

Minutes of the 3rd Governing Board Meeting of IRCI

- 1. Date/time** Wednesday, October 1, 2014 from 13:30 to 16:45
- 2. Venue** Sakai City Museum (Conference Hall)
2 cho, Mozusekiun-cho, Sakai-ku, Sakai City, Osaka

3. Attendees

Governing Board (Total number of current Governing Board: 9, Quorum: 5)

Johei SASAKI (Chairperson)

President, National Institutes for Cultural Heritage, Japan

Masanori AOYAGI (Vice-chairperson) (absent)

Commissioner, Agency for Cultural Affairs, Japan

(Proxy: Kazushige YAMASHITA, Director General, Cultural Properties
Department)

Shigeharu KATO (absent)

Secretary-General, Japanese National Commission for UNESCO

(Proxy: Masashi AKIBA, Executive Secretary)

Ling ZHANG

Director, Division of Multilateral Affairs, Bureau for External Cultural
Relations, Ministry of Culture, P. R. China

Hee-Ung PARK (absent)

Director, International Cooperation Division, Cultural Heritage
Administration of the Republic of Korea

(Proxy: Eunseon JEONG, Programme Specialist)

Koichiro MATSUURA

Eminent Professor, Ritsumeikan University / Former Director-General of
UNESCO

Toshiyuki KONO

Professor, Kyushu University

Osami TAKEYAMA

Mayor, Sakai City, Japan

Tim CURTIS

Chief, Culture Unit, UNESCO Bangkok

Observers

Noriko AIKAWA-FAURE

Member of IRCI Advisory Body (Representative)

Shota FUKUOKA

Member of IRCI Advisory Body / Associate Professor, National Museum of Ethnology

Yiyuan YANG

Programme Officer, Division of Multilateral Affairs, Bureau for External Cultural Relations, Ministry of Culture, P. R. China

Rong XU

Director-General, CRIHAP

Weixia ZHAO

Research Staff, CRIHAP

Weonmo PARK

Chief, Information & Research Section, ICHCAP

Minyung JUNG

Assistant Programme Officer, Cooperation & Networking Section, ICHCAP

Naruhito ISHIMARU

Director, Office for International Cooperation on Cultural Properties, Traditional Culture Division, Cultural Properties Department, Agency for Cultural Affairs, Japan

Hiroko MORIYAMA

Deputy Director, Office for International Cooperation on Cultural Properties, Traditional Culture Division, Cultural Properties Department, Agency for Cultural Affairs, Japan

Shinichiro BABA

Deputy Director, Minister's Secretariat, Multilateral Cultural Cooperation Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan

Mitsuhiro IKEHARA

Director, National Institutes for Cultural Heritage

Emiko HAZAMA

Vice Mayor, Sakai City, Japan

Minoru KASATANI

Director General, Culture and Tourism Bureau, Sakai City, Japan

Katsumi MIZOGUCHI

Deputy-Director, Sakai City Museum, Japan

Akira AKAZAWA

Senior Manager, Sakai City Museum, Japan

Noriyuki SHIRAKAMI

Manager, Art Research and Planning Division, Sakai City Museum, Japan

Kayoko HIROSE

Assistant Manager, Art Research and Planning Division, Sakai City
Museum, Japan

Sujuan XU

Art Research and Planning Division, Sakai City Museum, Japan

Secretariat

Akio ARATA	Director-General, IRCI
Misako OHNUKI	Deputy Director-General, IRCI
Hiroyuki IKENO	Head of General Affairs, IRCI
Takao MISHIMA	Chief Executive Clerk, IRCI
Shigeaki KODAMA	Associate Fellow, IRCI
Yoko NOJIMA	Associate Fellow, IRCI
Minori LASSES	Research Assistant, IRCI

4. Agenda

Part 1 General Affairs

- A Replacement of the IRCI Governing Board member
- B Announcement of the Governing Board member liaising with Advisory Body & the representative of Advisory Body
- C Revised Long-term and Medium-term Programmes
- D Evaluation & Renewal Process
- E Abolishment of the IRCI Executive Committee

Part 2 Reports on IRCI's activities in FY 2013-2014, financial statement for FY 2013, and budget for FY 2014

Part 3 Work plan and budget for FY 2015

5. Proceeding Results

Under the provisions of Paragraph 2, Article 5 of the Agreement between the Government of Japan and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Regarding the Establishment, in Japan, of an International Research Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region under the Auspices of UNESCO (Category 2) (hereinafter called the “Agreement”), Mr. Johei Sasaki, President of National Institutes for Cultural Heritage, who chaired the meeting, declared the opening of the 3rd Governing Board Meeting of the International Research Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region (IRCI) (hereinafter called the “GBM”).

