People were dancing and happy. That is very important, to think about documenting intangible heritage.

With this I conclude the presentation. I appreciate your kind attention, thank you.

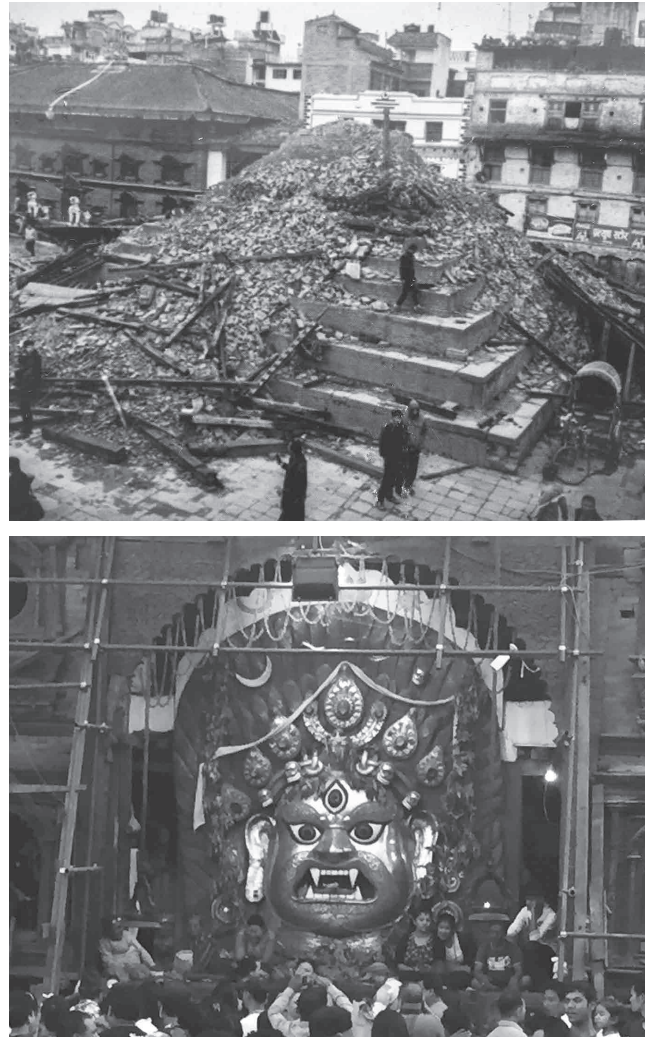


Fig. 41

Activities and prospects of the National Task Force for the Japanese Cultural Heritage Disaster Risk Mitigation Network

Yuji Kurihara

Secretary-General, National Institutes for Cultural Heritage (NICH)



It must be said that in Japan, our situation is still incomplete. We do not have a Blue Shield national committee of Japan. I would like to take some time to explain to you how we are working on it, and what stage we are at in the establishment of the committee.

Six years have elapsed since the Great East Japan Earthquake. In the history of the protection of Japanese cultural heritage, and based on that unprecedented earthquake disaster, I had many thoughts on how to save our cultural heritage. At that time, I decided to take action in relation to the cultural heritage rescue initiatives performed at the time of the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake. However, in contrast to the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake, which was a direct-type earthquake with a limited range of impact, the impact of the Great East Japan Earthquake was extremely wide, there was also tsunami and radiation damage to contend with, and we worked on incredibly arduous initiatives over a long period of time.

What kinds of things did we do for the rescue project of cultural property? Our first objective was to ensure the safety of any cultural properties damaged by the

earthquake (Fig.1). At the time of the Great East Japan Earthquake, there had been damage to cultural properties on land. As Mr. Arce mentioned earlier, a few days after a disaster, the dump trucks come. To prevent already damaged cultural properties from being crushed by dump trucks, it must be quickly moved to a safe place. In addition, in the Great East Japan Earthquake, everything was inundated by water from the tsunami, and if it was not moved to a safe place quickly, mold would grow on it. Theft was also a concern. First of all, we took emergency measures at the first stage, and worked on efforts to move properties to a safe place.

Repair work after that takes longer. It is still going on. When I say “cultural property rescue”, I am not talking about “repair”, but rather first aid and temporary storage. That is all we are doing at this stage.

Concerning the targets or subjects of rescue, they are primarily movable cultural properties. At this point we targeted not only designated cultural properties, but also non-designated cultural properties. In addition, we did not only handle the kinds of arts and crafts that were in museums, but also a wide range of cultural properties, including public documents, books, and



Objectives

Expediently ensure the safety of any cultural properties damaged by the earthquake, and prevent destruction or loss of cultural properties.

Measures

Rescuing, conserving, and temporarily housing objects in the storage facilities of museums in the same or surrounding prefectures.

Targets

Primarily movable cultural properties such as paintings, decorative art objects, sculptures, or tangible folk cultural properties regardless of national or local designation.

Fig. 1 Cultural Property Rescue Project

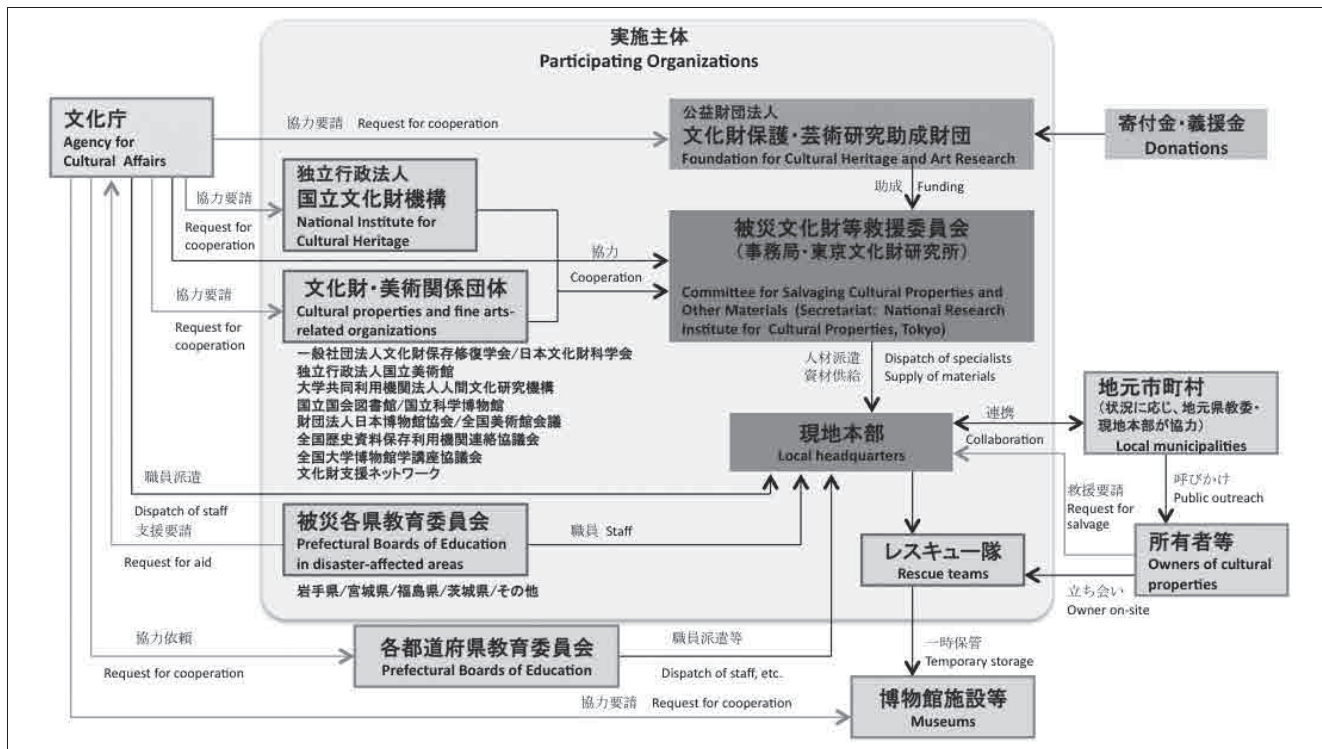


Fig. 2 Salvaging Cultural Properties and Other Materials Affected by the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake and Related Disasters (Cultural Properties Rescue Operations)

sometimes intangible cultural properties. So when I say “cultural properties”, this should be “cultural heritage” rather than properties. In other words, it is not just cultural property that is a concern. We have to cover something wider in scope.

The rescue of cultural properties was basically performed under the leadership of the Agency for Cultural Affairs, Government of Japan. In Japan, there is bureaucratic sectionalism, and designating various items as targets for rescue, such as natural history collection, public documents, books, and intangible cultural properties, is a very difficult task. We took action upon building a complicated scheme diagram, as seen in Fig. 2. In short, this was performed with the support of the National Government and the Agency for Cultural Affairs. However, as the Japanese fiscal year ends on March 31st, action could not be immediately taken on the budget. In addition, as the national budget is difficult to use, we basically had to take action by soliciting donations and using the donated funds as the financial source. In that situation, the national Government was not the driving force; the National Institutes for Cultural Heritage (NICH) was the actual driving engine. With support from the Agency for Cultural Affairs, we were responsible—NICH was the owner of the system. However, we entrusted the actual local work to expert teams dispatched from organizations all over the country, such as the Japanese

Association of Museums, the Japanese Council of Art Museums, and others.

Furthermore, we organized committees in the disaster-affected areas and NICH or the Agency for Cultural Affairs created a scheme for the municipalities. We gathered experts from around the country and created teams, and took action locally.

The reason for the existence of local headquarters, as shown in **Fig. 2**, is that the Great East Japan Earthquake straddled multiple prefectures. There was a different system in place in each prefecture. Therefore, we established a headquarters for each prefecture. Although such bureaucratic sectionalism caused some hardship, we tried to establish a mechanism that made it easy for the Government and the prefectures to take action. Then, when the Agency for Cultural Affairs made a request to each prefecture and prefectural board of education, rescue was able to be provided to the disaster-affected areas in the form of public affairs. In addition, various cultural properties and fine arts-related organizations took action with the help of volunteers, and the endorsement of the Agency for Cultural Affairs allowed the rescue activities to be performed as official work and organizational work. The Japanese rescue of cultural properties was performed through the use of this system.

We had a huge number of participants, exceeding 6,000 people, once we announced that we needed volunteers. Even within our governmental framework, we

took action with the cooperation of students and general corporations in over 40 places in Miyagi Prefecture and at over 100 places in total (Fig. 3).

This cultural property rescue system at the time of the Great East Japan Earthquake may have come to an end to a certain extent, but as we had created a mechanism for various organizations and experts

to cooperate together, we wanted to make it permanent, and so in 2014, the National Task Force for the Japanese Cultural Heritage Disaster Risk Mitigation Network (CH-DRM Net) was organized as part of NICH (Fig. 4). Unfortunately, it was impossible to establish this network based on the NICH budget alone, so obtained a subsidy from the Agency for Cultural Affairs. Although the subsidy was decreased recently, it

A total of 6,000 or more participants joined the Cultural Property Rescue Project under the auspices of the Agency for Cultural Affairs. Government sponsored activities took place more than 40 locations around Miyagi Pref. If we include the individual activities of NGOs such as the Historical Materials Network and of museums in each prefecture, rescue activities were carried out in over 100 locations.



