



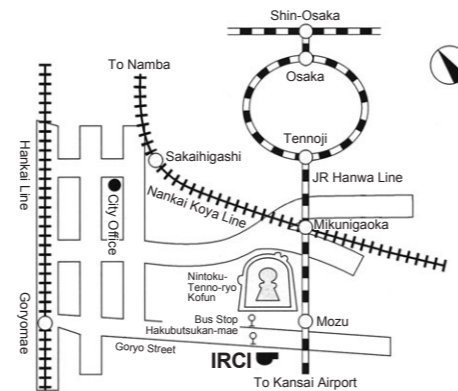
# IRCI

National Institutes for Cultural Heritage, Japan  
**International Research Centre  
 for Intangible Cultural Heritage  
 in the Asia-Pacific Region**

2016



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Logo of UNESCO

Logo of UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage

Logo of IRCI

Culture is an important element and heritage that imparts richness to nations. To transmit intangible cultural heritage through generations, connections among people are necessary. The IRCI logo incorporates the Japanese character for "culture" to indicate "people", who are the bearers of culture. This is symbolic of our vision of culture being transmitted from person to person within communities and groups. The background colours represent the Asia-Pacific region, with green signifying mountains, yellow the land, and blue the ocean.

## IRCI and UNESCO

### Overview of IRCI

The International Research Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region (IRCI) was established in October 2011 as a Category 2 Centre of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). At the 35th Session of the General Conference of UNESCO held in 2009, the proposal of the "Establishment in Japan of the International Research Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region as a Category 2 Centre under the auspices of UNESCO" was approved. In August of the following year, an agreement was concluded between the Government of Japan and UNESCO, and the Centre officially opened as one of the institutions of the National Institutes for Cultural Heritage (NICH) of Japan. Its office is now located in Sakai City, Osaka.

IRCI's objectives are to promote the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage (the 2003 Convention) and its implementation, and to enhance the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage (ICH) through instigating, facilitating, and coordinating research in the Asia-Pacific region. In recent years, many elements of ICH are endangered throughout the world. To ensure cultural diversity for future generations and contribute to a sustainable society, IRCI is working for the safeguarding of ICH in close cooperation with UNESCO and other related institutions such as universities, research institutions, governmental and non-governmental organisations, museums, and communities worldwide.



## UNESCO Category 2 Centres

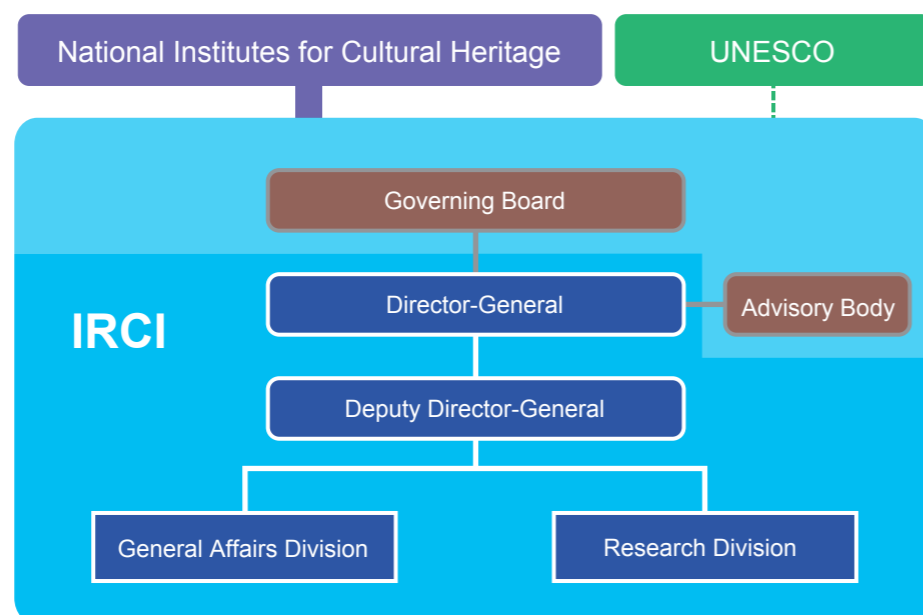
Category 2 Centres are institutions that serve to contribute to the achievement of UNESCO's strategic objectives. There are currently eight UNESCO Category 2 Centres around the world, including Japan, in the field of the safeguarding of ICH. In the Asia-Pacific region, in addition to IRCI, there are Category 2 Centres in China and the Republic of Korea, with which IRCI cooperates and works in tandem. The three centres have different mandates: research for IRCI, information and networking for the International Information and Networking Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region (ICHCAP) in the Republic of Korea, and training activities for the International Training Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region (CRIHAP) in China.



From left: Mr Wataru Iwamoto (Director of IRCI), Ms Rong Xu (Director of CRIHAP), Mr Kwon Huh (Director of ICHCAP)

## Operation of IRCI

IRCI activities are implemented with the approval of its Governing Board. The Governing Board is made up of 10 experts and representatives of specialised institutions inside and outside Japan including a UNESCO representative. The Governing Board deliberates and approves all IRCI activities, including long-term and medium-term programmes, work plans, and reports. In addition, when planning such programmes, IRCI's Advisory Body provides their professional perspectives.



## UNESCO's Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) was founded in 1945 for the purpose of promoting international collaboration in the fields of education, science, culture, and communication. Among its activities is the adoption of international conventions. Regarding culture, there are a total of seven conventions, from the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (World Heritage Convention), which was adopted at the 17th Session of the General Conference (1972), to the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, which was adopted at the 33rd Session of the General Conference (2005). Among them is the Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage (the 2003 Convention), which was adopted in 2003, about 30 years after the ratification of the World Heritage Convention which aims to preserve and protect tangible cultural heritage.

