



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, 2009

Designation		
Important Cultural Properties (National Treasures)		
	12,655	(1,076) *1
Buildings	2,344	(214)
Works of Fine Arts and Crafts	10,311	(862)
Important Intangible Cultural Property		
	Number of Holders and Groups	
Performing Arts	Individuals recognition	36 (55 people)
	Collective recognition	11 (11 groups)
Craft Techniques	Individuals recognition	44 (58 people) *2
	Designated holding groups	14 (14 groups)
Important Tangible Folk Cultural Properties		
	207	
Important Intangible Folk Cultural Properties		
	264	
Historic Sites, Places of Scenic Beauty, Natural Monuments (Special Historic Sites, Places of Scenic Beauty, and Natural Monuments)		
	2,866	(161) *3
Historic Sites	1,614	(60)
Places of Scenic Beauty	313	(29)
Natural Monuments	939	(72)
Selection		
Important Cultural Landscapes	15	
Important Preservation Districts for Groups of Traditional Buildings	83	
Registration		
Registered Tangible Cultural Properties (buildings)	7,407	
Registered Tangible Cultural Properties (works of fine arts and crafts)	9	
Registered Tangible Folk Cultural Properties	12	
Registered Monuments	44	
Objects of conservation that are not Cultural Properties		
Selected Conservation Techniques		
	Number of Holders and Groups	
	Holders	47 (52 people)
	Holding Groups	27 (28 groups) *4

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

*2 The actual number of people who received approval is 59 after deleting the number of double approvals.

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

*4 The actual number of approved groups in crafts techniques is 26 after deleting the number of double approvals.

the national government thus designates and selects the most important cultural properties and imposes restriction on such activities as alteration of their existing state, repairs, and export. The government also implements diverse measures necessary for the preservation and utilization of cultural properties. Measures for tangible cultural properties (such as works of fine arts and crafts, buildings, and folk materials) 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 compiling records.

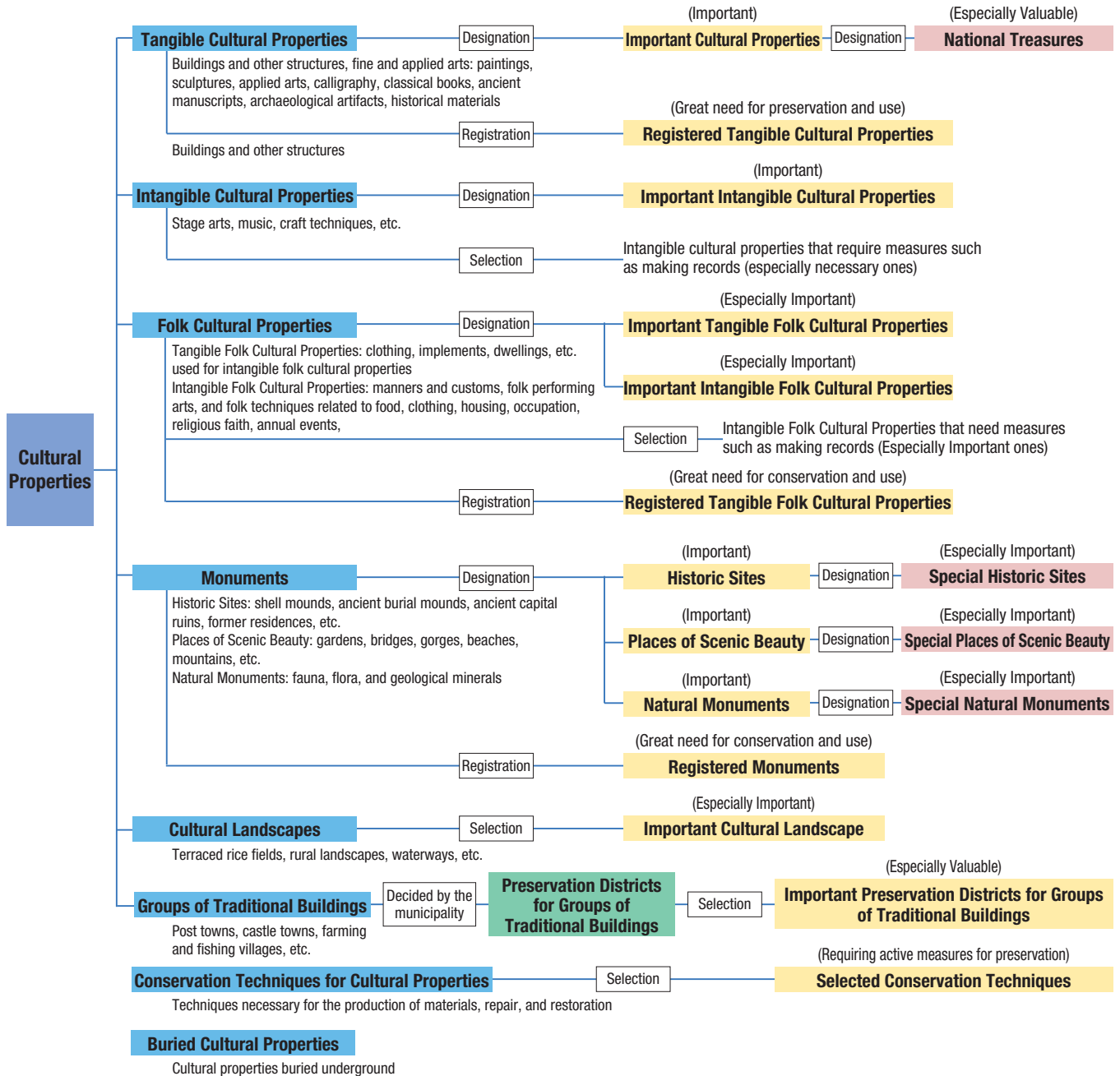
In addition, a registration system, which provides protective measures that are more moderate than those of the designation system, has been established for cultural properties (tangible cultural properties, tangible folk cultural properties, and monuments) primarily of the modern period, whose protection 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.