Fig. 3



Main Missions of the Network

1. System development
2. Research and surveys
3. Human resource development

Fig. 4 National Task Force for the Japanese Cultural Heritage Disaster Risk Mitigation Network (CH-DRM Net) (July 2014)

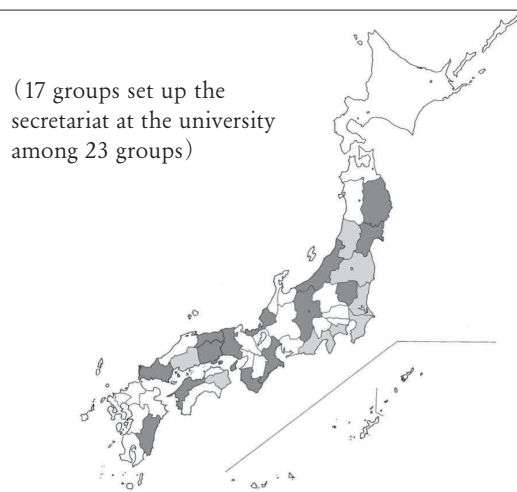


Fig. 5 Historical Materials Network (Shiryo Net)

currently stands at 200 million yen.

There are many things that must be done. First of all, we must build a network. Then, to work on the Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) for cultural heritage, we have to work on research and surveys. The third point concerns human resource development. These are the three main pillars for the activities for the National Task Force for the CH-DRM Net.

At present, the Executive Committee of the National Task Force for the CH-DRM Net includes the National Archives of Japan among its 21 organizations, and holds committee meetings about twice per year. This is an initiative for building a network for the DRR for cultural heritage, while museums, natural history museums, archives, libraries, and other specialist organizations involved in cultural property activities exchange information.

However, the Executive Committee of the National Task Force for the CH-DRM Net, since it is a group of representatives from each organization, can find it difficult to say certain things. So in order to enhance opinions, we have an experts meeting. This is the

Expert Committee of the National Task Force for the CH-DRM Net. Here, we do not take notes, we do not record minutes, and therefore participants can say what they want to say. This means that the experts are able to make complaints. If they find that something is insufficient in NICH activities, they are able to say that freely, which means that the NICH can receive a variety of opinions from many people who are knowledgeable experts. We hold this meeting at least twice per year. We receive a great deal of excellent advice from them.

Aside from such advisory organizations, after the Great East Japan Earthquake, Non-Profit Organization (NPO) under the title of “Shiryo Net” (Historical Materials Network) took action related to cultural heritage disaster risk mitigation and historical materials preservation throughout the country (Fig. 5). As there was talk about bringing all of these together for a nationwide conference, with our support, three Nationwide Shiryo Net Research Exchange Conference have been held in Kobe, Koriyama in Fukushima, and Matsuyama in Ehime Prefecture (Fig. 6).



Fig. 6 The Nationwide Shiryo Net Research Exchange Conference (Kobe, Koriyama, Matsuyama)



Fig. 7 The Workshop on Emergency Measures for Disaster-affected Cultural Properties

Shiryo Net is currently established in 27 prefectures across Japan. Although Shiryo Net cannot work easily without a parent secretariat, 17 organizations have established a secretariat at local universities. Our objective is for Shiryo Net to be established in all remaining prefectures.

Why is Shiryo Net necessary and important? It takes time for the administration to work on things. It is very important to be able to have speed in activities, so that important cultural properties can be picked up and rescued by the private entities. After the initiation of activities by public entities, they are able to join hands with the administration to work on the rescue and salvage of cultural properties. This is the kind of activity we would like to promote in the years to come.

Fig. 7 shows the workshop on emergency measures for disaster-affected cultural properties. For human resource development, we also support the workshop that focuses on preservation for cultural properties.

In the past one or two years, we have had many tsunami, floods, earthquakes, and other natural disasters. In order to provide support, we have taken many actions. One of the major issues that we faced was the Kumamoto Earthquake (Fig. 8). The Kyushu National

Museum is a member of the NICH, so it acted as the secretariat to provide cultural property rescue project after the Kumamoto Earthquake.

There have been many more activities, such as the establishment of a database. We have to say, however, that these activities are not enough. Our achievements have not been glamorous, but we would still like to continue to working on these matters next year. In addition, as activities tend to become focused on domestic issues, we invite people from overseas, as we have done today, and participate in international conferences held by ICOM, and hold meetings on the DRR of cultural properties with China and South Korea (Fig. 9). We hope to continue doing these things.

I would like to say just one thing about the network for the DRR for cultural properties. Shiryo Net is an activity on a volunteer basis, but the ultimate goal is to invoke the public sector to action. Cultural property rescue project is organized by the Agency for Cultural Affairs, but since Japan does not have an army, in some cases it is necessary for the Agency for Cultural Affairs to promote rescue in cooperation with the Ministry of Defense, the National Police Agency, and the Fire and



Fig. 8 Support for the Cultural Property Rescue Project after the Kumamoto Earthquake in 2016

Disaster Management Agency.

It should also be noted that Japan has the Basic Act on Disaster Control Measures. In addition, there is the Central Disaster Management Council, to which these ministries and agencies belong, that creates the Basic Plan for Emergency Preparedness (Fig. 10). Therefore, our goal is for at least matters related to the DRR for cultural heritage to be mentioned in the Basic Plan for Emergency Preparedness. As was recently mentioned at the UN World Conference on DRR, discussions were held incorporating matters related to cultural heritage under the "Sendai Framework for DRR". The same can be said for the Government's plan.

There is also a disaster management council in each of the 47 prefectures under the Government, and each of these creates a disaster management plan. In addition, there is a multilayered framework in that each city, town, and village under the jurisdiction of each prefecture creates its own disaster management plan. However, if you examine what is said about cultural properties in these disaster management plans, although there has been mention of the DRR for cultural heritage in the plans of some municipalities based on their past experiences of earthquake and tsunami, often this subject has not been mentioned at all. So it is important to incorporate this aspect into all of the disaster management plans. This might not be our task, but rather within the scope of responsibility of the Agency for Cultural Affairs. We would like to collaborate with

- Research on the establishment of a Cultural Heritage Risk Mitigation System
- Construction of a cultural heritage database
- Training disaster response and know-how for the cultural properties rescue program
- Construction of a Rescue Base for disaster risk mitigation
- Building a network of disaster museums
- Supporting active participation in international conferences

Fig. 9 Main Activities Planned for after 2016

Central Disaster Management Council
Basic Plan for Emergency Preparedness
Prefectural Disaster Management Council
Prefectural Local Plan for Emergency Preparedness
Municipal Disaster Management Council
Municipal Local Plan for Emergency Preparedness
Mutual Prefectural Local Plan for Emergency Preparedness
Mutual Municipal Local Plan for Emergency Preparedness

Fig. 10 Basic Act on Disaster Control Measures

them. However, these matters are left to the discretion of the local governments, and we are unable to force them to write things. It is important for guidance and advice to be given as a country.

In some of the disaster stricken scenarios, the public entity would not function well. In such situations, the neighboring communities would have to collaborate with each other. It is recommended that disaster management plans involve each prefecture and each city, town, and village cooperating together. In the case of municipalities that have already experienced disaster, they are ready to work on a mutual prefectural plan, so that is alright. But it is important to expand the scope to those that have never experienced a disaster. If the DRR for cultural heritage is included in the disaster management plan, it is possible to work on collaboration for that. Then again, for this matter, we are thinking of a collaboration with the Agency for Cultural Affairs.

When we started working on Blue Shield, I thought that in Japan we needed to collaborate with the Ministry of Defense. So I visited the Ministry of Defense, since I knew some people there. I told them that we were planning to establish a Blue Shield national committee of Japan, and I asked for their cooperation. The reply was that "This might not be something I should hear from you. There should be a call from the Agency for Cultural Affairs". In regard to such a proposal, as there is an organization called the Central Disaster Management Council, there should be a discussion between the Agency for Cultural Affairs and the Ministry of Defense, or in other words, a discussion between government agencies, and so acting on the spot at a local level would be contrary to protocol. This is normal. One of the main issues is how to build cooperation for

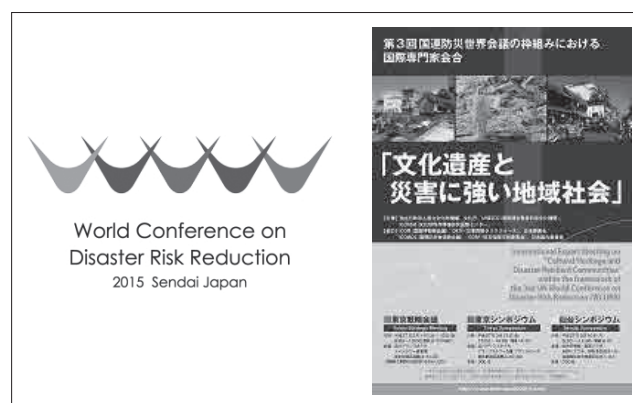


Fig. 11 International Expert Meeting on the theme "Cultural Heritage and Disaster Resilient Communities" within the framework of the 3rd UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR) (March 11-17, 2015)

the DRR for cultural heritage while maintaining consultation with the Agency for Cultural Affairs, because the framework is at a national level.

As I said, we have been successful in holding the UN World Conference on DRR. Although cultural heritage itself was not the main theme, as there were major initiatives on the DRR for cultural heritage, the NICH organized an international expert meeting and brought together stakeholders from around the world to discuss the DRR for cultural heritage from March 11 to 17, 2015 (Fig. 11). The first strategy meeting (Fig. 12) and symposium was held in Tokyo, where basic information was obtained that was then incorporated into the Sendai conference, where efforts were made to include cultural property disaster reduction in the “Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.” The results of this were announced in Sendai.

After the Great East Japan Earthquake, as we were aware of the existence of Blue Shield, in order to study Blue Shield in parallel with our cultural property rescue activities, we held the initial meeting sponsored by the Japan Consortium for International Cooperation in Cultural Heritage (JCIC-Heritage) at the Tokyo National Museum on September 7, 2012 (Fig. 13). Ms. Corine Wegener, chair of the ICOM-DRTF at that time, spoke about Blue Shield. I think that this meeting was the first time that Blue Shield had been introduced to museum personnel in Japan. Since then, we have worked toward establishing a Japanese Blue Shield committee, but it is a long road. Ms. Wegener provided an introduction to Blue Shield activities in United States, but US Committee of the Blue Shield is mainly targeted outside of the country. What we later realized was that Blue Shield initiatives varied by country. The situation was completely different in each country, such



Fig. 12 Tokyo Strategy Meeting (March 11–13, 2015)



Fig. 13 Seminar “Blue Shield and Emergency Relief Efforts for Cultural Heritage” at Tokyo National Museum (September 7, 2012)

as whether the main issue was armed conflict or natural disaster. As it was impossible to base Japanese Blue Shield activities on Blue Shield US activities, our activities started to decline. In order to reverse this trend, we took the opportunity of the UN World Conference on DRR to hold a Blue Shield symposium at the Kyoto National Museum in December 2015 (Fig. 14). We

then invited Mr. Peter Stone, Secretary-General of the ICBS, and Ms. Sue Hutley of Blue Shield Australia. This was because in Australia, the main activities being tackled by Blue Shield Australia are all related to natural disasters. As these activities are closer to the type of activities in Japan, we listened to what they had to say and gained an understanding about Blue Shield. Since



Fig. 14 “International Symposium on Cultural Heritage Disaster Risk Management” at Kyoto National Museum (December 13, 2015)



Fig. 15 Kyoto National Museum (December 14, 2015)



