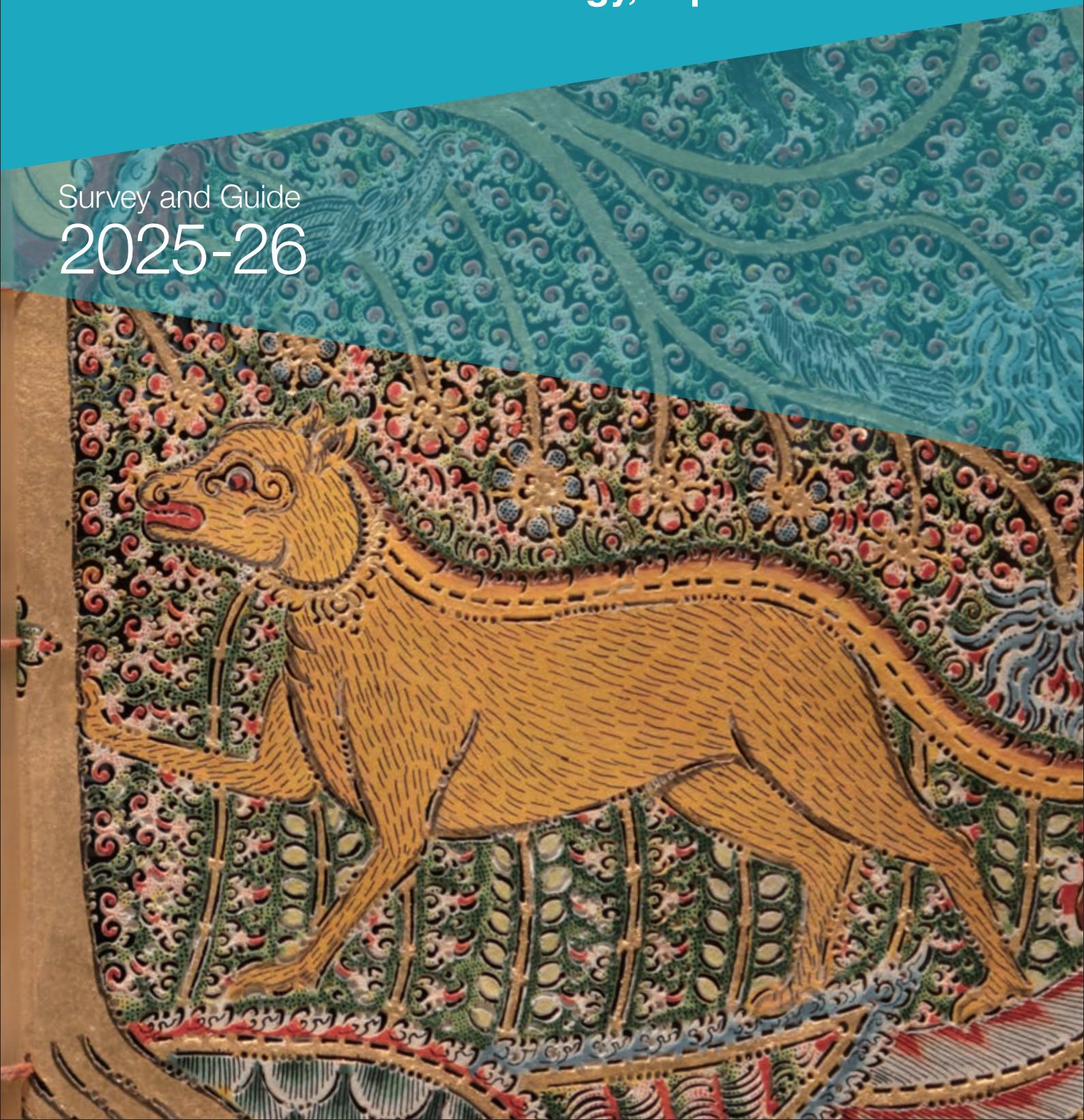




NIHU

National Museum of Ethnology, Japan

Survey and Guide
2025-26





National Museum of Ethnology, Japan

Survey and Guide for 2025-26

(Fiscal Year April 1, 2025–
March 31, 2026)

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Shadow puppet (Gunungan),
Indonesia

Preface

The National Museum of Ethnology (Minpaku) was founded in June 1974 as an Inter-University Research Institute Corporation to promote research in ethnology, cultural anthropology, and related disciplines.

Minpaku researchers have engaged in joint research with both domestic and international researchers, exploring the dynamics of society as well as the diversity and commonalities of human cultures through fieldwork conducted around the world. Their findings have been presented to the public not only through academic papers and publications but also through the practice of exhibitions. Minpaku includes the Anthropological Studies Program, a doctoral program offered by the Graduate University for Advanced Studies (SOKENDAI), which provides specialized education aligned with its mission. Such an institution dedicated to cultural anthropology and ethnology, where research, (museum) exhibitions, and education are interlinked in this manner, is rare in the world.

Globalization and division coexist in today's world. The origins of globalization, with interconnection of society, economy, and culture among across countries or regions, can be traced back to the Age of Discovery in the 15th century. Indigenous peoples of the Americas, which were conquered by Europeans, sustained severe hardships that reduced their populations drastically because of harsh forced labor and diseases introduced from the outside. Since then, rapid environmental destruction has often been cited as a harmful effect of globalization. The recent COVID-19 pandemic clarified the repetition of history and highlighted the dangers of globalization as more tangible. Indeed, globalization has contributed to phenomena that have adversely affected many peoples. It is also true that groups around the world have created unique cultures by skillfully leveraging the advances in transportation and communication devices which support globalization. Universal concepts such as human rights and particularly the rights of indigenous peoples have emerged one after another as critiques and corrections of the negative aspects of globalization, enabling those who have been oppressed to speak out and raise objections.

Yet, in the present day, which is often said to mark a societal turning point since the pandemic, it is noticeable around the world that people tend to be absorbed in their individual concerns rather than to be adopting a broader perspective of humanity or the Earth. Division is one manifestation of this trend. The efforts of groups in various regions, including nations, to weave the threads of their own stories should be respected, not dismissed, in the sense of securing cultural diversity. However, if we fail at acknowledging the stories and histories of others, at empathizing with them, and at cultivating a spirit of tolerance, then we risk creating a barren world in which individual stories merely clash with one another. Now more than ever, we must adopt an attitude that acknowledges the existence of individual cultures and societies, while remaining mindful of the entirety of humanity and the Earth.

With such awareness, Minpaku is promoting "Ethnic Groups and Ethnicity in the Post-Nationalist Era" as representative research at the museum. This research is intended to reexamine the relation between the state and ethnic groups from multiple perspectives and to explore the realization of a cohesive society in which humanity lives together hand in hand, in a world that adds another layer of confusion. The museum is also promoting another project: "The Construction of the Info-Forum Archives for Cultural Resources of the World." For this project, after sharing the specimens and visual materials which we have collected and stored for nearly 50 years with providers and provider groups, we reassess the significance of these materials and compile them into a database. It has almost become common for the task of narrating cultures to be undertaken not only by researchers. By creating materials and collaborating with cultural bearers and researchers, a forum is formed, enabling us to gain new kinds of knowledge and to open new horizons for research. Sharing research outcomes will also lead local people to use them for social development. I believe this is a pioneering attempt at international cooperation aimed at realizing a cohesive society.

In this way, Minpaku continues to strive to provide guiding principles for a better human society through joint research, dissemination of research findings, and development of human resources. We sincerely and earnestly hope for your continued support and cooperation.



SEKI Yuji
Director-General
National Museum of Ethnology, Japan

民族
二

Publication of "Fifty-Year History of the National Museum of Ethnology"

To commemorate its 50th anniversary, *Dialogue opens the world: Trajectory of Minpaku in 50 years* was published on December 25, 2024. This volume clearly presents our engagement with the contemporary world, its role as a research museum, exchanges with scholars both in Japan and abroad, and the research themes pursued by current staff, thereby broadly reaching out to both the academic community and general public. In addition, National Museum of Ethnology Semicentennial Archives categorizes materials into administration and management, research, community engagement, exhibitions, graduate education, publications, and commemorative photograph exhibition and makes them available online in a searchable database.
<https://www.r.minpaku.ac.jp/anniversary/50data/index.html>



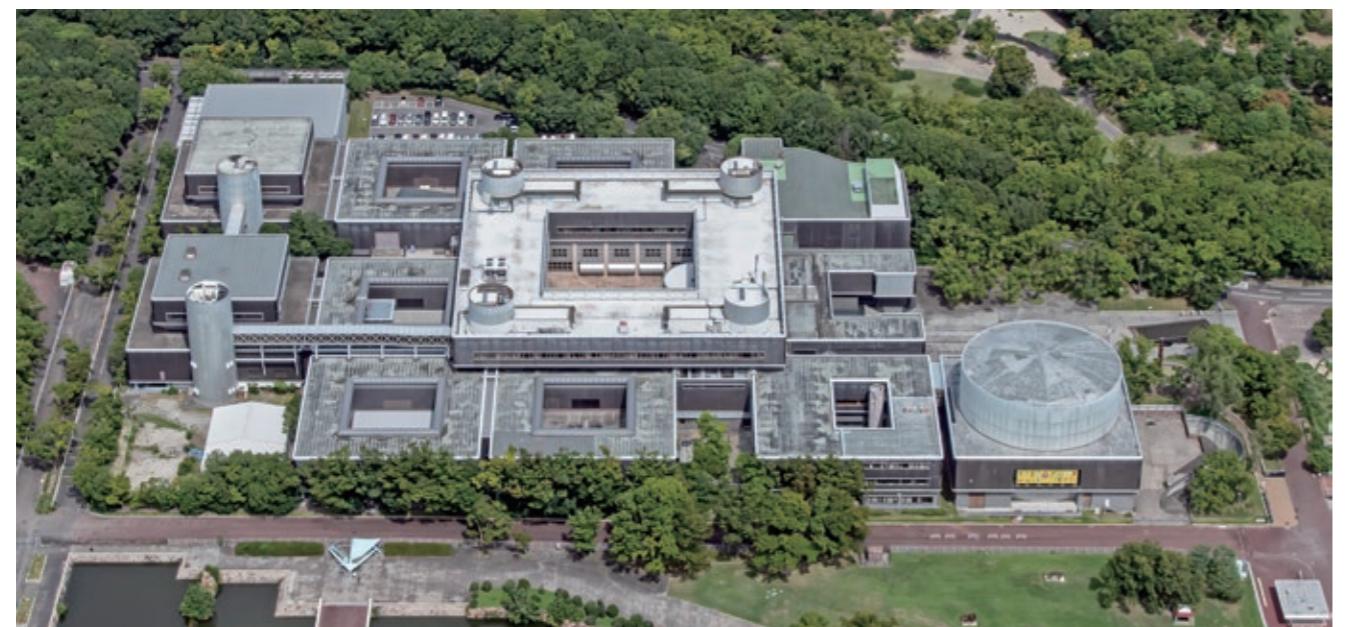
Purpose and Functions

Purpose

The National Museum of Ethnology conducts anthropological and ethnological research. It aims to promote a general understanding and awareness of peoples, societies, and cultures worldwide through the collection, preservation, conservation, research, release, and educational dissemination of ethnographic materials and public exhibitions. Minpaku was established in 1974 as an Inter-University Research Institute under the "Law to amend part of the National School Establishment Law" (No. 81, 1974). In April 2004, it made a fresh start as a member of the National Institutes for the Humanities, under the "National University Corporation Act" (No. 112, 2003).

Functions

Research Institute	The Museum functions as a research institute equipped with a museum. It serves as a research center for anthropology and ethnology, providing information and research results to academic communities and the general public through publications, exhibitions, and other means. All researchers at Minpaku are experts in various fields, such as cultural anthropology, ethnology, linguistics, ecological anthropology, archaeology, ethno-technology, ethno-arts, area studies, and museology.
Joint Research	As an Inter-University Research Institute, the Museum supports and organizes joint research projects with researchers from other academic institutions. We collaborate with researchers at universities and research institutions, both in Japan and overseas, to plan and execute various research projects. Materials collected and stored in the Museum are used widely by those researchers.
Information Center	The Museum collects, manages, and conserves materials that contribute to the understanding of the world's peoples, societies, and cultures. These materials include artifacts, visual and audio materials, library materials, Human Relation Area Files (HRAF), and various archival materials generated and accumulated through research. By making information on these materials available to the public through databases and other means, we encourage researchers to use them.
Exhibitions	The Museum makes the research results available to the public through exhibitions. Academic staff members plan and manage exhibitions with the basic policy of closely linking research and exhibitions. The main halls hold Regional and Cross-cultural exhibitions. The former displays cultures and societies in major regions, whereas the latter emphasizes cultural elements, such as music and language, which are shared across human societies. Thematic and collection exhibitions are occasionally held. They focus on rapidly changing global situations and feature current research in cultural anthropology and ethnology. In addition, the Museum comprehensively and systematically presents special exhibitions on specific themes.
Social Contributions	To present its latest research findings to the public, the Museum offers academic lecture programs, seminars, weekend salons, special lectures and performances, film shows, and various workshops. The Museum also organizes intensive courses on Museums and Community Development, and various projects for other museums, as part of its international cooperation activities.
Graduate Programs	The Museum is one of the core research institutes of the Graduate University for Advanced Studies (SOKENDAI), with Anthropological Studies program of the Graduate Institute for Advanced Studies (three-year doctoral program). We develop researchers who study the knowledge and methodologies accumulated in cultural anthropology, ethnology, and related fields, which can promote a high level of research by applying the acquired knowledge and methodologies. We offer collaborative educational programs in cooperation with several graduate universities.



Organization

Governing Body as of April 1, 2025

Director-General Seventh Director-General April 2025— SEKI Yuji	Deputy Director-General (in charge of research, exchange and Institutional Research) HIRAI Kyonosuke Professor, Department of Modern Society and Civilization	Deputy Director-General (in charge of planning and coordination) FUKUOKA Shota Professor, Department of Modern Society and Civilization	Audit Office SUHARA Aki Director
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Administrative Organization as of April 1, 2025

Office of Administration SUHARA Aki Director	General Affairs Section UOI Keita Head	Research Cooperation Section ONO Tomoyasu Head	Finance Section FUJIMOTO Kenji Head	Information Planning Section ONO Etsuo Head	Office of Information and Documentation FUKUOKA Shota Director	SUHARA Aki Deputy Director	Information Systems and Services Section NAKAYAMA Takahiro Head
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Board of Advisors as of April 1, 2025

The advisors discuss the Museum's management, and operational issues of critical importance, at request of the Director-General.

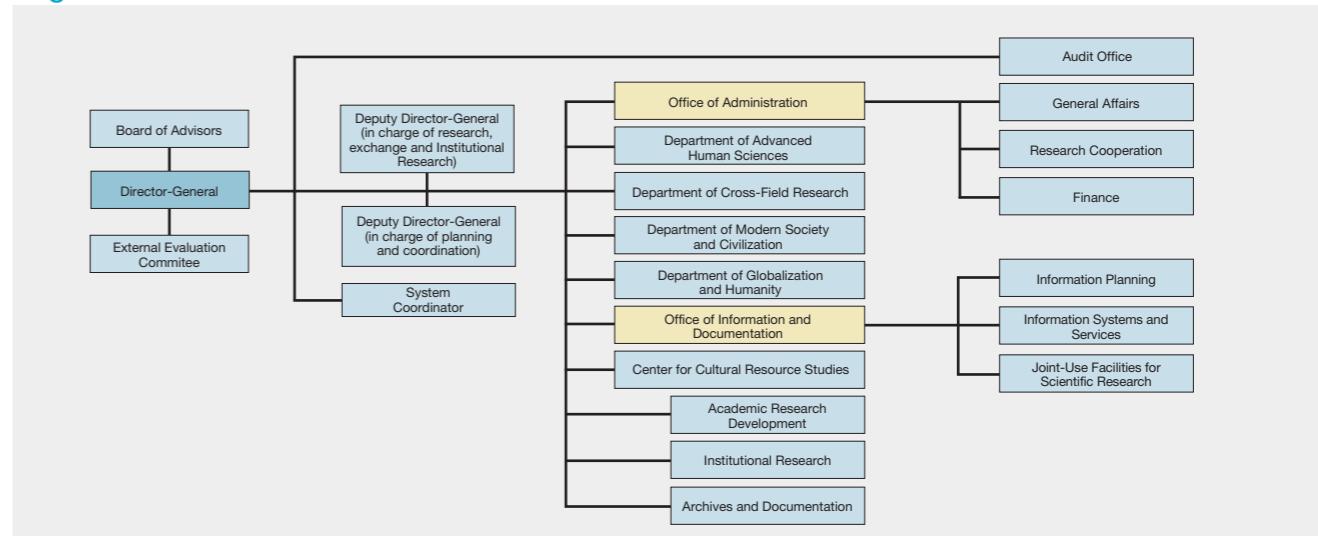
External Members	OKADA Hiroki Academic Adviser, KIKAI institute for Coral Reef Sciences	Internal Members	FUKUOKA Shota Deputy Director-General (in charge of planning and coordination)/Director, Office of Information and Documentation
KIGAWA Rika Head, Museum Science Division, Curatorial Department, Kyusyu National Museum	SASAKI Shigehiro Professor, Graduate School of Humanities, Nagoya University	HIDAKA Shingo Director, Center for Cultural Resource Studies	NIWA Norio Director, Department of Cross-Field Research, NOBAYASHI Atsushi Director, Department of Globalization and Humanity
KUBOTA Sachiko President, Ashiya University/Professor Emeritus, Kobe University	TAKAKURA Hiroki Professor, Center for Northeast Asian Studies, Tohoku University	HIRAI Kyonosuke Deputy Director-General (in charge of research, exchange and Institutional Research)/Director, Academic Research Development	SHIMAMURA Ippei Director, Department of Modern Society and Civilization
MIZUSAWA Tsutomu Former Director, The Museum of Modern Art, Kamakura & Hayama	TOMIZAWA Hisao Vice-president, University of Shizuoka/Specially Appointed Professor, School of International Relations, University of Shizuoka	MIO Minoru Professor, Department of Globalization and Humanity/Chair, Anthropological Studies, Graduate Institute for Advanced Studies, SOKENDAI (The Graduate University of Advanced Studies)	YAMANAKA Yuriko Director, Department of Advanced Human Sciences
NAKATANI Ayami Professor, School of Sociology, Kwansei Gakuin University			

External Evaluation Committee as of April 1, 2025

The committee meets to inspect and evaluate the Museum's research and educational activities at request of the Director-General.