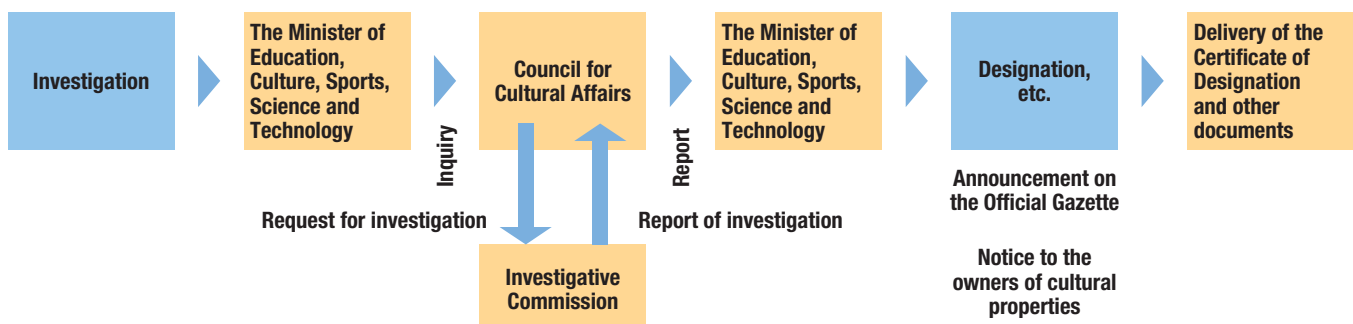
The designation, selection, and registration of cultural properties are carried out by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology on the basis of reports submitted by the Council for Cultural Affairs in response to a ministerial inquiry. The chart to the left illustrates how the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

2. Schematic Diagram of Cultural Properties

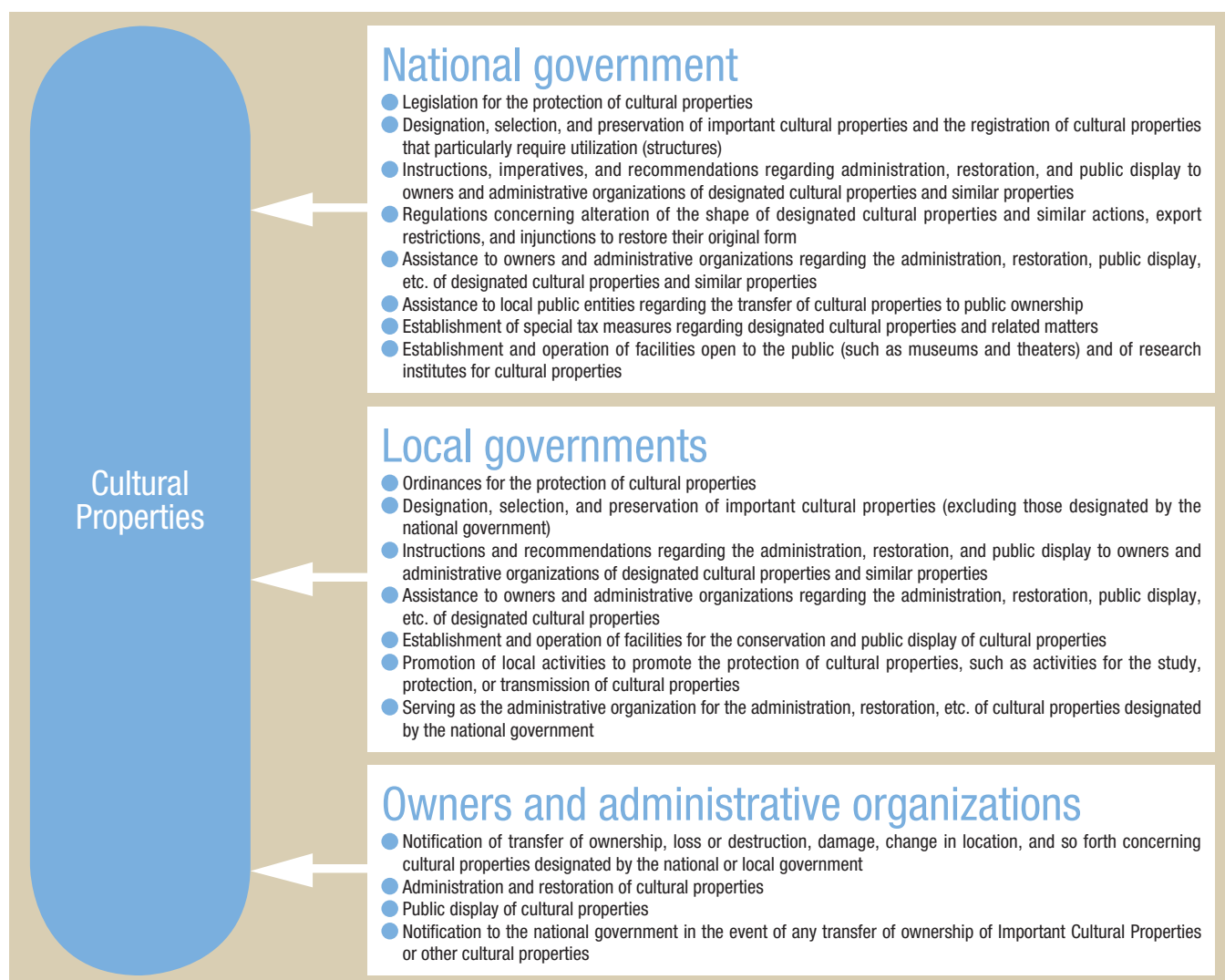
◆ Schematic Diagram of Cultural Properties