Fig. 16 Tokyo National Museum (March 17, 2017)



Fig. 17 ICOM General Conference in Kyoto 2019



Fi. 18 ICOM-DRMC
(Disaster Risk Management Committee)

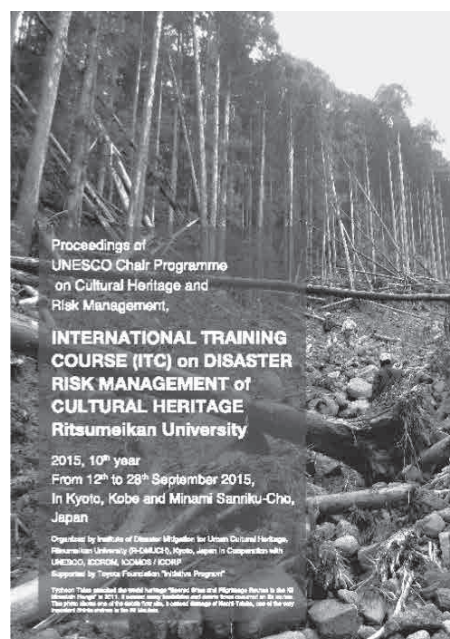
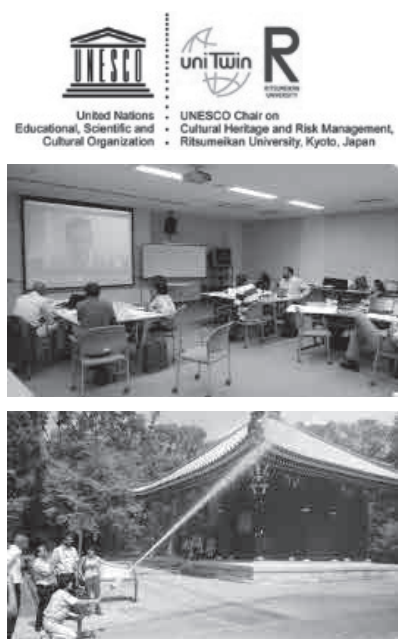


Fig. 19 UNESCO Chair Programme on Cultural Heritage and Risk Management, International Training Course on Disaster Risk Management of Cultural Heritage (Ritsumeikan University, since 2006)



Fig. 20 MLA cooperation

the symposium was held in Kyoto last year, we have also been able to deepen our understanding of Blue Shield in Kansai, and are currently aiming to establish a national committee.


When we held the event in Kyoto, we also had closed study meeting in conjunction with the public symposium, and heard things in quite fine detail (Fig. 15). Just yesterday, we participated in a detailed discussion with experts, including those who also spoke today (Fig. 16). Since we have accumulated so much knowledge, I think that it is time that we moved full ahead toward establishing a national committee.

In terms of future targets, as the International Council of Museums (ICOM) will hold its Kyoto Conference in 2019 (Fig. 17), I hope that we will have established a Blue Shield national committee of Japan by then, and that Japan will participate in the Blue Shield meetings at the Kyoto Conference as a member rather than an observer.

There is also a standing committee called the DRMC within ICOM (Fig. 18). It is in the process of taking over from DRTF, is led by Ms. Wegener, and I myself am a member, so I hope that we will also be able to take initiatives while exchanging information within

ICOM.

In addition, for the past 10 years, Ritsumeikan University has been conducting the International Training Course of UNESCO Chair Programme on Cultural Heritage and Risk Management (Fig. 19). Although this has been targeted at immovable cultural heritage in the past, from next year it is planned, with our support, to expand the scope to include movable cultural properties. The organizer of this training is currently ICOMOS, however it is planned that ICOM will also join the organizer in these activities.

Furthermore, for a long time, it has been necessary to collaborate with MLA (Museum, Library, Archives), and this has also been called for in Japan, but has not proceeded smoothly. MLA cooperation will be facilitated through the successful deployment of Blue Shield. As there are organizations within Japan that are able to act as contact points with the respective overseas organizations, I believe that we will be able to achieve better cooperation through international collaboration toward the DRR for cultural heritage (Fig. 20). I believe that we must not just hold study sessions regarding this, but should also embark on achieving this as soon as possible. Thank you very much. 

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Andrea Kieskamp (Vice President, Blue Shield Netherlands)	
Samuel Franco Arce (President, ICOM-LAC Regional Alliance, Guatemala)	

Panel discussion

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Vice President, Blue Shield Netherlands

Samuel Franco Arce

President, ICOM-LAC Regional Alliance, Guatemala

Moderator's remarks



Yuji Kurihara (Secretary-General, NICH)

We received a variety of opinions in the first session. Ms. Akatsuki Takahashi of UNESCO introduced the Hague Convention system and Blue Shield activities in the Pacific region to us. I am sure there are some people here who heard the name “Blue Shield” for the first time today, and I think that the explanation provided on Blue Shield was incredibly easy to understand. Mr. Kanefusa Masuda then spoke to us about the UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction held in Sendai in 2015, which was closely related to Blue Shield. In a sense, a global framework for disaster mitigation, including cultural heritage, has been determined at this conference, and this is an important matter.

Examples of Blue Shield activities in other countries, Ms. Andrea Kieskamp from the Netherlands and Mr. Samuel Franco Arce from Guatemala spoke to us about the specific content of activities. I believe that these speeches provided a useful reference for us. I then spoke about the initiatives in Japan.

Moving forward, I think that we will further deepen our understanding on the possibilities of Blue Shield for protecting cultural heritage from major disasters. Before we hold the panel discussion, Ms. Mariko Fujioka from Yokohama City University will be giving us a short briefing. I think we understand from the previous speeches that the existence of the Hague Convention is the background of Blue Shield. The Meeting of the States Parties to the Hague Convention and its Second Protocol is only held once every two years, but the intergovernmental committee responsible for its implementation meets annually. Ms. Fujioka participates in this intergovernmental committee meeting every year, and so I think that she has the best understanding of the recent initiatives on the Second Protocol to the Hague Convention. Ms. Fujioka will therefore provide us with an explanation, which will be followed by the panel discussion.

Recent Developments in the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and the Functions of Blue Shield

Mariko Fujioka (Assistant Professor, Yokohama City University)



As was just mentioned, I have participated in the Meeting of the States Parties to the Hague Convention and its Second Protocol and the intergovernmental committee at UNESCO since 2010, and so will speak to you today based on my experiences.

As this symposium has the main theme of protecting cultural properties from disaster, it might appear that a convention concerning the protection of cultural properties during armed conflict would be outside of this scope, but as has been mentioned in previous speeches, this convention preparing for armed conflict can also be effective in respect to natural disasters. Prior to introducing the content of recent years' meetings to you, I will speak about relationships between the Hague Convention and Blue Shield, as well as between the Hague Convention and natural disasters.

The Hague Convention and Blue Shield

Blue Shield was initially just an emblem for indicating cultural heritage that should be protected during armed conflicts, as prescribed in the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (the Hague Convention). At present, it has further become part of the name for international NGOs that are active with the objective of protecting global cultural heritage from all kinds of emergencies,

including armed conflicts and natural disasters, and these NGOs use the Blue Shield as their symbol mark. Blue Shield is not only for armed conflicts, but also for natural disasters.

I first would like to give a brief summary of the Hague Convention (Fig. 1). It is a convention on cultural property that was first adopted by UNESCO, and was enacted in 1954. The content of its provisions can be roughly divided into two types. The first are provisions for times of armed conflict, which prohibit the attacking, or using for military purposes, of cultural properties. The second provides provisions on the measures that must be taken during peacetime to ensure proper protection during conflicts. This includes educating military personnel and creating cultural properties inventory.

This Convention has two protocols. The First Protocol was adopted together with the Convention in 1954, and prescribes rules on the protection of cultural property in an occupied territory. The Second Protocol was adopted in 1999. It supplements the Hague Convention, and due to the world having gradually developed since 1954, with laws having evolved, and the means of armed conflict having changed, introduced a new system for responding.

The number of the States Parties to the Convention

- UNESCO's first convention on cultural property
- Outline of the provisions
 - Peacetime measures: education for military forces, measures to protect cultural property, etc.
 - Rules in the event of armed conflict: prohibition of attack and military use
- Two protocols
 - First Protocol (1954)
 - Rules on the protection of cultural property in an occupied territory
 - Second Protocol (1999)
 - Supplement the Hague Convention by introducing a new system, etc.
- Number of the States Parties (as of March 10, 2017)
 - 128 States Parties to the Convention, 105 States Parties to the First Protocol, and 71 States Parties to the Second Protocol
 - (Japan became party to all in 2007; UNESCO member states total 195)

Fig. 1 Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (Hague Convention, 1954)

- Target of protection (definition of cultural property)
 - (a) movable or immovable property of great importance to the cultural heritage of every people, such as: monuments of architecture, art or history; archaeological sites; groups of buildings which, as a whole, are of historical or artistic interest; works of art; manuscripts, books and other objects of artistic, historical or archaeological interest; and scientific collections and important collections of books or archives or of reproductions of the property defined in (a)
 - (b) buildings whose main and effective purpose is to preserve or exhibit the movable cultural property defined in (a), such as: museums; large libraries and depositories of archives; and refuges intended to shelter, in the event of armed conflict, the movable cultural property defined in (a)
 - (c) centers containing a large amount of cultural property as defined in (a) and (b)

Fig. 2 Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (Hague Convention, 1954)

is 128, with 105 countries to the First Protocol, and 71 to the Second Protocol. Considering that UNESCO has 195 member states, and that over 190 states are party to the World Heritage Convention, it cannot yet be said that the Hague Convention has achieved universal ratification. Incidentally, Japan was a rather late signatory to the Convention, only fully ratifying in 2007.

The World Heritage Convention creates norms such as showing the means for protecting cultural heritage and concepts of value, rather than regulating and imposing rules on member states. On the other hand, the Hague Convention is a convention that imposes obligations on the States Parties, as well as various regulations.

The cultural heritage subject to protection by the Hague Convention includes both movable and immovable (Fig. 2). Museums, which are often subject to looting due to the chaotic situation that arises at the time of conflict, are also subject to protection by the Convention, and libraries and archives that hold

documents that track local culture and the history of the people are also included. In addition, there are area protections in the form of “centers containing a large amount of cultural property”.

The Hague Convention was created in 1954, but it was not practically effective. In the early 1990s, an incredibly large number of cultural heritage were damaged or destroyed during the Yugoslav Wars. Due to this, initiatives were commenced for improving the Convention. This resulted in the adoption of its Second Protocol in 1999.