DEGUCHI Akira Director, The Open University of Japan Shimane Study Center	KAMEI Atsuko Deputy Director, JICA Ogata Sadako Research Institute for Peace and Development	OKAZAKI Yoshiko Former President/Professor Emeritus, University of the Sacred Heart	TAKANO Akihiko Professor Emeritus, National Institute of Informatics
ICHIKAWA Mitsuo Professor Emeritus, Kyoto University	OKAHASHI Tatsuya Chairman, KANSAI·OSAKA 21st Century Association	SAKIMOTO Toshiki President, KANSAI·OSAKA 21st Century Association	TANAKA Masakazu Vice-president, Professional Institute of International Fashion

Organization Chart as of July 1, 2025



Research Organization as of December 1, 2025

Department of Advanced Human Sciences

YAMANAKA Yuriko Director

Professors

HIROSE Koujirou
Japanese Religious History, Folklore

KAWASE Itsushi
Visual Anthropology

KIKUSAWA Ritsuko
Linguistics, Austronesian Languages

Associate Professors

MARUKAWA Yuzo
Informatics of Association, Information Service for Cultural Assets

YAMANAKA Yuriko
Comparative Study of Traditions on Alexander the Great; West Asia, Iran

Linguistics, Austronesian Languages

Associate Professors

HIRANO Chikako
Cultural Anthropology, Indigenous Australian Studies

OKADA Emi
Ethnomusicology, South Asian Studies

YOSHIOKA Noboru
Linguistics, South Asian Studies

Assistant Professors

MIYAMAE Chisako
Heritage Science, Digital Heritage

TAKASHINA Maki
Archival Science

Project Assistant Professors

ICHINO Shinichiro
Institutional Research and Evaluation

OKAMOTO Susumu
Research and Coordination of Research Events and Activities Related to Establishing Spatiotemporal Linguistics

Department of Cross-Field Research

NIWA Norio Director

Professors

HAN Min
Social Anthropology; China

IIDA Taku
Ecological Anthropology, Fisher Studies; Madagascar, Japan

KASHINAGA Masao
Ethnography of Southeast Asia; Vietnam, Tai Area

Associate Professors

MATSUO-GOGATE Mizuho
Cultural Anthropology, South Asian Studies

MINAMI Makito
Ecological Anthropology; South Asia

NIWA Norio
Social Anthropology; Oceania

Associate Professors

ICHIKAWA Akira
Mesoamerican Archaeology, Latin American Studies

OTA Shimpei
Sociocultural Anthropology; Northeast Asia

FUJII Shinichi
Cultural Anthropology; Oceanic Studies

Assistant Professors

ASADA Naoki
Cultural Anthropology; Eastern Europe

MINAMI Makito
Ecological Anthropology; South Asia

NIWA Norio
Social Anthropology; Oceania

Department of Modern Society and Civilization

SHIMAMURA Ippei Director

Professors

FUKUOKA Shota
Ethnomusicology; Southeast Asia, Indonesia

HIRAI Kyonosuke
Economic Anthropology, Anthropology of Work; Southeast Asia

UEBA Yoko
Textile and Handcraft; South Asia, Middle East

Associate Professors

SAITO Akira
Ethnohistory; Latin America

SHIMAMURA Ippei
Cultural Anthropology, Mongolian Studies

ITO Atsunori
Social Anthropology, Native American Studies, Indigenous Arts and Intellectual Property Issues

Associate Professors

FUJIMOTO Toko
Cultural Anthropology, Central Asian Studies

MATSUMOTO Yuichi
Andean Archaeology, Latin America Studies

SUZUKI Kota
Folk Culture, History of the Performing Arts; Japan

Assistant Professor

IKEBE Tomoki
Anthropological Study of the Interaction between Texts and Oral Traditions in Senegal

Department of Globalization and Humanity

NOBAYASHI Atsushi Director

Professors

MIO Minoru
Religious Anthropology; South Asia, India

NOBAYASHI Atsushi
Ethnoarchaeology, Material Culture, Austronesian Cultures; East Asia, Formosa

Associate Professors

NOBUTA Toshihiro
Social Anthropology, Southeast Asian Studies

UDA Shuhei
Environmental Folklore; East Asia

AISHIMA Hatsuki
Social Anthropology; Islam, Middle East

CHE Sohee
Medical Anthropology, Northeast Asian Studies

KURODA Kenji
Middle Eastern Studies, Cultural Anthropology

Associate Professors

NAKAGAWA Osamu
Cultural Anthropology, Anthropology of Europe

SUZUKI Hideaki
History of the Indian Ocean World, Swahili Society

YAGI Yuriko
Cultural Anthropology, Latin American Studies

Assistant Professors

SAITO Reiko
Ainu and Northern Indigenous Peoples Studies, Material Culture; North Pacific Rim

TERAMURA Hirofumi
Culture and Information Science, Archaeological Information

WINCHESTER, Mark
Modern and Contemporary Ainu Intellectual History

Center for Cultural Resource Studies

HIDAKA Shingo Director

Professors

HIDAKA Shingo
Conservation Science

Associate Professors

ONO Rintaro
Marine Archaeology, Southeast Asian Studies

MISHIMA Teiko
Anthropology, International Migration; Senegal, West Africa

NARA Masashi
Cultural Anthropology, Chinese Studies

SAITO Reiko
Ainu and Northern Indigenous Peoples Studies, Material Culture; North Pacific Rim

TERAMURA Hirofumi
Culture and Information Science, Archaeological Information

Assistant Professors

KAWANISHI Eriko
Anthropology, Pagan Studies

NOGUCHI Hiroya
Cultural Anthropology, Alaska Studies

WINCHESTER, Mark
Modern and Contemporary Ainu Intellectual History

Academic Research Development

HIRAI Kyonosuke Director

AISHIMA Hatsuki
Associate Professor, Department of Globalization and Humanity

ICHIKAWA Akira
Associate Professor, Department of Cross-Field Research

KASHINAGA Masao
Professor, Department of Cross-Field Research

Academic Research Development aims to plan and oversee the infrastructure enhancement and international and national strategies for research organizations to be used jointly to explore new domains.

Institutional Research

HIRAI Kyonosuke Director

ICHINO Shinichiro
Project Assistant Professor, Department of Advanced Human Sciences

KAWANISHI Eriko
Assistant Professor, Center for Cultural Resource Studies

SUZUKI Kota
Associate Professor, Department of Modern Society and Civilization

Archives and Documentation

IIDA Taku Director

MARUKAWA Yuzo
Professor, Department of Advanced Human Sciences

TAKASHINA Maki
Assistant Professor, Department of Advanced Human Sciences

International Joint Research based on a unit of research to develop new areas that are challenging, interdisciplinary, and integrative

Cultural Resource/ information Projects to promote interdisciplinary international joint research with academic resources, Transdisciplinary Projects "Info-Forum Archives of Human Culture"

Center for Cultural Resource Studies

High-level joint use of museum functions as a global hub for academic data for cultures around the world

Trans-regional Area Studies as a network-based international joint research, Global Area Studies Program for Global Mediterranean, Indian Ocean World Studies, Maritime Asian and Pacific Studies, East Eurasian Studies

Mizuho Special Research Projects for tackling contemporary challenges "Ethnic Groups and Ethnicity in the Post-Nationalist Era"

Co-creative research through interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary projects, Multidisciplinary Collaborative Projects

Collaborative research through co-creation efforts of a wide variety of organizations and people within and outside NIHU, Co-creation Research Initiatives

Research Associates

Department of Advanced Human Sciences

DOI Huyuki
Lecturer, Faculty of International Studies, Tenri University
History of Oceania Collection and Its Objects in Japan:
Focusing on Museum Collections of the University of Tokyo and Minpaku

FUKUJI Eiji
Associate Professor, Faculty of Law and Literature,
Shimane University
Transformation and Expansion of the Concept of Personhood
in Contemporary Societies

HAMADA Karen
Associate Professor, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences,
The University of Tokyo
Mobility and Materiality of Manuscripts: Towards a
Multi-disciplinary Study and Creating Digital Archive of
Manuscripts in the Nakanishi Collection

Department of Cross-Field Research

IWATANI Hirofumi
Lecturer, College of Humanities and Social Sciences,
Himeji Dokkyo University
A Methodological Reflection for the Practice of
Photo-Ethnography

KIMURA Shuhei
Professor, Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences,
University of Tsukuba
An Innovation of Anthropology of Disaster: Exploring
Alternatives to the Disaster Management Cycle Model

KUNIHIRO Akiko
Professor, Faculty of Letters, Arts and Sciences,
Waseda University
Anthropological Studies on Contemporaneous Global
Phenomena of Gender/Sex/Sexuality

NAWATA Hiroshi
Professor, Center for Transdisciplinary Education and
Research, Graduate School of Human and Environmental
Studies, Kyoto University
Study of the Motoko Kataura Fieldwork Materials Collected
in Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

SAKURA Osamu
Professor, Department of Social Design, Faculty of
Humanities and Social Sciences, Jissen Women's University
A Theoretical Examination of Techno-Animism and Its
Perspective from Science, Technology, and Society Studies

TSUMURA Fumihiko
Professor, Faculty of Foreign Studies, Meijo University
Anthropological Study of Magical Contingency and
Communalities

Department of Modern Society and Civilization

INOUE Toshiaki
Professor, Faculty of International Humanities,
Josai International University
A Study on the Use of Northern Dene(Northern Athabaskan)
Ethnographic Collection of the National Museum
of Ethnology

NAKAO Katsumi
Professor, College of Arts and Sciences,
J.F. Oberlin University
Examination of Anthropological History Based on National
Museum of Ethnology Archive

SAKURAMA-NAKAMURA Mizuki
Associate Professor(Lecturer), Division of Language and
Culture, Graduate School of Humanities, Osaka University
New Cultural Dynamics in the Practices of Non-Western
Popular Music

WADA Rei (DARTHREIDER)
Rapper, Writer, Critic, Film Director
Studies about Musical Culture (Mainly Hip hop) Specialness
and Universal Influence in Global Scale Focusing on
Non-European, American Area

Department of Globalization and Humanity

NAKAI Shinsuke
Associate Professor, Faculty of Agriculture, Saga University
Rethinking Human Urban Adaptation: Global History of
Livelihoods

NAKAO Seiji
Associate Professor, Graduate School of Asian and African
Area Studies, Kyoto University
How African Narrated "African History": "African
Historiographies" from Local Histories in Africa

Center for Cultural Resource Studies

AZUMA Kentaro
Associate Professor, Graduate School of Humanities,
Nagoya University
How Can Tourism Be "Wellness": Towards a Community of
Happiness and Creativity

KITAHARA Mokottunas
Professor, Center for Ainu and Indigenous Studies,
Hokkaido University
Material Culture of the Sakhalin Ainu and Its Differences
and Similarities with Neighboring Cultures

ONO Mayumi
Associate Professor, College of Letters, Ritsumeikan University
Anthropology of Tourism 3.0: Experiences through the Body
and Circulation

Overseas Visiting Fellows

Adhi Agus Oktaviana, S.Hum
Junior research fellow, Badan Riset dan Inovasi Nasional (BRIN),
National Research and Innovation Agency
November 17, 2025 – January 9, 2026
Rock Art and Human Migration in Indonesia

BEGMATOV Alisher Kholmuurotovich
Researcher, Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences
October 6, 2025 – December 17, 2025
Examination and reevaluation of new pictorial and written
materials excavated in Samarkand

BUCHOWSKI Michal Janusz
Professor, Adam Mickiewicz University
September 16, 2025 – December 12, 2025
The relationship between dominant majorities and dominated
minorities in a comparative perspective

DELAPLACE Gregory Nathanael
Professor, École Pratique des Hautes Études in Paris
November 1, 2025 – December 1, 2025
An Anthropological Study on the invisibles in Mongolia

LAHN Julie Maree
Fellow, Australian National University
December 3, 2025 – February 18, 2026
Public Anthropological Research on Digital Return

RIALL Lucy
Professor, European University Institute
November 1, 2024 – October 31, 2025
Historical Research on Italy's Informal Empire and the Role of
Mediterranean Mobility, 19th and 20th Centuries

SOLOVYEEVA Alevtina
Director, The Centre for Oriental Studies, Institute of
Cultural Research, University of Tartu
February 1, 2026 – January 31, 2027
Vernacular religion as a resilience and creative technics
in terms of global changes and everyday life liability:
reconciling experiences of the haunting history,
geopolitical concerns and obscure future among Mongolian
and Turkic communities of East Eurasia

SYRTYPOVA Surun-Khanda Dashinimaevna
Leading Researcher, Institute of Oriental Studies,
Russian Academy of Sciences
January 6, 2026 – February 27, 2026
The Art of Mongolian Buddhism and its research methodology

Those who have been or will be in Minpaku in FY2025.
(In alphabetical order.)

Research Fellows

CHIU Chunni
Investigations and research elucidating the theory and practice
of distribution and dissemination of research information using
cultural resources

FURUSAWA Yuria
Support work for shared use of academic information, with
a specific investigation of the Info-Forum archives of human
culture

Project Research Fellows

DENG Jinxuan
Research activities on language change and development through
the integration of geography and history

FURUSAWA Mizuki
Work on "Studies on the Mechanism by Which Narrative
Manifests Itself in Terms of the Relationship Between Language
and Music, for the Purpose of Constructing Its Development
Model in Human History"

HASHIMOTO Sachi

Assistant work for the cultural resource planning project
"Research on the Preservation and Management of Tangible
Cultural Resources"

ISHIYAMA Shun
Research work for promoting "building a digital library of
academic knowledge"

KAWABATA Yuki
Research activities on language change and development through
the integration of geography and history

KAWAMURA Yukako
Assistant work for the cultural resource planning project
"Research on the Preservation and Management of Tangible
Cultural Resources"

KOBAYASHI Naoaki
Research work for promoting "building a digital library of
academic knowledge"

SUZUKI Hiroyuki
Research activities on language change and development through
the integration of geography and history

TAIRA Eiji
Work on sign language-related research, research assistance,
and management of related projects

TAKEMOTO Naoya
Work on Co-creation Research Project "Establishing Science for
Universal Communication" in Co-creation Research Initiatives

Research Fellows, NIHU

NAKAO Yukie
Research Fellow(RPD)
The Development of Social Welfare in East Africa and
Migration in the British Empire: Gujarati Muslims and the
Question of Modernity

TANI Kenichi
Research Fellow(PD)
A Study on the Tension and Coexistence of Ethnic Identity and
Nationalism in the Case of Iranian-azeri

Research Fellows, NIHU Center for Innovative Research

Global Area Studies Program Steering Unit
YAMAZAKI Nobuko
Project Assistant Professor

Global Mediterranean
OKAMOTO Naoko
Project Assistant Professor

Indian Ocean World Studies
MATSUI Azusa
Project Assistant Professor

Maritime Asian and Pacific Studies
MOMMA Ipppei
Project Assistant Professor

East Eurasian Studies
AKAO Mitsuharu
Project Assistant Professor

East Eurasian Studies
UEHATA Fumi
Project Assistant Professor

Liberal Arts Communicator
KUDO Sakura
Project Assistant Professor

Establishing Science for Universal
Communication (S_COM)
GUI Rong
Project Assistant Professor

Center for Cultural Resource Studies

The Center for Cultural Resource Studies was established on April 1, 2017, with the objective of improving access to cultural resources at the Museum for interdisciplinary and international research.

Development of Cultural Resource Study

The National Museum of Ethnology (Minpaku) owns about 346,000 artifacts, 70,000 items of video and sound resources, 698,000 books, and other research resources such as photographic archives, research database, and field note archives, survey papers, and other ethnological research papers left by cultural anthropologists and ethnologists. These are important cultural resources that relate to the humanity's cultures and activities, and precious academic resources to reflect on the past, present and future of humanity. The Museum is undertaking projects to improve the shared availability of these cultural resources for interdisciplinary and international research, by publishing the research results and information on these cultural resources through a database called Info-Forum Museum, and through other media including Special Exhibitions, Thematic Exhibitions, and Traveling Exhibitions. The Center supports these research projects, and plans and promotes new projects.

