

Medium-Term Programme (FY 2022-2026)

I. Duration

The duration of the Medium-Term programme is 5 years from FY 2022 to FY 2026.

II. Main Line of Action

(1) Focusing on and within the geographic scope of the Asia-Pacific region, perform the functions outlined in Article 5 Paragraph 2 of the Agreement between the Government of Japan and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) regarding the continuation, in Japan, of an international research centre for intangible cultural heritage in the Asia-Pacific region under the auspices of UNESCO (Category 2) (hereinafter referred to as "the Agreement"), through promoting research activities on the following domains in line with the principles and objectives of UNESCO's Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (hereinafter referred to as "the 2003 Convention"), whereby contributing to the enhancement of the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage and the research for safeguarding:

- (i) Current status of research for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage;
- (ii) Policies and various methodologies for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage;
- (iii) Good practices of the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage.

(2) Instigate the following activities during the course of implementing what is mentioned in Paragraph (1) above:

- (i) Participation of young researchers who are engaged in the research field of safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in the activities of the International Research Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region (hereinafter referred to as "IRCI");
- (ii) Collaboration with researchers and research institutions, especially those in the Asia-Pacific region;
- (iii) Organization of regional/international expert meetings and research workshops to discuss various methodologies and practices of the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage.

(3) Conduct the following activities in the Asia-Pacific region with a view to contributing to Article II (1) of the Long-Term programme:

- (i) Plan and implement research activities, with special attention to contributing to UNESCO's Medium-Term Strategy (41C/4) and the quadrennial Programme and Budget (C/5), as well as to the programmes

and priorities of the 2003 Convention, namely in the areas of 'ICH and emergencies' and 'ICH and sustainable development'.

- (ii) Contribute to the promotion of regional cooperation in Asia and the Pacific in the field of safeguarding intangible cultural heritage, in accordance with the Medium term programme of the National Institutes for Cultural Heritage
- (iii) Within the framework of IRCI's objectives specified in Article 5 Paragraph 1 of the Agreement, contribute to the projects carried out by Sakai City to promote intangible cultural heritage for the general public.

III. Specific Contents of Activities

(1) Promote research for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage through conducting the following activities regarding the practices and methodologies of safeguarding, in cooperation with research institutions and researchers actively working in the field of intangible cultural heritage in the Asia-Pacific region:

- (i) Instigate research activities through regional/international conferences, workshops, seminars and publications, while strengthening IRCI's function as a hub of research for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage in the Asia-Pacific region by forming a consortium of research institutes in the Asia-Pacific region
- (ii) Collect research information in the Asia-Pacific region, paying special attention to developing countries and small island developing states (SIDS) and aiming at enhancing their research capacity, while examining and developing strategies for optimising the use and sharing of research data
- (iii) In implementing activities mentioned above, special attention is paid to the following:
 - (a) foster young ICH researchers in the Asia-Pacific region, and
 - (b) actively promote IRCI's activities through various media including social networking systems, in collaboration with academic societies and other stakeholders

(2) Conduct research for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage in the Asia-Pacific region that is in line with and contributing to ongoing international frameworks, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, and Paris Agreement on Climate Change, which are outlined in UNESCO's Medium-Term Strategy 41C/4 (Draft) and Programme and Budget 41C/5 (Draft).

(3) In accordance with the above Article II (3)(iii) of Main Line of Action, contribute to the following projects carried out by Sakai City for the general public:

- (i) Projects to disseminate information on intangible cultural heritage in cooperation with relevant research institutes and universities

(ii) Projects to enhance awareness of intangible cultural heritage

Approved at
10GBM of IRCI