The 2003 Convention was the outcome of discussions held at UNESCO since the 1950s for the purpose of safeguarding folklore, including oral traditions and folk arts. The Convention has four objectives: (1) to safeguard intangible cultural heritage; (2) to ensure respect for the intangible cultural heritage of the communities, groups and individuals concerned; (3) to raise awareness at the local, national and international levels of the importance of intangible cultural heritage; and (4) to provide for international cooperation and assistance.

Intangible cultural heritage is defined in the text of the Convention as follows: "practices, representations, expressions, knowledge, skills – as well as the instruments, objects, artefacts and cultural spaces associated therewith – that communities, groups and, in some cases, individuals recognise as part of their cultural heritage." (Article 2(1)). More specifically, they are: (1) oral traditions and expressions, including language as a vehicle of the intangible cultural heritage; (2) performing arts; (3) social practices, rituals and festive events; (4) knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe; and (5) traditional craftsmanship. States Parties to the Convention are required to draw up inventories of their own intangible cultural heritage (Article 12).

There are two organs through which decisions regarding the Convention are made. One is the General Assembly of States Parties, which meets every other year to decide strategic directions to be taken for promoting the objectives of the Convention. The other is the Intergovernmental Committee, which is made up of member states elected by the General Assembly. The Intergovernmental Committee, composed of 24 states, is held once a year and works for the concrete implementation of the Convention. Its most important roles are to deliberate on inscriptions on two lists of intangible cultural heritage and to decide on best practices for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage.

In Articles 16 and 17, the 2003 Convention requires inscriptions on two lists, namely the "List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding" (Urgent Safeguarding List) and the "Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity" (Representative List). The Representative List of the 2003 Convention takes the standpoint of not placing higher value upon one intangible cultural heritage than the other. The Representative List is merely to identify the diverse cultural heritage of humanity around the world, and aims to bring international awareness. In the implementation of the 2003 Convention, more emphasis is placed on the Urgent Safeguarding List than the Representative List, and in this regard, it differs from the World Heritage Convention. The 2003 Convention focuses on the practitioners' daily lives in relation to ICH, and thus encourages the participation of communities to which the practitioners belong (Article 15).

Many member states that have ratified the 2003 Convention currently suffer from poverty, low rates of literacy, a lack of experts, a lack of interest among young people, urbanisation, conflict, and war. For this reason, assistance in developing legal systems, training of human resources, financial assistance, sustainable education, and so forth are seen as necessary. As particular emphasis is placed on the Urgent Safeguarding List laid forth in Article 17, it follows that an appropriate framework for international assistance and safeguarding measures need to be developed.

IRCI has implemented research projects in close cooperation with UNESCO and other related institutions such as universities, research institutions, governmental and non-governmental organisations, museums, and communities worldwide. One example is a community-led documentation of ICH in danger of disappearing since 2012, conducted through discussions with practitioners of arts and craftsmanship and government officials. With a focus on the process by which elements of ICH have become in danger of disappearing, IRCI has used a variety of methodologies to make audiovisual documentation. As a research institution, IRCI aims to share the outcomes of such research with the communities and contribute to safeguarding ICH. This is because, as stated above, the 2003 Convention places strong emphasis on communities, in other words, people who maintain and transmit ICH.

## What is Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH)?

ICH is living cultural heritage. Although it transforms over time, it is transmitted from generation to generation and gives us cultural identity and richness. In the text of the 2003 Convention, the following examples of ICH are provided:

### Oral Traditions and Expressions



Hudhud chants of the Ifugao (Philippines)  
©2008, by J. Uñalvia/NCCA-ICH, with the permission of UNESCO



Tradition of Vedic chanting (India)  
© Sangeet Natak Akademi, New Delhi, India, with the permission of UNESCO

### Performing Arts



Royal ballet of Cambodia (Cambodia)  
© International Research Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region (IRCI), 2013



Ca tru singing (Viet Nam)  
© 2006, Vietnamese Institute for Musicology, Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism of Vietnam, with the permission of UNESCO

### Social Practices, Rituals and Festive Events



Mask dance of the drums from Drametse (Bhutan)  
© 2007, by Institute of Language and Cultural Studies - Semtokha Bhutan, with the permission of UNESCO



Royal ancestral ritual in the Jongmyo shrine and its music (Republic of Korea)  
© National Research Institute of Cultural Heritage, 2008, with the permission of UNESCO

### Knowledge and Practices Concerning Nature and the Universe



Acupuncture and moxibustion of traditional Chinese medicine (China)  
© Institute of Acupuncture and Moxibustion, 2009, with the permission of UNESCO



Tugging rituals and games (Cambodia, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Viet Nam)  
© Vietnam Institute of Culture and Arts Studies, 2013, with the permission of UNESCO

### Traditional Craftsmanship



Indonesian Batik (Indonesia)  
© Batik Museum Institute, Pekalongan, 2008, with the permission of UNESCO

