

# Preservation and Utilization of Cultural Properties

## 1 Outline of the System for Protecting Cultural Properties

### 1. Outline (Number of Cultural Properties Designated by the National Government, etc.)

Cultural properties are essential to accurately understand the history and culture of Japan, and they also form the foundations for its future cultural growth and development. It is extremely important to appropriately preserve and utilize such cultural properties, which are the heritage of Japanese people.

Under the Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties,

#### Number of Cultural Properties Designated by the National Government

As of April 1, 2012

Designation				
Important Cultural Properties (National Treasures)		12,816	(1,082)	*1
Buildings and other structures		2,386	(216)	
Works of Fine Arts and Crafts		10,430	(866)	
Important Intangible Cultural Properties		(Number of Holders and Groups)		
Performing Arts	Individuals recognition	38	(56 people)	
	Collective recognition	12	(12 groups)	
Craft Techniques	Individuals recognition	42	(57 people)	*2
	Group recognition	14	(14 groups)	
Important Tangible Folk Cultural Properties		212		
Important Intangible Folk Cultural Properties		278		
Historic Sites, Places of Scenic Beauty and Natural Monuments (Special Historic Sites, Special Places of Scenic Beauty, and Special Natural Monuments)		2,952	(162)	*3
Historic Sites		1,668	(60)	
Places of Scenic Beauty		331	(30)	
Natural Monuments		953	(72)	
Selection				
Important Cultural Landscapes		30		
Important Preservation Districts for Groups of Traditional Buildings		93		
Registration				
Registered Tangible Cultural Properties (buildings)		8,834		
Registered Tangible Cultural Properties (works of fine arts and crafts)		13		
Registered Tangible Folk Cultural Properties		25		
Registered Monuments		61		
Objects of conservation that are not Cultural Properties				
Selected Conservation Techniques		(Number of Holders and Groups)		
	Holdings	46	(52 people)	
	Preservation Groups	29	(31 groups)	*4

\*1 The number of Important Cultural Properties includes National Treasures.

\*2 The actual number of people who received recognition as holder is 56 after deleting the number of double recognition.

\*3 The number of Historic Sites, Places of Scenic Beauty, Natural Monuments includes Special Historic sites, Special Places of Scenic Beauty, and Special Natural Monuments

\*4 The actual number of recognized groups is 29 after deleting the number of double approvals.

the national government thus designates and selects the most important cultural properties and imposes restrictions on such activities as alteration of their existing state, repairs, and export.

The national government also implements diverse measures necessary for the preservation and utilization of cultural properties. Measures for tangible cultural properties (such as buildings, works of fine arts and crafts, and tangible folk cultural properties) include preservation, disaster protection work, and acquisition. For intangible cultural properties (such as performing arts, craft techniques, manners and customs, and folk performing arts), these measures include subsidies for programs for training successors or for documentation.

In addition, a registration system, which provides protective measures that are more moderate than those of the designation system, has been established for cultural properties (tangible cultural properties, tangible folk cultural properties, and monuments) primarily of the modern period, whose protection is increasingly necessary due to land development and changes in lifestyles in recent years. Under the registration system, cultural properties that are in special need of preservation and utilization are registered with the national government. Based on notification, guidance, and advice, this system aims at voluntary protection of cultural properties by their owners (cultural properties other than those designated by the national or local governments), thereby complementing the designation system.

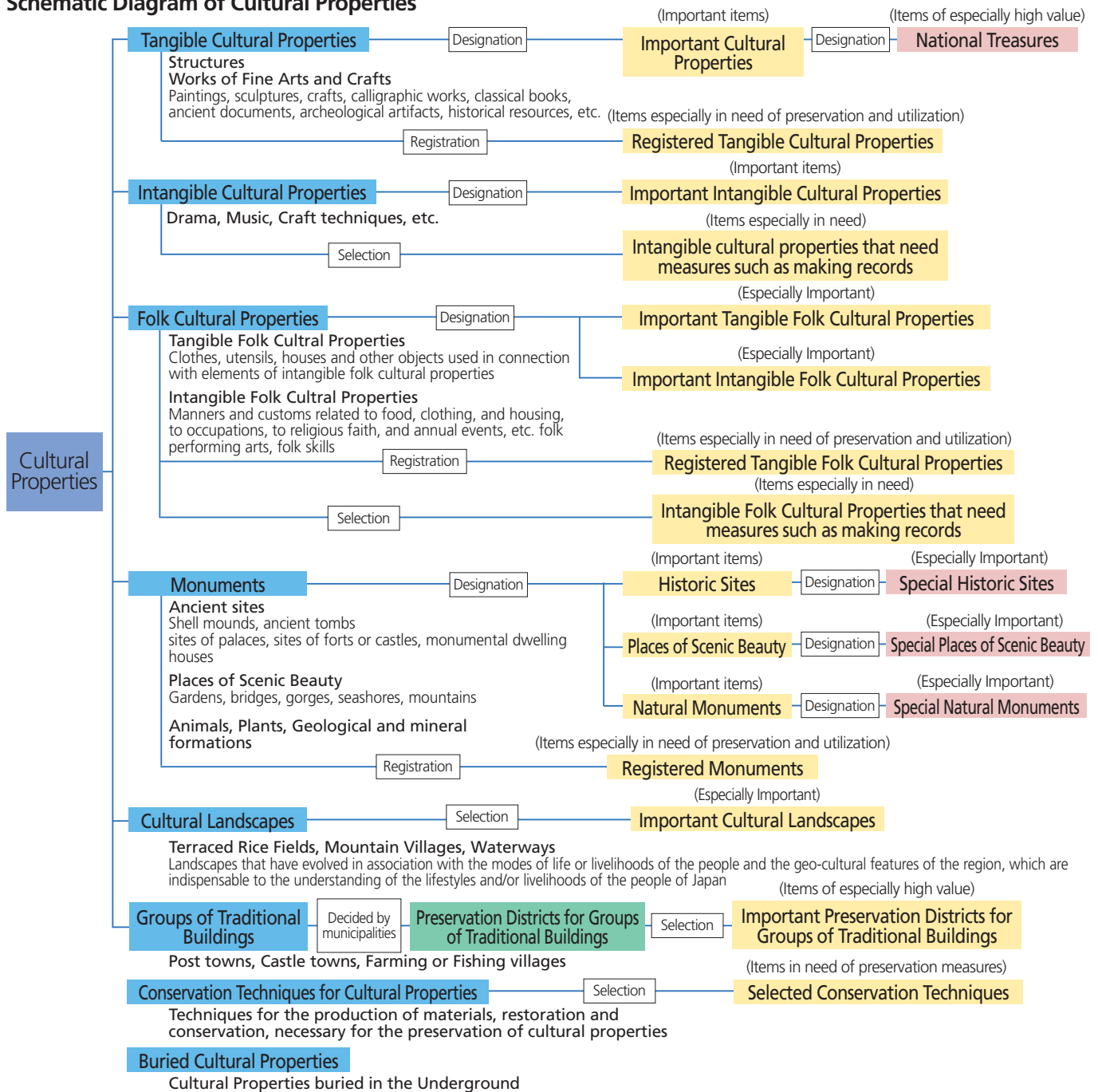
Moreover, those traditional techniques or skills that are indispensable for preserving cultural properties and that require protection are designated as Selected Conservation Techniques.