Prior to the proceedings, pursuant to the provisions of Paragraph 3, Article 4 of the Rules of Management for the Governing Board of the IRCI (NICH Rule 83), Mr. Masanori Aoyagi, Commissioner for the Agency for Cultural Affairs, was appointed as Vice-chairperson. His proxy, Mr. Kazushige Yamashita, Director General of the Cultural Properties Department of the same Agency, took his place. The Chairperson confirmed the agenda and the proceedings of the meeting and introduced the attendees.

5.1. Part 1 General Affairs

5.1.1. A Replacement of the IRCI Governing Board member

The Chairperson introduced Ms Ling Zhang as a new Governing Board member representing the government of China. Ms Zhang, after the transfer of the former Governing Board member Mr. Bin Liang, newly assumed the office of the Director of the Division of Multilateral Affairs, Bureau for External Cultural Relations, Ministry of Culture, P. R. China.

5.1.2. B Announcement of the Governing Board member liaising with Advisory Body & the representative of Advisory Body

It was announced that the following appointments were made in association with the revisions of the Rules for Management of IRCI (NICH Rule 86) and the Rules for the Advisory Body of IRCI (NICH Rule 88), which had been examined in the 2nd GBM:

- 1) Mr. Toshiyuki Kono, a Governing Board member, was appointed by the Chairperson as the Governing Board member liaising with the Advisory Body; and

- 2) Ms Noriko Aikawa-Faure, a member of IRCI Advisory Body, was assigned to be the representative of the Advisory Body in February 2014. This appointment of Ms Aikawa-Faure was recommended by the Director-General of IRCI and approved with the consent of a majority of the Governing Board members.

5.1.3. C Revised Long-term and Medium-term Programmes

Mr. Arata, the Director-General of IRCI, was appointed by the Chairperson to explain the following.

- 1) In the 2nd GBM, the discrepancy between the English version and the Japanese version of the Long-term and Medium-term Programmes was pointed out when the revision of the Programmes was discussed. Subsequently, the adjustment was made primarily by adjusting the Japanese version in line with the revised English version.
- 2) Corrections made by Sakai City were reflected to the section containing the work involving Sakai City.
- 3) In the revised Long-term and Medium-term Programmes, it was clarified that the terms of the Programmes were based on the fiscal year, not the calendar year.
- 4) Other revisions made to the Programmes were shown in the meeting document IRCI/2014/3GB/1C/Annex 1, and the entire revised Programmes were in the document IRCI/2014/3GB/1C/Annex 3.

Following questions were discussed after the explanation by the Director-General.

- 1) Mr. Matsuura stated that the word "*Daini-kubun*" as the Japanese translation of "Category 2" sounded misleading, and questioned if there is any reason not to use the word "Category 2" as such. Mr. Arata explained that the word "*Daini-kubun*" was extracted from the expression used in the Japanese translation of the Agreement. The Chairperson proposed to add a footnote in the Programmes to explain the word "*Daini-kubun*". Mr. Matsuura additionally requested that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs should kindly consider this issue as well.
- 2) Mr. Curtis pointed out a misprinted word, "long-term", in Section I of the Medium-term Programme, which should be "medium-term". Mr. Arata affirmed to correct the error in the Programme.
- 3) Ms Zhang asked for confirmation whether the description in the Long-term Programme missions, "endangered intangible cultural heritage elements",

meant the cultural heritage registered in UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage Lists or endangered ICH in general. Mr. Arata explained that the Long-term Programme missions are quoted from the IRCI's functions stipulated in the Agreement, and that the wording meant endangered ICH in general.

5.1.4. D Evaluation & Renewal Process

Mr. Arata, designated by the Chairperson, explained the outline, time period, and the review process of an independent IRCI evaluation mission recruited by UNESCO, which was scheduled prior to the renewal of the Agreement. Moreover, Mr. Arata asked for the cooperation and assistance of the Governing Board members and relevant organisations which may possibly be interviewed during the review.

Following issues were discussed.