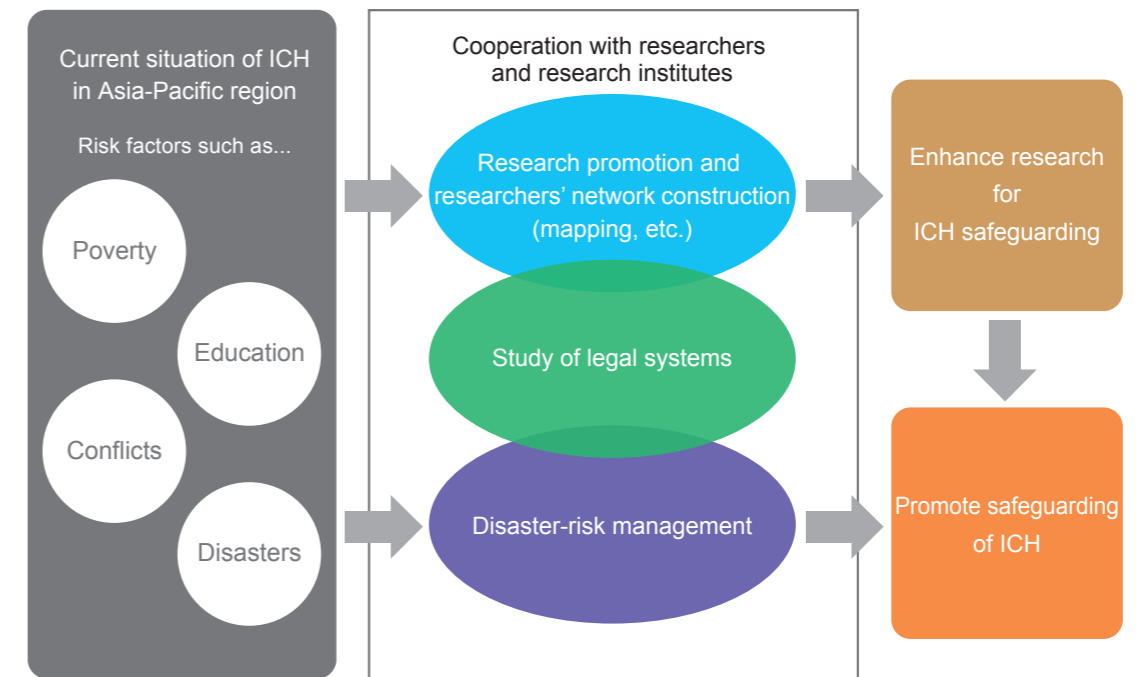


Ojiya-chijimi, Echigo-jofu (Japan)  
© 1998, by Association for the Conservation of Techniques for Echigo-jofu, Ojiya-Chijimi, with the permission of UNESCO

## Strategies and Projects for FY 2016

With the purpose of safeguarding ICH in the Asia-Pacific region, IRCI has carried out a range of activities utilising networks both within and outside Japan. In FY 2016, IRCI is pursuing the following three projects:

- Mapping Studies on the Safeguarding of ICH (FY 2013 - FY 2019)
- Research on ICH Safeguarding and Disaster-Risk Management (FY 2016 -)
- Study of Legal Systems related to Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Greater Mekong Region (FY 2013 - FY 2016)



# Main Projects

## Mapping Studies on the Safeguarding of ICH (FY 2013 - FY 2019)

Since there is currently a lack of research and expert information on the safeguarding of ICH in the Asia-Pacific region, it is necessary to perceive the underlying challenges on safeguarding and to pursue concrete research aimed at resolving those issues. IRCI has been implementing the following three mapping projects: (1) conduct a survey on relevant countries, experts, and research activities; (2) analyse safeguarding measures on a per-topic basis; and (3) develop a public database. The importance of this project has been affirmed in strong terms by UNESCO.

In order to understand the overall picture of the safeguarding of ICH, it is necessary to collaborate and share knowledge among individual experts. To share the information, it should first be systematically organised and visualised. Once such information is shared, we can clarify and prioritise the remaining issues in order to seek the best solutions.

Based on these efforts in academic research, activities to safeguard ICH is made possible through partnerships with UNESCO and international experts. For this reason, IRCI is not simply a research institute on ICH, but also plays the role of linking international experts together with UNESCO.

As part of this project, IRCI has collected information from the existing literature, research institutes, and researchers from 25 countries out of the 47 countries in the Asia-Pacific region. International meetings based on the results of the surveys have been held in Bangkok (Thailand), Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia), and Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan).

Building on the above work done so far, IRCI is working to combine the following three projects in the most effective way possible:

### • Organising an international experts meeting

In FY 2016, IRCI will conduct more detailed literature surveys according to the results of the meetings held to date and organise an international meeting with invited experts from overseas in Sakai City, Osaka, to review and analyse the results of those surveys. It also aims to discuss concurrently issues and strategies concerning ICH research.

### • Collecting information through literature surveys

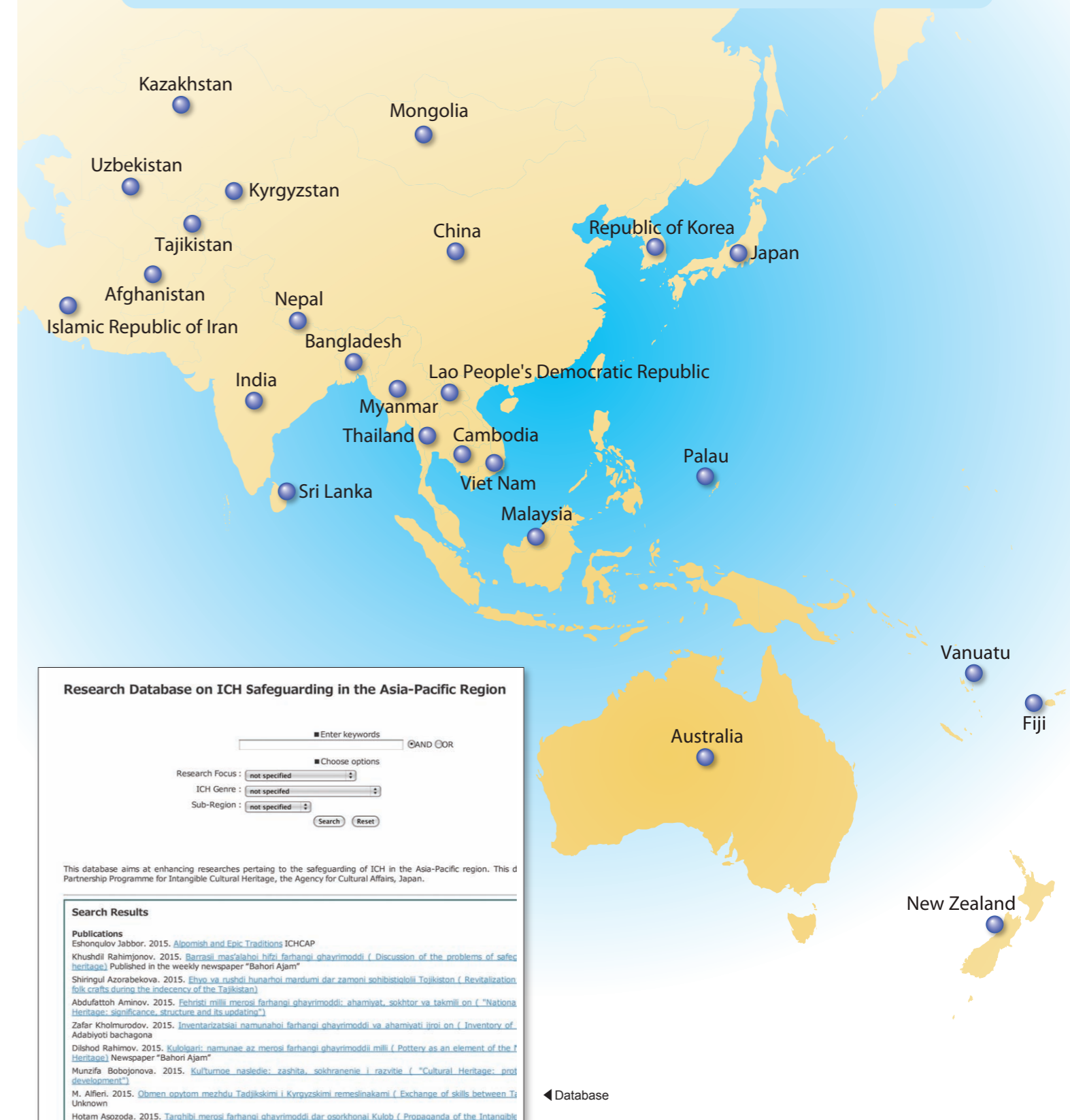
Although valuable research findings on ICH in the Asia-Pacific region were shared at the 2015 Bishkek meeting, there have yet to be surveys performed in many countries within the region. For this reason, IRCI will continue to conduct systematic literature surveys, including those major countries in the Asia-Pacific region for which there are gaps in information.