Protective measures are also taken for cultural properties buried underground, including certain restrictions on the excavation of Buried Cultural Properties.

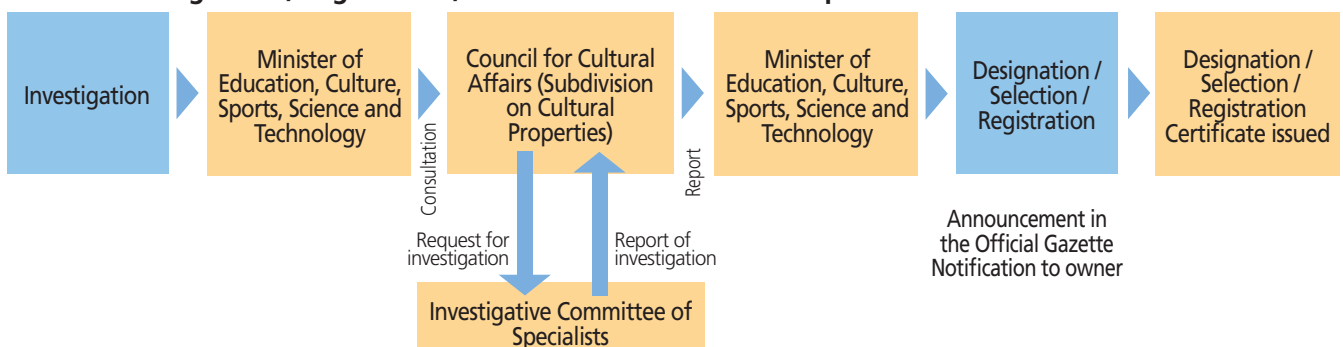
The designation, selection, and registration of cultural properties are carried out by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology on the basis of reports submitted by the Council for Cultural Affairs in response to a ministerial inquiry. The chart to the left illustrates how the different types of cultural property are classified.

## 2. Schematic Diagram of Cultural Properties

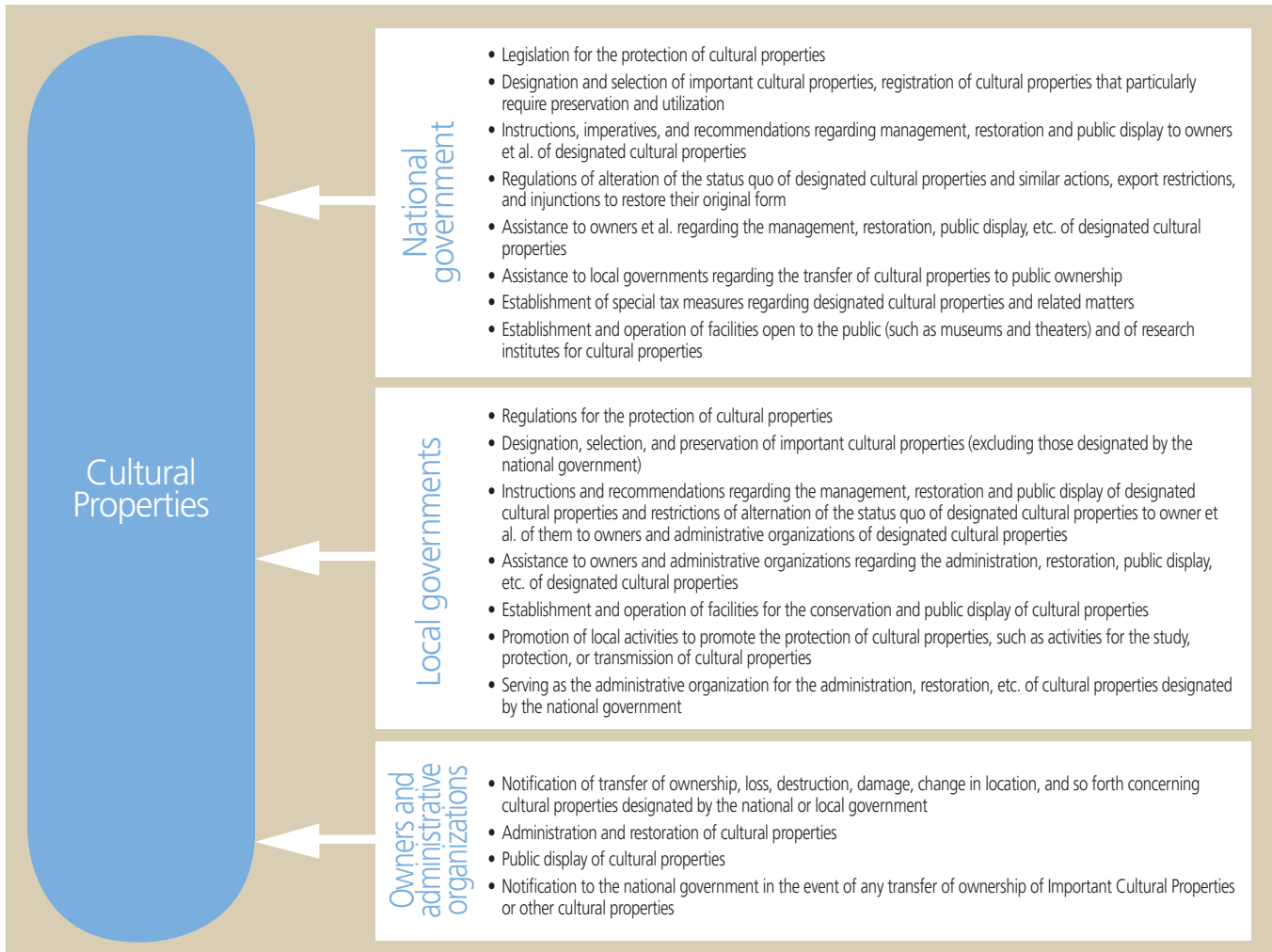
### Schematic Diagram of Cultural Properties



### Process of Designation, Registration, and Selection of Cultural Properties



### 3. The National Government, Local Governments, Owners, and Others in the Framework of the Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties and Other Laws / Regulations



## 2 Tangible Cultural Properties

“Tangible Cultural Properties” collectively refer to cultural products with a tangible form that possess high historic, artistic, and academic value for Japan, such as structures, paintings, crafts, sculptures,

calligraphic works, classical books, paleography, archaeological artifacts, and historic materials. Within this category, all objects except for structures are called “works of fine arts and crafts.”

### 1. Structures

As of April 1, 2012, the national government has designated 2,386 sites (including 216 National Treasures) which consists of 4,468 buildings and other structures (including 264 National Treasures) as Important Cultural Properties.

In accordance with the provisions of the Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties, the permission of the Commissioner for Cultural Affairs is required for any alteration to the existing state of structures designated as Important Cultural Properties. Major or minor repair work is periodically required to keep them in good condition. Conservation repair work is carried out by the owners of Important Cultural Properties or their custodial bodies, for historical structures that are made of wood, and financial support is available to cover large expenses. As many of them have roofs made of plant materials like thatch, wooden shingle, and cypress bark,

they are extremely vulnerable to fire. For this reason, the Agency for Cultural Affairs provides necessary subsidies for the owners or custodial bodies to install or repair fire-preservation facilities and other necessary disaster prevention systems.