◆ 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



The Cultural Heritage Online Plan

<http://bunka.nii.ac.jp/Index.do> (Japanese Only)

Cultural Heritage Online is a portal site of cultural heritage on the Internet, which enables viewers to survey information regarding tangible and intangible cultural properties recognized by national or local governments.

In cooperation with museums, art galleries, and related organizations, as well as local governments, the plan aims to advance further with the collection of information on diverse cultural heritage of high quality, both tangible and intangible, to enhance the contents of this site.



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, pictorial crafts, sculptural works, calligraphy, classical books, paleography, archaeological artifacts, and historic materials. Within this category, all objects except for structures are called "works of fine arts and crafts."

The national government designates important tangible cultural properties as "Important Cultural Properties." Moreover, those with particularly high value from the perspective of worldwide culture are designated and protected by the national government as "National Treasures." In addition, a registration system, which provides moderate measures for protection, has been established to complement the designation system.

1. Architecture and Other Structures

As of April 1, 2009, the national government has designated 2,344 sites (including 214 National Treasures) and 4,272 architecture and other structures (including 262 National Treasures).

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, architecture and other structures of Japan's modern era (roughly after 1868) form a significant cultural heritage born out of this country's modernization process. Based on the results of investigations, a growing number of modern buildings and structures are being designated as Important Cultural Properties.



National Treasure: Aoi Aso Shrine (Hitoyoshi City, Kumamoto Pref.)



Important Cultural Property: Old brewery building of Chateau Kamiya (Ushiku City, Ibaraki Pref.)

◆ Structures Designated as National Treasures or Important Cultural Properties (classified by period) As of April 1, 2009

Category		Sites	Structures
Early modern period or earlier	Shinto shrines	561 (37)	1,160 (63)
	Buddhist temples	846 (154)	1,115 (160)
	Castles	53 (8)	235 (16)
	Residences	94 (12)	150 (20)
	Farmhouses	338	746
	Others	192 (3)	262 (3)
	Subtotal	2,084 (214)	3,668 (262)
Meiji Period Onwards	Religious architecture	23	25
	Residential architecture	66	221
	School architecture	38	65
	Cultural facilities	30	38
	Government structures	20	25
	Commercial structures	18	23
	Industrial, transportation, civil engineering	60	190
	Others	5	17
Subtotal		260	604
Grand total		2,344 (214)	4,272 (262)

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



Registered Tangible Cultural Property: Auditorium, Tomioka City Social Education Hall (Tomioka City, Gunma Pref.)



Registered Tangible Cultural Property: Locomotive turntable and others at Wakasa Station, Wakasa Railway (Wakasa Town, Yazu District, Tottori Pref.) (Courtesy of Wakasa Railway)

In 1996, the Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties was amended and a new 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 in the Cultural Property Original Register those architectural properties and other structures (tangible cultural properties other than those designated by the national or local governments) which are in particular need of measures for protection and utilization. Due to recent land development, urbanization, changes in lifestyles and so on, many pieces of historic architecture and other structures, especially modern-period structures of different types and styles, are faced with the danger of demolition without any identification and evaluation of their cultural values. In order to hand over these cultural properties to future generations, the registration system aims to provide moderate protection measures, including notification, guidance, suggestion, and advice, thereby complementing the existing designation system.

A variety of architecture 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 May, 2008, the number of registrations exceeded 7,000. As of April 1, 2009, 7,407 properties were registered, located in 717 municipalities (including wards) 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 an entablature 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.



2. Works of Fine Arts and Crafts

The national government began designation of fine arts and crafts as cultural properties in 1897, the same year that 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 10,313 objects as cultural properties (including 862 National Treasures) as of April 1, 2009.

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 selected 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 either a shrine or a Buddhist temple.

Prior approval is required to change the form of these designated cultural properties or perform any action that will affect their preservation. Their exportation from Japan is forbidden, except 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 permitted 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, 2009, nine properties had been registered.