### • Constructing a database

From FY 2014, IRCI released a searchable database of information on relevant literature, experts, institutions, and administrative officials involved with the safeguarding of ICH in the Asia-Pacific region. The database currently contains around 1,300 entries, which aims to contribute to building an environment that can serve as the foundations for facilitating research activities and the exchange of information.

With the cooperation of experts as well as national archives, libraries, and related institutions in the Asia-Pacific region, we will continue to add and disseminate the information obtained in the course of literature surveys in nine languages, in addition to English and Japanese.

**Investigated Countries:** Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Fiji, India, Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Palau, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Viet Nam (25 countries)



## Research on ICH Safeguarding and Disaster-Risk Management (FY 2016 -)

Asia-Pacific countries are frequently exposed to various natural hazards, including earthquakes, tsunamis, cyclones, floods, and volcanic eruptions, all of which have severe impacts. Devastating cyclones that hit Vanuatu in 2015 and Fiji in 2016 are just some examples of such natural disasters. According to the World Risk Index (an index that describes in numerical terms the vulnerability and exposure of countries to natural disasters), which was developed by the United Nations University, most of the countries with high risk scores are located in Asia and the Pacific, a fact which poses concerns regarding the impact of such natural disasters on ICH.

Given such circumstances, there has been a growing international awareness regarding the disaster-risk management of cultural heritage, as the new framework of disaster-risk management “Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030” adopted at the 3rd UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction includes the importance of safeguarding cultural heritage. Nevertheless, practical measures to safeguard ICH in the process of disaster reduction, mitigation, and recovery have yet to be outlined. Furthermore, cases have been reported that the revitalisation of local festivals and rituals contributed to the mental sustenance of the people and community recovery, in the aftermath of the Great East Japan Earthquake and the associated tsunami in 2011.

Since FY 2016, IRCI has been conducting basic studies of ICH in the Asia-Pacific region that have been affected by natural disasters in the past 10 years, and exploring the cases of various countries such as Vanuatu, the Philippines, and Viet Nam, in cooperation with the Tokyo National Research Institute for Cultural Properties. In the process of collecting information, which includes field research, impacts caused by the event, supports received/needed, and the roles ICH played in the recovery/support process will be assessed. This will provide a baseline for developing effective safeguarding measures that could be utilised by government officials in the Asia-Pacific region and international organisations in the fields of ICH and disaster-risk management.



Damage caused by cyclone in Vanuatu in March 2015  
© National Institutes for Cultural Heritage



Discussion at Intangible Cultural Heritage Unit, National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) (Manila, Philippines, July 2016)

## Research for Safeguarding Endangered ICH

Since FY 2012, IRCI has also been conducting projects with a focus on ICH in danger of disappearing.

### 1. Research for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage on the Verge of Extinction: Vietnamese ICH Element Dong Ho Woodblock Printing (FY 2013 - FY 2015)

In the village of Dong Ho in Bac Ninh Province in the north of Viet Nam, woodblock prints have traditionally been created as talismans to decorate the Lunar New Year festivities. Dong Ho woodblock prints, made from natural materials, embody hopes for fortune in the future, and as such feature symbols of good fortune.

However, a decline in woodblock craftsmen primarily due to the impact of the Vietnam War and the rapid urbanisation and industrialisation resulting from the introduction of market economies pursued as part of the Đổi Mới (economic reforms) Policy brought about changes to the lifestyles that had existed until then, and the transmission of Dong Ho woodblock printing techniques is now in danger. Given these circumstances, the Government of Viet Nam issued an urgent request to IRCI, and as a result a joint research project for the safeguarding of the woodblock techniques was carried out.

In the first year of the project, basic surveys on practitioners of woodblock printing techniques were conducted in cooperation with the Vietnam Institute of Culture and Arts Studies (VICAS), a national research institution. After analysing critical factors, with the cooperation of Kanazawa, Ishikawa Prefecture, visits were made to Kanazawa Utatsuyama Kogei Kobo (Art Studio) and other institutions to have discussions on good practices of ICH safeguarding measures in Japan. In the following year, final workshops were held in Dong Ho village and Hanoi, co-organised by IRCI and VICAS. At the workshops, discussions were held to summarise the outcomes of the project with practitioners, researchers, and administrative officials debating with each other at the same table. In addition, Japanese experts were invited to present proposals for transmitting woodblock printing based on examples in Japan of safeguarding and reviving ICH. The proceedings were put together as the results of the research project in its final year and published as a report (in English and Vietnamese).