Moreover, buildings and structures of Japan's modern era (roughly after 1868) form a significant cultural heritage born out of this country's modernization process. However, some of them are rapidly disappearing along with changes in society in recent years. Based on the results of investigations on them, a growing number of modern buildings and structures are being designated as Important Cultural Properties.

By FY 2011, 287 modern buildings and structures have been designated Important Cultural Properties including a National Treasure (the former Togu Palace [Akasaka State Guest House]).



National Treasure  
Kunozan Toshogu Shrine  
*Honden* main hall,  
*Ishi-no-ma* hall and  
*haiden* altar (Shizuoka  
City, Shizuoka Pref.)



Important Cultural Property  
Public bath of Katakurakan  
hot spring (Suwa City,  
Nagano Pref.)

### Buildings and Other Structures Designated as National Treasures or Important Cultural Properties (classified by period)

As of April 1, 2012

Category		Sites	Structures
Early modern period or earlier	Shinto shrines	565 (38)	1,185 (64)
	Buddhist temples	848 (152)	1,125 (160)
	Castles	53 (8)	235 (16)
	Residences	94 (14)	152 (20)
	Private domestic buildings	346	788
	Others	193 (3)	262 (3)
Subtotal		2,099 (215)	3,747 (263)
Meiji Period Onward	Religious buildings	25	32
	Residences and private buildings	77 (1)	277 (1)
	School facilities	38	65
	Cultural facilities	34	56
	Governmental offices	22	27
	Commercial buildings	20	27
	Civil engineering structures	66	220
	Others	5	17
Subtotal		287 (1)	721 (1)
Grand total		2,386 (216)	4,468 (264)

Note: A parenthesized numeral indicates the number of National Treasures included in the figure that precedes it.



Registered Tangible Cultural Property  
Main hall of Tsukiji Hongan-ji temple (Chuo-ku, Tokyo)



Registered Tangible Cultural Property  
Toyoda Auditorium of Nagoya University (Nagoya City,  
Aichi Pref.)

In 1996, the Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties was amended and a cultural property registration system was introduced in addition to the existing designation system. Under the new system, the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology can register architectural and other structural properties (tangible cultural properties other than those designated by the national or local governments) which are in particular need of measures for protection and utilization as Registered Tangible Cultural Properties.

A variety of buildings and other structures are registered, including houses and public structures, civil engineering structures such as bridges and dikes, and installations such as fences or towers. In September, 2010, the number of registrations exceeded 8,000. As of April 1, 2012, 8,834 properties were registered, located in 775 municipalities of all 47 prefectures.

### Protection of Cultural Properties Logo

The protection of Cultural Properties logo chosen from public submissions was established in May of 1966 as an emblem for the promotion of a campaign to protect cultural properties. Based on a pattern of two hands spread wide open, this logo invokes the image of a bracketing called a *tokyo*, which is an important element of Japanese architecture. The three stacked elements symbolize the spirit of protection which eternally preserves the ethnic heritage of cultural properties from the past, in the present, and into the future.



Note: A *tokyo* is a kind of a wooden joint which is usually placed on top of each pillar to support the long eaves of temples

### Logo for the Cultural Properties Protection Week

The logo for Cultural Protection Week was chosen out of public proposers in 2010, in commemoration of the 60th anniversary of enforcement of the Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties, to make the week more familiar to the nation.

This logo is the stylized kanji-character “文” which is the first character in “bunka,” 文化 (“bunka” means “culture” in English), and is designed in the image of family crests. It shows the transition of Japanese cultural artifacts born out of cultural activities over the years. The colored parts of the hexagonal logo symbolize the six categories of “Tangible Cultural Properties,” “Intangible Cultural Properties,” “Folk Cultural Properties,” “Monuments,” “Cultural Landscapes” and “Groups of Traditional Buildings.”

Cultural Properties Protection Week starts every November 1 and ends on November 7. During this week, municipal Boards of Education take the lead in organizing exhibitions of historical structures and works of fine arts and crafts, tours of historical sites, performances of traditional performing arts, and various events held across the country, providing opportunities to get in touch with Japan’s history and culture. In 2011, the 58th annual Cultural Properties Protection Week was held.



文化財保護強調週間  
Cultural Properties Protection Week

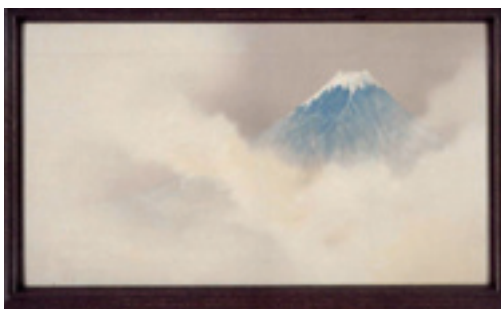
## 2. Works of Fine Arts and Crafts

The national government had begun to designation of fine arts and crafts as cultural properties in 1897, in the same year the Law for the Preservation of Ancient Shrines and Temples was enacted. Under the present Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties, it has designated 10,430 objects as Important Cultural Properties (including 866 National Treasures) as of April 1, 2012.

The administration and restoration of a National Treasure or Important Cultural Property shall be conducted by its owner or administrative organization (the local government entity or other corporate entity recognized by the Commissioner for Cultural Affairs to appropriately administer the designated cultural property concerned). Out of the total number of works of fine arts and crafts that have been designated National Treasures or Important Cultural Properties, approximately 60% are owned by shrines and Buddhist temples.

Approval from the Commissioner for Cultural Affairs is required to change the form of these designated cultural properties or perform any action that will affect their preservation. Exportation of designated cultural properties from Japan is forbidden, except it is when judged necessary and approved as in the case of an overseas exhibition. The national government extends support for the conservation and restoration of designated cultural properties by providing National Treasury subsidies and other means, whereas the Commissioner for Cultural Affairs is authorized to give instructions on their administration, restoration, public display, and other related activities.

The cultural property registration system was introduced for works of fine art and crafts in April, 2005, and, as of April 1, 2012, 13 properties have been registered.



Important Cultural Property: Shippo fugaku-zu gaku (cloisonné panel "Mt. Fuji") by Namikawa Sosuke



Important Cultural Property: Genre painting (color on paper) by Miyagawa Choshun

### Works of Fine Arts and Crafts Designated as National Treasures or Important Cultural Properties

As of April 1, 2012

Category	Number
Paintings	1,974 (158)
Sculptures	2,654 (126)
Crafts	2,428 (252)
Calligraphic works/Classical books	1,882 (223)
Ancient documents	739 (60)
Archaeological artifacts	586 (44)
Historic resources	167 (3)
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,430 (866)</b>

Note: The numbers in parentheses are National Treasures and included in the total number



Important Cultural Property: Mokuzo senjukannon-ryuzo (wooden standing statue of thousand armed Avalokiteshwara)



Important Cultural Property: Dogu (clay figurine) excavated from the Kamioka site in Fukushima Pref.