Projects of FY2024

In FY2024, the Center supported the promotion of four database establishment projects and five database improvement projects in relation building the "Info-Forum Museum for Cultural Resources of the World." Moreover, we hosted the International Symposium of Minpaku for the 50th Anniversary of the Museum's Founding "Digital Humanities in Action" and, as part of the research meetings for each project, organized events such as the International Symposium Decolonizing Collection: Focusing on Indigenous Australian in Japan. Concurrently, the Center assisted in the preparation and organization of the exhibitions such as special exhibitions for the 50th Anniversary of the Museum's Founding "Masks in the Performing Arts and Festivals of Japan" and "THE WORLD OF POET-SINGERS." Additionally, the Center conducted research to improve the joint use of academic resources.

Projects of FY2025

In FY 2025, we will mainly pursue three projects.

Research Promotion and Support for Info-Forum Archives of Human Culture Project

Since FY2022, this Museum has managed an Institution-based Transdisciplinary Project of the National Institutes for the Humanities, entitled "Sustainable development humanities research based on the Info-Forum archives of human culture." During FY2025, four Basic Research Projects will be undertaken, including "Materials on Indigenous Australians," "Archive of Oceanian Materials," along with four Promotional Research Projects such as "Material-Culture and Cultural Dynamics of Northeast West Asia," "Attire of the Korean Peninsula." The Center studies standardization and multilingual translations of the artifacts and resources. It also supports the promotion of these projects through database building, editing and publication.

Research Promotion and Support for Special Exhibitions, Thematic Exhibitions, Collection Exhibitions and Traveling Exhibitions Project

The Museum implements Special Exhibitions, Thematic Exhibitions, Collection Exhibitions and Traveling Exhibitions, in order to publish its cultural resources and related research outcomes. In FY2025, the Museum will show case: a special exhibition for the 50th Anniversary of the Museum's Founding "MINGU Design Expo: Discovering Sources of Wisdom" and special exhibitions "Humans and Boats: Maritime Life in Asia and Oceania" among others. The Center will promote the research that will enable these exhibitions and assist in the running of the exhibitions.

Research for Improving the Shared Availability of Cultural Resources

We will research the ways to promote the interdisciplinary and international joint use of the cultural resources owned by this Museum, and effective ways to contribute to university education, academic research, dissemination of knowledge to the general public, and creation of cultures by their bearers.

Academic Research Development

Established in April 2017, the Academic Research Development has assumed the research strategy functions that the Research Development and the Center for International Academic Exchange formerly provided for: national and international shared use and joint research; enhancing infrastructure; and plan and oversee the national and international strategies for the shared use and joint research organizations pioneering new domains. The Academic Research Development will reinforce the systematic research capabilities of each of our research departments and centers. More specifically, it engages in the activities required to promote internationally coordinated or joint research more strategically and systematically, including: improvement in the implementing organization of a research project based on shared use of resources; development, preparation and signing of (national and international) academic exchange agreements and the signing policies thereof; survey of overseas research trends; and information gathering and provision on external finances.

Institutional Research

The Institutional Research was established in April 2016 to support the Museum's planning and decision-making by collecting and analyzing data on the Museum's research and education and converting the compiled data and analysis results into reference materials.

To fulfill this purpose, the Institutional Research mainly does the following: (1) collect and publish data on research and education; (2) analyze the data and publish the results; and (3) provide the data and analysis results for the Museum's reforms and improvements.

As a member of the National Institutes for the Humanities, the Museum establishes midterm and fiscal year plans based on six-year midterm goals set by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology. The Museum also receives evaluations of its research and education from the National University Corporation Evaluation Committee. In addition, the Museum conducts self-inspections and self-evaluations and publishes the findings in a report. The Institutional Research collects and analyzes a wide range of data on research and education for these inspections and evaluations.

Archives and Documentation

This section, established in 2025, succeeded Umesao Archives which includes fieldnotes, sketches, photographs, notes, draft manuscripts, printed works, review articles related to his works, and other academic resources produced by Minpaku's first Director-General, UMEASO Tadao. It supports visitors for academic purposes based on the archivists' experiences of documenting and shelving the set of materials, and providing support primarily for scholarly research.

Research Activities

Minpaku Special Research Projects

Minpaku Special Research Projects is a research program organized independently by the National Museum of Ethnology, collaborating with universities and other research institutes in Japan and overseas. Based on domestic and international academic research trends and social demands, Minpaku Special Research Projects aims to create new academic fields by enhancing interdisciplinary research. During the six years of the third mid-term goals period, starting in FY2016, we adopted the umbrella theme of “Contemporary Civilization and the Future of Humanity: Environment, Culture, and Humans.” For this, we undertook solution-focused approaches to tackle urgent challenges facing our contemporary civilization.

During the six years of the fourth mid-term goals period beginning in FY2022, five research projects will be conducted under the umbrella theme of “Ethnic Groups and Ethnicity in the Post-Nationalist Era.” The research adopts a holistic perspective to the processes of the reconfiguration of ethnic groups and ethnicity in the post-nationalist era. This perspective will include culture, politics, religion, society, environment, and history. In this way, we aim to present new approaches that will contribute to the realization of a diverse and inclusive society where all people respect each other and live together regardless of cultural differences.

List of Minpaku Special Research Projects FY2022 – FY2027

Umbrella Theme “Ethnic Groups and Ethnicity in the Post-Nationalist Era”

Project Leader	Project Title	Category	Project Period
SUZUKI Motoi	Challenges for Museums in the Era of Post-nationalism: Methods of Exhibiting Minority and Indigenous Cultures	Ethnicity and Museums	April 2022–March 2025
NOBAYASHI Atsushi	Understanding Conflicts Involving the Wills and Intentions of Individuals, Affiliate Groups, and the Nation-State, and the Realization of a Nation-State Comprising Diverse Ethnic and Cultural Groups	Ethnicity and the Nation-State	April 2023–March 2026
MATSUO Mizuho	The Politics of Roots and the Arts/Techniques of Coexistence: Ethnicity and Histories in the Post-Nation-State Era	Ethnicity and History	April 2024–March 2027
NARA Masashi	Ethnicities and Religions: The Entanglements of Exclusivity and Inclusivity	Ethnicity and Religion	April 2025–March 2028
NIWA Norio	Political Violence, Conflict, and Ethnicity	Ethnicity and Violence	April 2026–March 2029

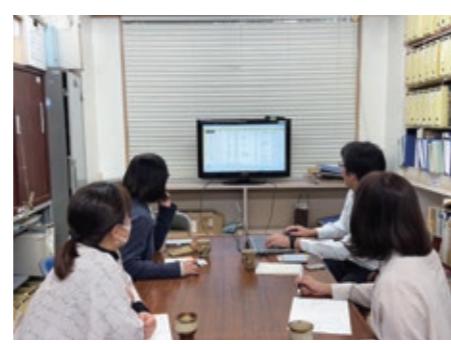
Minpaku Special Research Projects Roadmap FY2022 – FY2028

Umbrella Theme “Ethnic Groups and Ethnicity in the Post-Nationalist Era”

Category	Project Title	Leader	FY2022	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028
Ethnicity and Museums	Challenges for Museums in the Era of Post-Nationalism: Methods of Exhibiting Minority and Indigenous Cultures	SUZUKI Motoi		April 1, 2022–March 31, 2025					
Ethnicity and the Nation-State	Understanding Conflicts Involving the Wills and Intentions of Individuals, Affiliate Groups, and the Nation-State, and the Realization of a Nation-State Comprising Diverse Ethnic and Cultural Groups	NOBAYASHI Atsushi			April 1, 2023–March 31, 2026				
Ethnicity and History	The Politics of Roots and the Arts/Techniques of Coexistence: Ethnicity and Histories in the Post-Nation-State Era	MATSUO Mizuho				April 1, 2024–March 31, 2027			
Ethnicity and Religion	Ethnicities and Religions: The Entanglements of Exclusivity and Inclusivity Political Violence, Conflict, and Ethnicity	NARA Masashi					April 1, 2025–March 31, 2028		
Ethnicity and Violence	Political Violence, Conflict, and Ethnicity	NIWA Norio						April 1, 2026–March 31, 2029	



Project Workshop



Yomitan Village History Editorial Office

Projects in FY2024

Project Leader	Project Title
MATSUO Mizuho	The Politics of Roots and the Arts/Techniques of Coexistence: Ethnicity and Histories in the Post-Nation-State Era
NOBAYASHI Atsushi	Understanding Conflicts Involving the Wills and Intentions of Individuals, Affiliate Groups, and the Nation-State, and the Realization of a Nation-State Comprising Diverse Ethnic and Cultural Groups
SUZUKI Motoi	Challenges for Museums in the Era of Post-Nationalism: Methods of exhibiting minority and indigenous cultures

Minpaku Public Lecture “Ethnicity and Art Today: The Politics of Beauty”

Date November 8, 2024
Coordinator MATSUO Mizuho
The total number of participants 431



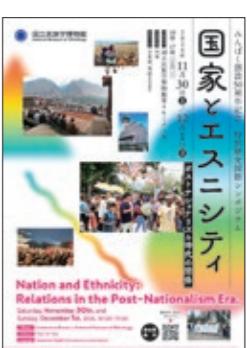
The Symposium of Minpaku Special Research Project for the 50th Anniversary of the Museum's Founding
“Ethnic Groups and Ethnicity in Post-Nationalist Era”

Date June 29, 2024
Coordinator UDAGAWA Taeko
The total number of participants 68



The International Symposium of Minpaku Special Research Project for the 50th Anniversary of the Museum's Founding
“Nation and Ethnicity: Relations in the Post-Nationalism Era”

Date November 30–December 1, 2024
Coordinator NOBAYASHI Atsushi
The total number of participants 83



The Workshop of Minpaku Special Research Project for the 50th Anniversary of the Museum's Founding
“Renovation of the Museum as a Forum: What Kind of Dialogues will Museums Attempt in the Era of Post-Nationalism?”

Date October 5, 2024
Coordinator SUZUKI Motoi
The total number of participants 30



An institution-based research initiative, designated as “Sustainable development humanities research based on the Info-Forum archives of human culture,” is aimed at compiling multilingual “archives of human culture.” This broadly disseminates more than a million of the Museum’s academic resources for online public access, by promoting international collaborative research between researcher communities and indigenous communities, known as the bearers of culture. The archives presumably form a core for educational and research activities, that enable the inheritance of academic resources in anthropology, ethnology, and their related fields, as common international properties.

In 2024, the third year of research, we implemented nine projects: four Basic Research Projects and five Promotional Research Projects. In addition, International Symposium of Minpaku for the 50th Anniversary of the Museum's Founding "Digital Humanities in Action" was held as a result of the international dissemination program to promote the internationalization of research. This is one of the instituted projects of the NIHU Transdisciplinary Project.

Project under Promotion:

1. Basic Research

Basic research specifically examines compilation of the archives, that focuses on the Museum's cultural resources of artifacts, photographs, videos, and bibliographical materials, as well as related academic materials, with the consistent promotion of collaborative research using archives.

2. Promotional Research

Promotional research disseminates results of international collaborative studies, international symposia, and exhibitions, based on a novel database created using existing databases and platforms, and on the compilation of new archives.

Projects of Sustainable Development Humanities Research Based on the Info-Forum Archives of Human Culture

Project Leader	Project Title	Category	Period
HIRANO Chikako	A Study of the Material Culture of Aboriginal Australians, with a Focus on the Minpaku Collection	Basic research	April 2022–March 2026
NIWA Norio	Building of a Comprehensive Archive on Pacific Collection by Japanese	Basic research	April 2022–March 2026
NAKAGAWA Osamu	Building an Info-forum Archives for Cultural Collections of Europe	Basic research	April 2024–March 2028
ONO Rintaro	Bark-cloth and Basketry in Maritime Southeast Asia and Oceania	Basic research	April 2024–March 2028
KURODA Kenji	A Trans-area Study on the Material-Culture and Cultural Dynamics of Northeast West Asia	Promotional research	April 2024–March 2026
CHE Sohee	Documentation Research on the 'Attire of the Korean Peninsula' Database	Promotional research	April 2024–March 2026
MIYAMAE Chisako	Curation of Nordic Commonplace Artefacts at Minpaku Museum's Collection: Exploring Functional Elegance	Promotional research	April 2024–March 2025
OKADA Emi	Transdisciplinary Research on the Culture of the Hill Tribes Living around the India-Myanmar Border	Promotional research	April 2025–March 2027
			April 2026–March 2027
MIO Minoru	Creation of the Photo Data Archives of the Late Chie Nakane, Professor Emeritus of the University of Tokyo	Promotional research	April 2025–March 2027



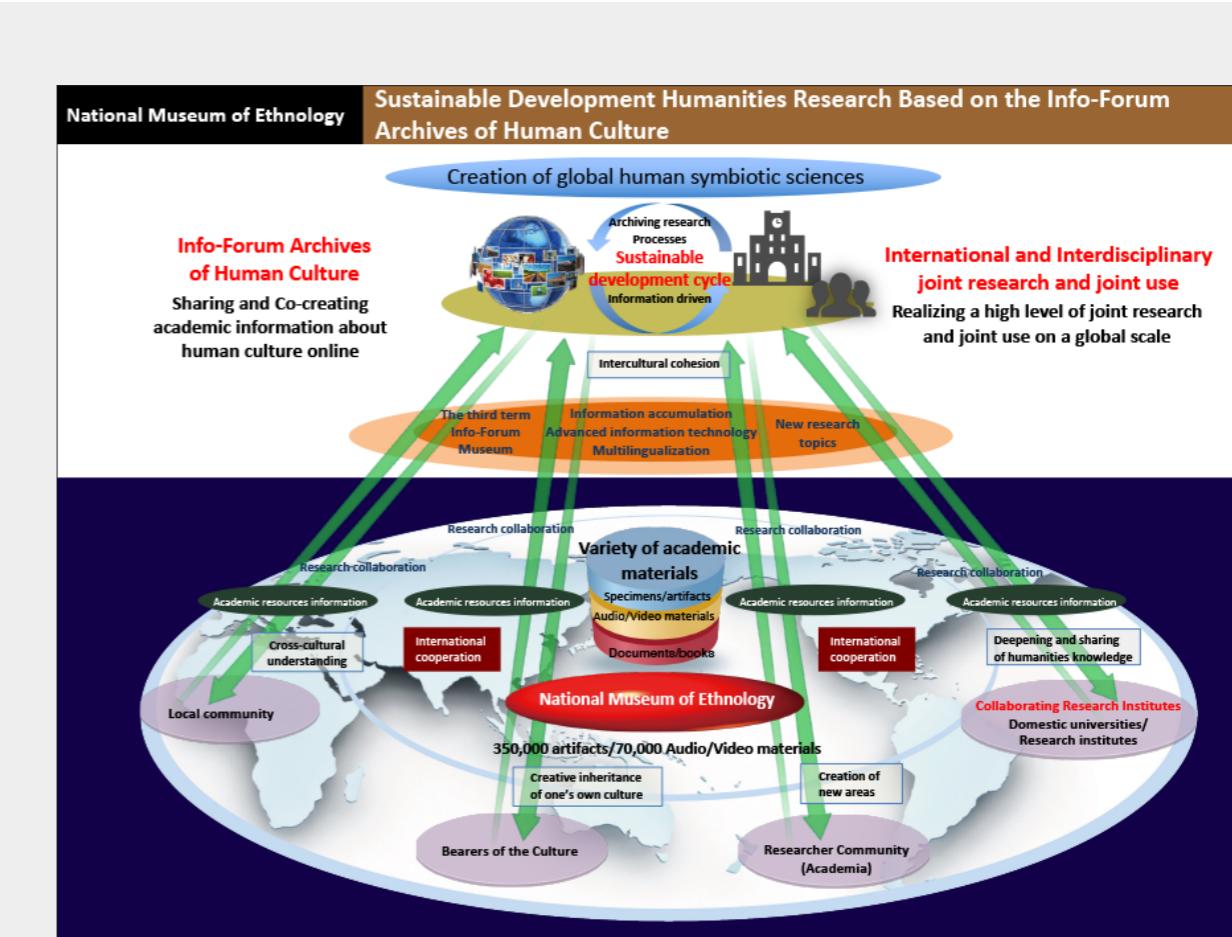
International Symposium of Minpaku for the 50th Anniversary of the Museum's Founding "Digital Humanities in Action"



Scenes from the International Symposium of Minpaku for the 50th Anniversary of the Museum's Founding.
Methodologies for digitizing accumulated knowledge in the humanities, promoting international sharing, ensuring its transmission to future generations, and pioneering new research were discussed.



Scenes from an International Workshop held in Peru.
Local artisans participated, engaging in discussions regarding the current state of folk performing arts and craftsmanship.



Whole structure of “Sustainable Development Humanities Research Based on the Info-Forum Archives of Human Culture”

Examples of databases available on the Minpaku website



九州と沖縄のいにげに位置する鹿児島県は、古から鹿児島市・鹿屋市・肝属郡・日置郡・鹿児島・萨摩・伊集院・冲之島部郡等、地名などからなる。鹿児島は日本最南端の都市の鹿児島市で、鹿児島市から300km、面積は300km²の都市である。鹿児島市は、鹿児島461町、鹿屋712町で、町村合併では鹿児島の市町村を、特に島に2つの島町と島村がある。鹿児島市と鹿屋市を合わせて1市2町と3市町である。人口は約50,000人を越える。市町村の面積は、同じく北九州に位置する北九州市よりも大きい。このデータベースは、北九州と鹿児島を比較するためのデータを収集する。また、北九州と鹿児島を比較するための工具を提供する。北九州と鹿児島を比較するための工具を提供する。



“Dances, Songs and Festivals of Amamioshima”
The diversity of regional performing arts and festivals can be explored through video.