There were mainly two significant accomplishments of this project. Firstly, it contributed to the preparation of the submission file of the Dong Ho Woodblock Printing for the Representative List of the Convention by the Government of Viet Nam. Secondly, a community museum aiming at practitioner-led sustainable safeguarding has been discussed and planned, and its establishment is underway in Dong Ho village.



Research workshop on role of community centre (Hanoi, Viet Nam, January 2015)



Practitioners of Dong Ho Woodblock Printing discussing on transmission of ICH (Bac Ninh Province, Viet Nam, January 2015)



Visit to studio of Dong Ho Woodblock Printing (Bac Ninh Province, Viet Nam, January 2015)

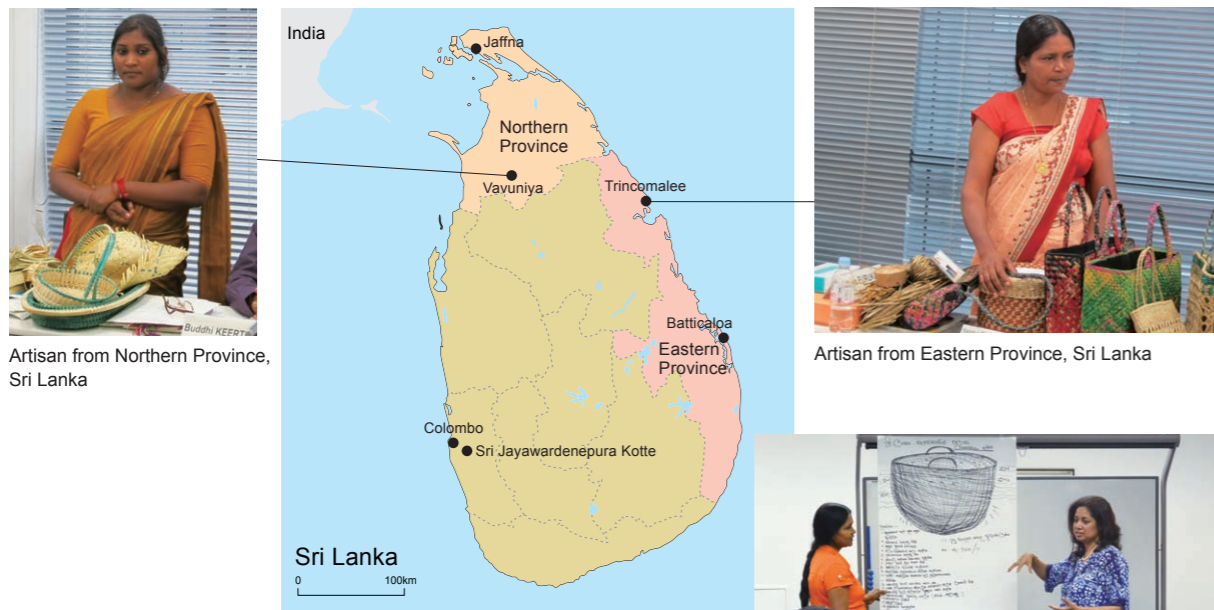
## 2. Research for Endangered Traditional Handicrafts in Post-Conflict States (Sri Lanka)

(FY 2013 - FY 2015)

Until the formal declaration of the cessation of hostilities by the government in 2009, Sri Lanka was embroiled in a civil war that raged for over 30 years. In the Northern and Eastern provinces, which were the two provinces most affected by the civil war, the alleviation of poverty and the establishment of sustainable livelihoods are particularly urgent matters. As part of those efforts, IRCI decided to focus on the importance of reviving ICH (traditional textiles and woven handicrafts) that has been passed down to the surviving women as a potential way to reconstruct their livelihood contributing to sustainable peace building. The project was implemented in cooperation with the Government of Sri Lanka with the purpose of reviving these handicrafts.

In the first year of the project, workshops and field surveys were conducted in 10 areas in the Northern and Eastern provinces, and basic data were obtained on practitioners and handicrafts on a per-category basis. In those efforts, IRCI held numerous dialogues with representatives of craftswomen and of the National Crafts Council, Ministry of Traditional Industries and Small Enterprise Development of Sri Lanka, and made recommendations for craft revitalisation. The points that were stressed in this process were that: it is urgently important to conduct specific surveys through international cooperation; obtain detailed information of surviving artisans of these handicrafts in doing so; and that the products that form the livelihood of the surviving craftswomen, as well as designs, brand development, and capacity building are the keys to regional stability. IRCI put together the results of the first year of the project in a report, met with six Sri Lankan ministry officials, including the Minister of National Heritage, the Minister of Culture and the Arts, and the Minister of Industry and Commerce, handed the report directly to these officials, and exchanged opinions with them. Through these meetings, IRCI and the Sri Lankan Government were able to share further issues concerning the recommendations and summarise concrete arguments for a resolution of those issues.

Over the two years from FY 2014 to FY 2015, IRCI invited practitioners, government officials, and researchers to Japan to have an intensive discussion session on the recommendations. This project was implemented in cooperation with Indian NGOs and the UNESCO New Delhi Office. Not only for Sri Lanka but also for all countries that have experienced conflict and war, the sustainable transmission of traditional culture by the locals play a major role in the process of building stability and peace. IRCI hopes to bring to bear its case study of revitalising traditional handicraft in Sri Lanka on practical research on restoration and revitalisation in Afghanistan and other areas.