### 3 Intangible Cultural Properties



Important Intangible Cultural Property: Kumiodori ongaku utanshin (performer of the traditional Okinawan musical theatre)  
Holder: NISHIE Kishun

#### Number of Designated Important Intangible Cultural Properties

As of April 1, 2012

Division	Category	No. of designation	
		Individual recognition	Collective or group recognition
Performing arts	Gagaku	0	1
	Nohgaku	7	1
	Bunraku	3	1
	Kabuki	3	1
	Kumiodori	2	1
	Music	20	6
	Dance	1	1
	Engei	2	0
	Subtotal	38	12
Craft techniques	Ceramics	10	3
	Textile weaving and dyeing	15	7
	Lacquerwork	5	1
	Metalwork	5	0
	Woodwork and Bamboowork	2	0
	Doll making	2	0
	Papermaking	3	3
	Subtotal	42	14
Total		80	26

In Japan, “Intangible Cultural Properties” refers to stage arts, music, craft techniques, and other intangible cultural assets that possess high historic or artistic value for Japan. Intangible Cultural Properties consist of human “technical artistry” which is embodied by individuals or groups of individuals who represent the highest mastery of the techniques concerned.

The national government designates especially significant Intangible Cultural Properties as “Important Intangible Cultural Properties” while simultaneously recognizing individuals or groups that have achieved advanced mastery of the pertinent technique as the holder or holders of that Important Intangible Cultural Property so as to ensure the transmission of traditional artistry. Recognition of holders may take one of three forms: individual recognition, collective recognition, or group recognition.

For the protection of Important Intangible Cultural Properties, the national government provides special grants (¥2 million a year) to recognize individual holders (“Living National Treasure”) and also subsidizes a portion of the expenses incurred for successor training programs or public performance programs conducted by recognized group holders, local governments, and other entities.

Exhibitions are held featuring works and related materials concerning the “technical artistry” of recognized individual holders and holding groups of craft techniques and techniques for supporting cultural properties in order to facilitate understanding for the transmission of such techniques. Furthermore, the Japan Arts Council (National Theatre of Japan and other national theatres) conducts training workshops and other activities to train the respective successors of traditional performing arts, such as Nohgaku, Bunraku (puppet theater), Kabuki, Kumiodori (Traditional Okinawan musical theatre), and traditional popular entertainment.



Important Intangible Cultural Property: Setoguro (ceramics)  
Holder: KATO kozo

Folk cultural properties are indispensable for understanding the transition in the daily lives of the Japanese people. They include tangible and intangible cultural properties that people of Japan have created and passed down in the course of daily life, such as manners and customs, folk performing arts and folk techniques concerning food, clothing, housing, occupation, religious faith, annual events, and other matters; and clothing, tools and implements, dwellings, and other objects used in connection with the foregoing.

The national government designates especially significant tangible or intangible folk cultural properties as “Important Tangible Folk Cultural Properties” or “Important Intangible Folk Cultural Properties” and strives to preserve them.

For Important Tangible Folk Cultural Properties, the national government subsidizes projects concerning their restoration or administration, projects to install facilities necessary for their preservation and utilization, such as equipment for their preservation or utilization, disaster prevention facilities, and so forth. For Important Intangible Folk Cultural Properties, the government subsidizes projects to train successors and restore or newly acquire props, tools, and other objects. Regardless of designation by the national government, the national government also subsidizes a portion of the expenses incurred by local governments and other entities for projects that involve a survey of tangible or intangible folk cultural properties as well as dissemination; training, exhibition, and other classes; and the production of audiovisual records of intangible folk cultural properties.

Moreover, tangible folk cultural properties other than Important Tangible Folk Cultural Properties that particularly require measures for preservation and utilization are to be registered as “Registered Tangible Folk Cultural Properties.” ACA also provides financial support for the project including the organizing materials. Intangible folk cultural properties other than Important Intangible Folk Cultural Properties that particularly require documentation or other attention are selected as “Intangible Folk Cultural Properties that need measures such as making records.” The national government produces documentary records for them as necessary or subsidizes a documentation program for them conducted by local governments.



Important Tangible Folk Cultural Property: *Fukuo-ji bishamondo hono yosan shinko ema* (wooden plate of sericulture faith dedicated to the bishamondo-hall of Fukuo-ji temple) (Kakuta City, Miyagi Pref.)



Important Intangible Folk Cultural Property: *Sunari matsuri no danjiribune gyoji to miyoshi-nagashi* (Events of decorative portable shrine ships and ceremony to drive away devil spirits) (Kanie Town, Aichi Pref.)

### Number of Properties Designated as Important Tangible Folk Cultural Properties

As of April 1, 2012

Category	Quantity
Used for food, clothing and housing	28
Used for production and occupation	90
Used for transportation, transit and communication	18
Used for commerce	1
Used for social living	1
Used for religious faith	39
Used for knowledge of folk customs	7
Used for folk performing arts, amusement, and games	23
Used for a lifetime	3
Used for annual events	2
Total	212

### Number of Properties Designated as Important Intangible Folk Cultural Properties

As of April 1, 2012

Category	No. of designation
Manners and customs	112
Folk performing arts	155
Folk techniques	11
Total	278

## 5 Monuments



Historic Site: Precincts of Iwashimizu Hachimangu-shrine (Yawata City, Kyoto Pref.)

### Number of Designated Historical Sites

As of April 1, 2012

Category	Number of designation
Shell mounds, ancient tombs, etc.	669 (14)
Site of palaces, etc.	372 (19)
Sites of shrines, temples, etc.	277 (14)
Sites of Confucian shrines, libraries	25 (3)
Herb gardens, charitable institutions, etc.	6
Sites of barrier gates, mileposts, etc.	178 (2)
Tombs, tombstones, etc.	76 (3)
Old houses, wells, etc.	82 (6)
Sites related to foreigners or foreign countries	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,693 (61)</b>

Note: The numbers in parentheses are Special Historical Sites and included in the total

### Number of Designated Places of Scenic Beauty

As of April 1, 2012

Category	Number
Gardens	203 (24)
Parks	10
Bridges	2
Flowering trees	13
Pine groves	6 (1)
Rocks and caves	14
Ravines and mountain streams	34 (5)
Waterfalls	9
Lakes and marshes	3 (1)
Floating waterweeds	1
Springs	1
Beaches	32
Islands	9 (2)
Sandbars	1 (1)
Hot springs	1
Mountains	16 (2)
Hills, highlands, flatlands	2
Rivers	1
Panoramic views	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>369 (36)</b>

Note: The numbers in parentheses are Special Places of Scenic Beauty and included in the total

### Number of Designated Natural Monuments

As of April 1, 2012

Category	Number
Animals	193 (21)
Plants	543 (30)
Geological and mineral formations	235 (20)
Nature conservation areas	23 (4)
<b>Total</b>	<b>994 (75)</b>

Note: The numbers in parentheses are Special Natural Monuments and included in the total

“Monuments” is the collective term to refer to the following types of cultural properties:

- a) Shell mounds, ancient tombs, sites of palaces, sites of forts or castles, monumental dwelling houses, and other sites which possess a high historic or scientific value for Japan
- b) Gardens, bridges, gorges, seashores, mountains, and other places of scenic beauty which possess a high artistic or aesthetic value for Japan
- c) Animals, plants, minerals, and geological features that possess a high scientific value for Japan

The national government designates significant items in these three categories as “Historic Sites,” “Places of Scenic Beauty,” and “Natural Monuments,” and seeks to preserve them. Those which are of particularly high significance are designated as “Special Historical Sites,” “Special Places of Scenic Beauty,” and “Special Natural Monuments,” respectively.

