

**Group Training Course for Young Professionals
on Cultural Heritage Protection in the Asia-Pacific Region 2025
'Conservation and Management of Wooden Built Heritage'**

General Information

1. Background

Starting from 2000, in partnership with the Agency for Cultural Affairs, Government of Japan; ICCROM, and National Research Institutes of Cultural Properties (Tokyo and Nara), Cultural Heritage Protection Cooperation Office, Asia-Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO (ACCU Nara) has initiated and conducted multiple capacity building and outreach programmes targeting young professionals involved in research, conservation, and management of cultural heritage in the countries of Asia and Pacific.

This year as well, ACCU Nara is pleased to announce the 26th ACCU group training course under the theme *Conservation and Management of Wooden Built Heritage*. The course is open to young professionals who have been working for some years within the field of conservation and management of wooden architecture, are eager to expand their knowledge and skills, share experiences, and contribute to the sustainable protection of wooden buildings, structures, and historic districts which reflect the character and identity of the Asia-Pacific countries and are, therefore, important to preserve for future generations.

2. Organisers (*tentative*)

This course is jointly organised by the Agency for Cultural Affairs, Government of Japan; Asia-Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO, Cultural Heritage Protection Cooperation Office (ACCU Nara); International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM); and National Research Institutes for Cultural Properties [Tokyo and Nara], in cooperation with the Japanese Association for Conservation of Architectural Monuments (JACAM); Japan Consortium for International Cooperation in Cultural Heritage (JCIC-Heritage); under the auspices of Japanese National Commission for UNESCO; Nara Prefectural Government; and Tenri and Nara City Governments.

3. Objectives

Inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2020, traditional skills, techniques and knowledge for the conservation and transmission of wooden architecture are vast and deeply rooted in Japan. Here, nearly all traditional buildings, whether secular or sacred, World Heritage or local landmark, are made of wood. Hot and humid climate, frequent natural or manmade disasters necessitated the continuous repair and restoration of these buildings, forming the foundation of solid principles, methods and skills for their preservation and continuity that are widely recognised and appreciated inside and outside the country.

Considering the above, the main objectives of this course are to provide participants with:

- Theoretical knowledge and basic practical skills of repair and restoration, conservation and management of individual wooden structures as well as historic districts based on Japanese know-how and experiences;
- Knowledge on philosophy and methodology of preservation and legal protection systems for wooden architectural heritage based on Japanese examples.
- Opportunities and platform where participants and lecturers can share their knowledge and practice, communicate, and build professional networks.

4. Dates and Method

Dates: 25 August (Mon) - 2 October (Thu)

- ❖ Online course using digital platforms: 25 August – 5 September
- ❖ On-site course in Nara, Japan: 19 September – 2 October

Method: Hybrid mode involving both online and on-site programmes.

5. Course Programme

The course programme is designed so that participants can learn the protection systems, and overall process of survey and documentation, repair, and restoration methods, everyday management, and utilisation of individual buildings as well as historic districts based on Japanese examples. In addition to Japanese experts, resource persons from ICCROM will deliver lectures and participate in discussions related to the international theory and practice for wooden architecture conservation and management.

The course is structured into five interconnected units and involves online and on-site programmes. Learning through lectures and presentations will be mainly conducted online, while practical training and working sessions will be conducted in person (*for detailed programme refer to **Appendix** below*).

5-1 Online Programme

- The course digital platform (iPAGE) will be set up to provide the participants access to relevant pre-recorded video lectures, textbooks, and other learning material to study before their arrival in Japan. Participants will be able to log on and access course resources at any time that fits their schedules, post to discussion boards, exchange files, and chat with their peers.
- Several online meetings are scheduled to be held via Zoom. Zoom sessions will be mainly devoted to lectures and discussions.

5-2 On-site Programme (Nara, Japan)

- After completing the online programme, participants will be invited to Nara for on-site training.
- On-site programme will include work sessions at conservation sites, on-site studies, presentations by participants, classroom discussions and presentations.

Units:

1. Global perspectives and challenges in conservation of wooden heritage
2. Protection systems for wooden built heritage in Japan
3. Conservation of wooden built heritage in Japan and in global context
4. Repair and restoration policies for especially high-value wooden structures in Japan
5. Management and utilisation of Historic Districts in Japan

(*For detailed programme refer to Appendix below*)

6. Working Language

English (with consecutive interpretation from Japanese where necessary)

7. Applicant Eligibility

- 1) To apply to this course, applicants should be from one of the following 36 countries located in the Asia-Pacific region which have signed UNESCO World Heritage Convention and are eligible to receive Official Development Assistance (ODA). In addition, applicants shall also be officially endorsed by the National Commission for UNESCO (NATCOM)*. The maximum number of participants is 15.