"Archives of the Japan's First Comprehensive Study of Rice Farming Cultures in Southeast Asia: Photographs of Thailand"
Photographic materials in the museum's collection can be searched based on categories such as region and ethnicity.

Inter-University Research Projects

These projects are conducted jointly by scholars of the Museum and outside organizations.

In FY2024, projects were jointly undertaken by the Museum scholars and 80 scholars from national universities, 12 scholars from prefectural and municipal universities, 85 scholars from private universities, and 43 experts from other organizations.

FY2024 Research Theme

Projects undertaken outside Minpaku

General Research

Coordinator	Research Theme	Research Period
Project 1: New field development		
<input type="checkbox"/> SHIRAI Chiaki	Interdisciplinary Study on Reproductive Technology and Childrearing in Modern Asia	2021.10 – 2025.3
<input type="checkbox"/> DOI Kiyomi	Reorientation of Uncertainty in Tourism	2021.10 – 2025.3
<input type="checkbox"/> TAKEZAWA Shoichiro	The Anthropology of Vulnerability	2021.10 – 2025.3
<input type="checkbox"/> YAMANOUCHI Yuriko	A Comparative Ethnography of Belonging and Difference in Mixed Heritage Peoples: Cases from Indigenous Peoples in Oceania	2022.10 – 2025.3
NAKAGAWA Osamu	Connecting Diverse Logics in Global Capitalism: An Interdisciplinary Approach	2022.10 – 2025.3
<input type="checkbox"/> IKEYA Kazunobu	Migrations and Livelihoods of Asian Hunter-Gatherers: Diversity of Environmental Adaptations in Human History	2022.10 – 2025.3
<input type="checkbox"/> IWATANI Hirofumi	A Methodological Reflection for the Practice of Photo-Ethnography	2023.10 – 2026.3
<input type="checkbox"/> TSUMURA Fumihiko	Anthropological study of magical contingency and communalities	2024.10 – 2027.3
<input type="checkbox"/> SAKURAMA Mizuki	New Cultural Dynamics in the Practices of Non-Western Popular Music	2024.10 – 2027.3
UDA Shuhei	What are birds for the Japanese? T-shaped interdisciplinary approach to the cultural history of bird	2024.10 – 2027.3
UEBA Yoko	An Anthropological Study on Basketry and Lineware from the Perspective of Plant Ecology and Craft Skills	2024.10 – 2027.3
YAMANAKA Yuriko	Ecological Imagination in the Interface of Knowledge Systems	2024.10 – 2027.3

Project 2: Sharing of academic resources

<input type="checkbox"/> UEMURA Yukio	Reconstruction and Revitalization of Japanese Folk Music through Utilizing the Toyo Ongaku Gakkai Sound Archives Preserved in the National Museum of Ethnology	2021.10 – 2025.3
NIWA Norio	A Study on the Formation and Use of Pacific Ethnographic Collections by the Japanese: Focusing on the Toshio Asaeda Collection of the National Museum of Ethnology	2021.10 – 2025.3
<input type="checkbox"/> OCHIAI Yukino	Research on Historical Changes in Forest Resources and Their Uses Based on the Analysis of National Museum of Ethnology Collection: Focusing on the Wood Materials of Tubs and Barrels	2022.10 – 2025.3
IIDA Taku	Museum Collections and Material Culture Studies: Fifty Years of Minpaku	2023.10 – 2026.3
<input type="checkbox"/> INOUE Toshiaki	A Study on the Use of Northern Dene (Northern Athabaskan) Ethnographic Collection of the National Museum of Ethnology	2024.10 – 2027.3
<input type="checkbox"/> NAKAO Katsumi	Examination of anthropological history based on National Museum of Ethnology archive	2024.10 – 2027.3

Young Researchers

Coordinator	Research Theme	Research Period
Project 1: New field development		
<input type="checkbox"/> MIYASAKA Shinji	A Project to Touch the Shapes of Tradition by Combining 3D Printing with Traditional Materials and Techniques	2021.10 – 2025.3
<input type="checkbox"/> NAKAO Seiji	How African Narrated "African History": "African Historiographies" from Local Histories in Africa	2023.10 – 2026.3
Project 2: Sharing of academic resources		
<input type="checkbox"/> DOI Huyuki	History of Oceania Collection and Its Objects in Japan: Focusing on Museum Collections of the University of Tokyo and Minpaku	2024.10 – 2027.3

Public Presentation of Joint Research Results

Since FY2004, some of the Joint Research Project meetings have been made open to the general public. In FY2024 the following projects were hosted.

Date	Title	Attendance
December 6, 2024	New Cultural Dynamics in the Practices of Non-Western Popular Music	80
December 14–15, 2024	Research on Historical Changes in Forest Resources and Their Uses Based on the Analysis of National Museum of Ethnology Collection: Focusing on the Wood Materials of Tubs and Barrels	56

Visiting Researchers FY2024

As an Inter-University Research Institute, the Museum accepts researchers, young doctoral graduates, and doctoral students from domestic and overseas academic and research institutions who wish to conduct research activities at the Museum as Visiting Researchers for a certain period of time. Instructors at the Museum are assigned to host such researchers and graduates. Visiting Researchers who meet certain conditions are permitted to apply for Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research as project coordinators at the Museum. In FY2024, we accepted a total of 67 researchers, including 22 who were non-Japanese from 16 countries and regions.

Visiting Graduate Student Program FY2024

The Museum, as an Inter-University Research Institute, accepts students who are enrolled in doctoral courses at Japanese national, public, and private universities. Upon request from their universities, these students may be accepted as Visiting Graduate Student in order to provide them with research guidance on specific themes for a fixed period of time. Visiting Graduate Students can pursue their research under the guidance of Museum scholars, use the facilities, and attend classes at the Anthropological Studies, Graduate Institute for Advanced Studies, SOKENDAI established at the Museum. In FY2024, we accepted two students from national universities, and two from private universities.

JSPS Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research

Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research provided by the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science are intended to foster the progress of unique and pioneering research projects in all fields ranging from the human and social sciences to the natural sciences, in order to promote academic activities in our country. The aid is awarded to research projects which are especially important in terms of current academic trends, organized on the initiative of individual researchers or research groups in academic institutions.

FY2025 Projects Funded

Category Head Research Subject (Thousands of yen)

Grant-in-Aid for Transformative Research Areas (A)(Publicly Offered Research)

New	SUZUKI Motoi	Cultural Anthropological Study of the Sustainability of Modern Maya Slash-and-Burn Agriculture	2,600
New	ICHIKAWA Akira	Plant and Land Use of Ancient Commoners in the Pacific Coast of Oaxaca during Dry and Wet Periods	2,470
		Total	5,070

Fund for the Promotion of Joint International Research (International Leading Research)

Continued	KIKUSAWA Ritsuko	Establishing Spatiotemporal Linguistics: A New Approach to the Interdisciplinary Study of Language History and Human Movement	110,500
		Total	110,500

Fund for the Promotion of Joint International Research (International Collaborative Research)

Continued	MATTHEWS, Peter J.	Giant Aroids as Starchy Food Sources in Asia, Oceania and Madagascar	6,370
		Total	6,370

Fund for the Promotion of Joint International Research (Fostering Joint International Research)

Continued	ICHIKAWA Akira	Technology, Exchange and Warfare of Commoners during the Classic Collapse of Mesoamerica	11,960
		Total	11,960

Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research (S)

New	NISHIO Tetsuo	Studies on the Mechanism by Which Narrative Manifests Itself in Terms of the Relationship between Language and Music for the Purpose of Constructing Its Development Model in the Human History	43,420
		Total	43,420

Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research (A)

Continued	ONO Rintaro	Migration and Island Adaptation of Homo Sapiens in Maritime Asia	6,630
Continued	NOBAYASHI Atsushi	Exploring an Indigenous Society in Early Colonial Taiwan by Joining Ethnographic Archives and Field Research	8,060
Continued	KONAGAYA Yuki	Reconsideration on Mongolian Nomadism: Focusing on Search for Livestock	4,160
New	HIDAKA Shingo	Development of the Environmental System for Preserving Cultural Properties Utilizing Traditional Earthen Warehouses and School Buildings	4,160
New	KISHIGAMI Nobuhiro	Art Creation and Social Change in Indigenous Societies of the Pacific Rim: Focusing on Decolonization	8,710
		Total	31,720

Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research (B)

Continued	YOSHIDA Kenji	Anthropological Study of Immergence of Culture in the Midst of Social Crisis in Africa	1,560
Continued	DEGUCHI Masayuki	The Interdisciplinary Researches between Museology and Accounting on the Paradox of Preservation and Measurement of Cultural Heritage	3,770
Continued	YOSHIOKA Noboru	A Descriptive Study on the Domaaki Language	1,430
Continued	TERAMURA Hirofumi	Archaeological Research on the Spread of Religion and Its Acceptance and Transformation in Silk Road Cities	4,160
Continued	SUEMORI Kaoru	Reproduction and Cognition of Polychromatic Visual Arts in Crepuscular Religious Spaces	5,200
Continued	ICHIKAWA Akira	Climate Change, Commoner, and the Classic Period Collapse in Mesoamerica	1,430
Continued	NAGANO Yasuhiko	International Survey of a Tibetan Bonpo Ritual	6,370
Continued	YAMANAKA Yuriko	Ecological Imagination in the Interface of Cultures	5,070
New	MATSUMOTO Yuichi	Research on the Historical Process from the Emergence to the Collapse of Early Complex Societies in the Prehistoric Andes	6,240
New	UDA Shuhei	Endangered Breeding Culture of Long-Crowing Chickens: Understanding the Commonality of Animal Use and Co-Creation of Optimal Inheritance Routes	1,820
New	ISHIYAMA Shun	Comparative Study of Livelihood Changes in Subtropical Oases Village Using Archive Images and Information Technology	6,110
		Total	43,160

Category	Head	Research Subject	(Thousands of yen)
Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research (C)			
Continued	SHISHIKURA Masaya	Transborder Humanity: Traveling Music with Migrating Prostitutes of Karayuki-san	1,040
Continued	TAKASHINA Maki	Protection of Traditional Cultural Expressions, Focusing on Photographic Materials of Okinawan Rituals and Access to the Records	1,170
Continued	HIRAI Kyonosuke	An Ethnographical Study of the Formation, Use and Agency of the Minamata Disease Movement's Archives	1,040
Continued	NAKAGAWA Osamu	Anthropological Study of the Zucchini Supply Chain	1,170
Continued	OKADA Emi	Forum-Ethnomusicology on the Polyphonic Singing Culture of the Nagas of Northeast India	1,170
Continued	KAWASE Itsushi	Building a Model for Cultural Preservation Based on the Production and Use of Visual Ethnography in Africa	1,040
Continued	NARA Masashi	An Anthropological Study of Exclusivity and Inclusivity in Muslim Communities in Taiwan	1,040
Continued	TOMITA(KAI) Sarasa	Supporting the Learning of Japanese Sign Language to Enhance Self-Advocacy Skills in Students with Deaf and Hard of Hearing	1,430
New	KUDO Sakura	An Anthropological Study of Islam and Buddhism in Nepal: Reconciliation, Inclusion, and Indifference	1,560
New	KURODA Kenji	An Empirical Study on the Development of the Localization and Discourse of Islam in Modern Japanese Religious History	520
New	SUZUKI Hideaki	Who are the "Africans"? A Case Study on the Rescued Slaves in the 19th Century Western Indian Ocean	1,040
New	SAITO Akira	Degeneration and Regeneration of Ethnic Groups in the Frontier Missions of Spanish South America: A Historical Reconstruction Based on Baptismal Registers	1,170
New	MATSUO Mizuho	The Logic of Naturalisation and Genealogical Imagination of Ethnicity and Race	1,300
New	ICHINO Shinichiro	Origins of Famine Foods in Madagascar and the Culinary Techniques Employed	1,430
			Total 16,120
Grant-in-Aid for Young Scientists			
Continued	HIRANO Chikako	Anthropological Study on the Occurrence and Avoidance of Drinking Trouble in an Australian Nomadic Society	910
Continued	MIYAMAE Chisako	The Succession of Beauty in Practical Crafts: Development Archiving and Exhibition Methods in Design Museums	-
Continued	SATO Minako	Non-Formal Education Research in the Multilingual Society Kingdom of Bhutan	1,170
Continued	CHIU Chunni	Inclusive, Co-Curation Museum Activities: A Case Study of the Netherlands' International Heritage Cooperation Program	910
Continued	YAMAZAKI Nobuko	Research on Urban Development and the Reproduction and Overcoming of Social Stereotypes in Northwestern Uganda Today	650
Continued	HISAOKA Kae	Research on the Works of Z. Paliashvili (1871-1933): Focusing on Georgian Opera and Sacred Music	1,950
Continued	MATSUOKA Tomoko	The Normalization of Diplomatic Relations between Japan and South Korea in 1965 and Art Exchanges: Focusing on Changes after Liberation from Japanese Colonial Rule	780
Continued	KANG Yanggu	Embracing Socialist Reform among the Raglai People in South-Central Vietnam: An Emphasis on Morality and Aesthetics	260
Continued	FUJII Shinichi	A Study of Displacement and Survival Strategies of Kiribati Migrants in the Solomon Islands during the Ethnic Conflict	1,560
New	MATSUI Azusa	Proposing Different Experiences of Colonial Rule and the Liberation War in Northern Mozambique	1,040
			Total 9,230
Grant-in-Aid for Challenging Research (Pioneering)			
Continued	ITO Atsunori	Museum Anthropological Approach to Develop a Source Community Friendly Public Transmission Model on Digital Image of the "Copyrighted" Ethnographic Collection	4,030
			Total 4,030
Grant-in-Aid for Challenging Research (Exploratory)			
Continued	IKEYA Kazunobu	The Formation of Pig Nomadism from a Synthesis of Genomic Analysis and Ethnography	2,210
			Total 2,210
Grant-in-Aid for Research Activity Start-up			
Continued	FURUSAWA Yuria	A Research on Modern Japanese and Asian Christian Art Collected and Exhibited in the West	1,170
			Total 1,170
Grant-in-Aid for Publication of Scientific Research Results			
New	KURODA Kenji	Islam in Modern Japanese Religious History: An Empirical Study of Localization and Discourse	1,200
			Total 1,200
Grant-in-Aid for JSPS Fellows			
Continued	IKEBE Tomoki	The Emerging Literacy Practices and Wolof Discursive Space in Senegal's Smartphone Era	1,560
Continued	YANAGISAWA Etsuke	A Practical Study of the Collaboration between Anthropology and Art: A Case Study on the Creation of a Sonic Ethnography	1,300
New	NAKAO Yukie	The Development of Social Welfare in East Africa and Migration in the British Empire: Gujarati Muslims and the Question of Modernity	1,430
New	TANI Kenichi	A Study of Ethnic Identity and Nationalism with a Case Study of Iranian-Azeri	1,040
			Total 5,330

*Fund for the Promotion of Joint International Research (Fostering Joint International Research) was allowed between FY2023 to FY2025

Research Donations FY2024

Name of the Donation (Research Grants for Art-Related Studies)	Head	Donor	(Thousands of yen)
Inamori Foundation (Inamori Research Grants: The Humanities and Social Sciences)	OKAMOTO Naoko	Inamori Foundation	1,000
Donation of Shung-Ye Museum of Formosan Aborigines	NOBAYASHI Atsushi	Shung-Ye Museum of Formosan Aborigines	2,800
The Mitsubishi Foundation (The Mitsubishi Foundation Research Grant in the Natural Sciences)	NISHIO Tetsuo	The Mitsubishi Foundation	2,760
The Mitsubishi Foundation (The Mitsubishi Foundation Research Grant in the Natural Sciences)	MATTHEWS, Peter J.	The Mitsubishi Foundation	3,410
Institute for Fermentation, Osaka (General Research Grant)	OSHIKANE Hiroyuki	Institute for Fermentation, Osaka	2,918
Total 12,888			

Projects Concerning Cultural Resources and Information

Cultural Resource Projects/Information Projects

“Cultural Resource Projects/Information Projects” are based on proposals, and led by our full-time research staff. The aim is to organize and digitize cultural resources held by the Museum and related organizations such as universities, in order to promote their shared use and academic value. The “Cultural Resource Projects” are undertaken in the four areas of survey and collection, artifact management, exhibition, and museum-community alliance. The “Information Projects” are undertaken in the two areas of “video production and information gathering” and “digitization”.