Under the terms of the Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties, any alterations to the existing state of and area designated as a Historical Site or other category or activities that will affect its preservation require authorization from the Commissioner for Cultural Affairs. Local governments make arrangements for substantial compensation to land owners by purchasing designated land, and conserve the land to widely utilize such Historical Sites with the support of state subsidies.

For monuments of the modern period whose protection is increasingly necessary due to development or other reasons, a system for registering monuments has been introduced, which provides moderate measures for protection based on notification and guidance. As of April 1, 2012, 61 monuments were registered.



Place of Scenic Beauty: Jodogahama (Moyako City, Iwate Pref.)



Natural Monument: Kugunarihama and Kukunakihama (Kesenuma City, Miyagi Pref.)

## 6

## Cultural Landscapes

Landscapes formed by people's lives or work in a given region and the climate of the region are indispensable for understanding the lives and work of the Japanese people. It is also stipulated that, following a proposal from a prefectural or municipal government, the national government can select a particularly important cultural landscape as an Important Cultural Landscape from among those for which necessary protective measures have been taken.

The national government partially subsidizes research projects run by the local public authorities on historical transitions and natural environments of cultural landscapes and on the lives and work of people in a relevant region; projects, including surveys, mapping and others, for formulating a conservation plan required to propose a landscape to be selected as an Important Cultural Landscape; maintenance projects for a selected Important Cultural Landscapes, including restoration and landscaping, disaster prevention work, and installation of signs describing the cultural landscape in question; and,

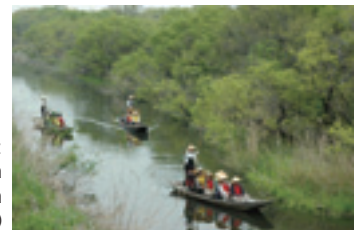
diffusion and consensus formation projects including study sessions, open lectures, and workshops in which local residents can participate.

As of April 1, 2012, 30 areas across the country have been selected as Important Cultural Landscapes.

Important Cultural Landscapes:  
Kita-uonome, Shinkamigoto Town  
(Shinkamigoto town, Nagasaki  
Pref.)



Important Cultural Landscapes:  
Wetland of meeting of Tonegawa  
and Watarasegawa Rivers (Itakura  
town, Gunma Pref.)



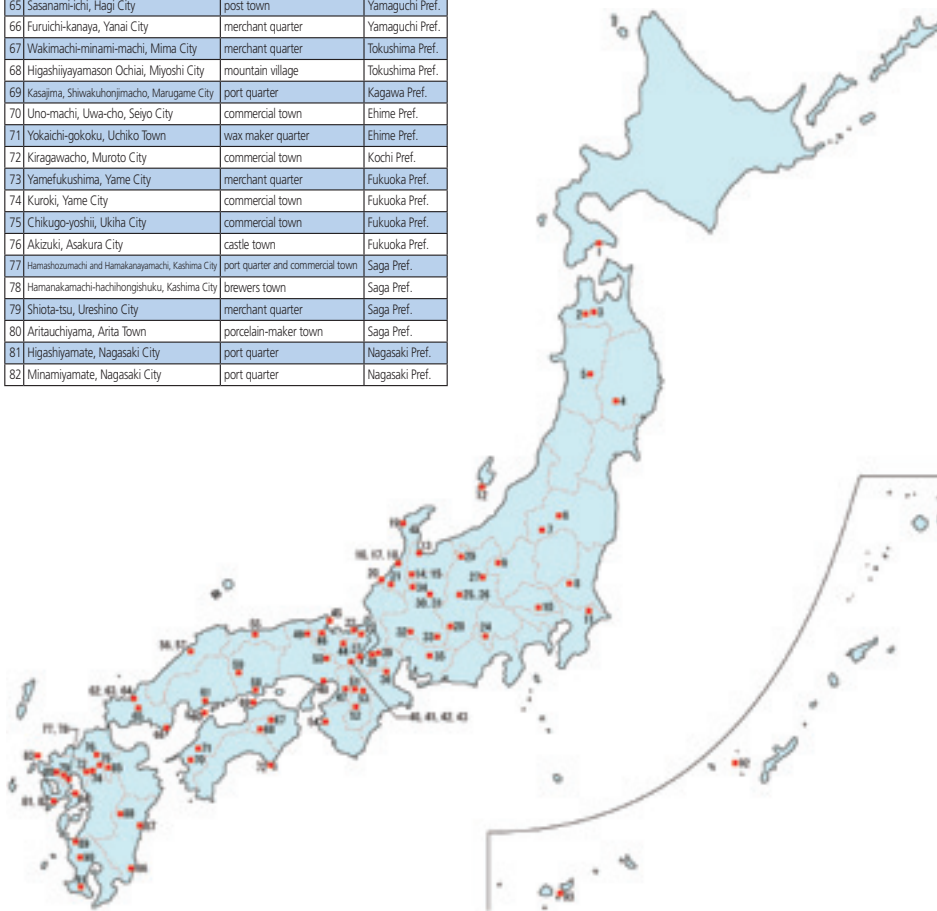
## List of Important Cultural Landscapes

As of April 1, 2012

	Name	Location	Assigned date
1	Wetland in Omi-hachiman	Omi-hachiman, Shiga	January 26, 2006
2	Farm Village of Hondera area, Ichinoseki	Ichinoseki, Iwate	July 28, 2006
3	Cultural Landscape along the Sarugawa River resulting from Ainu Tradition and Modern Settlement	Biratori, Hokkaido	July 26, 2007
4	Danbata (terraced fields) in Ysumizugaura	Uwajima, Ehime	July 26, 2007
5	Tono Arakawakogen Farm	Tono, Iwate	March 28, 2008
6	Waterfront of Kaizu, Nishihama, and Chinai in Takashima City	Takashima, Shiga	March 28, 2008
7	Ontayaki Village	Hita, Oita	March 28, 2008
8	Rice terraces in Warabino	Karatsu, Saga	July 28, 2008
9	Landscape with Tsujun irrigation channel and rice terraces in Shiraito Plateau	Yamato, Kumamoto	July 28, 2008
10	Cultural Landscape in Uji	Uji, Kyoto	February 12, 2009
11	Cultural landscape in the Shimantogawa River basin. Villages in the mountains to the headwater region.	Tsuno, Kochi	February 12, 2009
12	Cultural landscape in the Shimantogawa River basin. Villages and rice terraces in the mountains at the upstream region.	Yusuhara, Kochi	February 12, 2009
13	Cultural landscape in the Shimantogawa River basin. Circulation and traffic among agricultural and mountainous villages at the upstream region.	Nakatosa, Kochi	February 12, 2009
14	Cultural landscape in the Shimantogawa River basin. Circulation and traffic among agricultural and mountainous villages at the middlestream region.	Shimanto, Kochi	February 12, 2009
15	Cultural landscape in the Shimantogawa River basin. Vocations, circulation and traffic in the downstream region.	Shimanto, Kochi	February 12, 2009
16	Cultural landscape in Kanazawa. Tradition and culture in the castle town.	Kanazawa, Ishikawa	February 22, 2010
17	Rice terraces in Obasute	Chikuma, Nagano	February 22, 2010
18	Rice terraces in Kashiwara	Kamikatsu, Tokushima	February 22, 2010
19	Cultural landscape in Hirado Island	Hirado, Nagasaki	February 22, 2010
20	Waterfront of Harie and Shimofuri in Takashima City	Takashima, Shiga	August 5, 2010
21	Rural landscape of Tashibunosho Osaki	Bungotakada, Oita	August 5, 2010
22	Kure port and fishing townscape	Nakatosa, Kochi	February 7, 2011
23	Cultural landscape of the Ojika islands	Ojika, Nagasaki	February 7, 2011
24	Fishing village of Sakitsu, Amakusa	Amakusa, Kumamoto	February 7, 2011
25	Wetland of meeting of Tonegawa and Watarasegawa Rivers	Itakura, Gunma	September 21, 2011
26	Agricultural and mountainous landscape of Sado Nishimikawa trace back to Sado Gold Mine	Sado, Niigata	September 21, 2011
27	Cultural landscape of Oku-Asuka	Asuka, Nara	September 21, 2011
28	Cultural landscape of Kuroshima Island in Sasebo	Sasebo, Nagasaki	September 21, 2011
29	Cultural landscape of Hisakajima Island in Goto	Goto, Nagasaki	September 21, 2011
30	Cultural landscape of Kita-uonome in Shinkamigoto	Shinkamigoto, Nagasaki	January 24, 2012

