

Group Training Course for Young Professionals  
on Cultural Heritage Protection in the Asia-Pacific Region 2026

**‘Conservation and Management of Archaeological Sites and Artefacts’**

**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), the Cultural Heritage Protection Cooperation Office, Asia-Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO (ACCU Nara) has initiated and conducted various capacity-building and outreach programmes targeting young professionals involved in investigation, conservation, and management of cultural heritage in the Asia-Pacific region.

This year marks the 27<sup>th</sup> Training Course Group Training Course for Young Professionals on Cultural Heritage Protection in the Asia-Pacific Region. The course theme is, ‘Conservation and Management of Archaeological Sites and Artefacts,’ and is designed to provide fundamental knowledge and techniques of archaeological work from survey, excavation and documentation to interpretation, management and use of archaeological sites and artefacts. The course is open to young archaeologists and heritage practitioners seeking to enhance their skills and expand their professional networks in the Asia-Pacific region.

**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 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**

The objectives of this course are to provide participants with:

- Knowledge of cultural heritage protection and management systems globally and on Japanese examples.
- Knowledge of archaeological fieldwork methods, including survey, excavation, and documentation of sites.
- Knowledge and techniques for artefact analysis, documentation, and storage.
- Knowledge of site management and utilisation, collections care and museum work.
- Opportunities to share knowledge and build professional networks.

**4. Dates and Method**

Dates: 20 August (Thu) - 8 October (Thu)

- Online programme: 20 August – 10 September
- On-site programme (Nara): 25 September – 8 October

**5. Course Programme**

The course programme is designed so that participants can learn about conservation and management systems, methodologies of investigation, documentation, and utilisation of archaeological sites and artefacts using 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 heritage conservation and management.

The course is structured into five interconnected units and involves online and on-site programmes. Self-paced learning through video lectures and real-time discussions will be conducted online, while practical training and study visits will be organised in Japan.

### 5.1. Online Programme

- The course digital platform (iPAGE) will be set up to provide the participants on-demand access to video lectures, textbooks, and other learning materials to study before they arrive in Japan. Participants will be able to log in and access course resources at any time that fits their schedules.
- Several online meetings are scheduled to be held via Zoom to discuss the content of video lectures and engage in Q&A with lecturers.

### 5.2. On-site Programme (Nara, Japan)

- After completing the online programme to a degree deemed satisfactory by ACCU Nara, participants will be invited to Nara for on-site training.
- On-site programme includes practical training at archaeological research institutes in Nara, study visits in Nara and other locations in Japan, and participant presentation and discussion.

### 5.3. Units

UNIT 1: Global Perspectives and Challenges in Cultural Heritage Protection

UNIT 2: Cultural Heritage Protection System in Japan

UNIT 3: Investigation and Documentation of Archaeological Sites

UNIT 4: Analysis, Documentation, and Storage of Archaeological Artefacts

UNIT 5: Management and Utilisation of Archaeological Sites and Artefacts

### 6. Working Language

English (with consecutive interpretation from Japanese where necessary)

### 7. Applicant Eligibility

- 1) The training course is offered to a maximum of 15 participants\* from the following 35 signatory countries to the UNESCO World Heritage Convention from Asia and the Pacific and are eligible to receive Official Development Assistance (ODA) from Japan. In addition, applicants shall also be officially endorsed by their country's National Commission for UNESCO (NATCOM).

*Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Cook Islands, Fiji, India, Indonesia, 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.*

*\*This training is planned for up to 15 participants; however, the final number of participants may be subject to change due to budgetary considerations, including fluctuations in airfare-related costs.*

- 2) Young heritage professionals with 5-7 years of experience working in the field of archaeology and/or heritage protection and have a 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 of archaeology before (including only the 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 (NATCOM) of their country. There is no designated format. ACCU Nara will contact NATCOMs of all eligible countries for nominations. 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](mailto: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 send a follow-up to above email.

**Note:** Only complete applications submitted on time will be eligible for review.

### **Application deadline: 14 June 2026**

## 10. Notification of Screening Results

After consulting with the co-organisers, applicants will be shortlisted based on the submitted applications. Online or telephone interviews may be necessary during the final selection process.

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) Watch all video lectures and submit online assignments to a satisfactory level.
- 2) Attendance and active participation in Zoom meetings.

**\*Participants are required to notify the organisers in the event of an unavoidable absence from online meetings.**

- 3) Submit and present a case-study report related to challenges and needs in archaeological conservation and

management in their respective countries.

- 4) Make a final presentation on the last day of the training course (contents TBA).
- 5) Submit an evaluation (questionnaire) upon completing the course.

## 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

- Flight tickets (economy class) between the nearest international airport to the participant's place of residence and Kansai International Airport\*  
*\*Up to 2 participants may be required to organise and cover the expenses for their round-trip flight tickets.*
- Domestic transportation between the Kansai Airport and Nara city

### (2) Accommodation and daily allowance

- Single occupancy hotel room from 24 September to 9 October
- Daily allowance\* from 24 September to 9 October  
*\*ACCU Nara may organise meals for participants on some days and deduct the fee from the daily allowance in advance.*

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 device and stable internet connection suitable for online learning.

