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CATEGORY 2 INSTITUTES AND CENTRES

RENEWAL AND REVIEW OF CATEGORY 2 INSTITUTES AND CENTRES

International Research Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region (IRCI) in Japan

SUMMARY

The present document informs the Board on the progress made in the evaluation and renewal of the International Research Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region (IRCI) in Japan as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO.

1. In conformity with the revised Integrated Comprehensive Strategy for category 2 institutes and centres (Ref. 37 C/Resolutions 93), UNESCO carried out, in 2014-2015, an evaluation of the International Research Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region (IRCI) which was established as a category 2 centre under UNESCO's auspices in accordance with 35C/Resolution 52. The corresponding agreement was signed between the Government of Japan and UNESCO on 30 August 2010 for a period of five years, which went into effect immediately upon signature.
2. Following the evaluation report, discussions between UNESCO and the Government of Japan started in 2015 with a view to preparing a new agreement in light of the evaluation's recommendations and the Integrated Comprehensive Strategy. However, more time is still required for both parties to examine it and reach an agreement thereon. Under these circumstances, the current agreement will remain valid until the end of the year 2016 in order to finalize the negotiations and present this item to the Executive Board at its 200th session for it to examine a full-fledged document and a final agreement, and take its decision to renew the designation of the Centre under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2).