## 7 Preservation Districts for Groups of Traditional Buildings

1	Motomachi-Suehirocho, Hakodate City	port quarter	Hokkaido Pref.
2	Nakacho, Hiroasaki City	warrior quarter	Aomori Pref.
3	Nakamachi, Kuroishi City	merchant quarter	Aomori Pref.
4	Jyonai-suwakoji, Kanegasaki Town	warrior quarter	Iwate Pref.
5	Kakunodate, Senboku City	warrior quarter	Akita Pref.
6	Ouchi-juku, Shimogo Town	post town	Fukushima Pref.
7	Maesawa, Minamiazai Town	mountain village	Fukushima Pref.
8	Makabe, Sakuragawa City	commercial town	Ibaraki Pref.
9	Rokugo Akaiwa, Nakanajo Town	mountain village and sericulture community	Gunma Pref.
10	Kawagoe, Kawagoe City	merchant quarter	Saitama Pref.
11	Sawara, Katori City	merchant quarter	Chiba Pref.
12	Shukunegi, Sado City	port quarter	Niigata Pref.
13	Yamachosuji, Takaoka City	merchant quarter	Toyama Pref.
14	Ainokura, Nanto City	mountain village	Toyama Pref.
15	Suganuma, Nanto City	mountain village	Toyama Pref.
16	Higashiyama-higashi, Kanazawa City	pleasure quarter	Ishikawa Pref.
17	Kazue-machi, Kanazawa City	pleasure quarter	Ishikawa Pref.
18	Utatsu sanroku, Kanazawa City	temple town	Ishikawa Pref.
19	Kuroshima district, Wajima City	ship-owner quarter	Ishikawa Pref.
20	Kagahashidate, Kaga City	ship-owner quarter	Ishikawa Pref.
21	Kagahigashitani, Kaga City	mountain village	Ishikawa Pref.
22	Obamanishigumi, Obama City	merchant and pleasure quarter	Fukui Pref.
23	Kumagawajuku, Wakasa Town	post town	Fukui Pref.
24	Akasawa, Hayakawa Town	post town for pilgrims	Yamanashi Pref.
25	Narai, Shiojiri City	post town	Nagano Pref.
26	Kishirasawa, Shiojiri City	lacquerware town	Nagano Pref.
27	Unnojuku, Tomi City	post town and sericulture community	Nagano Pref.
28	Tsumagajuku, Nagiso Town	post town	Nagano Pref.
29	Aoni, Hakuba Village	mountain village	Nagano Pref.
30	Sanmachi, Takayama City	merchant quarter	Gifu Pref.
31	Shimonomachigimachi, Takayama City	merchant quarter	Gifu Pref.
32	Mino-machi, Mino City	merchant quarter	Gifu Pref.
33	Hondori, Iwamura-cho, Ena City	merchant quarter	Gifu Pref.
34	Ogi-machi, Shirakawa Village	mountain village	Gifu Pref.
35	Asuke, Toyota City	merchant quarter	Aichi Pref.
36	Sekijuku, Kameyama City	post town	Mie Pref.
37	Sakamoto, Otsu City	monks' community	Shiga Pref.
38	Hachiman, Omihachiman City	merchant quarter	Shiga Pref.
39	Gokashokondo, Higashiomi City	farming village	Shiga Pref.
40	Kamigamo, Kyoto City	shrine quarter	Kyoto Pref.
41	Sannei-zaka, Kyoto City	monks' community	Kyoto Pref.
42	Gion Shimbashi, Kyoto City	pleasure quarter	Kyoto Pref.
43	Saga-tonimoto, Kyoto City	monks' community	Kyoto Pref.
44	Kita, Miyama-cho, Nantan City	mountain village	Kyoto Pref.
45	Ine-ura, Ine Town	fishing village	Kyoto Pref.
46	Kaya, Yosano Town	textile town	Kyoto Pref.
47	Tondabayashi, Tondabayashi City	temple town, commercial town	Osaka Pref.
48	Kitanochi-yamamoto, Kobe City	port quarter	Hyogo Pref.
49	Izushi, Toyooka City	castle town	Hyogo Pref.
50	Sasayama, Sasayama City	castle town	Hyogo Pref.
51	Imai-cho, Kashihara City	temple town, commercial town	Nara Pref.
52	Gojo-shinmachi, Gojo City	merchant quarter	Nara Pref.
53	Matsuyama, Uda City	merchant quarter	Nara Pref.
54	Yuasa, Yuasa Town	brewers quarter	Wakayama Pref.
55	Utsubukitama-gawa, Kurayoshi City	merchant quarter	Tottori Pref.
56	Omoriginzan, Oda City	mining town	Shimane Pref.
57	Yunotsu, Ota City	port quarter, hot-spring town	Shimane Pref.
58	Kurashiki-Gawahara, Kurashiki City	merchant quarter	Okayama Pref.
59	Fukija, Takahashi City	mining town	Okayama Pref.
60	Yutakamachi-mitarai, Kure City	port quarter	Hiroshima Pref.
61	Takehara district, Takehara City	salt works town	Hiroshima Pref.
62	Horiuchi district, Hagi City	warrior quarter	Yamaguchi Pref.
63	Hyako district, Hagi City	warrior quarter	Yamaguchi Pref.
64	Hamasaki, Hagi City	port quarter	Yamaguchi Pref.
65	Sasanami-ichi, Hagi City	post town	Yamaguchi Pref.
66	Furuichi-kanaya, Yanai City	merchant quarter	Yamaguchi Pref.
67	Wakimachi-minami-machi, Mima City	merchant quarter	Tokushima Pref.
68	Higashiyamason Ochiai, Miyoshi City	mountain village	Tokushima Pref.
69	Kasajima, Shiwakuhonjicho, Marugame City	port quarter	Kagawa Pref.
70	Uno-machi, Uwa-cho, Seiyu City	commercial town	Ehime Pref.
71	Yokachi-gokoku, Uchiko Town	wax maker quarter	Ehime Pref.
72	Kiragawacho, Muroto City	commercial town	Kochi Pref.
73	Yamefukushima, Yame City	merchant quarter	Fukuoka Pref.
74	Kuroki, Yame City	commercial town	Fukuoka Pref.
75	Chikugo-yoshii, Ukiha City	commercial town	Fukuoka Pref.
76	Akizuki, Asakura City	castle town	Fukuoka Pref.
77	Hamashozumachi and Hamakanyamachi, Kashima City	port quarter and commercial town	Saga Pref.
78	Hamanakamachi-hachihongshuku, Kashima City	brewers town	Saga Pref.
79	Shiota-tsu, Ureshino City	merchant quarter	Saga Pref.
80	Aritauchiyama, Arita Town	porcelain-maker town	Saga Pref.
81	Higashiyamate, Nagasaki City	port quarter	Nagasaki Pref.
82	Minamiyamate, Nagasaki City	port quarter	Nagasaki Pref.
83	Konoura, Oshima Village, Hirado City	port quarter	Nagasaki Pref.
84	Kojirokuji, Unzen City	warrior quarter	Nagasaki Pref.
85	Mameda-machi, Hita City	merchant quarter	Oita Pref.
86	Obi, Nichinan City	warrior quarter	Miyazaki Pref.
87	Mimitsu, Hyuga City	port quarter	Miyazaki Pref.
88	Tonegawa, Shiiba Village	mountain village	Miyazaki Pref.
89	Izumifumoto, Izumi City	Warrior quarter	Kagoshima Pref.
90	Iriki-fumoto, Satsumasendai City	warrior quarter	Kagoshima Pref.
91	Chiran, Minami-kyushu City	warrior quarter	Kagoshima Pref.
92	Tonaki-jima, Tonaki Village	farming village in island	Okinawa Pref.
93	Taketomi-jima, Taketomi Town	farming village in island	Okinawa Pref.



