

2026 ACCU Nara International Conference on Cultural Heritage

Capacity Building for the Future of Cultural Heritage

Evolving Needs and Prospects for International Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific Region

2026

16 Dec (Wed)

10:00 - 17:00 (JST)

17 Dec (Thu)

9:30 - 12:30 (JST)

VENUE **Room No. 201, Nara Prefectural Convention Center / Online**

CAPACITY **35 persons per day** (On-site) / **No Capacity** (Online)

Free Admission **Registraion Required** **Simultaneous Interpretation JPN-ENG**

Organisers: Agency for Cultural Affairs, Government of Japan;
Cultural Heritage Protection Cooperation Office, Asia-Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO (ACCU Nara)

Supporting Organisations: International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM) (TBC);
National Research Institute for Culutral Properties (Tokyo and Nara), National Institutes for Cultural Heritage;
Nara Prefectural Government; Nara City

In Cooperation with: Japan Consortium for International Cooperation in Cultural Heritage

2026 ACCU Nara International Conference on Cultural Heritage

Capacity Building for the Future of Cultural Heritage

Evolving Needs and Prospects for International Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific Region

Japan has long contributed to cultural heritage protection in the Asia-Pacific region through international training programmes and capacity-building initiatives implemented by various institutions across the country. As part of these efforts, ACCU Nara has conducted international training programmes for 27 years since 2000, fostering the exchange of specialised knowledge and practical skills, as well as the development of professional networks.
During this period, the circumstances surrounding cultural heritage protection in the Asia-Pacific region have evolved considerably, with emerging challenges including climate change, natural disasters, rapid urbanisation, and the advancement of digital technologies.
These developments call for a reassessment of how international training programmes conducted in Japan can best respond to the changing needs of the field.
This international conference will bring together experts from Japan and abroad to reflect on the achievements and challenges of past international training programmes, while considering how the needs of the Asia-Pacific region have evolved. Building on these reflections, discussions will explore how Japan's knowledge, experience, and technical expertise can contribute to future international cooperation, and how international training programmes should evolve to meet these changing needs.
Through these discussions, the conference aims to identify new opportunities for international cooperation and share a forward-looking vision for capacity building in cultural heritage protection in the Asia-Pacific region.

PROGRAMME

*The programme may be subject to change without notice.

16 December

10:00 Opening Remarks by Organisers and Supporting Organisations
10:20 Introduction of Guests and Participants
10:30 **KEYNOTE ADDRESS**
INABA Nobuko (*Professor Emerit*, University of Tsukuba)
11:15 **PRESENTATION I**
TBD (ICCROM)
11:45 **PRESENTATION II**
Rohit JIGYASU (*Programme Director*, SEAMEO-SPAFA)
12:15 -Break-
13:30 **PRESENTATION III**
TBD (*Training institution serving East Asia.)
14:00 **PRESENTATION IV**
SHODA Shinya
(*Head*, International Cooperation Section,
Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties)
14:30 **PRESENTATION V**
KIM Dowon (*Professor / UNESCO Chairholder*, Ritsumeikan University)
15:00 **PRESENTATION VI**
MORIMOTO Susumu (*Director*, ACCU Nara)
WAKIYA Kayoko (*Vice Director*, Programme Operation Department, ACCU Nara)
15:30 -Break-
16:00 **PANEL DISCUSSION**
Moderator: **INABA Nobuko**
NISHI Kazuhiko
(*Chief Senior Specialist for Cultural Properties*,
Agency for Cultural Affairs, Government of Japan)
Rapporteur: **Rohit JIGYASU**
17:00 End of Day 1

17 December

9:30 Opening Remarks
9:35 **PRESENTATION VII**
TOMODA Masahiko
(*Vice Director*, Tokyo National Research Institute for Cultural Properties)
10:05 **PANEL DISCUSSION**

Bridging the Needs of the Asia-Pacific Region and Japan's Expertise through International Training
Future Directions and Prospects for International Cooperation

12:15 Closing Remarks
12:30 Closing



REGISTRATION

https://event.nara.jp/sp/accu2026

Please register using the QR code on the left or through the ACCU Nara website.

Deadline

[On-site] 13 December 2026 (Sun)
[Online] Open until the day of the conference

*A confirmation email will be sent from [entryinfo@event.nara.jp].
Please ensure that your email settings allow you to receive messages from this address.
*Registration for onsite observers will close once capacity is reached.
*Advance registration is required for both onsite and online observers.

VENUE

Room No. 201, Nara Prefectural Convention Center

ADDRESS 1-691-1, Sanjo-oji-cho, Nara-city, Nara, 630-8013, JAPAN

INQUIRY

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