International Cooperation in the Conservation of Cultural Heritage

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1. Significance of International Cooperation in the Conservation of Cultural Heritage

Character of Cultural Heritage
Example of Jiufen, a mining town of Taiwan
1) Cultural stimulation as a source of creativity
2) Promotion of understanding of cultural diversity
3) Sharing memories beyond space and time
4) Showing value of the real things
Taiwan: Jiufen (Mining town)
2. History of International Cooperation for the Conservation of Cultural Heritage

1) UNESCO International Campaign

Ex. 1: Egypt: Decision to launch campaign to protect historical sites in Nubia against dangers of submersion following construction of Aswan High Dam, 1959. 42 million USD to move Abu Simbel temple.

Ex. 2: Old Town Venice: Water rose 194 cm (historical high) because of flooding in 1966. Water level 155 cm in Dec. 2008 (First time in 22 years).


Limits to campaign method

• Addressed only when threatened. Mammoth capital required. Time needed to coordinate efforts amongst nations.
• 28 projects started since 1960s. 6 projects completed. New projects are difficult to undertake.
Indonesia: Borobudur
2) International Conventions

Participation in protection is a duty of international society.


3) Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage … 1972

3) Regional Cooperation

- South East Asian Minister of Education Organization, Regional Centre for Archaeology and Fine Arts (SEAMO-SPAFA)
- ASEAN
- Council of Europe
- EU
3. History of International Cooperation of Japan

1) Pioneer days
2) Full-scale Cooperation by Government
   1988 International Cooperation Concept by Prime Minister Takeshita
   1989 UNESCO/Japan Trust Fund for Preservation of the World Cultural Heritage
   1992 New party to the World Heritage Convention
   1993 Japanese Government Team for Safeguarding Angkor
   1999 Establish Cultural Heritage Protection Cooperation Office, ACCU
Angkor Preservation and Restoration Operation by UNESCO/Japan Trust Fund for Preservation of the World Cultural Heritage

1st phase 1994 ~ 1999 $9.6 million

2nd phase 1999 ~ 2005 $11.0 million

3rd phase 2005 ~ 2010 $3.08 million
(1) Restoration of South Library
(2) Survey and preservation of bas-relief
(3) Survey and preservation of Central Towers
(4) PR
(5) Human resource development
Bamiyan Preservation and Restoration Operation by UNESCO/Japan Trust Fund for Preservation of the World Cultural Heritage

1st phase 2003 ~ 2004 $1.82 million

2nd phase 2005 ~ 2007 $1.42 million

3rd phase 2008 ~ 2010 $1.54 million

(1) Preservation of rock cave paintings
(2) Preservation and restoration of niches for Buddha statue
(3) Preservation of fragmented Buddha statue
(4) PR
(5) Human resource development
Numbers of Projects Commenced (by Category)
Operation Contents

- Restoration projects
- Training and transfer of technologies
- Joint research
- Conservation plans
- Institutions and systems for conservation
- Bases for conservation activities
- Basic infrastructure for conservation activities
Major Supporting Organization

1) Ministry of Foreign Affairs
2) Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
3) Japan Foundation
4) Agency for Cultural Affairs
5) National Research Institute for Cultural Properties
6) ACCU
7) Private foundations, etc.
JICA Project
Construction of Grand Egyptian Museum and Development of Restoration Experts
3) Recent Topics for the Promotion of Cooperation

- Bamiyan Preservation and Restoration Operation (UNESCO/Japan Trust Fund) 2003 ~

- Enacted the Law on the Promotion of International Cooperation for the Protection of Cultural Heritage Abroad … 2006

- Fundamental policy for the promotion of international cooperation for the protection of cultural heritage abroad … 2007

- Established Japan Consortium for International Cooperation in Cultural Heritage … 2006

- Exchange project on international cooperation bases for cultural heritage (Agency for Cultural Affairs) 2007 ~
Activities of Agency for Cultural Affairs

(1) International contribution to disaster recovery, etc.

(2) Cooperation in Asian cultural heritage preservation and restoration (1990 ~, 1998 renamed)

(3) Support for restoration of Japanese ancient works of arts in foreign countries (1991 ~)

(4) Exchange project on international cooperation bases for cultural heritage (2007 ~)
(1) International contribution to disaster recovery, etc.