Due to the amendment to the Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties in 1975, a system of “Preservation Districts for Groups of Traditional Buildings” was introduced in order to protect historic cities, towns and villages in Japan, including castle towns, post towns, and towns built around shrines and temples.

This system enables municipalities to designate “Presercation Districts for Groups of Traditional Buildings”. Municipalities also develop a preservation plan based on the municipal preservation ordinance, and conduct necessary preservation projects according to the preservation plan. Among the Preservation Districts, those of national significance are classified as “Important Preservation Districts for Groups of Traditional Buildings”

by the national government upon receiving an application from a municipal government.

The Agency for Cultural Affairs provides financial support to municipal projects such as restoration, facade enhancement, and disaster prevention for the preservation of Important Preservation Districts for Groups of Traditional Buildings, while providing the necessary guidance and advice to municipal efforts.

As of April 1, 2012, 93 districts in 77 municipalities of 40 prefectures are classified as Important Preservation Districts for Groups of Traditional Buildings (total area of approximately 3,500 ha), which contain about 18,600 traditional buildings designated as “Traditional Buildings”.

## 8

## Conservation Techniques for Cultural Properties

The system of designating Selected Conservation Techniques was established through an amendment to the Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties in 1975. Based on this system, the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology designates as "Selected Conservation Techniques" those traditional techniques or skills that are indispensable for the conservation of cultural properties and require protection and then recognizes the holders or preservation groups of such traditional techniques or skills.

To protect the Selected Conservation Techniques, the national government conducts various projects, for example, to compile documentary records or train successors. It also provides the necessary funding for programs conducted by holders, preservation groups, or other entities to refine and improve traditional techniques or skills, train successors, and so forth. In addition, the government holds symposia on Selected Conservation Techniques for their publicity and dissemination to the general public. Such activities are intended to ensure that there are technicians and craftsmen who can restore Tangible Cultural Properties and produce tools and raw materials for use in connection with Intangible Cultural Properties.



Selected Conservation Techniques: Production of roof shingle  
Holder: KURIYAMA Mitsuhiro

## 9

## Buried Cultural Properties

At present, 460,000 ancient sites are known in Japan. They are direct evidence of our predecessors' lives and valuable common historical properties that vividly speak of our history and culture. It is impossible to learn such things from records.

In order to preserve these valuable buried cultural properties, notification must be submitted when conducting excavations for the purpose of any investigations or when starting construction work in an area known to have buried cultural properties. When it is impossible to preserve a site's present state, we ask developers to cover necessary expenses, and carry out the excavation and investigation for recording and preserving. However, when it is not appropriate to charge, local public organizations conduct the investigations and expenses are defrayed out of the National Treasury.

When an object is unearthed as a result of an excavation, the finder must turn it over to the chief of police except when the owner is known. If the object is recognized as a potential cultural property, the chief of police submits it to prefectural boards of education, at designated and core-cities.

The prefectural boards of education, designated cities and core-cities investigate whether or not an object is a cultural property. An object recognized as a cultural property which has no known owner reverts to the prefecture which manages the land as a rule.



Scene from archaeological excavation at the Jizotai-iseki remain (Kita-Akita City, Akita Pref.)  
Courtesy of Akita Prefectural Board of Education

## 10 Promotion of Basic Scheme for Historic and Cultural Properties

The value of cultural properties emerges when such properties are associated with the environment and activities of the people. Cultural properties under similar conditions are mutually related. In order to pass them down through people's efforts, their values need to be clearly illustrated.

For this reason it is necessary to comprehensively preserve and use multiple cultural properties under specific themes while including the surrounding environment (a comprehensive understanding on cultural properties), in addition to conserving individual cultural properties. Specifically, an entire region can be understood as a historic and cultural space with a focus on the cultural properties, and various measures can then be provided to develop attractive regional communities by formulating a basic scheme for conserving and utilizing local cultural properties (basic scheme for historic and cultural properties).

