

What is ICH?

Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) is a variety of living traditions and expressions that are part of our everyday lives. It encompasses oral traditions and expressions, performing arts, social practices, rituals, festive events, traditional craftsmanship, along with knowledge and practices concerning the nature and universe. Being transmitted from one generation to the next and transformed over time, it gives us a sense of cultural identity, and is an important factor in maintaining cultural diversity. It also contributes to the sustainability and resilience of the community.

However, many elements of ICH are threatened in the face of growing globalisation and associated social and economic transformation. That is why it is so important to safeguard ICH and transmit the wealth of knowledge and skills to the future generation.

About IRCI

IRCI was established in 2011 as a UNESCO Category 2 Centre based upon the Agreement between Japanese government and UNESCO, and is an integral part of the National Institutes for Cultural Heritage (NICH), Japan.

IRCI's objectives are:

- (1) to promote the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003 Convention) and its implementation in the Asia-Pacific region; and
- (2) to enhance the safeguarding of ICH in the region through developing and mobilising research as a tool for safeguarding ICH, and by instigating and coordinating such research.



For more than 10 years IRCI has implemented various research projects in close cooperation with universities, research institutions, governmental and non-governmental organisations, museums, and communities in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond.

Visit our website to learn more about IRCI

<https://www.irci.jp>

On our website, you can find information on our projects, latest activities, and upcoming events. Major publications including project reports and conference proceedings are available for download.



Join us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/IRCI.Official>



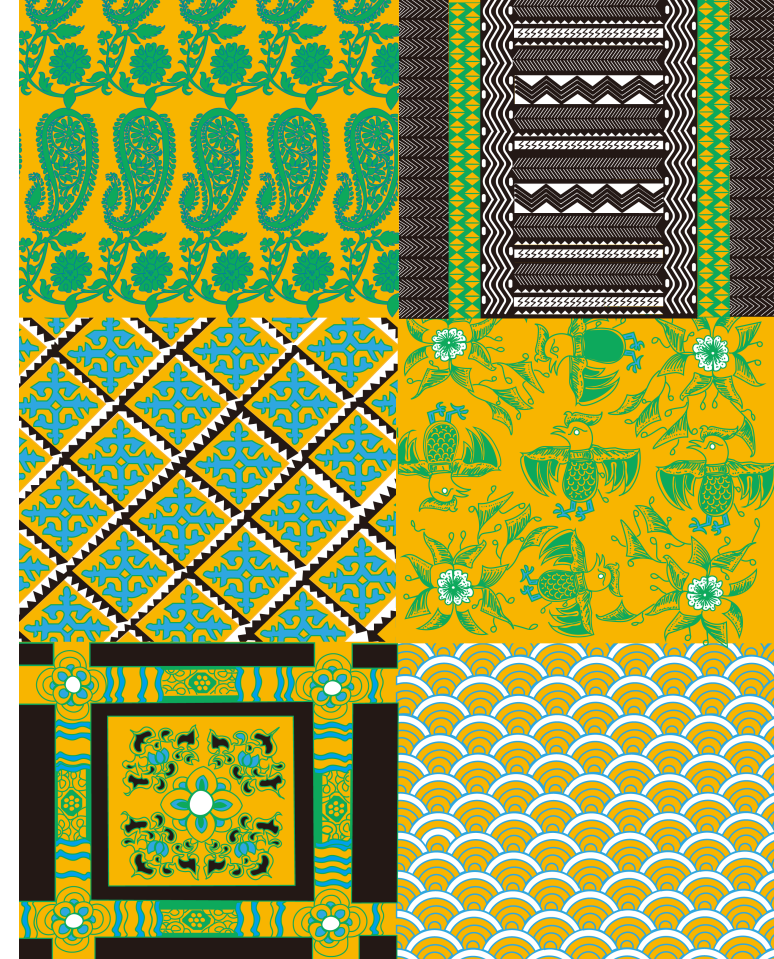
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IRCI

International Research Centre
for Intangible Cultural Heritage
in the Asia-Pacific Region



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IRCI is contributing to the safeguarding of ICH in the Asia-Pacific region, through implementing research projects under the following Activity Focuses:

Promoting research for ICH safeguarding

Research plays an important role in promoting ICH safeguarding. For the purpose of enhancing research for safeguarding ICH and strengthening ICH researchers' network in the Asia-Pacific region, IRCI has been providing various opportunities for interactions such as workshops, conferences, and symposia.