Artisan from Northern Province, Sri Lanka

Artisan from Eastern Province, Sri Lanka



Practitioners presenting on revitalisation of craft techniques at workshop (Toyama City, Japan, December 2015)



Discussion Meeting on Endangered Traditional Handicrafts in Sri Lanka (Toyama City, Japan, December 2015)



Meeting on further cooperation with Hon. Minister Douglas Devananda, Ministry of Traditional Industries and Small Enterprise Development (Colombo, Sri Lanka, September 2014)

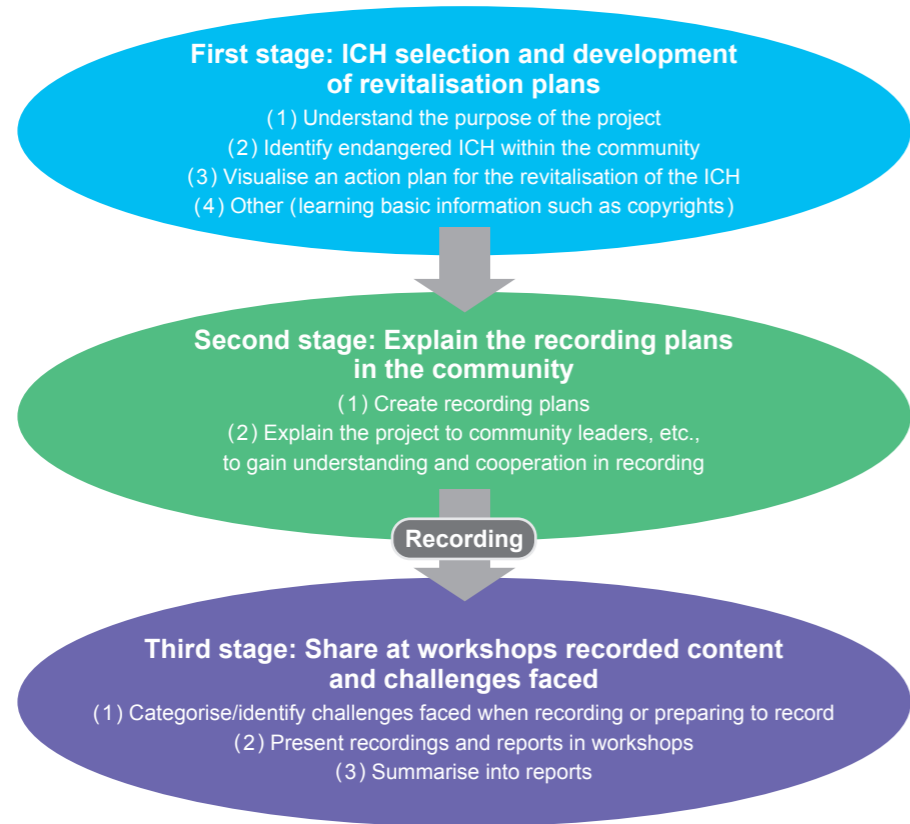
## 3. Documentation of ICH as a Tool for Community-led Safeguarding Activities

(FY 2012 - FY 2014)

Audio-visual documentation of ICH is crucial in restoring and reviving ICH that are in danger of disappearing. While it is true that academic researchers and representatives of media outlets have made numerous audio-visual recordings of such elements of ICH, these recordings have necessarily been planned in accordance with the subjective purposes of those doing the documenting. Almost none of them have arisen from the needs of the community. Since its inception, IRCI has fielded views from those stating, for example, "Because the processes for the ritual are performed only by the elderly, we want to document those processes," "Younger people have made the ceremony shorter, but we want to record and pass on the proper meaning of the processes," "The dyeing processes involving woodblock print techniques have been developed by the elderly, and we want to document those processes on video for future use." To ensure the continued transmission of ICH, it is extremely important for the "practitioners involved to be aware of and identify endangered elements of ICH," to then "lead the effort to document them," and "plan their documentation with a view to utilising that record."

Nonetheless, documentation of ICH, in terms of both technology and process, have not been known to many practitioners. As the community encompasses people with various values, there are many steps to be taken before the actual documentation procedure. IRCI brought up this topic at an intensive researchers meeting in 2012. At the meeting, it was concluded that it is important to recommend methods of documentation and concrete documentation guidelines. As a result, the "Guidelines for Documentation of ICH as a Tool for Community-led Safeguarding Activities" were created. In the next step, to verify that the Guidelines are of practical use to communities and other related parties, practitioners of ICH from six communities in five countries were enlisted to look at elements of their communities' ICH currently endangered or that might be endangered sometime in the future. They were asked to discuss within the community the best plans for having the practitioners of the community lead efforts to film the parts (including processes) that were endangered as well as the elements of ICH itself, and how to utilise the recorded footage. Lastly, discussions were held again with researchers concerning plans to utilise documentary footage, and the outcomes of those discussions were compiled in 2016 as a case study.

This research was conducted jointly by specialists in visual ethnography from Leiden University and IRCI. A total of 34 practitioners and researchers participated in this project.



Discussion on utilisation of audio-visual documentation in communities (Tsuruoka City, Japan, February 2013)



Field study of "Rousoku Noh" performance (Ogi Kaikan, Yamagata, Japan, February 2013)



Workshop for Community's Young Film Makers for ICH Audio-Visual Documentation (Tokyo National Museum, February 2014)

#### 4. Study of Legal Systems related to Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Greater Mekong Region (FY 2013 - FY 2016)

To safeguard ICH, each country must establish legal systems to suit its own particular circumstances. By having laws set forth by the state, it becomes possible to gain an understanding of the elements of ICH present in that country, create inventories, document those elements, and take appropriate steps to safeguard them. However, there are many countries whose domestic laws are not well-defined. In such countries, because elements of ICH have yet to be identified or specified, it is difficult to implement measures that lead to sustainable transmission, and in the event that such a country suffers the consequences of long-term civil war, political instability, or natural disasters, there will be many difficulties encountered in the process of trying to restore that heritage. Some such countries are currently trying to draft relevant laws, but because many of them have no experience of creating laws concerning ICH and it is extremely difficult to draft such legislation relying only on administrative officials and experts within such a country, there is a great need for advice and support from foreign experts with extensive experience.