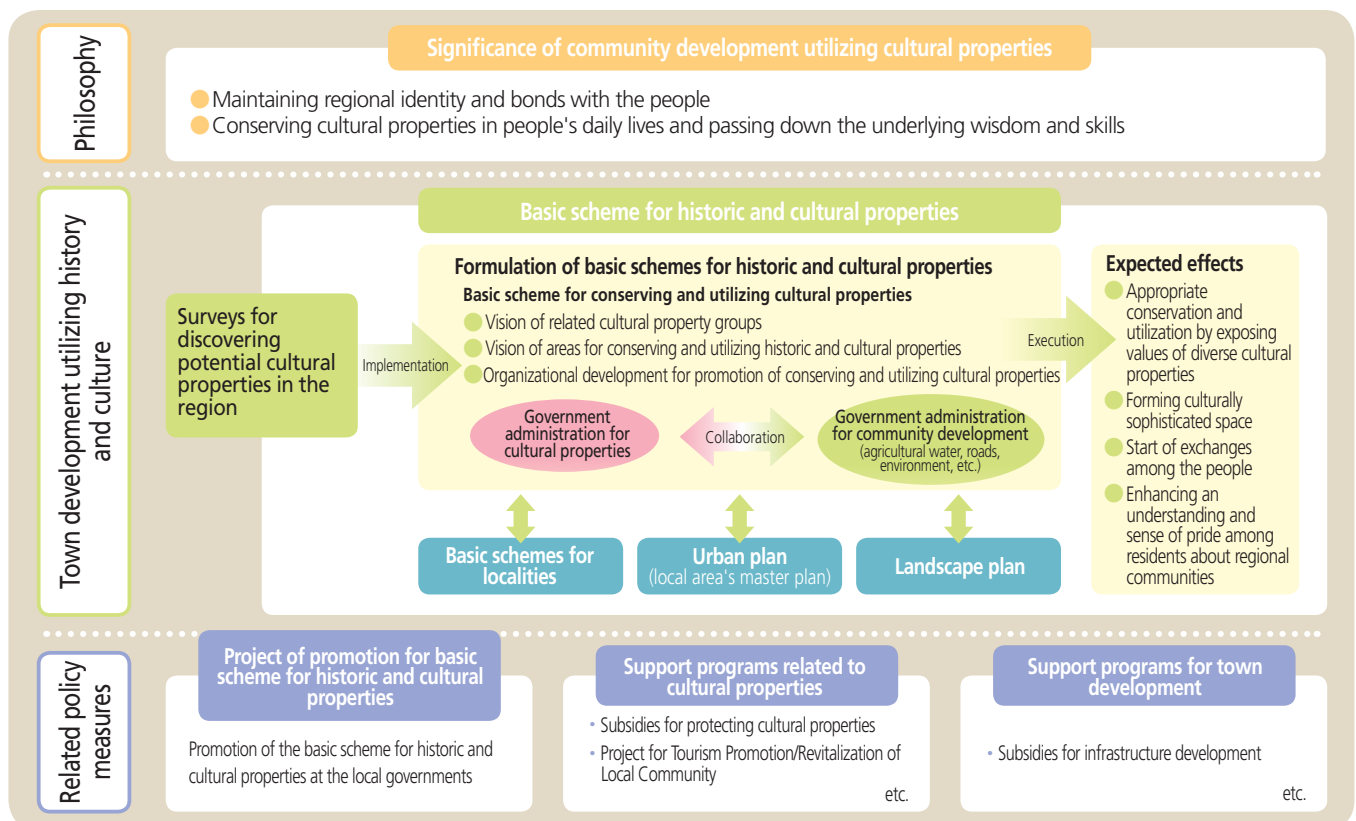
In February 2012, technical guidelines were created for municipal governments to formulate a basic scheme for historic and cultural properties. Training programs and other activities will be organized and technical guidance

and advice will be given to municipal governments and other concerned people and organizations.

In developing the basic scheme for historic and cultural properties, cooperation between those in charge of cultural assets and those in charge of town development, as well as cooperation with local people, incorporated non-profit organizations and businesses adds to the hopes for consistent efforts that are favorable both for the preservation and utilization of cultural assets and for local people.

One effort to facilitate overall understanding about cultural assets is a system for authorizing plans for maintenance and improvement of historic landscapes in compliance with the Law on the Maintenance and Improvement of Historical Landscape in a Community promulgated in 2008. This is designed for the national government to authorize municipal plans to maintain and improve good environments consisting of a combination of historically valuable architecture and people's activities rooted in the region's history and tradition. The system is capable of earning focused support from the national government.

### Community development at localities utilizing historic and cultural features





Hiraizumi—Temples, Gardens and Archaeological Sites  
Representing the Buddhist Pure Land (Iwate Pref.)  
Courtesy of Kawashima Printing Co. Ltd.



Ogasawara Islands (Tokyo Pref.)  
Courtesy of Ministry of Environment

The Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, adopted by the UNESCO General Conference in 1972, calls for the protection of irreplaceable cultural and natural heritage for all humanity. Japan signed the Convention in 1992 and today 189 countries have ratified it (as of April, 2012).

The World Heritage Committee inscribes the properties of outstanding universal value on the World Heritage List including 16 properties (12 cultural sites and 4 natural sites) in Japan.

In January, 2012, the Japanese government submitted a request to UNESCO to inscribe “Kamakura, Home of the Samurai” and “Fujisan” on the World Heritage List.

### Properties inscribed on the World Heritage List in Japan

As of April 2012

Cultural Properties	Natural Properties
Buddhist Monuments in the Horyu-ji Area	Yakushima
Himeji-jo	Shirakami-Sanchi
Historic Monuments of Ancient Kyoto (Kyoto, Uji, and Otsu cities)	Shiretoko
Historic Villages of Shirakawa-go and Gokayama	Ogasawara Islands
Hiroshima Peace Memorial (Genbaku Dome)	
Itsukushima Shinto Shrine	
Historic Monuments of Ancient Nara	
Shrines and Temples of Nikko	
Gusuku Sites and Related Properties of the Kingdom of Ryukyu	
Sacred Sites and Pilgrimage Routes in the Kii Mountain Range	
Iwami Ginzan Silver Mine and its Cultural Landscape	
Hiraizumi-Temples, Gardens and Archaeological Sites Representing the Buddhist Pure Land	

## 12 Protection of Intangible Cultural Heritage

The UNESCO General Conference in 2003 adopted the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, as the first international legal framework for the protection of intangible cultural heritage. The Convention entered into effect on April 20, 2006. Having taken leadership from the process of the formulation of the Convention, Japan became the third nation to sign on in June 2004, with the aim of ensuring that the Convention soon comes into effect.

Aiming to protect intangible cultural heritage, the Convention includes provisions on the establishment of a system for international cooperation and support and concerning actions the signatory countries need to take.

The Sixth Session of the Intergovernmental Committee, held in Bali, Indonesia in November 2011, decided that

the 2 items nominated by Japan, “Mibu no Hana Taue, ritual of transplanting rice in Mibu” and “Sada Shin Noh, sacred dancing at Sada Shrine” would be inscribed on the Representative List. This brought the number of intangible cultural heritage elements from Japan inscribed on the list to 20.

In March 2012, “WASHOKU, Traditional Dietary Cultures of the Japanese” was proposed to be inscribed on the list.

### List of Intangible Cultural Properties designated or selected as ‘Representative List’ (20 items)

Category		Name
Important Intangible Cultural Properties	Performing arts	Nohgaku theatre Ningyo Joruri Bunraku puppet theatre Kabuki theatre Gagaku Kumiodori
	Craft techniques	Ojiya-chijimi, Echigo-jofu Sekishu-Banshi Yuki-Tsumugi
Important Intangible Folk Cultural Properties	Manners and customs	Hitachi Furiyumono Yamahoko, the float ceremony of the Kyoto Gion festival Koshikijima no Toshidon Oku-noto no Aenokoto Mibu no Hana Taue
	Folk performing arts	Hayachine Kagura Akiu no Taue Odori Chakkirako Dainichido Bugaku Daimokutate Traditional Ainu dance Sada Shin Noh



Sada Shin Noh



Mibu no Hana Taue

Officially opened in March 2008, Cultural Heritage Online is an Internet portal site, allowing retrieval and browsing of data on tangible and intangible cultural heritage that is either designated or undesignated and is widely registered.

In cooperation with museums art galleries, and diverse related organizations, as well as local governments, it aggregates information of cultural heritage with the aim of offering a comprehensive list of cultural heritage in Japan.

Cultural Heritage Online contains a gallery for retrieving image-attached data and a database that enables searching of all cultural heritage data. Both the gallery and the database were recently renewed and made more convenient.

The site also has special contents featuring world heritage sites, intangible cultural heritage, videos of intangible cultural assets and other items.

<http://bunka.nii.ac.jp/>



## Gallery

The gallery features an electronic map that enables users to determine routes for visiting cultural heritage sites according to selected themes. Accessible on smart phones, the gallery makes it easy for users to visit museums and other places that interest them.



## Cultural Heritage Database

The database allows for both simple, associative searches and advanced, refined searches. The text covered in searches includes captions.