FY2025 List of Cultural Resource Projects

Area	Proposed by	Project Name
Exhibition Development Project	HIDAKA Shingo	A Special Exhibition for the 50th Anniversary of the Museum's Founding “MINGU Design Expo: Discovering Sources of Wisdom”
Exhibition Development Project	ONO Rintaro	Special Exhibition “Humans and Boats: Maritime Life in Asia and Oceania”
Exhibition Development Project	TERAMURA Hirofumi	Preparation for the Special Exhibition “The Merchant's Stories along the Silk Road: Ancient sites and Oasis cities in Samarkand region” (tentative title)
Exhibition Development Project	AISHIMA Hatsuki	A Thematic Exhibition for the 50th Anniversary of the Museum's Founding “Lines and Dots: The Aesthetic Journey of Arabic Calligraphy”
Exhibition Development Project	NOBAYASHI Atsushi	<i>Kuroshio</i> Art Project: Preparation for the Thematic Exhibition “Formosa Indigenous Art Today” (tentative title)
Exhibition Development Project	MINAMI Makito	Thematic Exhibition “Dolpo: the Tibetan cultural sphere in north-west Nepal” (tentative title)
Exhibition Development Project	KIKUSAWA Ritsuko	Hosting a Travelling Exhibit based on 2022 Autumn Special Exhibition “ <i>Homō loquēns</i> ‘Talking Humans’: The Science of the Wonder of Language and Languages” to be held in June 2025 (co-hosting with the Department of Medicine, Kyoto Prefectural University of Medicine)
Exhibition Development Project	UDA Shuhei	Preservation and transmission Project of Hirosaki Neputa in cooperation with Hirosaki City, Aomori Prefecture
Exhibition Development Project	NARA Masashi	Update of the Exhibition “Regional Cultures of China”
Exhibition Development Project	SAITO Reiko	Preparation for the special exhibition “Sarukur: Ainu Life in the Saru River Region” (tentative title)
Exhibition Development Project	NIWA Norio	Preparation for themed exhibition “50 Years of the Torres Strait and Oshima George Research Team”
Exhibition Development Project	YAMANAKA Yuriko	“REGNUM IMAGINARIUM: Realm of the Marvelous and Uncanny” (China tour)
Museum Community Alliance Project	NOGUCHI Hiroya	Taking Over the Min-pack “Living in the Extreme North: Anoraks and Duffle Coats from the Inuit in Canada”
Museum Community Alliance Project	FUKUOKA Shota	Continued Operation of the Learning-Kit, Minpack “Costumes in Java”
Museum Community Alliance Project	UEBA Yoko	Continued Operation of the Learning-Kit, Minpack “The 2011 Umesao Tadao Exhibition: Tools of Knowledge Production”

FY2025 List of Information Projects

Area	Proposed by	Project Name
Video Production and Information Gathering Project	TERAMURA Hirofumi	Production of the Minpaku Visual Ethnography “Ancient Sites in Samarkand Region and Silk Road Trade”
Video Production and Information Gathering Project	SAITO Reiko	Production of the Minpaku Visual Ethnography “Sarukur: Ainu Life in the Saru River Region” (tentative)
Video Production and Information Gathering Project	ITO Atsunori	Making a Multimedia Contents Viewer: “2012 Minpaku Performance Event: HOPI Social Dance and Flute Music, and the Digital Storytelling on their dance regalia”

Cultural Resource Planning Projects/Information Planning Projects

“Cultural Resource Planning Projects/Information Planning Projects” are implemented continuously, or in a planned manner, to strengthen the Museum's jointly used infrastructure. The “Cultural Resource Planning Projects” are undertaken in the three areas of artifact-related, exhibition, and museum-community alliance. The “Information Planning Projects” are undertaken in the two areas of video record production and digitization of exhibitions.

FY2025 List of Cultural Resource Planning Projects

Area	Implementation Manager	Project Name
Artifact Project	SUEMORI Kaoru	Taking Pictures of Materials
Artifact Project	The Head of the Information Planning Section	Organization of research materials, computerization, and utilization management/Materials related
Artifact Project	SUEMORI Kaoru	Organization of research materials, computerization, and utilization management/Database related
Artifact Project	HIDAKA Shingo	Research on Preservation and Management of Tangible Cultural Resources
Artifact Project	SUEMORI Kaoru	Collection of Artifacts (Individual Collection)
Artifact Project	SUEMORI Kaoru	Collection of Artifacts (Thematic Collection)
Museum Community Alliance Project	UEBA Yoko	Support for Volunteer Activities
Museum Community Alliance Project	UEBA Yoko	Workshop Hosting and Worksheet Exercises
Museum Community Alliance Project	SAITO Reiko	Kamuyonomi Rite, Traditional Ainu Dances
Museum Community Alliance Project	OKADA Emi	The Project for Building up Partnership between the Museum and Society
Museum Community Alliance Project	NOBUTA Toshihiro	Practical Study on Using the Museum for People with Intellectual Disabilities “Minpaku Sama-Sama School”

FY2025 List of Information Planning Projects

Area	Implementing Entity	Project Name
Video Production by Subject	MIO Minoru	Production of a Minpaku Visual Ethnography “Continuity and Change in Diwali Festival in Udaipur, India” (the title is tentative at the moment)
Project for Advancing Information on Exhibitions	MATSUO Mizuho	Creating Minpaku Digital Guide programmes in Chinese and Korean for new objects for the South Asian general exhibition
Project for Video Production	Committee for Information Management	Making Panoramic Virtual Tours of Special Exhibitions, Thematic Exhibitions and Collection Exhibitions
Project for Video Production	Committee for Information Management	Making Videos of Special Lectures and Performances
Project for Video Production	Committee for Information Management	Portable Videotheque System Operations
Project for Donation Acceptance	Committee for Information Management	Donation Acceptance of Audio-Visual Materials and Research Archive Materials

The Fourth Term The National Institutes for the Humanities (NIHU) Transdisciplinary Projects

The National Institutes for the Humanities (NIHU) will implement “transdisciplinary projects” spanning six years commencing from FY2022 as fundamental and interdisciplinary research on human cultures, which forms the basis of NIHU. This will lead to functional enhancement to fulfill its mission as an inter-university research institute by expanding academic networks and by creating new fields.

Multidisciplinary Collaborative Projects: Interdisciplinary and Integrated Studies on Local Cultures: Aiming for the Emergence of Novel Communities

Minpaku Unit “Building Effective Utilization Models of Local Cultures” Project Director: HIDAKA Shingo

The sustainability and diversity of local cultures are currently critical in the Japanese Islands, due to frequent natural disasters and the transformation of local communities. Furthermore, the COVID-19 pandemic since 2020 has motivated efforts to establish a society that incorporates new lifestyles. Such circumstances suggest the urgent need for an unprecedented new society.

In a society to be newly created, a real sense of richness that has persistence and diversity that are adaptive to natural disasters and social change is lacking. This hindrance is eliminated through the incorporation of local cultures, with derived and inherited local wisdom and history, cultivated traditionally through daily activities.

Therefore, this study carefully investigated the local Japanese and Taiwanese museums' activities based on the worldwide inheritance of local cultures, by developing an effective model using these cultures.

Network-based Projects: Global Area Studies Program

Global Area Studies Program Steering Unit Project Director: MIO Minoru

Conventional regional studies focusing on the essential nature and structure of a certain geographical region is no longer valid in contemporary world where globalization and borderlessness are advancing rapidly in various aspects such as politics, economy, society, and culture. At the same time, new form of nationalism and/or re-creation of the uniqueness of certain region are also arising in many places, and these phenomena has in turn had a great impact on the trajectory of globalization.

In order to keep up with these profound changes, it is indispensable to create a new form of area studies to elucidate the mutual dynamic relationship between the “global” and the ‘areas’. Against these backgrounds, National Institute Humanities (NIHU) has launched a new area studies program, “Global Area Studies Program”, to clarify the mechanism of construction (or its failure) of global order from the perspective of comparison and relevance of regions. We will also seek for new concepts of areas appropriate for the globalizing post-post-colonial age under this program.

For this goal, under steering unit of the Global Area Studies Program, we have set up following four network-based area studies projects. The four research projects will elucidate factors of long-term sustainability and contemporary developments of each area. At the same time, in collaboration with the steering unit of the Program, they will explicate various aspects of relationships among these areas based on movements and exchanges of people, goods, information, and values.

The four centers established in the National Museum of Ethnology are promoting these area studies projects as a core or a sub-core center of each network.

Center of the Global Mediterranean at the National Museum of Ethnology (The core center of the project)

Project Leader: NISHIO Tetsuo

This project's research has been conducted mainly by the National Museum of Ethnology, in cooperation with three other Japanese bases. This method has two main purposes. The first is deconstruction of an existing area studies framework that divides countries surrounding the Mediterranean Sea into “Europe” in the north, and the “Middle East and North Africa” in the south, comprehensively exploring approaches which elucidate their historical and cultural relations as the “Mediterranean Area.” The second is to pursue joint research exploring the migration of people, goods, and knowledge on a global scale, stretching across the American continent in the west, East Africa and the Indian Ocean in the south, and Central Asia in the east, through the Mediterranean Sea after the Age of Discovery, by applying literature, history, and cultural anthropology as the main approaches along with mutual cooperation. We aim to establish new area studies, by invoking and considering a supra-regional and interdisciplinary approach.

The purpose of the National Museum of Ethnology Base is to consider the opportunities and mechanisms that cut off a specific space and re-designate it as an “area,” due to the migration of people and goods. The development of science and technology since the 17th century, the mobility of people, goods, and information has improved remarkably, leading to the onset of globalization. Although research in the fields of cultural anthropology and history investigating immigration and trade has accumulated, the role of movement in forming an area has not been adequately examined. By comprehensively elucidating mobility by land, sea, and air, we seek a methodology that dynamically grasps the phases in which time and space are regionalized.

Center of the Indian Ocean World Studies at the National Museum of Ethnology (The core center of the project)

Project Leader: MIO Minoru

This area includes the east coast of Africa, the southern Middle East, the Indian subcontinent, and the western part of Southeast Asia, as well as the Indian Ocean itself which connects these regions, and the islands scattered in the ocean. This area has become a field of complex intersection of great civilizations and environments unparalleled in other parts of the world, where the Islamic, the Indic, and the modern Western civilizations have been intertwined for more than 500 years on the basis of tropical or subtropical ecology and subsistence systems which are different from those of temperate zone. The mobility of people, goods, and values since ancient times is still dynamic and quite active, even though the paths of these flows have always been changing responding to various constraints. At the same time, this area has become one of the hotspots of modern international politics, along with rising of new regional powers such as China and India.

While keeping in mind the long-term sustainability and changes of this region, Indian Ocean World Studies project will grasp dynamism of various actors' flows, including natural environment, people, goods, values etc. At the same time, we will elucidate interdisciplinarily how people in this area have developed their own ways of ecological living and wisdoms of co-existence of different values. Specifically, the following four themes have been set for the project: 1) linkage and continuity of movement; 2) hybridity and creativity in literature and ideas; 3) development, medicine, and environment; and 4) peaceful coexistence. The four project centers, including the core-center at the National Museum of Ethnology, carry out its own research focusing one of the themes.

The theme for the center at the National Museum of Ethnology is the elucidation of “the linkage and continuity of movement.” Various flows of people, goods, information, money, and values of the Indian Ocean World are intrinsically expandable beyond any certain geographical boundary, making this world always porous. At the same time, these flows have not always been unidirectional and diffusional, but have moved circular ways. We define these phenomena as “cultural gyres”, and assume that overlapping and entangling trajectories of cultural gyres have shaped, sustained, and transformed the Indian Ocean World over 2000 years. Our aim is to grasp exact trajectories of these flows, and transformation in various levels (individual, local, regional culture and society) incurred by these flows through collaboration of anthropological field studies and historical research in this world.

Center of the Maritime Asian and Pacific Studies at the National Museum of Ethnology (The core center of the project) Project Leader: ONO Rintaro

This project has been promoted through a network of four bases, centered on the National Museum of Ethnology Base. The project aims to promote new area studies, that simultaneously address multiple areas of East Asia, Southeast Asia, and Oceania. It solely emphasizes on the perspective of sea areas, without focusing on area studies divided by the conventional concept of areas such as states based on land areas or East Asia, Southeast Asia, and Oceania. The common purpose of exploring island environments in the maritime world, and the transformation dynamics between culture and society was achieved by recognizing the presence of fundamental cultural commonality in the area, similar to the “Austronesian” language family area at the bottom. This research also aims at reaching a comprehensive understanding of cross-border movement and networking of people, goods, and information spanning, from Maritime Asia to Oceania in the modern age.

The wave of development in the island environments has changed people's livelihoods considerably. It is directly linked to the destruction of considerable cultural heritage. This increasingly influences the traditions and acculturation of local communities. For the development of infrastructure and resources in islands, the National Museum of Ethnology Base devotes attention to (1) changes in subsistence activities of agriculture and fishery and their dynamics, which are directly affected by development. The base also clarifies the historical dynamics and current situation of (2) challenges in preserving ruins and cultural heritage that are affected directly by development and their conversion into tourism resources. Finally, it addresses (3) the activities that significantly resist against globalization and development, such as cultural reconstruction and identity reaffirmation.

Center of the East Eurasian Studies at the National Museum of Ethnology Project Leader: SHIMAMURA Ippei

The purpose of this project is to elucidate East Eurasia's influence on the world, from the perspectives of cultural clashes and well-being. East Eurasia, as a loose concept of area, refers to the wide region circumjacent to China and Russia, including their neighboring Mongolia, the Korean Peninsula, and Japan, and areas close to or related to these countries. With due consideration to the globalization of policies, international relations, and the economy, the project clarifies the actuality of cultures clashing in their religious, cultural, economic, and political activities, and the creation of coexistence based on the modern historical background. It particularly addresses the Chinese, Russians, and their neighboring nations.

While supporting the Tohoku University Base, the core center of this project, the National Museum of Ethnology Base, researchers religion and subculture, specifically addressing how they instill hope in global relations in a phase that differs from the political and economic order. The former socialist bloc is characterized by a connection to institutional religions based outside the bloc, global cultures, including New Age thought, and subcultures derived from the former Western bloc after the 1990s. It is the same in China in that it connects with foreign religions and cultures after the reform and opening-up. For that reason, against the backdrop of eastern Eurasia's lag in globalization, occurring mostly during the post-socialist era, the National Museum of Ethnology Base clarifies the sense of well-being provided to people by the newly created cultures, and the resultant cultural upheavals.

NIHU Co-creation Initiatives

The National Institutes for the Humanities encourages the development of research, by achieving the missions of the institutes for six years, from FY2022. It also promotes Humanities Co-creation Initiatives, which are joint research endeavors co-created by various organizations and people within and outside of the institutes.

Co-creation Research Projects

Establishing Science for Universal Communication (S_COM) Principal Investigator: KIKUSAWA Ritsuko

The Museum and the National Institute for Japanese Language and Linguistics collaboratively serve as the principal bases for this project, and promote research in communication symbiotic science. The Museum pursues basic and practical research on visual communication through sign language using accumulated research in sign language studies, non-visual communication using sound and touch, and brain activity related to language use. By primarily examining sociolinguistics, corpus linguistics, and Japanese language education, the National Institute for Japanese Language and Linguistics conducts problem-solving research and studies that address social problems occurring in interpersonal communication, especially those surrounding the social characteristics of each. This accurately elucidates the structure of language issues related to social difficulties. By cooperating with external researchers across various disciplines in the two institutions and its related fields of sociology, cultural anthropology, cognitive psychology, cognitive science, social psychology, medicine, neuroscience, and information engineering, the project seeks solutions to communication problems and paths leading to societal coexistence, including diverse languages and different communication modes. (HP: scom.languagescience.jp)



Special Exhibition “Homō loquens ‘talking human’: Wonders of Language and Languages”

Building Digital Library for Humanities Project Leader: IIDA Taku

This project aims to establish a platform that digitizes photographs, videos, and sound materials recorded worldwide by Japanese researchers and research institutions, for building an integrated database facilitating shared usage of these academic materials. The National Museum of Ethnology Base supports researchers belonging to universities and research institutions in Japan. It uses a database system for photographic images that has been developed with the National Institute of Informatics, to make the support more effective and more accessible. Through this project, we aim to further facilitate researchers' and research institutions' investigation, and to create an interdisciplinary open science foundation by sharing publicly available data in research internationally. In cooperation with the National Institute for Japanese Language and Linguistics Base, which develops integrated database systems for sounds and moving images, we promote cross-disciplinary collaborative researches to develop the discipline of digital humanities.