With the cooperation of the Faculty of Law of Kyushu University, IRCI began a project to study the legal systems of the countries in the Greater Mekong region. Through field research and international workshops, the aim of the project is to analyse the issues in the process of drafting legislation, and ultimately to create a "tool-kit" for planning legal mechanisms that can be utilised by member states that do not have laws governing ICH as they go through the process of developing such legislation.

In Japan, as a result of the Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties, which entered into force in 1950, inventories were made of domestic ICH, and policies to research and preserve these elements of ICH were implemented. In addition, local government authorities have in place ordinances to safeguard cultural heritage. Because cases such as this in Japan could be extremely useful for countries now seeking to draft laws, at the 2015 international workshop concerning conventions among local government authorities in Japan and activities by practitioners was held, with cooperation from Toyama Prefecture and Takaoka City. In 2016, IRCI plans to organise the final workshop in Viet Nam, where we will put together the outcomes of the project to date.

In addition to the experts from Kyushu University, two other experts are collaborating with the IRCI research team, and a total of 50 participated in this project.



Field research on transmission of traditional crafts (NOUSAKU Corporation, Japan, December 2015)



Presentation at workshop on safeguarding system for cultural properties in Toyama (Toyama Prefectural Civic Centre, Japan, December 2015)



Field research on study of current legal systems related to ICH in Myanmar (August 2015)



## Annex

## International Meetings and Workshops

| Project/Theme  | Year | Month | International Meeting/Workshop  | Co-Organiser  | Cooperating Institutions/Experts/Researchers   |
|--|------|-------|---|---|--|
| Mapping Studies on the Safeguarding of ICH   | 2016 | 11    | IRCI Experts Meeting on Mapping Project for ICH Safeguarding in the Asia-Pacific Region                               |   |  |
|  | 2015 | 12    | IRCI Experts Meeting on Mapping Project for ICH Safeguarding in the Asia-Pacific Countries                            | Aigine Cultural Research Center, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan                |  |
|  | 2015 | 1     | International Experts Meeting of the Project "Mapping Research on the Safeguarding of ICH in the Asia-Pacific Region" | Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia  |  |
|  | 2014 | 2     | Preliminary Meeting of the Project "Exploring Research for the Safeguarding of ICH in the Asia-Pacific Region"        | UNESCO Bangkok Office, Thailand                                     |  |
| Study of Legal Systems Related to ICH in the Greater Mekong Region   | 2016 | 12    | IRCI Final Workshop on the Study of Legal Systems Related to ICH in the Greater Mekong Region                         |   | Mr Toshiyuki Kono (Professor, Faculty of Law, Kyushu University, Japan)<br>Ms Susan McIntyre-Tamwoy (Associate Director, Extent Heritage Pty Limited, Australia)<br>Vietnam National Institute of Culture and Arts Studies (VICAS)   |
|  | 2015 | 12    | IRCI Second Workshop on the Study of Legal Systems Related to ICH in the Greater Mekong Region                        |   | Mr Toshiyuki Kono (Professor, Faculty of Law, Kyushu University, Japan)<br>Ms Susan McIntyre-Tamwoy (Associate Director, Extent Heritage Pty Limited, Australia)<br>Ms Katie O'Rourke (Director, Katie O'Rourke Consulting, Australia)<br>Mr Steven Van Uytsel (Associate Professor, Faculty of Law, Kyushu University, Japan)<br>Toyama Prefecture, Toyama City, Takaoka City, Kyoto City, Japan<br>NOUSAKU Corporation, Japan<br>Musashigawa Studio, Japan |
|  | 2014 | 12    | IRCI First Workshop on the Study of Legal Systems Related to ICH in Southeast Asia                                    | Faculty of Law, Kyushu University, Japan                            | Mr Toshiyuki Kono (Professor, Faculty of Law, Kyushu University, Japan)<br>Mr Steven Van Uytsel (Associate Professor, Faculty of Law, Kyushu University, Japan)  |
| Research for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage on the Verge of Extinction: Vietnamese ICH Element Dong Ho Woodblock Printing | 2015 | 1     | Workshop on the Roles of the Community Centre in ICH Revitalization: A Case Study of Dong Ho Woodblock Printing       | Vietnam National Institute of Culture and Arts Studies (VICAS)      | Government of Viet Nam<br>Bac Ninh Province, Viet Nam<br>Mr Seishi Namiki (Professor, Kyoto Institute of Technology, Japan)  |
| Research for Endangered Traditional Handicrafts in Post-Conflict States (Sri Lanka)  | 2015 | 12    | Discussion Meeting on Endangered Traditional Handicrafts in Sri Lanka   |   | UNESCO New Delhi Office, India<br>National Craft Council (NCC), Sri Lanka<br>Ms Himali Jinadasa (Director-General, Sri Lanka Export Development Board (SLEDB))<br>Mr Seiki Ishii (Fujitsu Design Limited/Product Designer, SEIKI DESIGN STUDIO, Japan)   |
| Documentation of ICH as a Tool for Community-led Safeguarding Activities   | 2015 | 3     | Intensive Working Session on ICH Documentation as a Tool for Community-led Safeguarding Activities                    |   |  |
|  | 2014 | 2     | Workshop for Community's Young Film Makers for ICH Audio-Visual Documentation   |   |  |
|  | 2013 | 2     | Workshop on ICH Documentation as a Tool for Community Safeguarding Activities   |   |  |
|  | 2012 | 3     | Intensive Researchers Meeting on Communities and the 2003 Convention  |   |  |
| Safeguarding the ICH for the Promotion of Cultural Identity and Community Resilience in Timor-Leste                                  | 2013 | 10    | Study Tour for ICH Experts of East Timorese   | UNESCO Jakarta Office, Indonesia                                    | Agency for Cultural Affairs, Japan<br>National Institutes for Cultural Heritage, Japan (Tokyo National Museum, Tokyo National Research Institute for Cultural Properties)<br>Oga City, Akita, Yuki City, Ibaraki, Japan  |
| Research on the 2003 Convention  | 2013 | 1     | 2013 IRCI Meeting on ICH – Evaluating the Inscription Criteria for the Two Lists of UNESCO's ICH Convention           |   | Maison des Cultures du Monde (MCM), France   |
|  | 2012 | 6     | The First ICH-Research Forum: The Implementation of UNESCO's 2003 Convention  | Maison des Cultures du Monde (MCM), France                          |  |
| Current Status of ICH, in Particular, Research and Studies on ICH in Urgent Need of Safeguarding                                     | 2012 | 8     | International Field School Alumni Seminar on Safeguarding ICH in the Asia-Pacific                                     | Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn Anthropology Centre (SAC), Thailand |  |
| Symposiums in Cooperation with Sakai City, Osaka, Japan  | 2016 | 11    | 2016 International Symposium on ICH Safeguarding in the Asia-Pacific Region "Transmitting Art and Spirit of ICH"      | Agency for Cultural Affairs, Japan<br>Sakai City                    |  |
|  | 2013 | 8     | International Symposium in Celebration of the 10th Anniversary of the Convention for the Safeguarding of ICH          | Agency for Cultural Affairs, Japan<br>Sakai City                    | Japan Arts Council   |
|  | 2013 | 2     | Symposium on ICH in the Asia-Pacific Region "ICH in the Asia-Pacific Region – Current Status and Important Issues"    | Sakai City  | National Museum of Ethnology, Japan  |
|  | 2011 | 10    | IRCI Opening Commemorative Symposium  | Agency for Cultural Affairs, Japan<br>Sakai City                    | Japan Arts Council   |