Recent Cases

Indonesia: Java earthquake
China: Sichuan earthquake
Italy: L’Aquila earthquake
Rescue support for cultural heritage in natural disasters

Java (Indonesia)

China: Sichuan Earthquake  2008
Exchange of experiences via Japan-China Cultural Properties Preservation Study Group
Italy: L’Aquila Earthquake 2009
Dispatch the survey team
(2) Cooperation for Asian cultural heritage preservation and restoration (1990 ~, 1998 renamed)

Technical cooperation in the restoration of structures

- 1990 ~ 1993 Nepal: Restoration of I Baha Bahi Buddhist Monasteries
- 1991 ~ Vietnam: Preservation of streetscape in Hoi An
- 1992 ~ Bhutan: Site surveys, ledger preparation, etc. for castles, temples, etc.
- 1995 ~ Indonesia: Workshop on wooden structure restoration, restoration of palace on Sumbawa Island
- 2003 ~ Vietnam: Preservation of rural village in Duong Lam, Ha Tay
(3) Exchange project on international cooperation bases for cultural heritage

**Human resource and network development through pilot projects**

- India: Technology and information exchange and research into wall painting preservation in cohort with Archeological Survey of India
- Central Asia: Human resource development via preservation and restoration of cultural properties
- Mongolia: Human resource development concerning cultural properties in cohort with Ministry of Education, Science and Culture and Bureau of Culture and Art

- Cleaning of wall painting fragments at Tajikistan National Museum of Antiquities
- Workshop on cultural properties protection systems in Mongolia
- Wall painting preservation in Ajanta Caves
3) Activities of Japan Center for International Cooperation in Conservation


Roles
- Promoting cooperation in cultural properties protection with international and domestic institutions
- Collecting, disseminating and utilizing information on cultural properties preservation around the world
- Cooperation in international preservation and restoration projects
- International research and exchange in preservation and restoration
- Cooperation and support in rescue operations of cultural properties in disasters
- Development of specialists
International research into protective measures for cultural properties

Collect and analyze information on concepts, principles, policies and the latest measures of cultural properties protection in various countries and the international community in order to improve cultural properties measures in Japan and help to raise standards for international projects cooperated in by Japan.

Research documentation and conduct field studies of organizations, mechanisms and systems of cultural properties preservation in Europe and North America.

2001 … Germany
2002 … UK
2003 … France
2004 … Italy
2005 … Netherlands
2006 … EU
2007 … Scandinavia
Sites of activities of NRICPT (incl. completed projects)

**Afghanistan**
- Bamiyan Site
- Kabul National Museum
- Kabul region

**Others**
- Iraq
  - Iraq Museum
  - Baghdad National Museum
- Panama
  - Casco Antiguo

**Egypt**
- Grand Egyptian Museum

**Multiple countries**
- Training program for cultural heritage preservation along the Silk Road

**Cambodia**
- Angkor Site
- Ta Nei Site

**Japan**
- Training program for cultural heritage preservation along the Silk Road

**China**
- Dunhuang Mogao Grottoes
- Shaanxi Province Tang Dynasty Stone Grottoes
- Shanxi Province Stone Grottoes
- Longmen Grottoes

**India**
- Ajanta Site

**Vietnam**
- Thang Long Site
- My Son Site

**Thailand**
- Ayutthaya Site
- Khmer sites
- Sukhothai Site
- Phanom Rung Site

**Indonesia**
- Prambanan
Research on Chinese Cultural Heritage Preservation and Restoration (Rock caves and stone statues)

- Surveys and research into preservation and restoration of Longmen Grottoes

Japanese specialists participation in preservation and restoration project funded by UNESCO/Japan Trust Fund.

Environmental surveys and analysis, identification of degradation factors and research into corrective measures. Also, long-term and short-term human resource development.

- Studies and research into preservation and restoration of stone statues of Imperial Tomb of the Tang Dynasty in Shaanxi

Studies, research, restoration and preservation planning for stone statues of Imperial Tomb of the Tang Dynasty in cohort with Xian Center for the Conservation and Restoration of Cultural Property.
Research on Chinese Cultural Heritage Preservation and Restoration (Dunhuang, Mogao Caves)

- Joint research into wall painting preservation in cohort with Dunhuang Academy since 1990. Now in 5th stage.
- Research into production techniques and materials of wall paintings using optical/analytical methods.
- Radiographic dating of grottoes by C14.
- Training for young researchers from Japan and China.
Research on the degradation of Southeast Asian heritages and their restoration (Thailand)

There is concern that further propagation of lichens and algae on the face of the large Buddha statues at the World Heritage Wat Sri Chum will harm appearance and deteriorate the plaster.

