

Main Activities

- Organized International Expert Meeting on Cultural Heritage and Disaster Resilient Communities within the framework of the 3rd United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (March 2015, Tokyo and Sendai)



Tokyo Strategy Meeting



Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction Working on Session Resilient Cultural Heritage

- Delivered training session on emergency measures for disaster-affected cultural properties (March 2015, Nara)



Training session on emergency measures for disaster-affected cultural properties



- Participated in Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) of cultural heritage in the Republic of Vanuatu following Cyclone Pam (April 2015, Vanuatu)

- Organized academic meeting to review cultural heritage disaster management in Japan, China, and South Korea (November 2015, China)



Academic meeting to review cultural heritage disaster management in Japan, China, and South Korea

- Offered advice on conservation of disaster-affected cultural properties in Fukushima Prefecture, delivered training on the handling of disaster-affected cultural properties, produced kinetic records of intangible cultural assets, etc. (2015–2016, Fukushima)

- Provided Joso City Office with advice and technical support on restoration of water-damaged local government documents



Joso City Hall (Ibaraki Prefecture)



Cleaning of local government documents

- Held International Symposium on Cultural Heritage Disaster Risk Management entitled “How to Protect Cultural Heritage Assets from Major Disasters: The Potential of Blue Shield” (Kyoto, December 2015)
- Hosted national Historical Materials Network research meeting (February 2015, Kobe)
- Held public symposium entitled “Working with Communities on Cultural Heritage Disaster Management and Mitigation” (June 2015 and January 2016, Kyushu)
- Presented lecture entitled “Protecting Cultural Properties from Disaster: the Past, Present, and Future of Cultural Asset Disaster Management” (December 2015, Kyoto)



Blue Shield Study Group

文化財防災ネットワーク推進事業について

Development of the National Task Force for the Japanese Cultural Heritage Disaster Risk Mitigation Network

(CH-DRM Net)



Development of the National Task Force
for the Japanese Cultural Heritage Disaster Risk Mitigation Network

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Purpose and Background

Immediately after the Great East Japan Earthquake in March 2011, which caused unprecedented human and material damage, the National Institutes for Cultural Heritage (NICH) worked with the Agency for Cultural Affairs to launch Operations for Salvaging Cultural Properties and Other Materials Affected by the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake and Related Disasters (Cultural Properties Rescue Operations). With the National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo, acting as secretariat, these operations continued for two years until the end of fiscal 2012, and in collaboration with interested parties temporary relocation and other emergency measures were arranged for a wide range of disaster-affected cultural properties including not only works of art and craft, but also documents relating to artworks and natural history, archival materials, and books, regardless of whether or not these items were designated or registered as cultural properties. Subsequently further support has been provided to Fukushima Prefecture, where the accident at the Fukushima Dai-Ichi Nuclear Power Plant had prevented necessary measures being taken for many cultural properties in the former exclusion zone and other inaccessible areas. The NICH, acting as secretariat, has provided support to Fukushima Prefecture by administering Operations for Salvaging Cultural Properties and Other Materials Affected by Disaster in Fukushima Prefecture (Fukushima Prefecture Cultural Properties Rescue Operations).

Based on such experience in cultural property salvage, NICH recognizes a pressing need to establish systems and structures to prevent damage to cultural heritage and salvage disaster-affected cultural properties in the event of large-scale natural disasters such as major earthquakes predicted to occur in the Nankai Trough and directly beneath Tokyo. Thus NICH decided to work with the Agency for Cultural Affairs to build a network to mitigate cultural heritage disaster risk in times of emergency. The Headquarters of the National Task Force for the Japanese Cultural Heritage Disaster Risk Mitigation Network (CH-DRM Net) was established in July 2014 with the President of NICH at its head and institute directors as members, in order to develop human resources required to mitigate cultural heritage disaster risk, gather, analyze, and disseminate information, and use such information to build systems and structures for swift conduct of cultural heritage rescue operations in times of emergency. A CH-DRM Network Development Office has also been established with the Secretary-General as its director and mid-level and junior staff of institutes as members, and NICH as a whole is engaging in efforts to develop the CH-DRM Network.



Ishinomaki Culture Center (Miyagi Prefecture)



Futaba Town History and Folklore Museum (Fukushima Prefecture)



The Headquarters of the National Task Force for the Japanese Cultural Heritage Disaster Risk Mitigation Network

Main Activities

The main activities conducted by NICH to develop the CH-DRM Network are listed below:

1. System development

- Investigations aimed at creating liaison and cooperation systems for mitigating cultural heritage disaster risk and conducting rescue operations in times of emergency.

2. Research and survey

- Research and survey on mitigation of cultural heritage disaster risk and conduct of rescue operations, and the gathering and dissemination of information.
- Research on diagnosis of deterioration in disaster-affected cultural properties based on conservation science, the conservation environment, stabilization management, and restoration.
- Research on disaster risk mitigation for intangible cultural assets and the handing of such assets following disasters.

3. Human resource development

- Guidance and advice on cultural heritage disaster risk mitigation and rescue operations, training, education, and awareness-raising.

CH-DRM Network Development Council

NICH established the CH-DRM Network Development Council to reach out to organizations and groups involved with cultural heritage and disaster mitigation, especially groups and institutions that participated in the Committee for Salvaging Cultural Properties Affected by the 2011 Earthquake off the Pacific Coast of Tohoku and Related Disasters, in order to develop a common understanding of the need for renewed network-building and future efforts. The 20 groups listed below are currently taking part in the Council, which will continue to invite participation by groups that support its aims.



CH-DRM Network Development Council

CH-DRM Network Development Council

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| National Institute for Cultural Heritage | The Japan Society for the Conservation of Cultural Property |
| Independent administrative institution National Museum of Art | The Japan Council of Art Museums |
| National Museum of Nature and Science, Tokyo | The Japan Society of Archives Institution |
| Inter-University Research Institute corporation National Institute for Cultural Heritage | The Japan Association for the University Museological Studies |
| National Diet Library | Network for Preserving Historical Materials |
| Japanese Association of Museums | Network for Preserving Historical Archives |
| Japanese Council Science Museum | Natural History Museum Network of Western Japan |
| The Japan Society for the Conservation of Cultural Property | National Council of Historical and Folklore Museums |
| Japan Society for Scientific studies on cultural property | The university museums council |
| Japanese Archaeological Association | Foundation for Cultural Heritage and Art Research |

CH-DRM Network Expert Meeting

The CH-DRM Network Expert Meeting was established to tap into the knowledge of highly experienced cultural heritage experts engaged in disaster mitigation and salvage efforts with a view to building future cultural heritage disaster mitigation networks. This cross-organizational body is expected to offer wide-ranging advice from a broad perspective. The meeting currently has 20 members including Kyoto University of Art and Design Emeritus Professor Toshihide Uchida acting as chair, and will add further members as required. To encourage the free and uninhibited exchange of views, as a rule the meeting is not open to the public, but a summary of discussion is made public once confirmed by participants.