## 13. Secretariat

For any additional information and inquiry please contact:

**Cultural Heritage Protection Cooperation Office,  
Asia-Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO (ACCU Nara)**

Nara Prefecture Historical and Artistic Culture Complex, Restorations and Exhibition Wing 2F;  
437-3, Somanouchi-cho, Tenri, 632-0032, Japan  
TEL: +81-743-69-5010 E-mail: nara@accu.or.jp

Group Training Course for Young Professionals on Cultural Heritage Protection in the Asia-Pacific Region 2026			
<i>Conservation and Management of Archaeological Sites and Artefacts</i>			
<b>Online Programme (Tentative)</b>			
<b>20 August - 10 September</b>			
Release Date	Item	Method	
20 Aug. (Thu)	<b>Orientation</b>	Zoom session 20 Aug. (Thu) 14:00-15:00 JST	
	<b>UNIT 1: Global Perspectives and Challenges in Cultural Heritage Protection</b>		
	1-1. Evolution and Current Trends in Heritage Protection and Management	Lecture video Reading material	
	1-2. Conservation and Utilisation of Archaeological Sites		
	1-3. Impact Assessment for Cultural Heritage and Other Issues (TBC)		
	<b>UNIT 2: Cultural Heritage Protection System in Japan</b>		
	2-1. Cultural Properties Protection System in Japan	Lecture video Reading material	
	2-2. Protection of Archaeological Sites and Artefacts in Japan		
	<b>Unit 1/2: Summary and Q&amp;A Session</b>	Zoom session 25 Aug. (Tue) 15:00-17:00 JST	
	<b>UNIT 3: Investigation and Documentation of Archaeological Sites</b>		
	3-1. Archaeological Methods I (Excavation and Survey Methods)	Lecture video Reading material	
	3-2. Archaeological Methods II (Dating Sites: Typologies and Stratigraphy)		
	3-3. Archaeological Methods III (Digital Documentation)		
	31 Aug. (Mon)	<b>UNIT 4: Analysis, Documentation, and Storage of Archaeological Artefacts</b>	
4-1. Organising and Managing Archaeological Artefacts (Cleaning, Restoring, Measuring, and Recording)		Lecture video Reading material	
4-2. Restoration of Pottery and Clay Figurines for Museum Exhibitions (TBC)			
4-3. Zooarchaeology			
4-4. Biomolecular Archaeology			
4-5. Photographic Documentation of Archaeological Artefacts (Techniques and Photographic Settings)			
<b>Unit 3/4: Summary and Q&amp;A Session</b>		Zoom session 8 Sep. (Tue) 14:00-17:00 JST	
<b>UNIT 5: Management and Utilisation of Archaeological Sites and Artefacts</b>			
5-1. Conservation and Interpretation of Archaeological Sites in Japan		Lecture video Reading material	
5-2. Heritage Impact Assessment for World Cultural Heritage			
<b>Unit 5: Summary and Q&amp;A Session</b>	Zoom session 10 Sep. (Thu)		
<b>Midterm Meeting</b>	14:00-16:00 JST		

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Date	Item	Venue (tentative)						
<b>UNIT 1: Global Perspectives and Challenges in Cultural Heritage Protection</b>								
<b>UNIT 2: Cultural Heritage Protection System in Japan</b>								
25 Sep.	<b>Fri</b> <b>【Opening Ceremony】</b> (13:30) - On-site programme orientation	(Nara City)						
26 Sep.	<b>Sat</b> <b>【Presentation &amp; Discussion】</b> Case study presentations by participants							
27 Sep.	<b>Sun</b>	Day Off						
<b>UNIT 3: Investigation and Documentation of Archaeological Sites</b>								
28 Sep.	<b>Mon</b> <b>【Study Visit】</b> Survey Methods at Excavation Sites	Excavation Site (Nara City)						
29 Oct.	<b>Tue</b> <b>【Lecture &amp; Practical Training】</b> First Aid for Fragile Artefacts	Research Facility (Nara City)						
<b>UNIT 4: Analysis, Documentation, and Storage of Archaeological Artefacts</b>								
30 Sep.	<b>Wed</b> <b>【Practical Training】</b> Photography and 3D Documentation of Artefacts	Research Facility (Nara Prefecture)						
1 Oct.	<b>Thu</b> <b>【Practical Training】</b> Analysis and Documentation of Artefacts I							
2 Oct.	<b>Fri</b> <b>【Practical Training】</b> Analysis and Documentation of Artefacts II							
3 Oct.	<b>Sat</b> <b>【Study Visit】</b> Conservation and Utilisation of Artefacts	Museum						
4 Oct.	<b>Sun</b>	Day Off						
<b>UNIT 5: Management and Utilisation of Archaeological Sites and Artefacts</b>								
5 Oct.	<b>Mon</b> <b>【Study Visit】</b> Site Conservation and Interpretation & Museums I	Archaeological Site; World Heritage Site etc.						
6 Oct.	<b>Tue</b> <b>【Study Visit】</b> Site Conservation and Interpretation & Museums II	Museum						
7 Oct.	<b>Wed</b>	Preparation for final presentations						
8 Oct.	<b>Thu</b> <b>【Presentation &amp; Discussion】</b> Final Presentations & Closing Ceremony	(Nara City)						
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