Research on ICH for sustainable and resilient societies

IRCI conducts practical case studies that address ongoing global issues such as disasters, climate change adaptation, and SDGs. By dealing with these inter-related issues together, research projects under this activity focus will be able to highlight the aspects of ICH that are significant for sustainability and resilience.

Collecting Information of ICH Research

Research information related to ICH and its safeguarding provides a baseline to understand the current situation of ICH safeguarding. Therefore, IRCI has been collecting research information relating to ICH safeguarding in the Asia-Pacific region since FY 2013, and sharing the collected information available through the IRCI Research Database. While conducting research data collection with counterparts in the target countries, sub-regional and national workshops are organised to have opportunities to discuss issues and challenges of ICH research. From FY 2022, the project is focusing on the countries of Central Asia and Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

IRCI Research Database

The IRCI Research Database includes information on publications, experts, and institutions related to the ICH safeguarding and ICH research in the region. Notably, the database includes information on publications that were written in various Asia-Pacific languages with English summary.

Access the database: <https://www.irci.jp/ichdb/>



Contribution to SDGs

– ICH for sustainable cities and communities –

Target 11.4 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) states the importance of strengthening the safeguarding of cultural heritage for realising sustainable cities and communities; however, cultural heritage in this context is often regarded as tangible heritage. In this project, IRCI implements case studies focusing on the role of ICH in shaping and maintaining historical/cultural landscapes including World Heritage sites in the Asia-Pacific region in cooperation with NGOs and institutions. It also aims to accelerate the discussion on the integrated safeguarding of tangible and intangible cultural heritage.

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



Asia-Pacific Research Forum for ICH Safeguarding

This is a new platform created in FY 2022 for enhancing research activities and international collaboration among ICH researchers in the Asia-Pacific region. It also aims to strengthen IRCI's function as a research centre in the region. In cooperation with the planning committee composed of leading researchers in the region, this Forum offers various programmes such as online seminars and conferences that address various issues and latest trends in ICH research, as well as programmes for young ICH researchers.

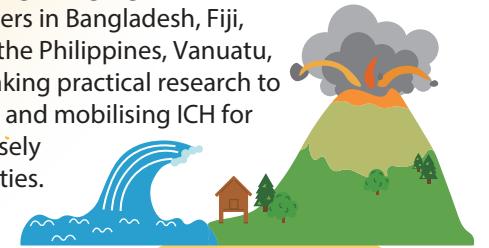
Asia-Pacific Research Forum Facebook Group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/asiapacificresearchforum>



ICH and Disasters

Many countries in the Asia-Pacific region are frequently affected by disasters caused by various natural hazards, and the disaster risk management of ICH has been gaining a greater attention. In cooperation with researchers in Bangladesh, Fiji, Indonesia, Japan, Mongolia, the Philippines, Vanuatu, and Viet Nam, IRCI is undertaking practical research to safeguard ICH from disasters and mobilising ICH for disaster risk reduction by closely working with local communities.



Impact of COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic has severely affected the practice of ICH. Thus, it is necessary to understand specific influences that the pandemic has caused and emergency responses to safeguard ICH from this crisis. Case studies documenting the practice, transmission, and safeguarding of ICH amid the pandemic are undertaken in 9 countries in the Asia-Pacific region, which will demonstrate the consequence of the pandemic, while exemplifying the resilience of ICH.