- Studies and research into containing the propagation of vegetation on large Buddha statues in cohort with Department of Fine Arts, Ministry of Culture, Thailand.
Research on the degradation of Southeast Asian heritages and their restoration (Angkor, Cambodia)

Studies and research into stone structures in cohort with Authority for Protection and Management of Angkor and the Region of Siem Reap (ASPARA)

- Studies and research into effects of vegetation on stone materials in historical sites and measures to contain propagation

Measuring amount of water in stone material

Measuring meteorological data in the site
Cooperative projects for the preservation and restoration of cultural properties in West Asia

- Studies and research into cultural properties in Afghanistan and Iraq endangered by civil war and conflict.
- Preservation and restoration projects for damaged cultural properties as a means for transferring related technologies, developing human resources and providing support for self-implemented protection projects.
Archaeological and architectural research in Bamiyan

- Architectural surveys of Buddhist caves to identify the state of preservation, layout, design, technologies and chronologies.
- Distribution surveys and underground exploration to identify and protect scope of artifacts.

Survey to identify the scope of the site

Unearthed cut stones for the foundation of the Tower
Archaeological and architectural research in Bamiyan

Buddhist cave newly discovered in distribution surveys

Wall painting of Buddha in above cave
Archaeological and architectural research in Bamiyan

Water drain in Cave I

Canopy top for Cave I

Animal figure newly discovered from ceiling

Director Suzuki on-site inspection
Documentation of wall paintings and restoration in Bamiyan

- Buddhist wall paintings in the caves were documented in detail and basic materials were prepared to analyze degradation and the state of preservation of wall paintings.

- Emergency measures were taken with wall paintings threatened by imminent collapse, rather than remove them from the caves.

Preservation and restoration work on Buddhist wall paintings in Cave N (a)
Training of experts from Afghanistan and Iraq

**Training in Japan**
Training for specialists implemented in Japan
Afghanistan: Kabul National Museum, Afghan Institute of Archeology, Afghan Department of Historical Architecture
Iraq: Iraq National Museum, Iraq Agency for Antiquities (Nineveh Office), etc.

**Training in Afghanistan**
Workshop on preserving and restoring archeological materials (Nov. 2005 at Bamiyan Center for Education and Culture)

National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo
Research on material degradation and preservation
Joint research on the protection of Dunhuang wall paintings
Training in colored painting
Mongolia: Training in colored painting at Baravian Monastery
Training in survey and restoration planning of temples in Mongolia: Training in survey and restoration at Amarbayasgalant Monastery
Preservation of rock cave paintings
India: Wall painting preservation in Ajanta Caves
Japan Consortium for International Cooperation in Cultural Heritage (JCICCH)

Managing Committee

Planning

Universe, research organizations

NGOs, etc.

Private organizations/ foundations

International cooperation assistance bodies

Japanese firms overseas

Southeast Asia

West Asia

East / Central Asia

Planning

Managing Committee

Secretariat

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Foreign governments

International Organizations (ex. UNESCO)

Agency for Cultural Affairs

Cabinet

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Foreign governments

International Organizations (ex. UNESCO)
4) Activities of Japan Consortium for International Cooperation in Cultural Heritage

- Activities ... Loose federation aiming to effectively implement activities of each organization by providing opportunities for cooperation

1) Building of networks of related organizations and experts
2) Collecting and providing information ... Building and opening databases
3) Support for planning and preparing cooperative activities, i.e., support for reconstruction planning for Prambanan Temple Compounds
4) Dissemination and awareness ... Opening of PR websites
Activities of Consortium

1. Building networks amongst experts
2. Collecting and providing information
   - Building and opening databases
3. Study and research
   - Support for planning and preparing cooperative activities involving Japan
4. Dissemination and awareness
   - Opening of PR websites
5. Topics and outlook on international cooperation

- Dealing with changing properties
  - Changes that threaten properties
    - Changes over time
    - Changes accelerated by conflict, disaster, etc.
  - Sustained man-made changes due to urbanization, tourism, etc.
  - Properties are expected to change gradually.
    - Expanding the concept of cultural properties
    - Familiar properties, cultural properties in daily life (Cultural scenery, intangible properties)
Heritage protection and development assistance

- Sustainable protection activities
  Conservation is a continuous economic activity for local communities.
  Educating people (technical experts, production of resources, guides, …)
- Fostering a local community that protects its heritage
  Pleasant living environment
  Maintaining cultural diversity, training bases of cultural dissemination
  Moderate tourism
Laos:
Luang Prabang
Maintaining the environment of daily life
China: Lijiang
Old town district
Tourism pressure
China: Lijiang
Shuhe
Character of cultural heritage protection projects

Seen from the development assistance side…

- Value confirmation  □ Vague
- Differences in planning approaches  □ Appearing to be unplanned/unorganized
- Time span  □ Lack of speed
- Time and effort  □ Physical labor, inefficiencies
- Economic effect  □ Indirect, long-term comparison to infrastructure development
The real crisis is the absence of people.

- Tourism brings opportunities to save heritage sites, but also brings the continuous risk of human acts.

- Sustainable social development = Cooperation of economic development and heritage protection (Places for social-economic activities, human resource development).