- 1) Mr. Matsuura asked if the government of Japan and IRCI would have the opportunity to comment on the draft evaluation report. Mr. Curtis, representing UNESCO, answered that the government of Japan and IRCI would be given the draft report and have the opportunity to comment on it, as was specified in Page 5 of the meeting document IRCI/2014/3GB/1D/Annex 1.
- 2) Mr. Takeyama, as the Mayor of Sakai City, shared Sakai City's intention to facilitate even stronger collaboration with IRCI. He introduced the City's ongoing efforts to promote the understanding of both tangible and intangible cultural heritage, and the City's initiative of establishing a new facility tentatively called World Heritage Guidance Centre on the premises of the former campus of Osaka Women's University, where the office of IRCI would be relocated. He also announced the City's plan to hold a symposium at the Tokyo National Museum in May 2015. Mr. Takeyama commented that IRCI should send out information more actively and that more support of the national government would be appreciated. Mr. Matsuura asked the specific time frame of the construction of the new facility and the relocation of IRCI office. Mr. Takeyama answered that the land was already secured but negotiations on a part of the entrance lane were ongoing with the landowner, and that the City intended to settle this issue within a few years.

5.1.5. E Abolishment of the IRCI Executive Committee

Mr. Arata, upon request from the Chairperson, explained why this proposal was added on the agenda. IRCI Secretariat considered the suggestion made by the Governing Board members that the IRCI Executive Committee might be unnecessary on the ground that GBMs have been held annually since the 2nd GBM, while the Executive Committee was originally established to complement the biennial GBM at the time of the inception of IRCI.

No questions and opinions were expressed, and the voting was called. Before the voting, Mr. Curtis stated that, as he would explain details in Part 3 of the agenda, he would abstain from voting pursuant to the notice of UNESCO Headquarters stating that UNESCO was unable to sufficiently review the meeting materials in advance, due to their belated distribution by IRCI. However, he assured that he had no objection to this proposal as it was clear from the discussion in the last GBM. Eight Governing Board members, excluding Mr. Curtis, agreed on this proposal and thus it was approved.

5.1.6. Participation in IRCI's activities by UNESCO Member States in Asia-Pacific Region

Mr. Arata reported the following verbally.

- 1) At present, Japan and seven other countries - Afghanistan, Brunei Darussalam, People's Republic of China, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Uzbekistan, and Bhutan – expressed their willingness to participate in IRCI's activities.
- 2) Recently, Cook Islands, Palau, and Iran also indicated their willingness, and their participation would be notified via UNESCO shortly.

5.2. Part 2 Reports on IRCI's activities in FY 2013-2014, financial statement for FY 2013, and budget for FY 2014

Mr. Arata, asked by the Chairperson, reported IRCI's activities and their status from the second half of FY 2013 onwards, activities completed in FY 2013, financial statement for FY 2013, and the budget for FY 2014. Mr. Arata mentioned that all ongoing activities had been approved in the 2nd GBM held in 2013, and that IRCI started to prepare biannual activity reports in response to the adoption of RBM (Result Based Management). He also introduced some comments on IRCI activities provided by IRCI Advisory Body members.

The following issues were discussed after the report.

- 1) Mr. Akiba, the proxy for Mr. Kato, pointed out the discrepancy between the amount of income of ODA for supporting UNESCO's activities provided by MEXT and the total amount of expenses for IRCI projects (the Sri Lanka, Vietnam, and Mekong projects). Mr. Arata explained that the discrepancy resulted from small-amount expenses not attributed to one specific project and classified as miscellaneous items.
- 2) Mr. Curtis asked if IRCI was subject to external audit. Mr. Arata answered that IRCI was subject to external audit as a part of NICH and that he would include external audit report in the subsequent GBMs.

No other questions were raised and thus this report was approved without any objections.

5.3. Part 3 Work plan and budget for FY 2015

Prior to the discussion of the proposed item, Mr. Curtis explained the reason for his abstention from voting in this GBM pursuant to the notice of UNESCO Headquarters. Mr. Curtis received the initial draft of the meeting materials on September 10 and provided feedback after his consultation with UNESCO Headquarters. Then he received the final version of the meeting materials reflecting his feedback on September 26. In this context, UNESCO Headquarters, considering that there would not be sufficient time to duly review the final version of the meeting materials, decided to abstain from voting in this GBM. However, he added that the revised work plan well reflected UNESCO's feedback and was in conformity with UNESCO's strategic objectives, and he would inform UNESCO Headquarter to that effect. He also expressed his intention to participate in the discussion of this proposed item. Mr. Matsuura followed to mention that he recalled his experiences with UNESCO Executive Board, where members requested meeting materials at least one month before the meeting, and reminded IRCI that the meeting materials should be sent to respective Governing Board members so that enough time would be allowed for review. Mr. Arata apologised for the belated distribution of the finalised materials and stated that he would improve the timing of distribution in subsequent meetings. He added that finalising the meeting materials was a time-consuming process as it required consultation not only with UNESCO but also with the government authorities and other related institutions.