◆ Fine Arts and Crafts Designated as National Treasures or Important Properties As of April 1, 2009

Category	Number
Painting	1,956 (157)
Sculpture	2,628 (126)
Artifact	2,415 (252)
Calligraphy/Old books	1,865 (223)
Ancient text	726 (59)
Archaeological materials	567 (43)
Historical materials	154 (2)
Total	10,311 (862)

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



National Treasure: Bronze bell-shaped vessel from Kamo Iwakura Ruins of Shimane Prefecture



Important Cultural Property: Standing wooden statue of Amitabha



Important Cultural Property: Coloured book illustration of bows made of Japanese cherry birch, by IWASA Katsumochi



Registered Tangible Cultural Property : Vase painted with wisteria plant design, among the Seven Treasures of NAMIKAWA Yasuyuki



Important Intangible Cultural Property: TOMOEDA Akiyo displaying the technical mastery of the protagonist's role in noh plays

◆ Number of Recognized Important Intangible Cultural Properties holders

As of April 1, 2009

Division	Category	No. of designation	
		Individual recognition	Collective or group recognition
Performing arts	Gagaku	0	1
	Noh	6	1
	Bunraku	3	1
	Kabuki	4	1
	Kumiodori	2	1
	Music	18	6
	Dance	1	0
	Engei	2	0
	Subtotal	36	11
Craft techniques	Ceramics	10	3
	Textile weaving and dying	15	7
	Lacquerwork	5	1
	Metalwork	7	0
	Woodwork and bamboowork	2	0
	Doll making	2	0
	Papermaking	3	3
	Subtotal	44	14
Total		80	25

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 (commonly called "National Living Treasures") and also subsidizes a portion of the expenses incurred for successor training progress 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 of craft techniques and techniques for protecting cultural properties in order to facilitate understanding for the transmission of such techniques. Furthermore, the national government conducts training workshops and other activities at the Japan Arts Council (National Theatre of Japan and other national theatres) to train the respective successors of traditional performing arts, such as noh, *kumiodori* (ensemble dance), *bunraku* (puppet theater), kabuki, and traditional popular entertainment.



Important Intangible Cultural Property: SUZUTA Shigeto displaying the technical mastery of Calico woodblock prints

4 Folk Cultural Properties

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. As of April 1, 2008, it has designated 206 Important Tangible Folk Cultural Properties and 252 Important Intangible Folk Cultural Properties.

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, restore or newly acquire props, tools, and other objects. Regardless of designation by the national government as Important Folk Cultural Properties, 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 cultural properties as well as dissemination; training, exhibition, and other classes; and the production of audiovisual records of intangible folk cultural properties.

In addition, we hold the International Folk Performing Arts Festival to deepen understanding of Japanese folk performing arts. The event is also intended to preserve and transmit Folk Cultural Properties, and to promote international cultural exchange.

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." 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 Requiring Documentation and Other Measures." 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 Painted plaque to pray for the sound upbringing of children, enshrined at Miyake Hachiman Shrine (Miyake Hachiman Shrine, Kyoto City, Kyoto Pref.)



Important Intangible Folk Cultural Properties "Misasa-no-Jinsho" (Misasa Town, Tohaku District, Tottori Pref.)

◆ Number of Properties Designated as Important Tangible Folk Cultural Properties

As of April 1, 2009

Category	Quantity
Used for food, clothing and housing	28
Used for production and occupation	87
Used for transportation, transit and communication	18
Used for commerce	1
Used for social living	1
Used for religious faith	37
Used for knowledge of folk customs	7
Used for folk performing arts, amusement, and games	23
Used for a life span	3
Used for annual events	2
Total	207

◆ Number of Properties Designated as Important Intangible Folk Cultural Properties

As of April 1, 2009

Category	No. of designation
Manners and customs	103
Folk performing arts	151
Folk techniques	10
Total	264



Historical Site: Yoshigo Shell Mound (Tahara City, Aichi Pref.)

◆ Number of Designated Historical Sites

As of April 1, 2009

Category	Number of designation
Shell mounds, ancient tumuli, etc.	656 (14)
Palace sites, etc.	351 (19)
Sites of shrines, temples, etc.	269 (14)
Sites of Confucian shrines, libraries	24 (3)
Herb gardens, charitable institutions, etc.	6
Sites of barrier gates, mileposts, etc.	169 (2)
Tombs, tombstones, etc.	76 (3)
Old houses, wells, etc.	82 (6)
Sites related to foreigners or foreign countries	7
Total	1,640 (61)

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, 2009

Category	Number
Gardens	194 (23)
Parks	7
Bridges	2
Flowering trees	13
Pine groves	6 (1)
Rocks and caves	14
Ravines and mountain streams	34 (5)
Waterfalls	9
Lakes and marshes	2 (1)
Floating waterweeds	1
Springs	1
Beaches	31
Islands	8 (2)
Sandbars	1 (1)
Mountains	15 (2)
Hills, highlands, flatlands	2
Rivers	1
Panoramic views	10
Total	351 (35)

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

◆ Number of Designated Natural Monuments

As of April 1, 2009

Category	Number
Animals	192 (21)
Plants	539 (30)
Geological and mineral formations	226 (20)
Nature conservation areas	23 (4)
Total	980 (75)

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



Designated Place of Scenic Beauty: Japanese garden of Tamazato House built by the Shimazu family (Kagoshima City, Kagoshima Pref.)



Designated Natural Monument: Natural Monument, Group of hibiscus hamabo plants and groups of wetland creatures at the estuary area of the Manosegawa River (Minami Satsuma City, Kagoshima Pref.)

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

- 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
- Gardens, bridges, gorges, seashores, mountains, and other places of scenic beauty which possess a high artistic or aesthetic value for Japan
- 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, 2009, forty-four monuments were registered as such.

6 Cultural Landscapes

Landscapes formed by people's lives or work in a given region and the climate of the region in question 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 and mapping, 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 Landscape, including restoration and landscaping, disaster prevention work, and installation of signs describing the cultural landscape in question; and, diffusion and enlightenment projects including study sessions, open lectures, and workshops in which local residents can participate.