(*) National Commissions for UNESCO are national cooperative bodies operating for the purpose of associating their governmental and

non-governmental bodies in education, sciences, culture, and communication with the work of the organisation. They are set up by their respective governments in accordance with Article VII of the UNESCO Constitution.

Eligible countries:



Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Cook Islands, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Kyrgyz Republic, Lao P.D.R., Malaysia, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Mongolia, Nauru, Nepal, Niue, Pakistan, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, and Viet Nam.

In the selection process, priority will be given to:



- 2) Young heritage professionals with 5-7 years of experience working in architectural conservation and/or cultural heritage protection domain, with strong determination to make effective use of the outcome of the training course in their respective countries;
- 3) Those who have a good command of English and can speak, read, and write in English proficiently;
- 4) Those able to participate in the entire training programme, both online and on-site;
- 5) Those who are willing to continue to interact and exchange information with ACCU after completing the training course;
- 6) Those who have not participated in the ACCU group training course under the theme Conservation and Management of Wooden Built Heritage before (including online training course).

8. Application Requirements



(1) Application Form [Form 1]

-  Complete all required fields with correct and up-to-date information.
-  Submit the completed form in Excel and PDF formats.


(2) Personal Statement [Form 2]

-  Personal Statement weighs heavily in the selection process. Please fill in the answers (up to 2 pages) and insert photos if necessary.
-  Submit the completed form in Word and PDF formats.

(3) Recommendation Letter from the applicant's organisation [Form 3]

-  The recommendation letter must be filled in, physically signed, and stamped by the person endorsing the application (head of the applicant's organisation or supervisor).
-  Submit the scanned form in PDF format.

(4) Recommendation Letter from National Commission for UNESCO (NATCOM) (free form)

-  To apply for the ACCU Group Training Course, applicants are required to obtain an official endorsement (recommendation letter) from the National Commission for UNESCO of their country. This is a free form and is original for each country. ACCU Nara will contact The National Commission for UNESCO in all eligible countries with the request to nominate the candidates. Those who wish to apply for this course are advised to contact their NATCOMs first to seek official endorsement.

9. How to apply

Those interested in attending the course are invited to complete and send the application documents by email to the following address: nara@accu.or.jp

Acknowledgement of receipt of application documents will be sent to all applicants. If a confirmation email fails to arrive within a week, please contact us at nara@accu.or.jp

Note: *incomplete forms will be given low priority and no application will be reviewed after the established deadline.*

Application deadline: 15 June (Sun) 2025

10. Notification of Screening Results

After consulting with the co-organisers, applicants will be shortlisted based on the submitted applications. Telephone interviews may be necessary during the final selection process. In such case, the date and time will be notified to the applicants in advance.

Successful candidates will be notified in early July.

11. Assessment and Certificate

ACCU Nara encourages an active engagement of all participants in the course. A certificate of completion will be awarded to participants who:

- 1) Complete both online and on-site course programmes (study the provided text material and watch video lectures; have regular attendance and active participation in online and on-site sessions). Participants are required to timely notify the organisers in the event of an unavoidable absence from Zoom meetings;
- 2) Complete assignments (*Check-point Reports*) after finishing each Unit (online);
- 3) Prepare and present one case-study report related to wooden heritage conservation in their respective countries (online);
- 4) Make a final presentation (in-person).

12. Course Fee

Participation in the training course is free of charge.

In addition, the organisers will cover the expenses incurred for the training course as follows:

(1) Round-trip travel

- The flight tickets (economy class) between the nearest international airport to the participant's place of residence and Kansai International Airport will be arranged and provided by ACCU Nara to all participants.
- The organisers will also arrange the transportation between the Kansai Airport and Nara city.

(2) Accommodation and daily allowance

Basic living expenses incurred during the training course and a room for single occupancy at a hotel in Nara city will be provided for the period from 18 September (one day before the start of on-site training) to 3 October (one day after the end of on-site training).

Participants shall be responsible for visa application fees and travel expenses inside their own countries. Also, it is the responsibility of each participant to arrange a computer or similar device and an internet connection suitable for online learning.

13. Secretariat

For any additional information and inquiry please contact:

WAKIYA Kayoko (Ms)