Mr. Arata proceeded to report the work plan and budget for FY 2015. He emphasised that the two projects were newly proposed, in anticipation of upcoming independent evaluation of IRCI organized by UNESCO, as well as IRCI's new Medium-term Programme which would be in effect from FY 2016 after its approval in the next GBM.

The following issues were discussed.

- 1) Mr. Matsuura pointed out that the partner UNESCO offices were clearly stated in the Sri Lanka project and the Vietnam project, but not in the Mekong project, and asked why the Mekong project did not involve any UNESCO offices and whether there had been any coordination with UNESCO offices for this project. Mr. Arata answered that UNESCO Bangkok was the partner for the Mekong project, although this was not clearly shown in the PDM (Project Design Matrix), and that the consultation with UNESCO Bangkok had been actually continuing since the planning.
- 2) Regarding the Mapping project, Mr. Curtis acknowledged that the database clearly showed the "research" nature and appreciated the possible collaboration with ICHCAP. Mr. Arata emphasised that the "research" is the predominant purpose for constructing this database.
- 3) Mr. Curtis raised questions concerning the countries enlisted for research in the Mekong project, asking how the study could proceed in Laos and Myanmar, where no legislation for ICH existed, and suggested that countries with pre-existing ICH laws might be a better choice as the target.

Mr. Arata stated that he would consider the possibility of conducting research in other countries including Vietnam and Cambodia, but also mentioned that Laos did have the draft and that he would address this issue in consultation with Mr. Kono, who would be leading this project.

Mr. Kono also commented that the law could range from the systemised law to the customary law, and it could be even effective in some cases not to have any legislation, and he advocated the need of basic research for understanding why the legislation related to ICH was not developing in the Mekong region. After these remarks, Mr. Curtis stated that from UNESCO's point of view it is important to understand how the 2003 Convention was implemented through laws and regulations of countries and its effectiveness, and that the preparation of the draft law was not the mandate of IRCI. He, in addition,

suggested possibilities of the research on the effects of the 2003 Convention to the legal system in countries where the ICH law was already established, for example Indonesia, and that the geographical focus of research could be expanded beyond the Mekong region.

Mr. Kono insisted that he would proceed with research focusing on the Mekong region as currently planned, before reconsidering alternative options.

- 4) Mr. Kono expressed his concern that the preparation for academic publication included in the Mapping Project 1 could be quite challenging. He was specifically concerned about substantial issues such as the selection of a publisher, publication costs, and the availability and handling of contributors, whether the new journal would be successfully rated as a world-level academic journal, and whether publishing the journal every three years could still be called periodical publication. He strongly recommended a feasibility study before proceeding with publication. Mr. Kono also suggested that the publication of a series of monographs could be considered as an option; however, securing an international distribution route would remain difficult for monographs.

Mr. Arata, in response to these opinions, stated that he understood the difficulties but still would like to pursue the idea constructively. He added that, taking the option of monographs into consideration, a feasibility research including the review of existing journals would be conducted in FY 2015.

A vote was taken after the discussion described above. Eight Governing Board members, excluding Mr. Curtis who abstained from voting, agreed on this proposal and thus the work plan and budget for FY 2015 was approved.

Lastly, Mr. Arata expressed his intention to consult IRCI Advisory Body more actively in order to reflect their advices on the future work plans and discussions on forums, and asked Mr. Kono, who was the Governing Board member liaising with the Advisory Body, for his cooperation. Mr. Kono recommended to the IRCI Secretariat to arrange a meeting of the members of the Advisory Body and the Governing Board member liaising with the Advisory Body. Mr. Arata responded that he would try to arrange such meetings.

6. Summary

The Chairperson reviewed the items discussed in this GBM and confirmed that the following three items were all approved as originally proposed.

- 1) Abolishment of the IRCI Executive Committee (Part 1 General Affairs, Item E)
- 2) Reports on IRCI's activities in FY 2013-2014, financial statement for FY 2013, and budget for FY 2014 (Part 2)
- 3) Work plan and budget for FY 2015 (Part 3)

Mr. Arata expressed appreciation to the attendees and made a closing remark, and the Chairperson adjourned the meeting. The 3rd GBM was thus finished.

To witness the accuracy of these minutes, the Chairperson and Vice-chairperson, on behalf of the Governing Board members present at this meeting, affixes their signatures below.

_____/_____/_____
(month / date / year)

Chairperson Johei Sasaki

Vice-chairperson Kazushige Yamashita