

Long-term and Mid-term Programme of the International Research Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region(IRCI)

Long-term Programme (2012-2021)

Based on the agreement concluded between the Government of Japan and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in relation to the establishment in Japan of the International Research and Study Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region (category 2) (hereinafter referred to as “the Agreement”) supported by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, objectives related to operation management (hereinafter called “long-term programme”) to be accomplished by the International Research Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region established under the auspices of an incorporated administrative agency, the National Institutes for Cultural Heritage, are set as follows:

I. Duration of the Long-term Programme:

The duration of the long-term programme is 10 years after the inauguration of the International Research Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region.

II. Vision:

- (1) Form an international research centre for intangible cultural heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region.
- (2) Achieve the objectives prescribed in art.4 para.1 of the Agreement between UNESCO and Japan, through the functions outlined in art.4 of para.2 of the agreement.
- (3) Cooperate with UNESCO and C2 centres in the field of ICH in the region.
- (4) In cooperation with Sakai City, operate projects which utilize the outcomes of the activities of the International Research Centre and make efforts toward

dissemination to and enlightenment of the public and enhancement of their understanding on the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage.

III. Mission:

The International Research Centre will formulate a long-term programme focusing on the following areas:

1. Facilitating research and studies on intangible cultural heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region, focusing the following themes:

- The current status of intangible cultural heritage, in particular, research and studies on intangible cultural heritage in urgent need of safeguarding.
- The Convention for the Sageguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage.
- Promoting the Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage.
- Various records of intangeble cultural heritage and their utilization.
 - Good Practices in Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage.

2. Encourage cooperation with the following projects carried out by Sakai City:

- (1) Project led by Sakai City Museum to disseminate information on intangible cultural heritage designated by UNESCO
- (2) Local citizen-led international cultural exchange project which takes advantage of the characteristics of the local government
- (3) Project to encourage young people responsible for the next generation to understand other cultures

Medium-term Programme (2012-2015)

As the International Research and Study Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region supported by UNESCO and established in accordance with the “Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage” and laws concerning the promotion of international cooperation for the safeguarding of overseas cultural heritage in Japan, the International Research Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region established under the auspices of an incorporated administrative agency, the National Institutes for Cultural Heritage has a medium-term programme (hereinafter

called “medium-term programme”) to accomplish the long-term programme. The medium-term programme is defined as follows:

I. Duration of the Medium-term Programme:

The duration of the medium-term programme is the first four years of the aforementioned long-term programme, that is to say, from January 2012 until December 2015.

II. Basic Policies:

- (1) In cooperation with government agencies, universities, research institutes, and other related organizations in Japan and UNESCO member states, facilitate research and studies on practices and methods for the safeguarding of endangered intangible cultural heritage present in the Asia-Pacific Region.
- (2) While paying special attention to developing countries, from the perspective of research and studies, assist countries in the Asia-Pacific Region in implementing measures stipulated in Articles from 11 to 14 of the Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage.
- (3) For experts and local representatives from the Asia-Pacific Region, organize workshops and seminars focusing on roles and practical methods of research and studies for the purpose of safeguarding intangible cultural heritage.
- (4) Support young researchers in the Asia-Pacific Region who are engaged in activities for research and studies on the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage.
- (5) Collaborate with organizations inside and outside of the Asia-Pacific Region which are acting in the field of the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage.
- (6) Cooperate with Sakai city to implement the project aiming at the safeguarding and inheritance of intangible cultural heritage and the promotion of international cultural exchange, which Sakai City positions as part of the city’s Master Plan (comprehensive plan).

III. Specific Contents of Activities:

1. In 2013 which marks the 10th year since the Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage came into force, carry out studies on the enforcement of the convention and its impact.

2. Encourage cooperation with the following projects carried out by Sakai City:
 - (1) Project for dissemination and enlightenment concerning intangible cultural heritage carried out in cooperation with research institutes, universities, and so on.
 - (2) Project to gather and utilize pertinent information on intangible cultural heritage designated by UNESCO present in Japan and in the Asia-Pacific Region.
 - (3) Model project carried out at schools or other educational settings to enhance understanding on intangible cultural heritage.