During the 1990s, when the review of the Hague Convention began, there were parallel discussions about protecting cultural heritage from natural disaster. The frequency of natural disasters increased during the 1990s, and the extent of damage became more serious, and this led to the International Committee of the Blue Shield (ICBS) being established in 1996 (Fig. 3). During this period, PKO activities increased following the end of the Cold War, and rather than during armed

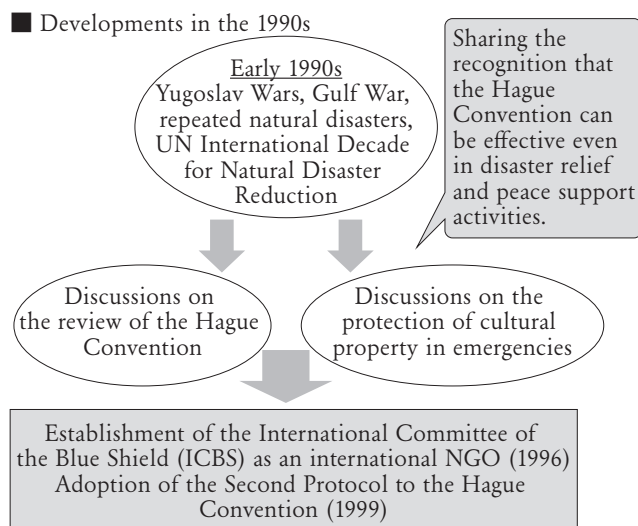


Fig. 3 Hague Convention and Blue Shield

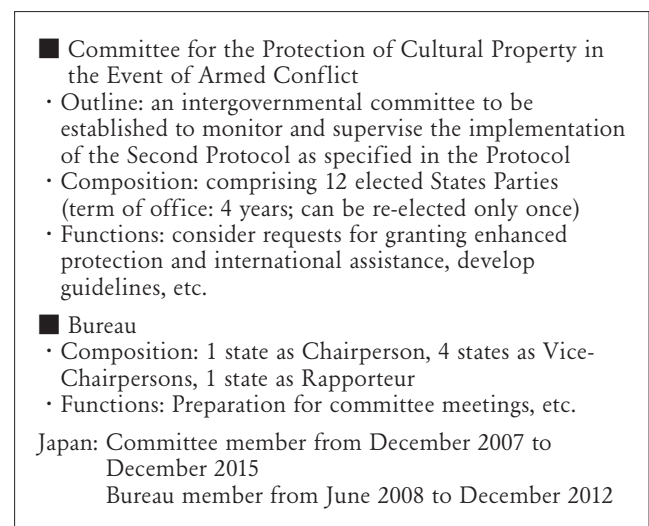


Fig. 5 System for the Implementation of the Second Protocol

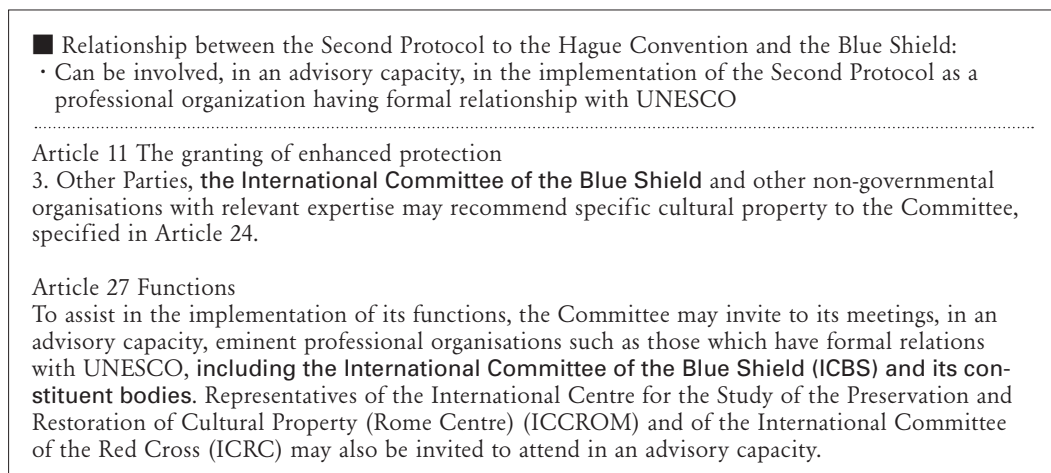


Fig. 4 Second Protocol and ICBS

conflict in which one's country was involved, the opportunity for the military to come into contact with cultural properties of other countries arose when they were dispatched overseas for PKO activities, and at the time of a natural disaster. It was from this perspective that the importance was recognized of implementing the Hague Convention, which mandates that education be provided to military personnel. During such discussions over the course of the 1990s, relationships between the Hague Convention and natural disasters, and between the Hague Convention and Blue Shield,

were born and expanded.

The Second Protocol, which was adopted in 1999, prescribed the establishment of an intergovernmental committee as the organization responsible for its implementation, and the ICBS was given an official role as an advisory organization for this (Fig. 4).

Recent Developments in the Second Protocol

I will now speak about the system of the intergovernmental committee.

The intergovernmental committee prescribed in the

Table 1 Bureau Members of the Intergovernmental Committee to the Second Protocol

	Intergovernmental committee members
2005-2007	Argentina, Austria, Cyprus, El Salvador, Finland, Greece, Iran, Libya, Lithuania, Peru, Serbia and Montenegro, Switzerland
2007-2009	Austria, Cyprus, El Salvador, Finland, Greece, Japan, Libya, Lithuania, Netherlands, Peru, Serbia and Montenegro, Switzerland
2009-2011	Argentina, Austria, Cyprus, Finland, Greece, Iran, Italy, Japan, Lithuania, Netherlands, Rumania, Switzerland
2011-2013	Argentina, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Croatia, El Salvador, Iran, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Rumania, Switzerland
2013-2015	Armenia, Azerbaijan, Cambodia, Croatia, Egypt, El Salvador, Georgia, Greece, Japan, Mali, Netherlands
2015-2017	Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Cambodia, Cyprus, Czech, Egypt, Georgia, Greece, Mali, Morocco

	Chairperson	Rapporteur	Vice-Chairpersons
2006-2008	Austria	Switzerland	Cyprus, Finland, Lithuania, Peru
2008-2010	Finland	Cyprus	El Salvador, Japan, Libya, Netherlands
2010-2011	Netherlands	Japan	Iran, Italy, Rumania, Switzerland
2011-2012	Netherlands	Japan	Belgium, Croatia, El Salvador, Italy
2012-2013	Belgium	Croatia	Argentina, Austria, Azerbaijan, El Salvador
2013-2014	Belgium	El Salvador	Azerbaijan, Cambodia, Egypt, Mali
2014-2015	Greece	El Salvador	Armenia, Cambodia, Egypt, Mali
2015-2016	Greece	Argentina	Cambodia, Egypt, Georgia, Mali
2016-2017	Cambodia	Mali	Argentina, Cyprus, Georgia, Morocco

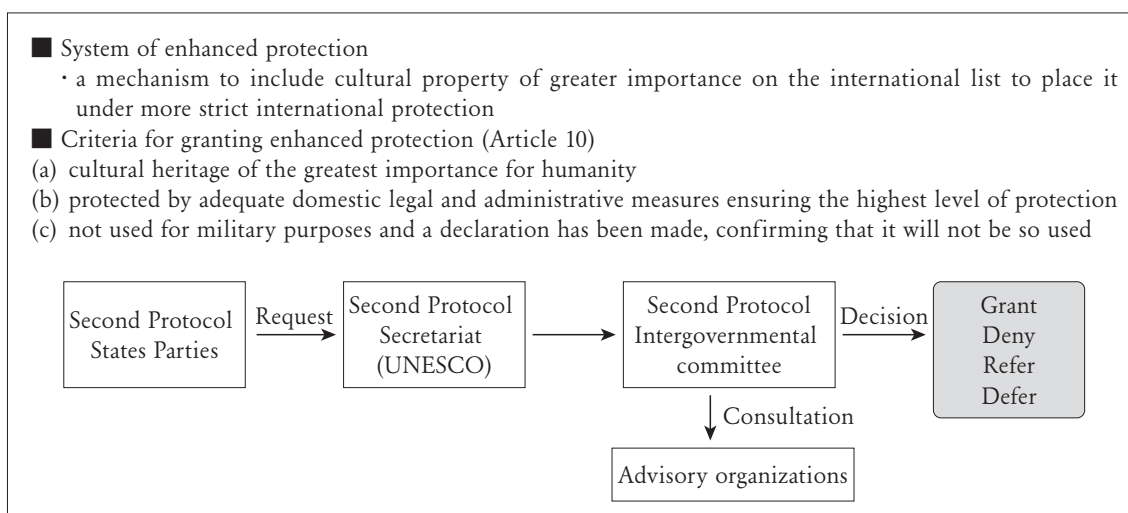


Fig. 6 Recent Discussions on the Hague Convention (1) Improving the system of enhanced protection

Second Protocol comprises 12 elected States Parties to the Second Protocol (Fig. 5). Its function is to discuss the operation and management of systems for enhanced protection and international assistance, as well as the development of guidelines for the Second Protocol, etc.

Ratification of the Second Protocol by Japan was in 2007. Japan served as a committee member from December of that year until December 2015. The changes of the Committee members and its Bureau members are shown in Table 1. Although the European countries represent the majority of the States Parties to the Second Protocol, under the principles of an international organization we need to have a balance

between regions, so the committee has been composed with a balance between Asia, Africa, Latin America, and Europe, and within that between Eastern Europe and Western Europe. However, in the case of Asia, as there are only five States Parties to the Second Protocol, namely Japan, Cambodia, Iran, New Zealand, and Tajikistan, Japan has served as a committee member for the long term. Recently China and Korea seem also considering the ratification, and so it seems likely that the lineup of Asian countries will change.

Recent Discussions on the Hague Convention (1)

In recent years, on the Hague Convention, there has been discussion of an enhanced protection system (Fig. 6). This is a mechanism to include cultural property of greater importance on the international list to place it

■ Criteria for granting enhanced protection (Second Protocol Article 10)

- (a) cultural heritage of the greatest importance for humanity
- (b) protected by adequate domestic legal and administrative measures ensuring the highest level of protection
- (c) not used for military purposes and a declaration has been made, confirming that it will not be so used

■ Indicators to evaluate (a) “the greatest importance for humanity”

- Any one of the three criteria below must be satisfied:
 - exceptional cultural significance
 - uniqueness
 - its destruction would lead to irretrievable loss for humanity

* World Cultural Heritage is considered to satisfy the conditions of greatest importance for humanity, subject to other relevant considerations.

* Inscription on the Memory of the World is also considered in evaluation of (a).

Fig. 7 Recent Discussions on the Hague Convention (1) Improving the system of enhanced protection

■ List of the cultural properties under enhanced protection (12 properties as of March 2017)

- Choirokoitia (2010, Cyprus)
- Paphos (2010, Cyprus)
- Painted Churches in the Troodos Region (2010, Cyprus)
- Castel del Monte (2010, Italy)
- Kernavė Archaeological Site (2011, Lithuania)
- Museum and Atelier of the Architect Victor Horta (2013, Belgium)
- Neolithic Flint Mines at Spiennes (2013, Belgium)
- Plantin-Moretus House-Workshops-Museum Complex (2013, Belgium)
- Gobustan Rock Art Cultural Landscape (2013, Azerbaijan)
- Walled City of Baku with the Shirvanshah's Palace and Maiden Tower (2013, Azerbaijan)
- Historical Monuments of Mtskheta (2016, Georgia)
- Tomb of Askia (2016, Mali) (conditional)

Fig. 9 Recent Discussions on the Hague Convention (1) Improving the system of enhanced protection

Article 10 (a) indicators to evaluate the greatest importance for humanity	
Exceptional cultural significance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bears testimony to one or more periods of the development of humankind at the national, regional or global level. • Represents a masterpiece of human creativity. • Bears an exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilization which is living or which has disappeared. • Exhibits an important interchange of human achievements, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world on developments in arts and sciences. • Has a central significance to the cultural identity of societies concerned.
Uniqueness	Age, history, community, representativity, location, size and dimension, shape and design, purity and authenticity, integrity, context, artistic craftsmanship, aesthetic value, scientific value
Its destruction would lead to irretrievable loss for humanity	The damage or destruction of the cultural property in question would result in the impoverishment of the cultural diversity or cultural heritage of humankind

* World Cultural Heritage is considered to satisfy the conditions of greatest importance for humanity, subject to other relevant considerations.