As of April 1, 2009, fifteen areas across the country have been selected as Important Cultural Landscapes including the first one, Suigo Area of Omi-hachiman. Uji was selected as an Important Cultural Landscape related to townscape for the first time.



Important Cultural Landscape: Cultural Landscape of Uji (Uji City, Kyoto Pref.)



Important Cultural Landscapes: Cultural landscape in Shimantogawa River basin. Circulation and traffic among agricultural and mountainous villages in the upstream region. (Shimanto City, Kochi Pref.)



Important Cultural Landscapes: Cultural landscape in Shimantogawa River basin. Circulation and traffic among agricultural and mountainous villages in the mid-stream region. (Shimanto Town, Takaoka District, Kochi Pref.)

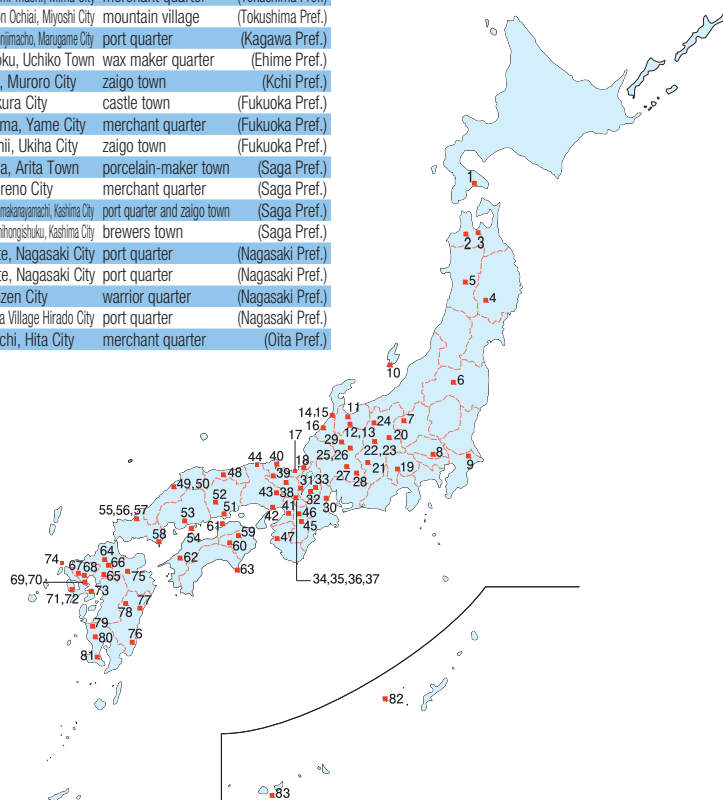
◆ List of Important Cultural Landscapes

As of April 1, 2009

Name	Location	Assigned date
Suigo Area of Omi-hachiman	Omi-hachiman, Shiga	January 26, 2006
Farm Village of Hondera area of Ichinoseki	Ichinoseki, Iwate Pref.	July 28, 2006
Cultural Landscape along the Sarugawa River resulting from Ainu Tradition and Modern Settlement	Biratori Town, Saru District, Hokkaido	July 26, 2007
<i>Danbata</i> (terraced fields) in Yuseumizugaura	Uwajima, Ehime Pref.	July 26, 2007
Arakawakogen Farm of Tono	Tono, Iwate Pref.	March 28, 2008
Waterfront of Kaizu, Nishihama, and Chinai in Takashima City	Takashima, Shiga Pref.	March 28, 2008
Home of Ontayaki	Hita, Oita Pref.	March 28, 2008
Terraced rice fields of Warabino	Karatsu, Saga Pref.	July 28, 2008
Landscape with Tsujun irrigation channel and terraced rice fields of Shiraito Plateau	Yamato Town, Kamimashiki District, Kumamoto Pref.	July 28, 2008
Cultural Landscape of Uji	Uji City, Kyoto Pref.	February 12, 2009
Cultural landscape in the Shimantogawa River basin and villages in the mountains of the headwater region	Tsuno Town, Takaoka District, Kochi Pref.	February 12, 2009
Cultural landscape in the Shimantogawa River basin. Villages and terraced rice fields in the mountains of the upstream region.	Yusuhara Town, Takaoka District, Kochi Pref.	February 12, 2009
Cultural landscape in the Shimantogawa River basin. Circulation and traffic among agricultural and mountainous villages in the upstream region.	Nakatosa Town, Takaoka District, Kochi Pref.	February 12, 2009
Cultural landscape in the Shimantogawa River basin. Circulation and traffic among agricultural and mountainous villages in the upstream region.	Shimanto Town, Takaoka District, Kochi Pref.	February 12, 2009
Cultural landscape in the Shimantogawa River basin. Vacations, circulation and traffic in the downstream region.	Shimanto City, Kochi Pref.	February 12, 2009

◆ List of Important Preservation Districts for Groups of Traditional Buildings in Japan