Workshop on the Roles of the Community Centre in ICH Revitalization: A Case Study of Dong Ho Woodblock Printing (Bac Ninh Province, Viet Nam, January 2015)



Preliminary Meeting of the Project "Exploring Research for the Safeguarding of ICH in the Asia-Pacific Region" (Bangkok, Thailand, February 2014)

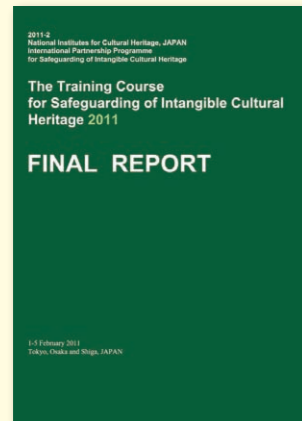


International Symposium in Celebration of the 10th Anniversary of the Convention for the Safeguarding of ICH (Sakai City, Osaka, August 2013)



International Field School Alumni Seminar on Safeguarding ICH in the Asia-Pacific (Lamphun Province, Thailand, August 2012)

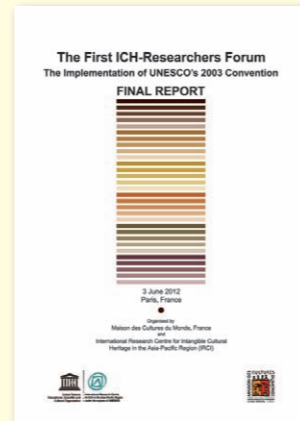
# Reports and Publications



The Training Course for Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage 2011 Final Report (2011)



The First Intensive Researchers Meeting on Communities and the 2003 Convention: "Documentation of Intangible Cultural Heritage as a Tool for Community's Safeguarding Activities" (July 2012)



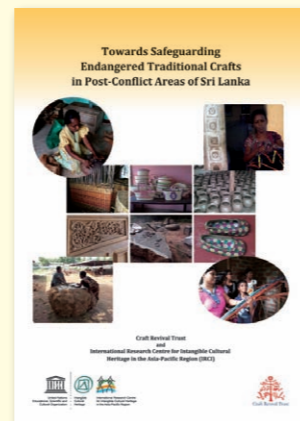
The First ICH-Researchers Forum: "The Implementation of UNESCO's 2003 Convention" (September 2012) ISBN 978-4-9906647-0-1



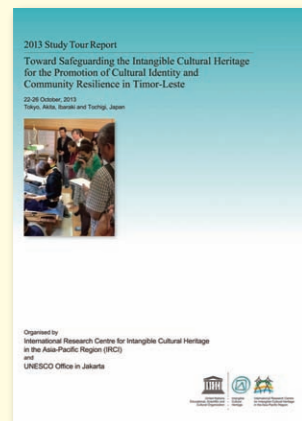
2012 International Field School Alumni Seminar on Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia Pacific (February 2013)



2013 IRCI Meeting on ICH Evaluating the Inscription Criteria for the Two of UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage Convention (Final Report) (March 2013) ISBN 978-4-9906647-1-8



Towards Safeguarding Endangered Traditional Crafts in Post-Conflict Areas of Sri Lanka (English edition) (September 2014) ISBN 978-4-9906647-4-9



2013 Study Tour Report: Toward Safeguarding the Intangible Cultural Heritage for the Promotion of Cultural Identity and Community Resilience in Timor-Leste (March 2015) ISBN 978-4-9906647-5-6



Towards Safeguarding Endangered Traditional Crafts in Post-Conflict Areas of Sri Lanka (Japanese edition) (February 2016) ISBN 978-4-9906647-7-0



Documentation of ICH as a Tool for Community-led Safeguarding Activities (March 2016)

# Website Information (http://www.irci.jp)

In an effort to make the fruits of our activities available in as many of the pertinent countries as possible, IRCI offers information on its website in 11 languages (Japanese, English, Urdu, Khmer, Sinhala, Thai, Tamil, Hindi, Vietnamese, Myanmar language, and Lao).

Urdu

Khmer

Sinhala

Thai

Tamil

Hindi

Vietnamese

Myanmar language

Lao

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