* Inscription on the Memory of the World is also considered in evaluation of (a).

→ How about evaluation of value of movable cultural properties, museums, libraries, archives and refuges?

Fig. 8

under more strict international protection. It can be considered the core system of the Second Protocol, but is by no means perfect. In particular, as the system for granting enhanced protection is insufficient, discussions have been ongoing for the last few years on improving this.

In addition, there are problems with the examination method. Three criteria for granting enhanced protection are prescribed in Article 10 of the Second Protocol as follows: (a) cultural heritage of the greatest importance for humanity; (b) protected by adequate domestic legal and administrative measures ensuring the highest level of protection; and (c) not used for military purposes and a declaration has been made, confirming that it will not be so used. It is required to satisfy these three conditions: the value, the protection and management, and the military protection. Of

these, the indicator to evaluate (a) “cultural heritage of the greatest importance for humanity” contains the further requirement that at least one of the following three detailed sub-standards are also met (Fig. 7).

- Exceptional cultural significance
- Uniqueness
- Its destruction would lead to irretrievable loss for humanity

Furthermore, in regard to that which has exceptional cultural significance, five evaluation indicators which are shown in Fig. 8 have been determined.

However, the Second Protocol does not contain any provisions on the methodology for evaluating whether or not these indicators have been met when each country makes an application for enhanced protection (Fig. 6). Evaluation indicators and the procedures for evaluation in regard to world heritage status have been

■ Synergy between enhanced protection and World Cultural Heritage • World Cultural Heritage is not necessarily eligible for enhanced protection		
	Enhanced protection	World heritage
Target of protection under the Convention	Does not include cultural landscape, among immovable cultural property	Immovable cultural heritage
Concept of value	greatest importance for humanity	Outstanding universal value
Requirements related to military	Restriction on use of immediate surroundings, incorporation into training and laws/regulations, agreement with the military authority	None
Number of States Parties	71 states	191 states
• Two options considered - Simultaneous application for the world heritage and enhanced protection - Synergy with the World Heritage Convention through regular reporting system		

Fig. 10 Recent Discussions on the Hague Convention (2) Synergies between other cultural instruments, humanitarian law, etc.

1954	Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict , and First Protocol
1970	Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property
1972	Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage
1997	Memory of the World (Communication and Information Secto)
1999	Second Protocol to the Hague Convention
2001	Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage
2003	Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage
2005	Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions

Fig. 11 Recent Discussions on the Hague Convention (2) Synergies between other cultural instruments, humanitarian law, etc.

■ International cooperation for awareness-raising in military forces	
(1)	Cooperation with the International Institute of Humanitarian Law (IIHL) • Protection of Cultural Property: Military Manual (in armed conflict) (December 2016) • Azerbaijan's contribution of 30,000 euros
(2)	Cooperation with Newcastle University (UNESCO Chair) • Development of military personnel training manual for the protection of cultural property in the event of armed conflict (to be used for 3-day workshop)
(3)	Switzerland's contribution • Established a trust fund of 80,000 CHF for a two-year project to enhance implementation of the Convention → Enhancing the capability of the protection of cultural heritage within the framework of PKO, etc. (materials for awareness-raising to be prepared by the end of 2017)

Fig. 12 Recent Discussions on the Hague Convention (3) Military activities and cultural heritage

established in the World Heritage Convention system. From the UNESCO side, evaluation of the values are entrusted to international NGOs, such as ICOMOS and IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature), and the reports from these are received by the World Heritage Committee, which is an intergovernmental committee. The said committee then evaluates and deliberates these reports before making a decision. This process is absent from the Second Protocol to the Hague Convention.

In addition, if you are familiar with world heritage, take a look at the top right column of **Fig. 8** and you will likely notice that the indicators for the value evaluation for enhanced protection are similar to those for world heritage. These five indicators are mainly for immovable cultural property. Tools for determining the importance of movable cultural property, museums, libraries, archives and refuges, etc., have not been prescribed in the Second Protocol or its guidelines. As in this regard there is a need for such enhanced protection to function properly, the ICBS, which is a network of various professional organizations involved in cultural heritage, was delegated by the intergovernmental committee of the Second Protocol to conduct studies, and reports have been received from Blue Shield. However, no improvement plan has yet been found. Blue Shield is being asked to play a role in regard to this problem.

In recent years, 12 cultural properties have been granted enhanced protection, as indicated in **Fig. 9**.

Recent Discussions on the Hague Convention (2)

Another topic of discussion in recent years has been synergies and collaborations between the Hague Convention and UNESCO's other cultural instruments, as well as international humanitarian law. A special emphasis has been placed on the further synergy and collaboration with world heritage.

The framework of the enhanced protection by the Second Protocol includes the objective of protecting world heritage, but since the Hague Convention is not particularly well known in the first place, there is also the objective of increasing its profile through collaborations with World Heritage Conventions, and expanding the concept of protecting cultural property in the event of armed conflict.

Among the States Parties, Belgium has been moving very enthusiastically in regard to building synergy, and has made various proposals. For example, it has proposed collaborations within the regular reports prescribed in each of these conventions, and simultaneous applications for world heritage and enhanced protection. However, even in the case of simultaneous

- Self-Defense Forces (SDF) and cultural property
 - The national Defense Academy and the Self Defense Forces incorporated the issue of cultural property in their education (according to a report by the Ministry of Defense)
 - Such education is provided in general law education. There is no specialist for the protection of cultural property. (U.S. forces in Yokosuka base have such specialists.)

- SDF activity and cultural property
 - In 2004, SDF troops dispatched to Samawah, Iraq, repaired the outer fence at the site of Urk in the suburbs of Samawah.
 - In 2010, the international relief team to Haiti engaged in removing debris from a museum site.
 - On the occurrence of the Great East Japan Earthquake, the SDF cooperated significantly for the preservation and rescue of cultural property.

Fig. 13 Recent Discussions on the Hague Convention (3) Military activities and cultural heritage

applications, although World Heritage Conventions and enhanced protection have similarities in the concept of values, there are significant differences in operation and eligibility (**Fig. 10**). Careful arrangement is required in order to advance this discussion, and in this sense as well, ICOMOS will be required to play a greater role.

Speaking of synergy, in addition to World Heritage Conventions, there is the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property of 1970. From the perspective that a large amount of cultural property has flowed out of the Middle East over recent years, synergy with the 1970 Convention is also important (**Fig. 11**). In this sense, collaboration with ICOM is incredibly important for UNESCO.

Military activities and cultural heritage

In addition, cultural heritage should be kept in mind during military activities. The Hague Convention obliges the States Parties to provide military forces with education on cultural heritage, and provide specialist bodies and specialist members for the protection of cultural heritage in the military. In order to promote such measures at a national and international level, initiatives are being conducted in order to raise awareness through various channels (**Fig. 12**).

PKO is currently being deployed in Mali based on this background. Since the Arab Spring, both tangible and intangible cultural heritage have suffered enormous damage in Mali. In response to this, the protection of cultural heritage was included as one of the PKO missions. This inclusion as an item in the PKO mission started due to the current situation in Mali.

UNESCO, the International Institute of Humanitarian Law, and the UNESCO Chair Program are working on initiatives, in response to realistic needs, to ascertain how the military should handle what kinds of cultural properties, what should be done, and what mustn't be done (Fig. 12).

Japan too is not unrelated to this (Fig. 13). In 2004, the Self-Defense Forces that had been dispatched to Samawah, Iraq, were stationed near the site of Uruk, where they repaired the outer fence of the archaeological site, and in 2010 were engaged in removing debris from the Galerie D'art Nader in Haiti. Having such proper international standards is important in order to earn trust from the international society and all people.

Contribution to UNESCO's organizational strategy

And finally, there has been discussion at the Hague Convention meetings on how to contribute to UNESCO's overall strategy. In recent years, in response to the situation in the Middle East, the "Strategy for the Reinforcement of UNESCO's Action for the Protection of Culture and the Promotion of Cultural Pluralism in the Event of Armed Conflict" (adopted at the 38th session of the UNESCO General Conference in 2015) has been created, and its action plan has been drafted (Fig. 14). This includes proposals on establishing "safe havens" for cultural property, in other words mechanisms for the temporary storage of cultural property, creating a local expert roster system and list for emergency situations, and establishing cultural protection zones.

The roster system is very closely related with Blue Shield, and I think that temporary storage at the time of a natural disaster is a particularly important area for Blue Shield to be involved in.

- Strategy for Reinforcing UNESCO's Action for the Protection of Culture and the Promotion of Cultural Pluralism in the Event of Armed Conflict (adopted at the 38th Session of the UNESCO General Conference in 2015)
- Draft Action Plan for the Implementation of the Strategy for Reinforcing UNESCO's Action for the Protection of Culture
 - Enhancing each convention and strengthening their mutual relationships are part of the purposes
 - Establishing safe havens for cultural property and creating their network
 - Roster "Unite4Heritage"

Fig. 14 Recent Discussions on the Hague Convention (4) Contribution to UNESCO's organizational strategy

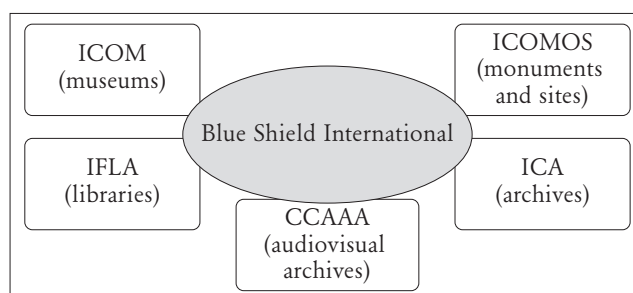


Fig. 15 Possibilities of Blue Shield

Looking at the theme of this session, namely the possibilities of Blue Shield, it is clear that there are some parts that the Hague Convention as an international treaty cannot be practically effective, and as it is a convention targeted at armed conflict, its mechanisms are not directly related to natural disaster. However, as an organization with the same philosophy and with the same symbol, I think there is a possibility that Blue Shield, as an organization, can implement the idea and philosophy of the Hague Convention more widely (Fig. 15).

Panel discussion

Kurihara: We have heard about the various Blue Shield frameworks, have been given an introduction on the initiatives of different countries, and have been given a good idea of what Blue Shield stands for. Here, I have a few questions from earlier. Anyone may answer, so please feel free to speak up. Mr. Arce's PowerPoint presentation showed the Blue Shield logo, and this logo has been attached to a few buildings. My impression was that the Blue Shield logo was only for that positioned, for example, as a National Treasure or Important Cultural Property, but maybe this is not the case. As explained earlier, if only that eligible for

enhanced protection can have a Blue Shield attached, then it would be limited to just cultural heritage that are subject to such protection. However I feel that this is not the case either. Who determines who is eligible to award Blue Shield designation, and what is eligible? Is this performed at the discretion of each country? Does it require the consent of Blue Shield International?

Franco: That is a very good question, because that is something we always ask. There is no definite methodology or criteria to mark sites. For example, when we started marking in Guatemala different sites, the Ministry of Culture had former criteria. We only

marked landmarks like World Heritage sites, the National Museum, the Archaeology Museum, big monuments that are definitely important. But then, when we invited a group from museums and different sectors: libraries and archives, everybody wanted to have one emblem. We said that we have to wait and would like to consult ICBS, the headquarters, but they also are not very clear yet. I think that is something we need to address during the next conference in Vienna. Because you have to be limited. Otherwise it loses credibility. At least in our territory, you must be very clear and specific what is historical places and what is really valuable. Otherwise it become useless. Everywhere you will see these signs, people want to take the same attention as a unique place.