1. Motomachi-Suehirocho, Hakodate City	port quarter	(Hokkaido Pref.)	49. Omoriginzan, Oda City	mining town	(Shimane Pref.)	76. Obi, Nichinan City	warrior quarter	(Miyazaki Pref.)
2. Nakacho, Hirosaki City	warrior quarter	(Aomori Pref.)	50. Yunotsu, Ota City	port quarter, hot-spring town	(Shimane Pref.)	77. Mimitsu, Hyuga City	port quarter	(Miyazaki Pref.)
3. Nakamachi, Kuroishi City	merchant quarter	(Aomori Pref.)	51. Kurashiki-kahan, Kurashiki City	merchant quarter	(Okayama Pref.)	78. Tonegawa, Shiiba Village	mountain village	(Miyazaki Pref.)
4. Jyonai-suwakoji, Kanegasaki Town	warrior quarter	(Iwate Pref.)	52. Fukiya, Takahashi City	mining town	(Okayama Pref.)	79. Izumifumoto, Izumi City	warrior quarter	(Kagoshima Pref.)
5. Senboku City	Kakunodate District, warrior quarter	(Akita Pref.)	53. Takehara district, Takehara City	salt works town	(Hiroshima Pref.)	80. Iriki-fumoto, Satsumasendai City	warrior quarter	(Kagoshima Pref.)
6. Ouchi-juku, Shimogo Town	post town	(Fukushima Pref.)	54. Yutakamachi-mitarai, Kure City	port quarter	(Hiroshima Pref.)	81. Chiran, Chiran Town	warrior quarter	(Kagoshima Pref.)
7. Akaiwa, Rokugo Village	mountain village and sericulture community	(Gunma Pref.)	55. Horiuchi district, Hagi City	warrior quarter	(Yamaguchi Pref.)	82. Tonaki-jima, Tonaki Village	farming village	(Okinawa Pref.)
8. Kawagoe, Kawagoe City	merchant quarter	(Saitama Pref.)	56. Hiyoaki district, Hagi City	warrior quarter	(Yamaguchi Pref.)	83. Taketomi-jima, Taketomi Town	farming village	(Okinawa Pref.)
9. Sawara, Katori City	merchant quarter	(Chiba Pref.)	57. Hamasaki, Hagi City	port quarter	(Yamaguchi Pref.)	*Zaigo post towns were established in the mid Edo period. They were not urban provinces designated by the Edo shogunate, but they had urban functions.		
10. Syukunegi, Sado City	port quarter	(Niigata Pref.)	58. Furuchi-kanaya, Yanai City	merchant quarter	(Yamaguchi Pref.)			
11. Yamachosuji, Takaoka City	merchant quarter	(Toyama Pref.)	59. Wakimachi-minami-machi, Mima City	merchant quarter	(Tokushima Pref.)			
12. Ainokura, Nanto City	mountain village	(Toyama Pref.)	60. Higashiyayamason Ochiai, Miyoshi City	mountain village	(Tokushima Pref.)			
13. Suganuma, Nanto City	mountain village	(Toyama Pref.)	61. Kasajima, Shiwakuhonjimacho, Marugame City	port quarter	(Kagawa Pref.)			
14. Higashiyamahigashi, Kanazawa City	pleasure quarter	(Ishikawa Pref.)	62. Yokaichi-gokoku, Uchiko Town	wax maker quarter	(Ehime Pref.)			
15. Kazue-machi, Kanazawa City	pleasure quarter	(Ishikawa Pref.)	63. Kiragawacho, Muroro City	zaigo town	(Kochi Pref.)			
16. Kagahashidate, Kaga City	ship-owner quarter	(Ishikawa Pref.)	64. Akizuki, Asakura City	castle town	(Fukuoka Pref.)			
17. Obamanishijumi, Obama City	merchant and pleasure quarter	(Fukui Pref.)	65. Yamefukushima, Yame City	merchant quarter	(Fukuoka Pref.)			
18. Kumagawajuku, Wakasa Town	post town	(Fukui Pref.)	66. Chikugo-yoshii, Ukiha City	zaigo town	(Fukuoka Pref.)			
19. Akasawa, Hayakawa Town	Kochu yado, post town for pilgrims	(Yamanashi Pref.)	67. Aritauchiyama, Arita Town	porcelain-maker town	(Saga Pref.)			
20. Unnojuku, Tobu Town	post town and sericulture community	(Nagano Pref.)	68. Shiota-tsu, Ureno City	merchant quarter	(Saga Pref.)			
21. Tsumagajuku, Nagiso Town	post town	(Nagano Pref.)	69. Hamashozumachi and Hamakurajomachi, Kashima City	port quarter and zaigo town	(Saga Pref.)			
22. Narai, Shiojiri City	post town	(Nagano Pref.)	70. Hamakurakemachi-hachihongshukku, Kashima City	brewers town	(Saga Pref.)			
23. Kishiorasawa, Shiojiri City	lacquerware town	(Nagano Pref.)	71. Higashiyamate, Nagasaki City	port quarter	(Nagasaki Pref.)			
24. Aoni, Hakuba Village	mountain village	(Nagano Pref.)	72. Minamiyamate, Nagasaki City	port quarter	(Nagasaki Pref.)			
25. Sanmachi, Takayama City	merchant quarter	(Gifu Pref.)	73. Kojirokujii, Unzen City	warrior quarter	(Nagasaki Pref.)			
26. Shimo-Nunomachijomachi, Takayama City	merchant quarter	(Gifu Pref.)	74. Konoura, Oshima Village Hirado City	port quarter	(Nagasaki Pref.)			
27. Mino-machi, Mino City	merchant quarter	(Gifu Pref.)	75. Mameda-machi, Hita City	merchant quarter	(Oita Pref.)			
28. Hondori, Iwamura-cho, Ena City	merchant quarter	(Gifu Pref.)						
29. Ogi-machi, Shirakawa Village	mountain village	(Gifu Pref.)						
30. Sekijuku, Kameyama City	post town	(Mie Pref.)						
31. Sakamoto, Otsu City	temple town	(Shiga Pref.)						
32. Hachiman, Omihachiman City	merchant quarter	(Shiga Pref.)						
33. Gokasyokondo, Higashiomori City	farming village	(Shiga Pref.)						
34. Kamigamo, Kyoto City	shrine quarter	(Kyoto Pref.)						
35. Sannet-zaka, Kyoto City	temple town	(Kyoto Pref.)						
36. Gion Citynbashi, Kyoto City	pleasure quarter	(Kyoto Pref.)						
37. Saga-toriimoto, Kyoto City	temple town	(Kyoto Pref.)						
38. Kita, Miyama-cho, Nantan City	mountain village	(Kyoto Pref.)						
39. Kaya, Yosano Town	textile town	(Kyoto Pref.)						
40. Ine-ura, Ine Town	fishing village	(Kyoto Pref.)						
41. Tondabayashi, Tondabayashi City	temple town, zaigo* town	(Osaka Pref.)						
42. Kitanochi-yamamoto-dori, Kobe City	port quarter	(Hyogo Pref.)						
43. Sasayama, Sasayama City	castle town	(Hyogo Pref.)						
44. Izushi, Toyooka City	castle town	(Hyogo Pref.)						
45. Matsuyama, Uda City	merchant quarter	(Nara Pref.)						
46. Imai-cho, Kashihara City	temple town, zaigo town	(Nara Pref.)						
47. Yuasa, Yuasa Town	brewers quarter	(Wakayama Pref.)						
48. Utsukijitamaoawa, Kurayoshi City	merchant quarter	(Tottori Pref.)						