Cultural Heritage Protection Cooperation Office,

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APPENDIX 1-1

Group Training Course on Cultural Heritage Protection in the Asia-Pacific Region				
-Conservation and Management of Wooden Built Heritage-				
Online Programme (Tentative)				
25 August (MON) - 5 September (FRI)				
DATE	CONTENT	Lecturers/Resource Persons	Method	
25 August 14:00-15:00 JST	Course Orientation (closed session)	ACCU	ZOOM Meeting	
	UNIT 1: Global Perspectives and Challenges in Conservation of Wooden Heritage			
25 August ~ Distribution of video lectures	1-1: International Principles and Approaches to Conservation of Wooden Built Heritage -Introduction to ICCROM, Evolution of Conservation Concepts, Principles and Charters 1-2: Diversity of Wooden Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region and the Local Approaches to Conservation	ICCROM	Distance learning:	
	1-3: Principles, Practices, and Cultural Contexts in Conservation - How to develop qualifying systems, a case study in Japan 1-4: Protection of Cultural Properties in Japan - Evolution and outline of the legal system; categories of cultural properties	University of Tsukuba	Video lectures, PDF material	
	UNIT 2: Protection Systems for Wooden Built Heritage in Japan			
	2-1: Outline of the Current Legal Framework for the Restoration of Cultural Properties in Japan	TOBUNKEN ¹⁾	Distance learning:	
	2-2: History and Diversity of Japanese Architecture	BUNKACHO ²⁾	Video lectures, PDF material	
	2-3: Preservation of Wooden Structures in Japan I Repair of cultural heritage buildings, disaster prevention measures, human resource development	BUNKACHO		
	2-4: Preservation of Wooden Structures in Japan II Securing traditional materials and handing down preservation skills and technologies	BUNKACHO		
	UNIT 3: Conservation of Wooden Built Heritage in Japan and in Global Context			
	3-1: Wooden Built Heritage in Asia (tentative title) -Types of buildings, examples of conservation and repair	TOBUNKEN	Distance learning:	
	3-2: The Conservation of Wooden Heritage Buildings in Japan from an International Perspective	Kyoto Institute of Technology	Video lectures,	
	UNIT 4: Repair and Restoration Policies for Especially High-value Wooden Structures in Japan			
	4-1: Survey and Recoding of Individual Wooden Buildings - Measurement, damage investigation, trace survey	JACAM ³⁾	Distance learning:	
	4-2: Repair Policy for the Wooden Structures in Japan		Video lectures, PDF material	
	4-3: Repair of Wooden Structures in Japan Case Study of Seki Family Residence Repair Project			
	UNIT 5: Management and Utilisation of Historic Districts in Japan			
		5-1: Community-centered Townscape Preservation in Japan - Case study of Narai post-town	Shiojiri City Board of Education	Distance learning: Video lectures, PDF material
	28 August/ 4 September (2 DAYS) 14:00-17:00 JST	Lecture, discussions and Q/A session	Open to all lecturers and resource persons	Zoom Meeting
11 September 14:00-15:00 JST	Mid-term meeting	ACCU		

Notes:

1) Tokyo National Research Institute for Cultural Properties

2) Agency for Cultural Affairs, Government of Japan

3) Japanese Association for Conservation of Architectural Monuments

4) Case Study Reports (short paper and a 10 min. presentation) shall reflect each participant country's approaches and/or issues in conservation and management of wooden built heritage.

APPENDIX 1-2

Group Training Course on Cultural Heritage Protection in the Asia-Pacific Region -Conservation and Management of Wooden Built Heritage-					
On-Site Programme (Tentative)					
19 September (FRI) - 2 October (THU)					
Date			Content	Lecturers/Resource Persons	Location
Day 1	Fri	19 Sep.	Opening Ceremony Site Visit at World Heritage Site Historic Monuments of Ancient Nara	ACCU	Nara city
UNIT 1: Global Perspectives and Challenges in Conservation of Wooden Heritage					
UNIT 2: Protection Systems for Wooden Built Heritage in Japan					
Day 2	Sat	20 Sep.	[Presentations/Discussions] Case Study Report /Discussions	ICCROM, University of Tsukuba	Nara city
Day 3	Sun	21 Sep.	Day off		
UNIT 3: Conservation of Wooden Built Heritage in Japan and in Global Context					
UNIT 4: Repair and Restoration Policies for Especially High-value Wooden Structures in Japan					
Day 4 to Day 8	Mon-Fri	22-26 Sep.	[Work Session] Recording and Documentation methods of Individual Wooden Structures (Measured drawing, damage survey, formulation of repair policy) [Study Tour I] Repair Process of Wooden Built Heritage	TBD	Conservation Site in Nara Prefecture
Day 9	Sat	27 Sep.	Day off (preparation of final reports)		
UNIT 5: Management and Utilisation of Historic Districts in Japan					
Days 10 and 11	Sun-Mon	28-29 Sep.	[Study Tour II] Community-centered Townscape Preservation in Japan (Narai and Kiso Hirasawa)	Local resource persons	Gifu Prefecture: Shirakawa-go
Day 12	Tue	30 Sep.	[Study Tour III] Community Efforts to the Preservation of Shirakawa-go Historic Village (World Heritage Site)		Nagano Prefecture: Narai, Kiso Hirasawa
Day 13	Wed	1 Oct.	Day off (preparation of final reports)		
Day 14	Thu	2 Oct.	[Discussion and Presentations] General Discussion and Final Report Presentations Closing Ceremony	ICCROM, open to all lecturers and resource persons	Nara City