Kieskamp: As Samuel said, there is not a specific methodology. Blue Shield Netherlands is a pair of “extra” eyes and hands in the field of national heritage protection. Our Ministry of Education, Culture and Sciences is responsible for policy making in regards to the Hague Convention. Execution of this policy lies with yet another government agency. But the problem is that they have documented the monuments very well. The immovable heritage, I think there are about 2,000 monuments on the list. But there are about 200 or 250 libraries, museums, and archives. And then the question is, for example, we have our biggest museum, the Rijksmuseum. If you want to protect this museum, what do you want to protect? Do you want to protect “the building”? Or “the building with whole collection”? Or “the building with the most important things in the collection”? And what if the museum is moving from one place to another? Who is taking care of the Blue Shields on the building that this Blue Shield is being moved to? It is not only that you have to be specific about what needs Blue Shield, but you also have to inform the people from the heritage organizations, the directors of the museums, and other institutions. And you have to see what happens if, for example sometimes collections are moved, or there is deaccessioning of collections. So, especially those three collections, they are quite difficult. And we think we in the Netherlands can play a part in it by advising the government about this. But we need to make a better system.

Porcelli: Thank you all for having me here today. I would add to those responses that there are guidelines under the 1954 Hague Convention, as well as the Second Protocol. But these are instructions. They serve as guidelines, as to when and how the Blue Shield should be affixed to buildings and other protected sites.



But, at the same time, without always clear, constant and consistent authority to instantly mandate every affixing of the emblem, state practice has then evolved to fill in this gap. We have these instructions, we follow these instructions, and then we proceed with a bit of our own determination when it should be appropriate.

Kurihara: In any case, you mean that if the Blue Shield National Committee has approved it, that judgment is respected to a certain extent. Basically the National Committee has the right to make a judgment, even without the permission of the international organization. I'm sure it is slightly different in each country, but would it be correct to basically understand this as such?

Kieskamp: In fact, in the Netherlands, the Blue Shield as I told in my presentation is only “extra”. So the responsibility is for the Ministry. The only thing we can do is to give them advice. But we cannot take any decision at the moment.

Porcelli: I would also add it would be good state practice to exercise some caution in this area. So considering the viewpoints of the intergovernmental committee of the Second Protocol, and in discussion with UNESCO headquarters in Paris, these decisions should be made. The national committee of the Blue Shield, as well as Blue Shield International, serves an advisory capacity. So they work to advise, but authority should be sought in applying the guidelines that are in the text. And that authority can be obtained from UNESCO headquarters.

Franco: Yes. The Ministry of Culture is the ruling authority for most of the sites. But there are private collections and institutions that are not necessarily ones that the Ministry of Culture will protect, or will be interested in protecting, as they are with a national museum, or Tikal, or those icons. I also think that it depends on your culture. As I mentioned, in the area where we live, there is a lot of vandalism. So some institutions do not want to have the shield, because that is a sign for thieves, for looting. Some collections want to be anonymous, because thieves are smarter than us. They say that there is a sign, so there is money and valuables. It becomes a target, because they do not care about the Hague Convention. It depends on every country. The cultural factor is important.

Kurihara: So there are various differences in the Blue Shield system of each country. Here I have a few questions, and if you do not mind, I think the floor would also like to ask some questions. First of all, I would like to ask Mr. Porcelli about Blue Shield Pasifika. As Ms. Takahashi explained before, the organization comprises



multiple countries and is unique in that sense, but where is the secretariat stationed? Is there a possibility that this will change? In addition, I don't think this was discussed in regard to the military, but do you worry about armed conflict in the Pacific region? One more thing, I think that the support of Australia and New Zealand is significant in the Pacific nations. Has Blue Shield Pasifika been established with the expectation of support from Australia and New Zealand?

Porcelli: There is a secretariat, and it is currently located in Fiji. So it is in the Fiji National Museum. And so, by being connected to the Fiji National Museum they have a location from which to operate, and then their work applies in the entire region, covering all the Pacific island nations.

Currently, as far as I know, there is no rotating mechanism. Blue Shield Pasifika was only recently formed, and it is still in the process of formation. So our initial practice will continue to evolve to best suit the region. But currently, it is in Suva, Fiji. Regarding the next location, if there is a new secretariat located in a new member nation, then it could be switched there. But, at this point now, there is a certain strength to being connected to the Fiji National Museum.

And this is very unique. It is *sui generis*, because most of these Blue Shields are national committees. And so this is the first regional one. We have had to have some flexibility because of the *sui generis* nature of the region. So our four pillar organizations are also regional in scope, and this allows us some flexibility and a sort of power to operate in a regional fashion. It would be much different if there was ICOMOS in every single Pacific island nation, which might make our mandate particularly difficult. But there is one ICOMOS Pasifika. So, by utilizing these four regional organizations, it allows us to have a regional committee. But, this is relatively new. In our application we had to change much of the wording of the application forms, and seek formal permission to do so, because these applications were geared towards national committees. This is a new area that is constantly evolving. But it also shows the flexibility of Blue Shield. It is designed to serve these countries, the people, and cultural property. So it makes sense that we have a certain level of flexibility, and it is not too stringent. Especially now, as Blue Shield International continues to evolve.

And so, with regards to the army, of the different nations, if a particular natural disaster strikes, it would be mostly dependent on that particular nation. And so, in our operation, we are only just forming. We have not reached this level of coordination yet. But I expect that in the future there might be greater cooperation,

when there is increasing cooperation among these different island nations and their armies. Then we might see Blue Shield becoming more involved at that stage. But at the current stage, we are building our network and building our coordination among the four regional pillar organizations. So it is a very good question, and at this time it is a future aspiration that we have, once our committee that is regional is fully established and recognized by Blue Shield International.

And then the third question. There is a national committee in Australia for Blue Shield. Those committees operate independently of Blue Shield Pasifika. But there are no instructions to say they cannot participate in our work. As we have seen before, the national committee for Blue Shield in the United States operates in other countries. So recently, in Haiti they are establishing their own Blue Shield national committee. Nevertheless, the US national committee came to their aid in the most recent earthquake that they had. I also imagine that we will in the future see Australia becoming more involved. And as far as I know, New Zealand does not currently have its own national committee. But if they do, I expect that we will have a great deal of cooperation. Especially since all 16 of these countries, two of them being Australia and New Zealand, and then 14 being Pacific island nations are all under the auspice of the UNESCO Office for the Pacific States. And given the involvement that the UNESCO Office for the Pacific States has in the region, with cultural property and natural disasters, I expect to see a great deal of beneficial cooperation in the future.

Kurihara: Next, I would like to ask Ms. Kieskamp a question. As I mentioned in my report earlier, cultural heritage rescue activities in Japan are mainly conducted by the National Institutes for Cultural Heritage, but in actuality have been conducted based on guidance from the Agency for Cultural Affairs, and with funds obtained from them. In the case of the Netherlands, the organization is strongly volunteer-based, but is it possible to be really active without funding and close cooperation with the central government?

Kieskamp: Yes, so we have no structural funding. But, sometimes when there is a special emergency, for example, the government is willing to support us. And if we would like to have a special project, we could make a budget for that, and ask the government to support it. It is because in the Netherlands we are not in an emergency situation at the moment. Perhaps our biggest threat at the moment are terrorist actions. But, the emergency now is not so big. So the priority is not there for the government. But we do have a good relationship. When there is a discussion, we just had

a new heritage law for example, we participate in the discussion and we give advice. But there is no structural funding. I hope that is the answer to your question.

Kurihara: In that case, if you need to work in cooperation with the military or police, does the Blue Shield National Committee negotiate directly with them? Or do you go through the national agency for cultural affairs or the government?

Franco: In our case that is why we work with a national agency, because they already have the links with the army. There are members of the army who are part of this working group. That is the way to communicate with them, because they are already communicating among them. We do not have to go to another office or headquarters. We just go to the agency, and there is an office where there is military, and that is their specific duty. But I do not know if that is the case everywhere in our region. I do not know if every country has this type of agency that includes the army.

I would also like to add to the previous question of the regional issues. That has advantages in a way. For example, in ICOM, when you have small countries that do not gather enough members or funding, then neighboring countries can be a member of the country that is already structured. So Blue Shield could be like that, and also in ways of funding. We all work on a voluntary basis. We do not have a secretariat in Guatemala. It is basically sometimes you put your money, your office, your car, your internet—not sometimes, every time. But in a way, when you are acting as a region, the world is now moving to regions, we are not thinking about just a small country with one or two, like Tonga. If you request some funding or do a proposal, as a regional area, you have more chances to get funding. So you could have a central secretariat in one of these countries, and then have agents or databases of experts in every particular country. So you have this network that you could immediately act, but can be centralized in the most organized country of the region, or that the one that is already structured.

Porcelli: It makes a lot of sense to encourage this regional cooperation, whether it be a regional Blue Shield committee, or national committees working at the regional level, because natural disasters do not confine themselves to one particular state. There are no rules that say the hurricane or typhoon have to hit only one nation. So this cooperation and sharing of technical expertise makes a lot of sense, given the nature of natural disasters.

Franco: For example, during the Haiti earthquake, in 2010, there was a big problem, as you know Haiti and the Dominican Republic are on the same island. You

could go by car to Haiti. So it is important to be organized regionally, because the government of Haiti would not allow help to come from the ground. You would have to come by plane or boat. So that really delayed some help, because of political issues. They said “You cannot just come by car through the border. Everything has to be centralized at the airport”. So those issues are important to consider, because maybe you have a next door country, but it is a totally different way of thinking and different type of government.

Kurihara: I would like to change the topic here and ask Ms. Fujioka a question. I understand that you have been participating in the Conference of the Parties and intergovernmental committee as a representative of Japan, and in these cases, have you been asked to do so by the UNESCO National Committee? In what position are you attending?

Fujioka: Well, I am currently being requested to do so by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs’ Multilateral Cultural Cooperation Division.

Kurihara: What is the relationship between the Multilateral Cultural Cooperation Division and the UNESCO National Committee? In the case of the Hague Convention, does the UNESCO National Committee not have much involvement?

Fujioka: As UNESCO cultural conventions are international treaties, all of them are under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs’ Multilateral Cultural Cooperation Division. In the case of the Hague Convention, questions are raised with the Traditional Culture Division of the Agency of Cultural Affairs as well as the Ministry of Defense, and the responses are consolidated and returned to UNESCO by the Multilateral Cultural Cooperation Division. So it acts as a focal point.

Kurihara: So you are participating as an expert representing the Japanese government at the request of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Then, in other countries, are there absolutely no relationships between UNESCO, government agencies, and the Hague Convention? Although we have only discussed the UNESCO National Committee so far, do the UNESCO headquarters and the national committees not have any relationship at all in regard to this?

Takahashi [Editor’s note: from the floor]: The national committees of UNESCO have different characters from nation to nation: for example, one has a strong education sector, another has a weak culture sector, and the other has all strong five sectors. However, as a UNESCO’s policy, all communications and documents



must go through the national committee. Even when communicating with related ministries and agencies, we have to send copies of documents to the national committee and always to share information. Some matters are to be considered: who is the member in the UNESCO secretariat, or in the regional office, or how is relationship between the member states and the regional office? But, in principle, we have to provide information to the national committee systematically.