An amendment to the Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties in 1975 introduced a new category of cultural properties, under the name of Groups of Traditional Buildings, extending protection to historic cities, towns and villages including castle towns, post-station towns, and towns built around shrines and temples and other areas of historic importance throughout Japan. According to this system, municipalities designate certain areas as Preservation Districts for Groups of Traditional Buildings based on regulations and formulate a preservation plan in accordance with the Preservation Ordinance in order to execute the preservation project systematically. Upon receiving a proposal from a municipal government, the national government selects those of high value to Japan as Important Preservation Districts for Groups of Traditional Buildings.

No new restrictions are brought about by the selection. Acknowledgement of the value of the district in question by

the act of selection enables the Agency for Cultural Affairs and Prefectural Board of Education to provide guidance and advice to municipal preservation projects. They also support municipalities by providing financial assistance to their projects for repairing listed Traditional Buildings and Structures and improving non-listed structures and structures to harmonize the latter with surrounding historical and natural features, for installing disaster prevention facilities, and for setting up guideboards. Besides, support is also given through preferential tax treatment.

As of April 1, 2009, 83 districts in 83 cities, towns and villages have been classified as Important Preservation Districts for Groups of Traditional Buildings (total area of approximately 3,190.2 ha), and about 15,300 traditional buildings and structures have been designated as listed Traditional Buildings.

8

Techniques for the Preservation of 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 Technique selected for preservation: *Keppatsu* hairdresser (traditional performing art of Okinawa)
Holder: KOHAGURA Sukenori (pseudonym: KONAMI Norio)

9

Buried Cultural Properties

At present, 460,000 ruins are known in our country. 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 as a rule.



Investigation by excavation at Yao Minami Ruins (Yao City, Osaka Pref.). Courtesy: Osaka Center for Cultural Heritage

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.