Digitizing of film photographs at the National Museum of Ethnology

Individual Research Projects

FY2025 Research Theme

Department of Advanced Human Sciences

ICHINO Shinichiro	1. Research Evaluation and Institutional Research of Ethnological Museum 2. Relationships between Primates and Local People in Madagascar
OKADA Emi	1. Traditional Polyphony and Singing Culture of Naga Tribes in Northeast India 2. Culture of the Hill Tribes Living around the India-Myanmar Border 3. Songs of Bengal: Baul and Patua
KAWASE Itsushi	The Study of the Theory and Practice of Ethnofiction
KIKUSAWA Ritsuko	Conducting a JSPS Funded International Leading Project: Establishing Spatiotemporal Linguistics: A New Approach to the Interdisciplinary Study of Language History and Human Movement
SUEMORI Kaoru	Effects of Polychromatic Visual Art and Combustion Light in a Mesopic Religious Spaces
TAKASHINA Maki	Access to the Okinawan Ritual Photography and Protection of "Traditional Cultural Expressions"
HIRANO Chikako	Anthropological Study on Problem Drinking among Indigenous Australians
HIROSE Koujirou	An Anthropological Study of the Concept of "Barrier-Free"
MARUKAWA Yuzo	Research of Information Service for Cultural Assets based on Informatics of Association
MIYAMAE Chisako	—
YAMANAKA Yuriko	Comparative Study of Marvels and the Uncanny: Human Imagination and the Natural World
YOSHIOKA Noboru	Descriptive Linguistics for Northern Pakistan Languages

Department of Cross-Field Research

ASADA Naoki	The Agency of Romanian Orphans and Human as "Ever-Developing Entity"
IIDA Taku	A Museo-Anthropological Study of Vessels
ICHIKAWA Akira	Environmental Change and Human Adaptation in Ancient Mesoamerica Civilization
OTA Shimpei	Integration and Variation of Socio-Cultures in Korea
KASHINAGA Masao	The Tai Dam Culture in Vietnam and in Laos
HAN Min	Anthropological Research on Society, History and Symbols
NIWA Norio	Practical Anthropological Studies of Digital Return
FUJII Shinichi	Anthropological Research on Peace and Violence
MATSUO Mizuho	A Study of the Logic of Ethnic Naturalization: With a Focus on Eurasians in Asia
MINAMI Makito	Social Transformation in the Dolpo Region of Western Nepal Highlands

Honors and Awards

Award Recipients	Date	Awards
SHIMAMURA Ippei	Awarded on August 1, 2023 (by Presidential Decree) Decorated on June 18, 2024 (at the Consulate General of Mongolia in Osaka)	Order of the Polar Star, Mongolia
HIDAKA Shingo	June 23, 2024	The 17th Japan Society for the Conservation of Cultural Property Grand Award
NOGUCHI Hiroya	March 14, 2025	Poster Presentation Award for Early Career Researchers The Arctic Challenge for Sustainability II (ArCS II) Final Symposium

Department of Modern Society and Civilization

IKEBE Tomoki	An Anthropological Study of the Interaction between Texts and Oral Traditions in Senegal
ITO Atsunori	Rethinking Our Mission and Activities based on "Museum as a Forum"
UEBA Yoko	A Comparative Study of Handicraft Culture
SAITO Akira	Jesuit Missions and Indigenous Ethnogenesis in Mojos, Lowland Bolivia
SHIMAMURA Ippei	Anthropological Studies on Religious Phenomena in Mongolia
SUZUKI Kota	Socio-Historical Research on Japanese Folk Performing Arts
HIRAI Kyonosuke	An Ethnographical Study of the Formation, Use and Agency of the Minamata Disease Movement's Archives
FUKUOKA Shota	A Study on Influences of Audiovisual Media on Performing Arts
FUJIMOTO Toko	Anthropological Study on Kazakh Religious Dynamics in the Central Eurasian Steppe
MATSUMOTO Yuichi	Chavin and Wari: Archaeological Research on Two Turning Points in the Development of Andean Civilization

Department of Globalization and Humanity

AISHIMA Hatsuki	Aesthetics and Body Culture in Contemporary Egypt
UDA Shuhei	Relationship between Birds and Humans
KURODA Kenji	Self-Other Relationship between Japan and the Middle East
SUZUKI Hideaki	The Western Indian Ocean World as Mobility
CHE Sohee	The Transformation of Korean Society and Gender Through Objects II: On Reproduction and Care
NAKAGAWA Osamu	Ethnographic Study of Capitalism
NOBAYASHI Atsushi	Anthropological Research on the Impact of Ethnicity on Nations
NOBUTA Toshihiro	1. An Anthropological Study on Indigenous Peoples in Malaysia 2. An Anthropological Study on Intellectual Disability and Well-being
MIO Minoru	Anthropological Study on Transformation of Religion and Culture in Western India
YAGI Yuriko	Study on the Changes of Religious Culture in the Andes

Center for Cultural Resource Studies

WINCHESTER, Mark	Historical and Theoretical Research on Modern and Contemporary Ainu Literature, Art, Politics, and Discourse
ONO Rintaro	Study of Island Migration, Subsistence, and Cultural Heritages in Maritime Asia and Oceania
KAWANISHI Eriko	An Anthropological Study of Alternative Spirituality and Religion
SAITO Reiko	Art Creation of Ainu People and Social Change in Japan
TERAMURA Hirofumi	Archaeological Research on the Propagation of Religion and Its Acceptance and Transformation in Silk Road Cities
NARA Masashi	An Anthropological Study of Exclusivity and Inclusivity in Muslim Communities in Taiwan
NOGUCHI Hiroya	Research on Prestige Goods and Social Complexity of Hunter-Gatherer Societies in the North Pacific Rim
HIDAKA Shingo	Building Effective Utilization Models of Local Cultures
MISHIMA Teiko	Anthropological Study on the Plural Significance of Migrant Phenomenon: From the Work Ethics of African Merchant Migrants

Dissemination of Research Findings

Note: Those with no venue cited were held in the Museum.

The Museum promotes active dissemination of research findings, via symposia, research forums, and participation of staff in international academic meetings using the "Research Results Presentation Program" under the Director-General's Leadership Program. Using various external funds, the Museum has conducted numerous symposia and forums in FY2022 (see below).

For information about Minpaku Special Research Projects symposia and forums, please see p. 8. and 9.

Public Academic Lectures

The Museum organizes public academic lectures in Osaka and Tokyo. These facilitate cross-cultural understanding and help to increase public recognition of the Museum.

Public Lecture

"Ethnicity and Art Today: The Politics of Beauty"

Date	November 8, 2024
Venue	Nikkei Hall (Tokyo) with online streaming
Lecturers	YANAGISAWA Fumiaki SUZUKI Motoi
Moderator	YOSHIDA Kenji
Attendance	431
Co-host	NIKKEI INC.



Public Lecture

"Anxious Times: How Young Minds Navigate"

Date	March 21, 2025
Venue	Oval Hall (Osaka) with online streaming
Lecturers	SUZUKI Akihito OKUDA Wakana AMO Kae CHE Sohee
Moderator	IIDA Taku
Attendance	350
Co-host	Mainichi Newspapers



International Symposia

The International Symposium of Minpaku for the 50th Anniversary of the Museum's Founding

"Human and Cultural Heritages from Maritime Perspectives"

Date	May 11–May 12, 2024
Coordinator	ONO Rintaro
Participants	737

The International Symposium of Minpaku for the 50th Anniversary of the Museum's Founding

"Hakka and Japan: Another History of East Asian Relations Created by Chinese Overseas"

Roundtable Talk "The Hakka in Japan Talk about the Thematic Exhibition"

Date	September 5, 2024
Coordinator	NARA Masashi
Participants	126

International Symposium

"2024 Fiji Language GIS Project Symposium: Scientific Pursuit of Languages in Fiji and Their Social Dissemination"

Date	September 12, 2024
Coordinator	KIKUSAWA Ritsuko
Participants	113

The International Symposium of Minpaku for the 50th Anniversary of the Museum's Founding

"Art, Anthropology and Museums: Past, Present and Future"

Date	March 1, 2025
Coordinator	YOSHIDA Kenji
Participants	390

The International Symposium of Minpaku for the 50th Anniversary of the Museum's Founding

"Museums in the 22nd century: Designing the Museums of Tomorrow as Future Spaces for Communication"

Date	March 8–March 9, 2025
Coordinator	MIYAMAE Chisako
Participants	439

Workshop

"The World of Mexican Animal Wood Carving: How Colorful Folk Art has Developed"

Date	March 16, 2025
Coordinator	SUZUKI Motoi
Participants	78

Publication of Research Results FY2024

Publications by the Museum

Bulletin of the National Museum of Ethnology

The Bulletin of the National Museum of Ethnology is a research journal that contribute to the advancement of ethnic studies and cultural anthropology. It publishes articles, book reviews, documentary materials, and research notes related to ethnic studies, anthropology, and related fields. Published four times a year.

Vol. 48, No. 3 Article

SAITO Akira, *Crisis de la década de 1690 en el Moxos jesuitico: Una reconstrucción histórica con base en un epistolario misionero de la Biblioteca Nacional del Perú*

Research Notes

NOBAYASHI Atsushi, *Indigenous Peoples Status in Taiwan: A Preliminary Study on the Unconstitutional Decision of the "Status Act for Indigenous Peoples"*

KURODA Kenji, *Preliminary Consideration of the First Japanese Visitor to Makka: From a Study of Saishi Nakashima's World Travel and His Account of "Mecca" in 1907*

Vol. 48, No. 4 Articles

OKADA Emi, *Performing, Teaching, and Listening to Ragas in Hindustani Classical Music*

IIDA Taku, *Decolonisation of Ethnographic Museums: Formation of Museum Collections in Europe and Japan*

Vol. 49, No. 1 Special Theme

Naturalizing Cultural Anthropology

NAKAGAWA Satoshi, *Introduction: Four Ways to Naturalize Anthropology*

Articles

HAMAMOTO Mitsuru, *Certain Obstacles to Naturalization in Cultural Anthropology: Past Debates and Beyond*

IIDA Taku, *Marginal Psychology of Search and Reasoning: Bridging Affordance and Relevance Theories*

TAKADA Akira, *Acting like Others: Analysis of Caregiver-Child Interactions among the !Xun*

NAKAGAWA Satoshi, *Pleasure of Cheating: When Art Was Born*

Research Resource

NISHIO Tetsuo et Naoko OKAMOTO, *Second voyage de l'Histoire arabe de Sindabad Le Marin par François Péris de La Croix: Traduction japonaise et annotations*

Vol. 49, No. 2 Articles

UDA Shuhei, *Techniques for Preserving and Improving Long-crowing Chickens in Japan: A Case Study of the Tomaru in Niigata Prefecture and Koeyoshi in Akita Prefecture*

KAWANISHI Eriko, *Mediating Those on Earth and Those in Spirit: Interaction between Mediums and Spirits in the Contemporary UK*

Senri Ethnological Studies (SES)

Senri Ethnological Studies presents individual works, article collections, and annotated bibliographies regarding specific peoples, regions, or themes, with the goal of publicizing in Japan and overseas the results of research conducted by the Museum. An occasional publication.

No. 113 IKEYA Kazunobu, *Sedentarization and Subsistence Strategies among the Botswana San: Mobility and Lifeway Transitions (1929–2010)*

Senri Ethnological Reports (SER)

The purpose of Senri Ethnological Reports is to publicize as quickly as possible the results of research conducted by the Museum's faculty, cooperating faculty, and research fellows. SER publishes the results of field investigations regarding specific peoples, regions, or themes that require preliminary reports, as well as items of a source material nature such as bibliographies and data collections. Published in Japanese and other languages. Occasional publication.

No. 157 YASUGI Yoshiro, *The Title of Totonicapán*

TRAJECTORIA

TRAJECTORIA is an international multimedia peer-reviewed journal situated at the intersection of anthropology, heritage studies, museum studies, and the arts. It is published annually online by the National Museum of Ethnology.

Vol. 6 Film

SCHAAF Suzanne, *The Memory of Glitch*

Special Theme Landscape Memories, Archival Ecologies

DOUGLAS Lee, *Introduction: Histories of Extraction, Toxicity, and River Ghosts on and Beyond the Page*

CAZENAVE Alice, *Parallel Archives: Photographic Silver & Its Landscapes*

DE ALMEIDA Beatriz, *A Complicated Portrait of the Portuguese River Paiva: A Photo-Essay*

BORDOLI Andrea, *Remediating Visual Extractivism and the Geological Archive: Multimodal Perspectives from Subarctic Québec*

Carte Blanche

VAN LANCKER Laurent, *Why? As an Intention Scheme*

Minpaku Tsushin Online

Minpaku Tsushin Online is a magazine that describes the academic characteristics and unique features of and achievements resulting from individual research projects conducted at the Museum in a manner that is comprehensible to researchers and the general public. The magazine launched online publications in FY2019 and has published electronic books.

No. 10 Final Report

NIHU Transdisciplinary Project Research Based on Info-Forum Museum of Folk Performing Arts in Tokunoshima and Amamioshima and Production and Release of Multimedia Contents and Exhibitions

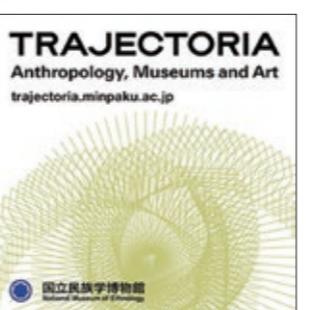
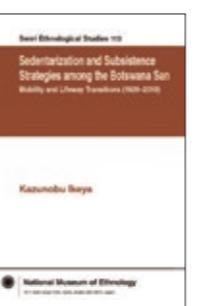
SASAHARA Ryoji, *Overview of the Info-Forum Archives of Human Culture on the Performing Arts and Festivals in Tokunoshima and Amamioshima*

NIHU Transdisciplinary Project Construction of Archives of the First Synthetic Research of the Culture of Rice-Cultivating Peoples in Southeast Asian Countries: Focusing on Photographs of Thailand

HIRAI Kyonosuke, *Constructing a Digital Photographic Archive: Data Verification and Follow-up Research*

NIHU Transdisciplinary Project Building an Integrated Digital Archive of Taiwan Studies

NOBAYASHI Atsushi, *Anthropological Research in Taiwan, a Digital Archive Powerhouse*



Minpaku Special Research Project

Family Potential in Uncertain Times: Mobility, Technology, and Body
MORI Akiko, *Capturing the Fluidity of Family Beings and Their Adjustments*

Minpaku Special Research Project A Comparative Studies on the Cultural Immune Systems against COVID-19

SHIMAMURA Ippei, *How Have Human Beings Coped with the COVID-19 Pandemic?*

Inter-University Research Project A Study on the Transformation of Food/Foodways Related to Wars and Imperialism: Rethinking the Relationship between Food/Foodways and the Nations

UDAGAWA Taeko, *Food as an Instrument of Citizen-Making*

Inter-University Research Project Toward a New Perspective for Japan Studies Reflecting Overseas Field Experiences

KATAOKA Tatsuki, *Japan in "Reverse Reading of Ethnography": An Attempt for Anthropology Back Home*

Inter-University Research Project Interdisciplinary Comparison of Historical Change, Current of State, and Future of Indigenous Societies along the North Pacific Rim: From a Perspective of Human History

KISHIGAMI Nobuhiko, *Toward a Comparative Study of Indigenous Societies in the North Pacific*

Inter-University Research Project Comparative Study on the Influence of International Development on Menstruation: From the Perspective of Gender and Medicalization

SHINMOTO Mariko, *Toward Anthropology of the Menstruating Body*

Inter-University Research Project Exploring an Alternative Notion of Community in Uncertain Times: Contingent Arrangement of Material, Institutional, and Body Settings

MORI Akiko, *Writing the Uncertain World as the Event of Place*

Inter-University Research Project The Anthropology of the "Depicted Animals": Focusing on the Becoming in Animals and Humans

YAMAGUCHI Mikako, *Depicting the Affects in the Process of Becoming between Animals and Us*

No. 11 Start Up

NIHU Transdisciplinary Project Building an Info-Forum Archives for Cultural Collections of Europe

NAKAGAWA Osamu, *Developing a User-Centered Database for European Exhibitions*

NIHU Transdisciplinary Project Bark-Cloth and Basketry in Maritime Southeast Asia and Oceania

ONO Rintaro, *Basketry and Barkcloth Cultures in Maritime Asia and Oceania*

NIHU Transdisciplinary Project A Trans-Area Study on the Material-Culture and Cultural Dynamics of Northeast West Asia

KURODA Kenji, *Beyond Regional Classifications*

NIHU Transdisciplinary Project Documentation Research on the 'Attire of the Korean Peninsula' Database

CHE Sohee, *A Study of Korean Folk Costumes Centering on Women's and Children's Attire*

NIHU Transdisciplinary Project Curation of Nordic Commonplace Artifacts at Minpaku Museum's Collection: Exploring Functional Elegance

MIYAMAE Chisako, *Promoting the Cross-Border Integration and Utilization of Cultural Resource Data*

Inter-University Research Project What Are Birds for the Japanese?: T-Shaped Interdisciplinary Approach to the Cultural History of Bird

UDA Shuhei, *Studies on the Cultural History of Birds in the Japanese Archipelago*

Inter-University Research Project Ecological Imagination in the Interface of Knowledge Systems

YAMANAKA Yuriko, *When Different Cosmologies and World Views Meet, How Is Knowledge Reconciled?*

Inter-University Research Project Anthropological Study of Magical Contingency and Communalities

TSUMURA Fumihiko, *Unreliable Magic in an Uncertain World*

Inter-University Research Project New Cultural Dynamics in the Practices of Non-western Popular Music

SAKURAMA-NAKAMURA Mizuki, *Toward Understanding Contemporary Global Culture through Musical Practices*

Inter-University Research Project A Study on the Use of Northern Dene (Northern Athabaskan) Ethnographic Collection of the National Museum of Ethnology

INOUE Toshiaki, *Aiming for the Collaborative Use of Museum Collections with Indigenous Communities*

Inter-University Research Project Examination of Anthropological History Based on National Museum of Ethnology Archive

NAKAO Katsumi, *Social History of Anthropologists*

Inter-University Research Project History of Oceania Collection and Its Objects in Japan: Focusing on Museum Collections of the University of Tokyo and Minpaku

DOI Huyuki, *Let's Bring the Light to the Collection in Minpaku*

Research Trends

KAWASE Itsushi, *Research on Trends in Ethnographic Film Festivals in Britain*



Joint Use of the Museum

Joint-Use Facilities for Scientific Research

Purpose of Establishment

The museum has nondestructive testing and material analysis equipment systems to conduct primary analysis of folklore materials, cultural assets, and museum materials. The facilities was established in December 2017 to promote the active use of the systems by various organizations and researchers in cultural anthropology and relevant disciplines in its peripheral domains thereby contributing to increased joint use in scientific researches.