Kurihara: The reason that I asked that question was that in the case of Japan, the jurisdiction of the UNESCO National Committee falls under the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sport, Science and Technology, but I do not think that said Ministry has many people that are familiar with cultural heritage or Blue Shield. It could even be said that they don't have anyone at all. So does the Ministry of Foreign Affairs have such experts? Included in this question, is the Japanese presence and voice strong at the Conference of the Parties and intergovernmental committee? Or does Japan have relatively little voice? I would be grateful even for just your personal opinion, Ms. Fujioka.

Fujioka: That is a difficult question. It's not that we have a weak voice, it is more that it is not particularly strong. I think it depends on the topic. For example, in regard to the protection of cultural properties in the event of armed conflict, where there is discussion about military affairs, Japan's voice does not carry much weight. Experts dispatched from the ministry of defense of other countries, who have real experiences, and who are actually involved in training, have the most persuasive voices. However, when it comes to the World Heritage, as Japan's world heritage section is extremely interested in, it has enough voice to say things such as, "that would be extremely troublesome!" I mentioned earlier that Belgium is taking the initiative, but we are in a position to be asked to make a further commitment, such as to comment on this.

Kurihara: In regard to this field, although I have never discussed things with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, is awareness of Blue Shield higher at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Japan?

Fujioka: I cannot say yes. I myself have to work hard, and I feel that the ministry will require some more time to gain a higher awareness of Blue Shield.

Kurihara: Understood. I feel that moving forward, it will be necessary to collaborate with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. I would now like to change the topic and ask Mr. Arce a question. You provided an explanation in your report earlier on the creation of a training center. I was wondering if this was a training center for Blue Shield, or for the Hague Convention. Is an actual

building being constructed? In addition, in regard to this initiative, are Latin American countries other than Guatemala also involved? I was wondering if you could provide an explanation in a little more detail.

Franco: As we all work as volunteers, we all try to cooperate. And this is mainly from the private sector. The museum I direct is a private museum. So we can have more freedom to experiment. And the museum where we are is a coffee farm. It is a big area. Not plenty, but big enough to create a space to conduct practical exercises to have a training place where we can show PowerPoints, a classroom or something like that. This is in cooperation with the private sector.



In Guatemala, we are trying to establish this as a model for other countries. As I mentioned in my presentation, in September, as the Chair of ICOM-LAC, of the region, the Blue Shield disaster risk reduction and management will be one of the main themes, and we would also like to encourage other countries, since we are only two countries in Latin America that has a committee. It is a very early stage. El Salvador and Peru are already on board. They are already working on their committees, and we expect more after the September meeting.

But we have the freedom and resources to do a training center by ourselves. It is not the government, but a private space. We do not need much infrastructure. We need an outdoor space, and the farm is already outdoor. Maybe a classroom space that is enclosed, with a bathroom and toilets, or whatever. It is mainly a private sector effort, and also in conjunction with the municipality of the town. They are also very interested in cooperating, in terms of the region. Because we have a World Heritage Site, we are in the middle of three volcanos. There a lot of characteristics that help us to bring attention and private funding. This is a tourist destination—the most popular in the country. There are a lot of businessmen from hotels and restaurants that are interested in contributing, because they will be affected if something happens. So basically it is a private sector effort.

But also we can invite people from the government, or state museums, or houses of culture, from the provinces, because they do not have access to training or anything. They have to travel long distances. But, for example, they can come on the weekend for courses. That they will do. They are interested in learning and being trained. They pay by themselves. They come for a day or whatever to be trained. That is the way it is structured.

But at this very moment, we are already working with local people. But anyone who wants to come from other regions is welcome. And in May, we will be doing our first training in El Salvador. We have been asked by El Salvador to be trained, and they are getting funding from their Ministry of Culture. The Ministry of Culture is a very important partner, because they are the owners of the heritage. The pre-Hispanic and colonial heritage, especially the pre-Hispanic you cannot touch. You have to register. If you have a private collection of pre-Hispanic objects, you are just the guardian of the collection. But it belongs to the country. But other objects, like more contemporary objects, may be owned by the collector. But pre-Hispanic and colonial is different. And colonial art is owned by the Catholic Churches.

But that is also a big problem, because the looting is done at the Catholic Churches, because have all these silver objects, and paintings from the 16th and 17th centuries. But they do not like to register their objects, so there are problems when these objects are stolen. And because you do not have the object ID, they say we have this image of the Virgin Mary with a rosary. There are maybe 200 statues of the Virgin Mary with a rosary, so you have to give a really specific description in order for this object to be rescued. We have experienced that in an illicit traffic workshop that we had in December that it is all over Latin America, the Catholic Church does not want anybody to know what they have. And that is a big problem, because if you go to these churches and look the gate, there is just a small padlock, a guy with a machete—that is all the security they have. And the looters come with AK-47s, AR-15s. They are professionals—real terrorists.

Porcelli: The situation in Guatemala is quite innovative with the office environment that they have. I know with the experience of Blue Shield Pasifika, and also the national Blue Shields in the United States, they often times share office space. They often do it in conjunction with a museum. And there are certain benefits to this. There is obviously a lot of collaboration, and it makes sense that they share this office space with the museum, and there is also the potential for funding the they can receive from the museum. On the other hand, you can imagine that there are some difficulties, and that sharing this office space is difficult. Often times this office space is given by the good graces of the museum. The museum is being generous with its office space, in allowing the committee to establish itself there.

But I think these are issues that we will see throughout all the Blue Shield national committees. They are

issues of funding and the fact that most of the people working there are volunteers. Perhaps in the future, as Blue Shield evolves, and secures greater funding and permanent paid staff, then we might see a different office space scenario. We might see all Blue Shield national committees with their own buildings and training facilities, and I imagine that will be the future of a more organized and developed Blue Shield.

Kurihara: I would now like to open up questions and opinions to the floor. Any question or opinion is fine. How about Mr. Masuda?

Masuda: I understood the discussions held at UNESCO about Blue Shield which Ms. Fujioka mentioned. Although I think the urgency of this problem is quite high in consideration of the situation in Syria and Iraq, it appears that discussion is focused on some of the more trivial details. Why hasn't there been discussion on larger policies, in other words, how contributions can actually be made to the recovery after human-induced disasters? Is it because the military voice in UNESCO's Blue Shield is so great that the focus is on incredibly technical issues? If they are people who really feel that culture really does need to be treated as incredibly important, I would think they would be concerned about how long this kind of stuff is going to continue to be discussed. Will things be improved or sped up?

Porcelli: I will say there will be continued developments in the field, in general, and in Blue Shield, in particular. But I think it all behooves us to recognize that Blue Shield was recently established in 1996. So, it has been around for approximately 20 years. And if we see the lifespan of the Red Cross, it has been around for over a century. I can imagine, when the Red Cross was first established, at the 20 year mark, not many people knew of the Red Cross. Especially around the world. It operated at a very small level, as a humanitarian agency, to assist people after the ravages of war. And now, in all this time, it has grown and its mandate has increased.

For Blue Shield it was established in 1996. Only in 1999, three years later, was it recognized by UNESCO. And I will read you its mandate, in relation to UNESCO. It is actually quite limited. It only serves in an advisory capacity to the work of the intergovernmental committee of the Second Protocol. And the language in that text says, "to assist in the implementation of its functions, the committee may invite to its meetings, in an advisory capacity, eminent professional organizations, such as those which have formal relations with UNESCO, including the International Committee of



the Blue Shield, and its constituent bodies.”

So it truly only serves in this advisory capacity, and it has limits, because of funding constraints and volunteer constraints. However, it does work in six important areas, and this further addresses your question.

The first is in policy development. So this is very crucial, because a lot of the work that we can do as technical experts after an armed conflict is obviously very important to immediately salvaging this cultural property. But, if we do not have broad policy measures in place, then this work will always be underfunded work that is done in haste that never realizes its full capacity. So that’s the first area of policy development. And naturally it is slow. There are almost 200 states in the international legal system. And so we have development that is not uniform in this regard. And then coordination between the four founding organizations. When these four organizations are particularly effective and coordinate well, then we will see Blue Shield International also working well.

The third area is proactive protection. So the creation of lists. A lot of this work, including the work of the Hague Convention overall, is dependent on State Parties. So when State Parties are acting, we will have incredible results. But when they are not acting, we will always be in the back of the room, attempting to have our voices heard. That is the third area, “proactive protection”, and that goes along with policy development. There is only so much work that Blue Shield International can do, with very limited funding and volunteers, in this work of proactive protection. Nonetheless, they try to make attempts. And I imagine if we do meet here in another decade, and Blue Shield is 30 years old, we will see greater efforts having been made.

The fourth area is training. So training is incorporated into the Hague Convention, and is also a part of the mandate of the Blue Shield. This training is slow, but I heard positive news that many times the military

or defense force are interested, and they find this area very interesting. A lot of time it is out of the scope of their normal mandate, so to protect cultural property is very interesting to them, and it conversely benefits their military.

Number five is emergency response. That is another area that is particularly difficult. The Blue Shield International is growing. But, as I refer to the Red Cross, I imagine after 20 years the Red Cross was not particularly effective in its emergency response. They probably did well, but did not have a global mandate. That is where the Blue Shield is at a disadvantage, being born in this age of globalization, because so much is expected of them, at such a high level. And it is truly incredible without any funding and only volunteers that they are even capable of doing what they currently do.

And lastly, number six, long-term support. That speaks to your question. It relates to education, awareness raising, and capacity building. All of this happens in a pattern that is not particularly uniform. People are more concerned with this when there is armed conflicts that relate to their country and natural disasters that relate to their country. So I foresee that we will have development in this area. And I see public outrage over the destruction in Iraq and Syria. This public outrage, when it is funneled to politicians and diplomats at UNESCO and other UN agencies, will yield results.

Takahashi [Editor’s note: from the floor]: In addition, the activities related to the Hague Convention, as yet, are mainly in Europe and the Arab states, and also the most of States Parties are from these regions. As Ms. Fujioka mentioned, there are only five States Parties from Asia, so if the other Asian countries, especially affected by natural disasters frequently, become the States Parties, the dynamics of activities will become better.

As I expect that Mr. Ronald will explain later in the



context of the Hague Convention and natural disasters, in the current situation, disasters are often intertwined with human-induced factors and natural factors, resulting in multiple disasters, so that it is possible to explain that the Hague Convention can also be interpreted indirectly as it applies to natural disasters. Regardless, the Blue Shield as an international NGO is responsible for human-induced disasters and natural disasters. Regarding the interpretation of the Hague Convention, I think that it would be better for Blue Shield to carry out its activities positively on the both disaster risks.

Kurihara: Thank you very much.

Porcelli: Very briefly, the text of the Hague Convention does not refer to natural disasters, and neither do the protocols. And I understand that natural disaster situations are particularly relevant to Japan. But nonetheless I stress that there is this indirect applicability. Yesterday, we were discussing this, and I said, if there is a fire that results from an earthquake, and it destroys a museum, and the artifacts contained therein, it is also similar to a fire that originates from a bomb that also travels and destroys this museum. In the end it is still the fire that we are addressing. So when we protect for armed conflict situations, and all the circumstances that they relate to, we can also indirectly protect for natural disasters. I don't think it hurts to have ample protection. Our concern is not having enough protection.