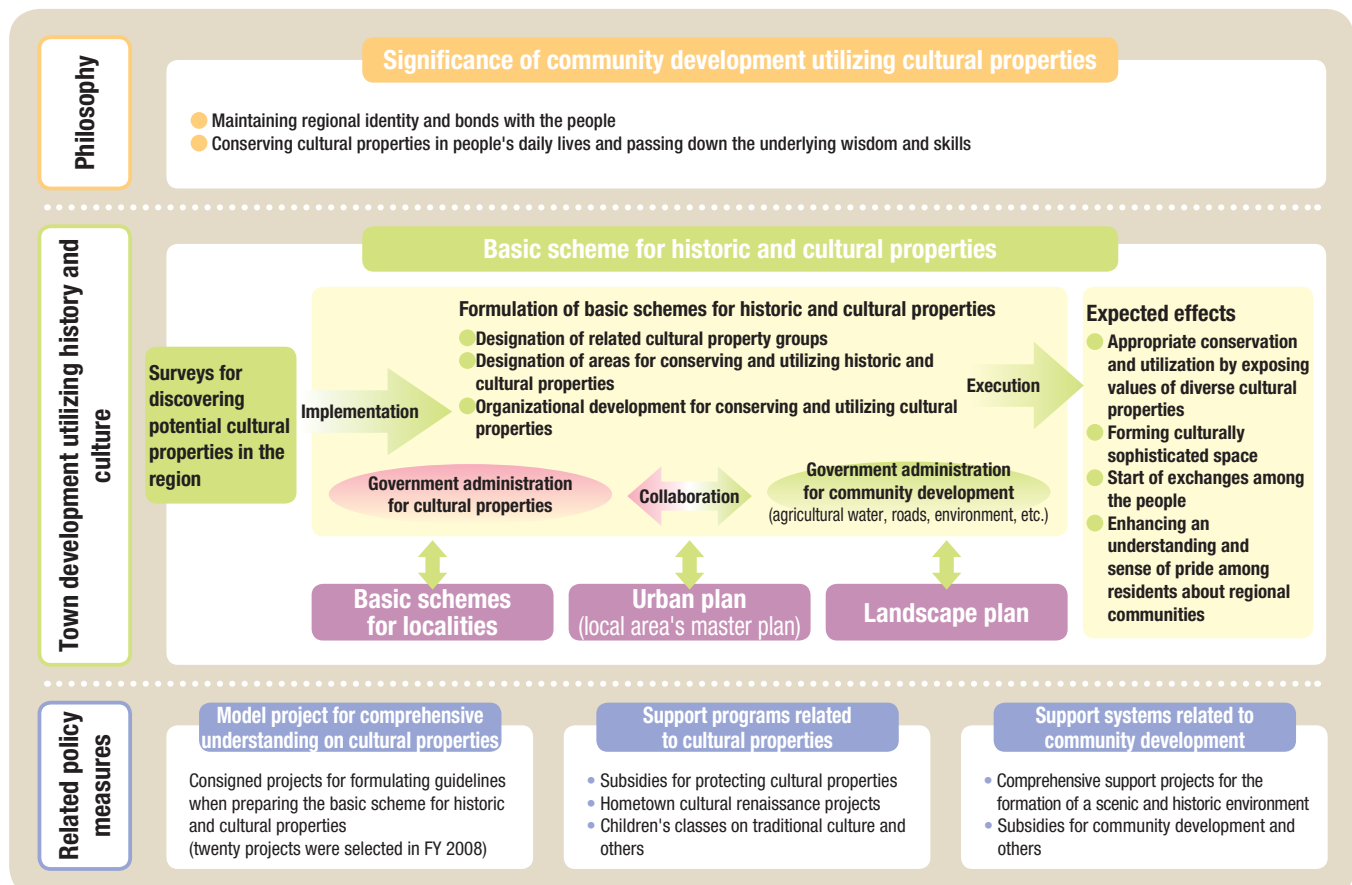
For this reason it is necessary to comprehensively preserve and use multiple cultural properties under specific themes while including the surrounding environment (a comprehensive understanding on cultural properties), in addition to conserving individual cultural properties.

Specifically, a basic scheme for conserving and utilizing local cultural properties needs to be formulated, which also takes their surrounding environments into consideration (basic scheme for historic and cultural properties). 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.

When formulating a basic scheme for historic and cultural properties, those in charge of the properties and regional community development need to work together, while seeking cooperation from regional communities, NPOs, and businesses. In this way consistent measures can be provided for the conservation and utilization of cultural properties, in a way that is also desirable for the people of regional communities.

Among these measures is a certification system for plans to maintain and improve historic scenery, pursuant to the Act on Maintenance and Improvement of Traditional Scenery in Certain Districts (Historic Town Development Act) enacted in 2008. In the system, the national government certifies plans by localities aimed at maintaining and improving favorable environments where buildings of high historic value and the public's activities rooted in the local history and tradition work together, and designated sites are given priority support.

◆ Community development at localities utilizing historic and cultural features



11 World Heritage



World Heritage: Historic Villages of Shirakawa-go and Gokayama
(Shirakawa Village, Gifu and Nanto, Toyama Pref.)



World Heritage: Himeji-jo (Himeji, Hyogo Pref.)

The Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO in 1972, calls for the protection of irreplaceable cultural and natural sites which should be preserved for all humankind. As of April 2009, this international agreement has been signed by 186 states, including Japan which has been a member since 1992.

The World Heritage Committee draws up the World Heritage List based on nominations by countries all over the world of sites of notable universal value.

Japan has fourteen heritage sites in total inscribed on the World Heritage List, eleven cultural and three natural heritage sites.

◆ Heritage sites inscribed on the World Heritage List As of April 1, 2009

Cultural Heritage Sites	Buddhist Monuments in the Horyu-ji Area	Natural Heritage Sites	Yakushima
	Himeji-jo		Shirakami-Sanchi
	Historic Monuments of Ancient Kyoto (Kyoto, Uji, and Otsu cities)		Shiretoko
	Historic Villages of Shirakawa-go and Gokayama		
	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		

Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage

In October 2003, the UNESCO General Conference approved the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, mandating the preparation of an inventory of intangible cultural heritage in each country and other measures for its protection; this went into effect in April 2006.

To respond to this convention, the Special Commission on the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage was established as part of the Subdivision on Cultural Properties of the Council for Cultural Affairs. Investigations and deliberations were performed to formulate the following measures:

- The list of cultural properties designated or selected as Important Intangible Cultural Properties, Important Intangible Folk Cultural Properties, or Selected Conservation Techniques will be the inventory for our country's intangible cultural heritage.

- On the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity (Representative List), cultural properties will be selected from each of the Important Intangible Cultural Properties, Important Intangible Folk Cultural Properties and Selected Conservation Techniques for each category set according to the properties' features, in the order of designation. This measure intends to clearly showcase the cultural diversity of Japan.

- For the time being, our country will make no proposal regarding the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding.

At the end of September 2008, the first list of fourteen candidate properties for the Inventory and Representative List of Japan was submitted to UNESCO.



Chakkirako (from the first list of candidates)



Toshiidon of Koshikijima (from the first list of candidates)

The ninety properties proclaimed as Masterpieces of Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity (including "nogaku" theatre,

ningyo joruri bunraku puppet theater, and kabuki theater (kabuki performed in the traditional style of action and direction), were incorporated into the Representative List in November 2008.