List of Equipment

X-ray CT scanning system
3D printer
Three-dimensional measuring system
Pyrolyzer gas chromatograph - mass spectrometer
Ion exchange chromatograph
X-ray fluorescence spectrometer
Temperature and humidity chamber
Fourier transform infrared spectrophotometer (FT-IR)
Digital microscope



X-ray CT Scanning System

3D Printer

Records of Use

FY2022

Records of Use Organizations That Used the Facilities

17 cases

Kobe University, Otsu City Citizen Affairs Department Cultural Properties Protection Division, Kawasaki City Museum, Otoyo Town Board of Education, Kesennuma City Board of Education, Murakami City Board of Education, Asahiyama Preservation Society, Daitoku-ji Temple, Nou Hakusan Shrine, MITSUWA FRONTECH CORP., Oka Bokkodo Co.,Ltd, WORDSPRING.inc, etc

FY2023

Records of Use Organizations That Used the Facilities

20 cases

Japan Center for International Cooperation in Conservation, Samarkand Institute of Archeology, Nara Prefectural Museum of Folklore, Handa City Museum, Nobeoka Castel/Naito Memorial Museum, Kijiya Folklore Museum, Kesennuma City Board of Education, Murakami City Board of Education, Daitoku-ji Temple, Muryo-ji Temple, Nou Hakusan Shrine, Oka Bokkodo Co.,Ltd, etc

FY2024

Records of Use Organizations That Used the Facilities

18 cases

Japan Center for International Cooperation in Conservation, Kyoto University of the Arts, Nara Prefectural Museum of Folklore, Kawasaki City Museum, Otsu City Board of Education, Kami Town Board of Education, Kesennuma City Board of Education, Murakami City Board of Education, Daitoku-ji Temple, Muryo-ji Temple, Nou Hakusan Shrine, Nawa Shrine, Oka Bokkodo Co.,Ltd, etc



Examination Using X-ray CT Scanning



Examination Using X-ray Fluorescence Spectrometer

How to Use

Please contact the Artifact Management Unit of the Information Planning Section if you are interested in using the systems.

Artifact Management Unit of the Information Planning Section

TEL +81-6-6878-8392
FAX +81-6-6878-8242
Mail hyohons@minpaku.ac.jp

Organization

Research Activities

Joint Use of the Museum

International Cooperation etc.

Data Collection

NIHU

SOKENDAI

General Information

Minpaku Library

Service Information

Daily from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Entry permitted until 4:30 p.m.), except Sundays, National Holidays, and days that the Museum is closed.

Visitor qualifications: The library is open to all. Visitors (over 18 years old) can borrow books. (The library card is required.) Some materials may not be available.

URL <https://www.minpaku.ac.jp/sharing/library>

1. Encouraging Educational and Research Activities

Minpaku's library collection includes many highly specialized works. Facilities include four microfilm readers and a color copy service. The library is staffed by qualified librarians and provides full support for the educational and research activities expected of an Inter-University Research Institute.

2. Promoting Public Access to the Library Catalog through the National Institute of Informatics

In FY2024, printed materials in 21 languages were cataloged, and the repository's holdings reached 633,629 volumes.

3. Social Contributions

All users can check out books from the library. As of FY2024, the library had 214 outside registered users making regular use of the library, who borrowed 1,101 items.

4. MINPAKU Library Catalog

The library catalog is open to the public and can be searched by anyone, anywhere from a personal computer or mobile phone.



Library Reception Counter



Current Periodicals Section



Neatly Archived Materials

Research Archives

Since its establishment, the Museum has accumulated a wide range of resources, like research notes and papers of anthropologists and ethnologists, including audio-visual records from their fieldwork. To make good use of these materials, the Archives group under Information Management Committee continued in FY2023 to investigate the condition of archive resources and to develop inventory lists. The Museum will investigate continuously the condition of archive resources and develop and digitalize inventory lists, with the aim of making them open to public.

- AOKI Bunkyo Archive
- ISHIGE Naomichi Archive
- IZUMI Seiichi Archive
- INADA Koji: Japanese Folktales and Their Related Materials Archive
- IWAMOTO Kimio Archive
- UCHIDA Isao: East Asian Culture Archive Mainly for Taiwan and Japan in 1930s
- UMESAO Tadao Archives
- EGUCHI Kazuhisa: AfricaAsia Language Archive
- OUCHI Seiko Archive
- OKI Morihiro Archive (Indian Ethnological Cultural Resource Archive)
- KATSURA Yonenosuke Archive
- KANO Tadao Archive
- KIUCHI Nobuyuki Archive
- KIKUZAWA Sueo Archive
- KITAMURA Hajime Archive
- KURITA Yasuyuki and BEFU Harumi: Japanese Gift-giving Archive
- KOBAYASHI Yasuyoshi: Southern Taiwan Indigenous People Archive
- SHINODA Osamu Archive
- SUGIURA Kenichi Archive
- The Japanese Scientific Expedition for Nepal Archive
- HIIKATADA Hisakatsu Archive
- MABUCHI Toichi Archive
- MARUTANI Akira: Kutsuki Village Harihata Life Data Archive
- "Regional Typology of Japanese Culture Study Group" Archive

Organization

Research Activities

Joint Use of the Museum

International Cooperation etc.

NIHU

SOKENDAI

General Information

Materials

Items in the Museum Collections Offered for Loan FY2024

In addition to using the items in its collection for internal research activities, the Museum offers items for loan to universities, other museums, and external organizations for educational and research purposes as part of its efforts to contribute to the public interest. To inquire about borrowing items from the Museum's collection, contact the Minpaku Collections Help Desk.

A total of 237 inquiries were received during FY2024.

Minpaku Collections Help Desk

TEL/FAX +81-6-6878-8213

URL <https://www.minpaku.ac.jp/sharing/guide/helpdesk>

1. Number of Loans Made: 10, Number of Items Loaned: 472

Among the projects listed above, those for which the Museum's lending resources comprise more than 50% of the entire exhibit items are the following:

Borrower	Exhibition Title	Loaned Items	Exhibition Period	Items Loaned/Total Number of Items Loaned, % of Loaned Items Relative to the Entire Exhibition
Yonago City Museum of Art	“KENJI SATO WONDER/MICROCOSM”	Ghanaian coffin etc.	April 7–May 26, 2024	9 items/9 items, 100%
Oita City Art Museum	“KENJI SATO WONDER/MICROCOSM”	Ghanaian coffin etc.	June 28–September 23, 2024	9 items/9 items, 100%
National Ainu Museum	Special Exhibition “REGNUM IMAGINARIUM: Realm of the Marvelous and Uncanny”	National Museum of Ethnology Special exhibition held in 2019. Related Documents”	September 14–November 17, 2024	328 items/520 items, 63%

2. Number of Special Loans (i.e., Loans for the Purpose of Photo-shooting, Close Examination for Research or Loan of Original Film): 71, 1,527 items

Of the above, 12 loans were made to universities for the use of photographs as references for survey research and writing, 12 were made to museums for the use of photographs in survey research and exhibitions.

3. Number of Loans of Audio-Visual Materials: 142, Number of Items Loaned: 10,854

Of the above, 54 loans were made to universities (1,792 items), and 33 loans to individual researchers and research groups (1,668 items).

4. Books and Periodicals

Inter-Library Loan

Photocopy Outbound: 4,116 (of which 3,214 were copied in the library) / Photocopy Inbound: 348
Book Loan Outbound: 363 / Book Loan Inbound: 207

Use of original film or photo-shooting: 9
(of which 6 was for the use of photos as references for survey research and writing)

5. Research Archive Materials

Number of browsing instances: 49

Number of instances of special utilization: 13

Storage of Academic Materials

The Museum has accumulated a large collection of academic materials through its research. Many of the materials are organic artifacts that generally have the least resistance to insect and fungus damage. Therefore, the Museum takes special measures to repel and kill insects and protect its collection. For example, newly acquired artifacts from abroad are taken to a fumigation chamber where they are treated with chemical insecticides and germicides, because the natural environment and ecosystem of their place of origin are substantially different from those of Japan. Artifacts that have insect damage in Japan, however, are subjected to a non-chemical insecticidal process as required, due to the nature of the materials. In this way, different insecticidal processes are used, depending on the place of origin, the extent of damage, and the nature of the materials. To enhance insecticidal efficiency and better protect artifacts from insect damage in a unique way, in 2007 a large high/low temperature walk-in treatment chamber was installed in the Museum and the existing fumigation chamber was upgraded to a multi-functional chamber capable of carbon dioxide treatment and low oxygen concentration treatment. Also, a catalytic combustion type chemical abatement system was introduced to ensure the safe treatment of waste chemicals, thus realizing a materials management system that is friendly to people, artifacts, and nature.

These state-of-the-art systems are one of the results of the research on the conservation science of artifacts that the Museum and other university researchers have been jointly conducting to ensure effective use of its artifact collection.



Artifact Storage Area



The High/Low Temperature Walk-in Treatment Chamber



A Multi-functional Fumigation Chamber Capable of Carbon Dioxide and Low Oxygen Concentration Treatments

Utilization of Minpaku for University Students and Faculty Members

We have established a system to encourage wide-ranging utilization of our research outcomes, exhibits, archived resources, cultural and academic information and facilities, for university education and research.

URL <https://www.minpaku.ac.jp/teacher/university/manual>

Utilization of Exhibition Halls for Lessons

If you wish to use the Exhibition Halls for a lecture, seminar or official event (such as an orientation meeting for new students) of your university under the supervision of a faculty member, we will waive the admission charges, if you apply before the event.

If a faculty member can not supervise the event, or if a professional or specialized training college wishes to use the Museum for a specialist training course, the admission charges will be discounted upon presenting the syllabus or any document that describes the syllabus content.



Use of Exhibition Halls

Use of the Library

We have approximately 700,000 books and other media resources that focus mainly on cultural anthropology and ethnology. We encourage visits to the Library as a part of university education.

Use of Artifacts and Resources

We have approximately 347,000 artifacts and resources collected from all over the world. The objects held at Minpaku are available for investigation, photography, and image use in lessons and research.

Use of Audio-Visual Materials

We have approximately 73,000 Audio-Visual Materials from all over the world, including those produced by Minpaku. You can view about 632 Videotheque Programs on DVD. Some video materials are distributed through online streaming to make them available for online classes.

Use of Databases

An enormous amount of information is provided in our databases for collections and research results.

Development of Young Researchers

“Minpaku Junior Researcher’s Seminar” is regularly held to promote joint use of the museum by young researchers. The two-day seminar consists of a keynote speech by museum faculty and presentation and discussion by participants. Additionally, it organizes library and storage area tours for young researchers to know more about various joint use systems and a facility directory.

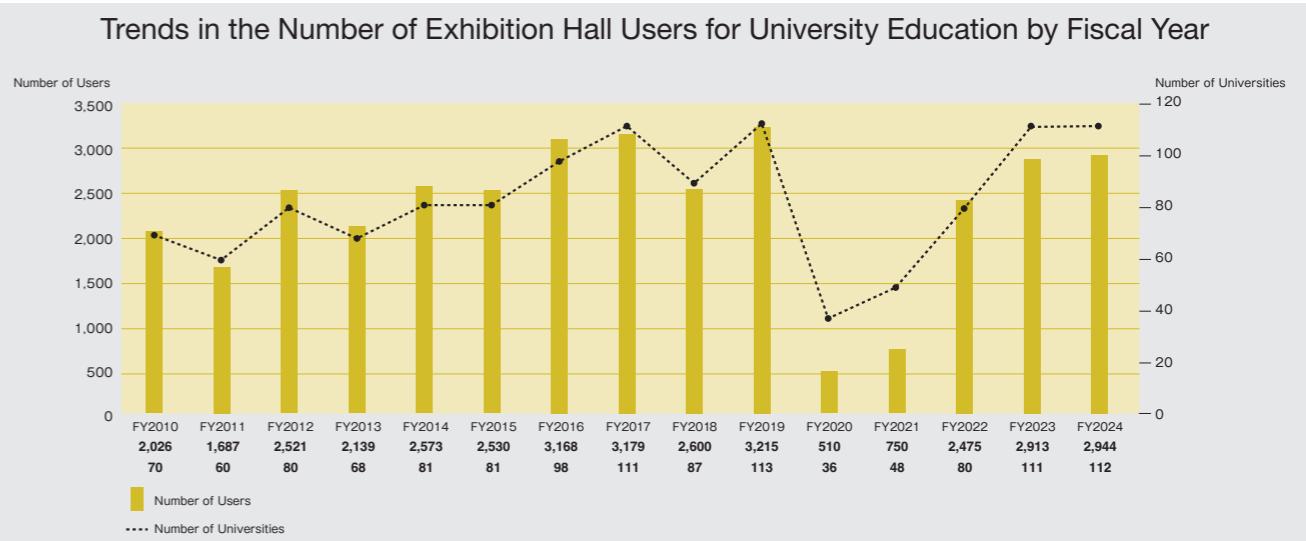


Use of Databases



Minpaku Junior Researcher's Seminar

Records of Use (Free-of-charge Use) 112 Universities, 2,944 users (FY2024)



Exhibitions

Concept and Organization of Exhibitions

At the National Museum of Ethnology, exhibitions are designed to present the latest achievements of anthropological, ethnological and other related scientific research to the public through a variety of media. In doing so, the Museum hopes to enhance public awareness of different cultures around the world and foster greater cross-cultural understanding. The exhibitions consist of Main Exhibitions and the Special Exhibitions. The Main Exhibitions are mostly permanent, and are designed to deepen understanding among visitors of cultural diversity and commonality. The Special Exhibitions, on the other hand, highlight specific topics and are held several times annually for a limited period of time.

Main Exhibitions

The Main Exhibitions are arranged into regional and cross-cultural exhibitions. The regional exhibitions cover Oceania, the Americas, Europe, Africa, and Asia, including Japan. The regional exhibitions start with Oceania, and progress as if traveling eastwards around the world to finish in Japan.

This arrangement allows visitors to view Japanese culture in comparison with other cultures. In designing the exhibitions, the National Museum of Ethnology adhered to the notion that all human cultures around the world have equal value; the notion has remained unchanged since the inception of the Museum. Accordingly, the exhibitions are designed to help visitors respect cultural differences among peoples, represented in the rich diversity of human lifestyles. These exhibitions are also characterized by their emphasis on clothing, food and housing, which gives visitors a clear idea about lives in different regions around the world. The cross-cultural exhibitions, on the other hand, focus on specific themes, not regions, and currently accommodate exhibitions on music and language.

Given the substantial changes of the social and cultural situation in the world since Minpaku's opening in 1977, the Museum has been renovating its exhibitions since FY2008, and it has completed in FY2016.

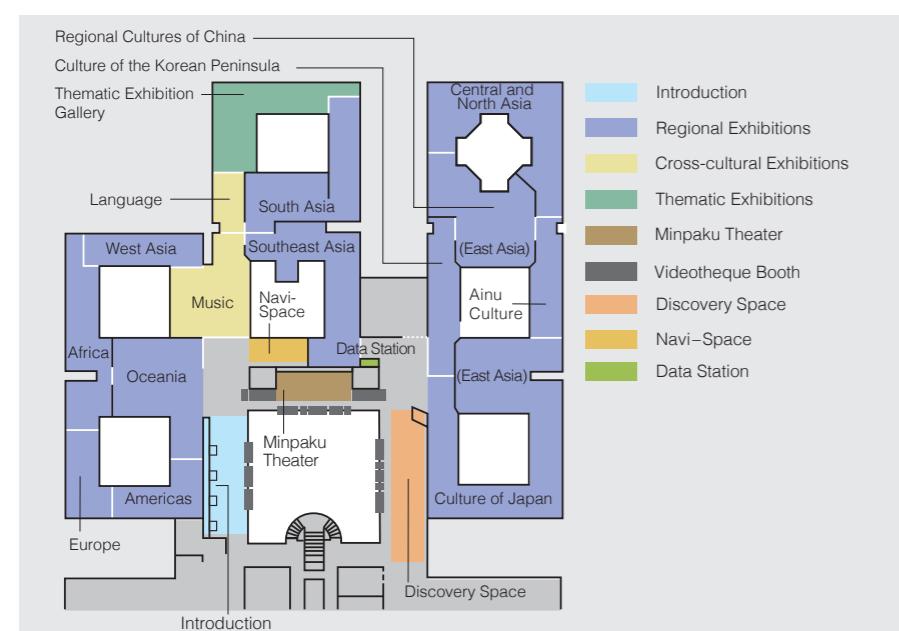
In the Thematic Exhibition Galleries in the Main Exhibition Hall, temporary exhibits display themes related to contemporary issues and cutting-edge research. Other individual themes are also presented.

These Thematic Exhibition Galleries can also be used as a shared exhibition gallery to expedite displays of the latest research trends of universities and other institutions in Japan and overseas.

The Museum encourages the introduction of information devices into its exhibits.

One such device is the Videotheque. As the world's first on-demand video library of its kind, it was developed by the Museum when it opened its doors to the public. Video programs provide visitors with glimpses of the living cultures of the world's peoples and let them see how the artifacts shown in the Main Exhibition Hall are actually used. The system allows visitors to select a video program from the Museum's collection, which now contains 860 titles. In FY2022, the Minpaku Theater was established for visitors to become more immersed in the images. A booth exists to facilitate the visualization of dynamic videos for a large group of people on a large screen, along with booths allowing a small group of people to observe images comfortably on a large monitor.