And so, even though the text of the law does not specifically refer to natural disasters, the spirit of the law shows that this is a disaster-related treaty. And so, given that it is a disaster-related treaty, I see that there is this indirect applicability. And I also see with increased issues of climate change, and concerns over these natural disasters, that we will have an evolution of international law. It might be that the Hague Convention in the future has an additional protocol or an amendment to the existing text.

And this might be to explicitly include natural disasters. If the Hague Convention does not evolve in this regard, we might see some soft law development, or the development of a new treaty to address natural disasters, given the UN sustainable development goals, increased concerns over climate change, and natural disasters, and the importance of cultural property. I think, in the coming decades, we will respond in the international legal system, to this particular issue.

If you will allow me, very quickly, to refer to a provision in the Second Protocol (Article 5, safeguarding cultural property). This provision lays out various preparatory measures, to be taken during times of peace, by the state parties. And one of these measures is the preparation of inventories. If we look at

priority 4 of the Recommendation of the International Expert Meeting on Cultural Heritage and Disaster Resilient Communities, which we discussed today, it also includes the establishment of inventories and information systems. So you see how the text of the Hague Convention is targeted towards armed conflict. Nonetheless, in our other recommendations, related to cultural property and natural disasters, we have the same effects and measures to be taken. That is only one example. I know that we do not want to be here all day, but there are plenty more examples that can be found in the text that elucidate the relationship between protection for armed conflict and protection for natural disaster.

Franco: I would like to express my own opinion about this situation, because I think every part of the world has a different view, and a different need. That is why I like the title "Culture Cannot Wait." We are talking about, you said, in decades.

In decades, we will not have any more heritage if we do not act now. That is why in Latin America we follow the Hague Convention as a basis. But I think the Hague Convention should be amended. Why not? Look at the software of computers. They have version one, version two. Because we are living in a faster age. We cannot just wait, sitting there for somebody to sign a document. Too much bureaucracy. The world is being damaged by climate and people. I have been four years in Blue Shield meetings, and I do not see much progress in disaster reduction, to be honest. We have to do what we can, in every region. Because if we follow protocols that do not apply to our planet, maybe just a region, a country, or Europe, we are living in different worlds. The last assembly of Blue Shield, which was good, but we were only talking about Syria and Afghanistan. But I have shown you the map of the Ring of Fire, Pacific, and Central America. Nobody mentioned those areas in this meeting. I had to stand and say "Sorry, we are also on the map".

We cannot just concentrate on European, African, or Arab countries. We have to dedicate more time to specific regions, and act now. With UNESCO, right now, it is very difficult also. I am sorry to say so, because I have worked a lot with UNESCO. And in our country, as was mentioned before here, has too many mandates: science, education, and culture. Their projects take time, their budgets are limited. You have to wait six months, or next year's budget, because this year's is gone. In our country education is important of course, but disasters also. They might give you a couple of thousand euros to do things, but you cannot progress with these small budgets. I think there should

be a meeting, or some kind of changes to act faster. We are waiting too long.

Porcelli: I think that is why it is quite important to establish a national committee of the Blue Shield in Japan. I think Japan is particularly concerned with this area of natural disasters and cultural property. If there was a national committee of the Blue Shield in Japan, the work of policy development, long-term support, and advocacy could be better performed. And so that it is why it is truly imperative Japan, given its interest in this area, go about establishing this committee. It would really empower Japan to act. And given how the international legal system works, these changes, which need to be made now, would not occur, unless there is some advocacy. Unless there is some country expressing its concern, and leading this area. And I can see that Japan is a leader in disaster risk reduction. The formation of a Blue Shield national committee in Japan would allow officials here to channel their efforts and interests, in an organized way, to bring about the changes that we need to see in the international legal system.

Kieskamp: What Samuel just said, that is what I hear too. You have this big organization of Hague Convention, UNESCO, and ICOM. I used to be on the ICOM board for a long time, and also tried to do some projects. And it was my experience that you have lots of people that are active, and enthusiastic, and do concrete things. But you depend on what those people do, and in general there is a lot of bureaucracy. And perhaps you cannot change that, because it is a worldwide organization. And I think the image of UNESCO is a very good one, also among the general public.

So I think we should think about how we could improve the work of Blue Shield. Because you said it is positive that Blue Shield is independent. Perhaps I do not know if you have ideas how we could improve this, and act more adequately. Because that is what I often feel. I do not live in an area like you. I live in a kind of oasis of no volcanos, no earthquakes—sometimes a flood, but our dykes are very high. Sometimes I feel

like I want to do something. I am on the board for three years, but I want to do something. What can I do? And perhaps I can help other committees.

I think that should be important for the coming years. And I hope Japan will also have ideas for that. How can we as a horizontal network of Blue Shield committees help each other, and change something.

Franco: I think the answer is more frequent communication. ICOM, all these institutions, the meetings are too short. Sometimes you go to a meeting, from the other part of the world, for four hours. And then until the next three years. That way we will never progress.

And just to follow what Ronald said about Japan. I really like your proposal, because I think Japan and your country, they have supported us with a lot of help, I mean the international development agencies. I think it is a good model. Like you said, a leading country, a powerful country, as a model, we will follow, and people will have more trust and advocacy.

Kurihara: Thank you very much. I am sorry to end things when discussion is so heated, but I think that the strong words on why we cannot just sit down and wait, how we need to improve communication, and quickly move on with the creation of a national committee of Blue Shield, will help motivate us to work firmly on the issues presented. As has been mentioned several times, the ICOM Kyoto Conference will be held in 2019. In 2020, there will be the Tokyo Olympic Games and Paralympic Games. The Agency for Cultural Affairs will relocate to Kyoto at around that time. With various events coming up, we will do our best to launch a national committee of Blue Shield as soon as possible and make good use of it for these events. I hope for ongoing cooperation from all of you. I am sorry that we went a little past the scheduled time, and would like to end this symposium at this point. Please give a big round of applause to the speakers.



Closing Remarks

Kosaku Maeda

Vice-Chairperson of the JCIC-Heritage
Vice president of the Japan ICOMOS National Committee



I would like to make some closing remarks.

The month of March, in which this International Symposium on Cultural Heritage Disaster Risk Management is being held, is called Yayoi in Japan, and is the month in which we hope for the arrival of spring. In the old Roman calendar, it was the month of the War God Mars, who held a shield and spear. The poet Ovidius sang that it is the month in which wars begin and women mourn the deaths of their husbands and children. For those who involved in the protection of cultural heritage, it is also a month in which we cannot forget the major destruction caused by disasters. The first of these is the man-made destruction of the archaeological site of Bamiyan in Afghanistan. That was in March of 2001. The other is the Great East Japan Earthquake of March 11, which made us deeply rethink matters related to unavoidable natural disasters. These matters have engraved the month of March into our hearts. We held the international symposium here on March 11, the same day as the Great East Japan Earthquake. This incident has also made the month of March unforgettable.

When the ruins of Bamiyan were about to be destroyed, Professor Ikuo Hirayama, UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador at that time and the President of the Tokyo University of the Arts, did his utmost to encourage all international organizations to prevent the destruction, and despite such efforts, his actions were in vain, as the Taliban regime completely destroyed the ruins. Why could we not prevent this barbaric man-made destruction? Under the painful reflections of this event, Mr. Hirayama decided it was necessary to work hard every day on protecting cultural heritage, and to create a Red Cross Hospital for preserving and restoring cultural heritage together with the government and people of disaster-afflicted areas; he started taking bold action. As a first step, Mr. Hirayama established an organization backed by legislation, and he launched the Japan Consortium for International Cooperation in Cultural Heritage (JCIC-Heritage).

Many of the specialists participating in this symposium are also members of this organization. In September 2012, the importance and need to establish a Blue Shield national committee was explained passionately by Mr. Yuji Kurihara at meetings held by the consortium. Since then, there has been the outright destruction of culture in Middle-eastern Asia. As has occurred in Aleppo, Syria, we have witnessed not only the destruction of cultural heritage, but also the loss of the fundamentals of human life, and have experienced the infinite pain of being unable to prevent such barbaric destruction. Under such circumstances, the protection of cultural heritage and the prevention of destruction are now not only an urgent and most important issue both domestically and overseas, but can be considered a great task in the history of mankind that must be faced in the name of culture. Furthermore, I believe that the protection of culture is a vital element for ensuring the sustainable development of human society as a whole.

As mentioned by Mr. Masuda, as we enter a time when earthquake activity is occurring on a global scale, and in order to face the crisis of armed conflict that still cannot be overcome, I think we need now more than ever to embark on initiatives as a nation to prepare for cultural heritage rescue activities. We cannot indulge in meaningless delusions. Today, excellent specialists from around the world have come together, and have made a variety of proposals based on their wealth

of experience. I hope that the outcomes and significance of the discussions held at this symposium will be positively accepted, and that a Blue Shield national committee for Japan will be born. In regard to this birth, I would like to make clear that the Japan ICOMOS National Committee is ready to cooperate, and with that, I would like to close this symposium. Thank you very much.

International Symposium on Cultural Heritage Disaster Risk Management

How We Protect Cultural Heritage from Disasters: Potential of Blue Shield II

Date: March 18th, 2017

Venue: Tokyo National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo, Japan

Organizer: Headquarters of the Japanese National Task Force for the Cultural Heritage Disaster Risk Mitigation Network (CH-DRM Net), National Institutes for Cultural Heritage (NICH), Japan

Co-organizer: Japan Consortium for International Cooperation in Cultural Heritage (JCIC-Heritage)
Japanese National Committee for International Council of Museums (ICOM)
JAPAN ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites) National Committee



Program:

Opening Remarks

Masami Zeniya (Executive Director, Tokyo National Museum)

Opening Remarks

Hideyasu Yamazaki (Director-General of Cultural Properties Department,
the Agency for Cultural Affairs, Government of Japan)

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- Report 1 The Hague Convention and Blue Shield Activities in the Pacific Region
Akatsuki Takahashi (Programme Specialist for Culture, UNESCO Office for the Pacific States)
- Report 2 Recent interest in Blue Shield (BS) globally and in Japan
From the recommendations of the International expert meeting on cultural heritage and
disaster resilient communities within 2015 UN-WCDRR (Sendai and Tokyo)
Kanefusa Masuda (Visiting Researcher, Promotion Office, CH-DRM Network, NICH)
- Report 3 Activities of Blue Shield Netherlands
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the Japanese Cultural Heritage Disaster Risk Mitigation Network
Yuji Kurihara (Secretary-General, National Institutes for Cultural Heritage (NICH))

Part 2 Panel discussion

Moderator's remarks

Yuji Kurihara (Secretary-General, NICH)

Recent Developments in the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in
the Event of Armed Conflict and the Functions of Blue Shield

Mariko Fujioka (Assistant Professor, Yokohama City University)

Panel discussion

Moderator: Yuji Kurihara (Secretary-General, NICH)

Panelists: Mariko Fujioka (Assistant Professor, Yokohama City University)

Ronald Porcelli (Legal assistant, UNESCO Office for the Pacific States in Apia, Samoa)

Andrea Kieskamp (Vice President, Blue Shield Netherlands)

Samuel Franco Arce (President, ICOM-LAC Regional Alliance, Guatemala)

Closing Remarks

Kosaku Maeda (Vice-Chairperson of the JCIC-Heritage,
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* This book is the proceedings of “International Symposium on Cultural Heritage Disaster Risk Management”, held on March 18th, 2017, at Tokyo National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Japan.

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Report

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