The second example of information devices held by the Museum is the Minpaku Digital Guide, which was developed in 1999 as the world's first portable audiovisual device using videos and audios to describe exhibits. The Minpaku Digital Guide provides various types of information, such as how the exhibited items were used, where they were used, and by whom. The Minpaku Digital Guide was renewed in 2020 as a system equipped with new functions such as guidance for museum facilities and a link with the Videotheque. Now, the system allows visitors to watch videos describing the exhibits on smartphones while checking their locations on the explanatory hall map displayed in their hand. By scanning a 2D code, the system automatically links to Videotheque programs related to the exhibits the visitor has viewed. These videos have been translated into multiple languages. Of 860 programs in the Videotheque, 561 programs, in addition to 330 programs in the Minpaku Digital Guide contents, were machine-translated into seven languages based on English subtitle data. Consequently, viewing is now possible in nine languages.



Minpaku Digital Guide

This guide describes facilities and exhibits in the Exhibition Halls using the museum map. It shows videos and information related to the locations artifacts were found, how they were used, and by whom they were used. Explanations are currently available in nine languages, including Japanese, English, and Chinese.

Regional Exhibitions

The regional exhibitions focus on Oceania, the Americas, Europe, Africa, West Asia, South Asia, Southeast Asia, Central and North Asia, and East Asia. The figures appearing next to each exhibition space's name indicate the exhibit area in square meters.

Oceania 660m²



Human Dispersal into Oceania Living off the Sea Living on Islands Contact with the Outside World Expressions of Indigenous Identity

In Oceania, tens of thousands of islands, large and small, are scattered across the surface of the ocean. The islands are inhabited by peoples who grow root and tree crops and are highly skilled in the arts of seamanship and navigation. In the sections "Human dispersal into Oceania", "Living off the Sea", and "Living on Islands", we explore the diverse techniques developed to survive in island environments with limited resources. We also examine how indigenous cultures have been affected by encounters with the outside world in the sections "Contact with the Outside World" and "Expressions of Indigenous Identity".

The Americas 320m²



Encounter Eating Clothing Prayer Creativity

The vast expanses of the Americas range from polar regions to tropical rain forests and encompass a huge diversity of natural environments. Peoples adapting to these environments developed distinctive lifeways. Then came conquest and colonization by European peoples, with foreign influences permeating everyday life. Here our focus is on clothing, diet and religion. While clarifying the relationship between their underlying diversity and historical influences, we also draw attention to traditional artists and craftmakers who creatively combine tradition with modern values in their works.

Europe 250m²



Agriculture and the Annual Cycle Religions and Beliefs Industrialization Europe in Transformation

From the 16th to the 20th centuries, Europe was the center from which Christianity and modern institutions, technologies, and knowledge spread around the world. Now the tide has turned, and immigrants from all over the world are making themselves part of European society. Here we explore the interactions of tradition and religion, rationalization and industrialization, and immigration in the formation of modern Europe, focusing on the concept of "time".

Africa 500m²



Excavating History Urban Life Work Adornment Prayer

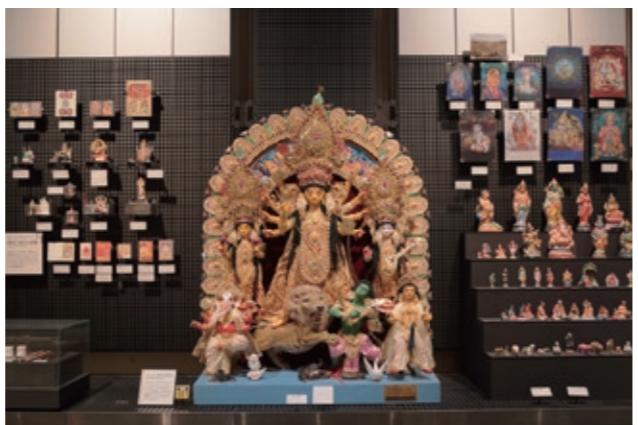
Africa, the birthplace of humanity, has gone through profound changes and has always been tied to the outside world. The diversity of cultures and languages that we see in the African continent today is the result of these changes. In this exhibit, we introduce the way in which people live in Africa today, focusing on four different aspects—"urban life", "work", "adornment" and "prayer". We also look at the efforts people are making to rediscover their history. We hope that this exhibit fosters renewed understanding toward the people of Africa, who live in the same present as we do.

West Asia

310m²

Religion
Living in the Desert
The Palestinian Diaspora
Coffee as Global Culture
Sound Culture and Pop Culture

The people of West Asia, or the Middle East, call their land in Arabic *mashriq*, 'the land of the rising sun'. Historically, they have kept close ties to the *maghrib*, 'the land of the setting sun', that is, North Africa. These regions consist mainly of dry lands inhabited by nomadic peoples. At the same time, urban cultures flourished in large cities such as Baghdad and Cairo. Islam is the majority religion in West Asia, but this region is also the cradle of Judaism and Christianity. This gallery highlights religious practices, nomadic life, women's dress, and music and dance to show how global change has reached the lives of people in West Asia.

South Asia 600m²

Religion—Tradition and Diversity **Ecology and Subsistence**
Urban Popular Culture **Tradition and Trends in Textiles**
South Asia on the Move

South Asia extends from the mountain ranges in the north, to the Arabian Sea in the west, and the Bay of Bengal in the east. In this region there is a vast range of natural environments inhabited by peoples with an enormous diversity of religions, cultures, and ways of life. Wisdom of coexistence developed over the centuries, and, despite rapid industrialization, is preserved to this day. This gallery exhibits a diverse array of religions, livelihoods and crafts, together with new forms of popular culture emerging primarily in urban settings, and the booming textile culture in the midst of globalization.

Southeast Asia 730m²

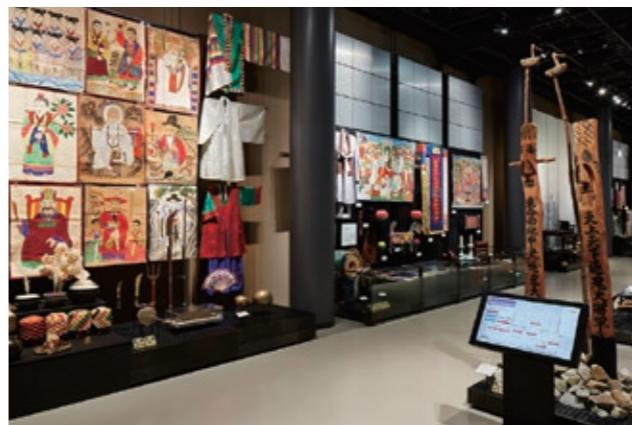
Subsistence **Everyday Life in a Village** **Urbanscapes**
Entertainment and Recreation

Southeast Asia is encompassed by forests and seas. The climate is tropical to subtropical; people start work early in the morning, and return home and nap in the middle of the day when temperatures can approach 40°C. In the evenings and after squalls have passed, temperatures start to fall. People go out to shop or go back to work in their fields. In the cool of the evening they relax, head to outdoor stalls for meals with friends or family, or relax and enjoy traditional performing arts. The theme of this exhibit, which introduces a rich variety of ethnic cultures, is "A Day in the Life of Southeast Asia".

Central and North Asia 710m²

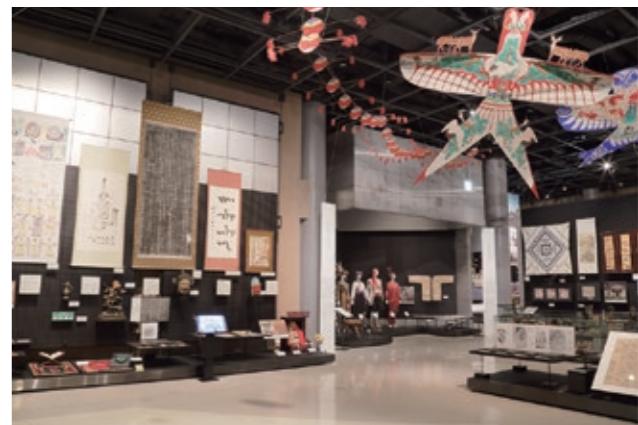
Living with Nature **The Socialist Era** **Central Asia**
Mongolia **Siberia and the Arctic**

Central and North Asia is an immense region occupying the northeast of the Eurasian continent. It has long been a crossroads for interactions linking east and west, north and south, where many diverse peoples have mingled. After undergoing socialist rule during the twentieth century, the region has shifted to market economies. Caught up in the wave of globalization, traditions are being reevaluated. This exhibit has three sections on "Central Asia", "Mongolia", and "Siberia and the Arctic", along with two sections accentuating the key themes of "Living with Nature" and "The Socialist Era".

East Asia Culture of the Korean Peninsula 330m²

Spiritual Worlds **Housing** **Food** **Clothing**
Recreation **Knowledge**

The inhabitants of the Korean peninsula developed their own distinctive culture under constant influence from other ethnic groups. Cultural elements adopted from Eastern Siberia in prehistoric times, and later from China, were reworked and domesticated to become distinctively Korean. The result is a culture with a level of integration rarely found elsewhere in the world. In modern times, Korea was colonized by Japan, then split in two after independence and rapidly modernized. In today's world, Koreans are actively migrating to other parts of the world, and people of Korean descent can be found living outside Korea. Spiritual worlds, everyday life, recreation, and knowledge are the themes of this exhibit, which introduces the multilayered history and energetic character of this culture.

East Asia Regional Cultures of China 660m²

Subsistence **Musical Instruments** **Zhuang Stilt House** **Costume Crafts** **Taiwan Indigenous Peoples** **Religion and Writing**
Chinese Overseas **Transmission of Chinese Tradition**

The Chinese landscape is immense and highly diverse in altitude and topography. Its variety of natural environments has fostered a wide range of ethnic cultures. Han Chinese live mainly in the plains and are spread throughout the nation. Ethnic minority groups live for the most part in the highlands or grasslands in southwest, northwest, and northeast China. Taiwan is home to Austronesian-speaking indigenous groups. Chinese overseas are living all over the world. This exhibit introduces the diverse cultures of various ethnic groups shaped by their unique living environments. Taking into account historical and regional characteristics, this exhibit explores livelihoods, costumes, musical instruments, dwellings, crafts, religion and writing, Han Chinese marriage ceremonies and ancestor worship, Taiwan indigenous peoples, and Chinese overseas.

East Asia Culture of Japan 1,460m²

The Ainu People **Kamuy and Nature** **Present and Future**

The Ainu are an indigenous people who developed a culture adapted to the cold natural environment of the northern part of the Japanese archipelago, primarily in Hokkaido. Domination by the Tokugawa Shogunate during the Edo period and assimilation during the Meiji period led to discrimination against the Ainu and imposed hardships on them. In recent years, Japan's government has acknowledged this history and been taking steps that show respect for the Ainu people. Here we introduce the evolving situation of the Ainu, who continue to honor their traditions and strive to create a new and distinct culture.

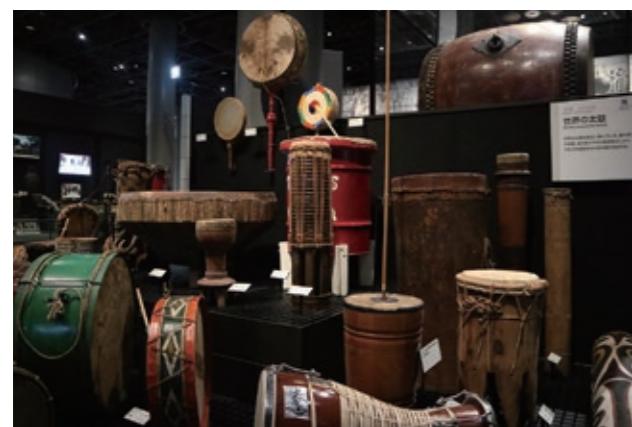
East Asia Culture of Japan 1,460m²

Ritual, Festivals and Performing Arts **Everyday Life**
Okinawan Lives **Multietnic Japan**

Stretching from Hokkaido in the north to Okinawa in the south, the long, narrow Japanese archipelago is blessed with a rich variety of ecological niches. The combination of diverse natural environments and contacts with neighboring cultures has resulted in formation of distinct local traditions. In addition, many people from other countries have also come to live in Japan in recent years, adding new elements to the mix. In this section we approach Japanese culture from four perspectives: Festivals and Performing Arts, Everyday Life, Okinawan Lives, and Multietnic Japan.

Cross-cultural Exhibitions

Music 550m²



Drums: A Spirited Sound Gongs: The Sound of Power
Oboe: Performing Sounds Guitar: Sounds in History

Through sounds, we humans convey messages, express emotions, know our surroundings, imagine far away times and places, inspire or console ourselves, and communicate with gods and spirits. With examples from all over the world, this exhibition shows how sounds and music are deeply related to our identity as humans.

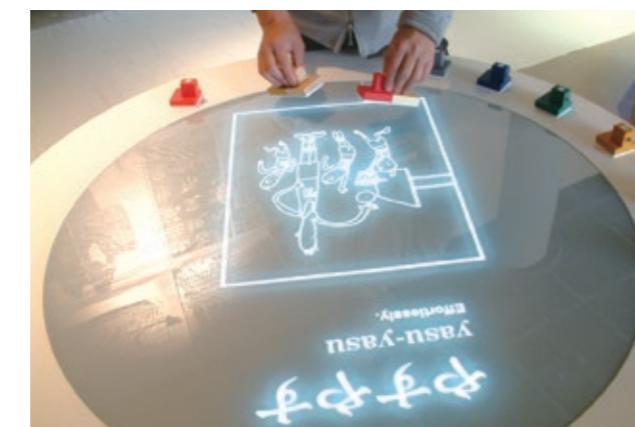
Information Zone

Introduction



The exhibits in the Introduction section are designed to enable visitors to experience directly how anthropologists and ethnologists think and how Minpaku exhibits could be explored. Here is where your global journey starts.

Language 170m²



Components of Language
Language Diversity
Writing Systems of the World

Whenever people meet and interact, the need for communication arises and pieces of information are continuously exchanged through various means. Among these, language, shared exclusively by human beings, is a highly developed tool which enables us to express emotional states, describe our deepest thoughts, and to pass intellectual knowledge beyond space and over generations. Language is our irreplaceable heritage, reflecting our diverse cultures and serving as a window for understanding people's cognitive and creative abilities.

Videotheque/Minpaku Theater



Visitors can watch videos about ceremonies, performing arts, and lifestyles of people around the world, or about introducing the background of exhibition materials.

According to their purposes, they can select videos edited in approximately 15 minutes, multimedia programs, and valuable research videos (visual ethnography), that researchers have collected through fieldwork. In FY2022 the Minpaku Theater, was established with a large screen and monitors, to allow visitors to be immersed in the images. (There were 40,522 requests for Videotheque programs in FY2024.)

Discovery Space



Research Desk Deepen Your Knowledge
Voices from the Field Connect to the World
Touch the World Widen Your Perspectives

In the Discovery Space, visitors may search for more information about exhibits at the Research Desk. Materials related to Minpaku researchers' projects can be found at Voices from the Field. Touch the World provides an opportunity to handle as well as see exhibit materials, to gain a deeper understanding of them. Visitors are invited to learn more about the artifacts on exhibit, to satisfy their curiosity about what Minpaku researchers are studying, and to experience artifacts directly.

Special Exhibitions

A Special Exhibition for the 50th Anniversary of the Museum's Founding "Masks in the Performing Arts and Festivals of Japan"

March 28–June 11, 2024

Organizer: The National Museum of Ethnology
Project leader: SASAHARA Ryoji

Performing arts and festivals featuring masked characters have long been held across Japan. This exhibition emphasized various regions' performing arts and festivals in which masked roles play a striking part. Moreover, it presented the history of masks and the relations between masks and humans, thereby illustrating the diverse connections between people and masks.



A Special Exhibition for the 50th Anniversary of the Museum's Founding "THE WORLD OF POET-SINGERS"

September 19–December 10, 2024

Organizer: The National Museum of Ethnology
Project leader: KAWASE Itsushi

Poet-singers, traveling widely and performing songs and poetry, have existed since ancient times. They served various roles as narrators of aristocratic genealogies, musicians inspiring soldiers on the battlefield, critics satirizing those in power, jesters, voices of common people, transmitters of news, and itinerant performers. At times, poet-singers were revered with awe. At other times, they were pushed to the margins of society. In recent times, they have survived by transforming both their performance styles and self-image within connections to popular music, consumer society, and cultural heritage preservation movements. The exhibition introduced the performances of Poet-singers and the material culture which sustains them, while also conveying the spirit of the communities that have nurtured them.



Thematic Exhibitions

A Thematic Exhibition for the 50th Anniversary of the Museum's Founding "Conveying the realities of the Minamata disease"

March 14–June 18, 2024

Organizer: The National Museum of Ethnology
Project leader: HIRAI Kyonosuke

Nearly 70 years have passed since Minamata disease was officially recognized. Today, in the Minamata and Ashikita areas of Kumamoto Prefecture, active efforts are underway to convey the history of Minamata disease, the suffering of its victims, and community development based on lessons from environmental pollution, using exhibitions, guided tours, photographs, and storytellers' talks. Who are the people engaged in these activities? What motivations drive them? How are words, objects, images, and places being used in this process? This exhibition presented an exploration of the appeal of activities that discuss Minamata disease and the possibilities of learning from them.



A Thematic Exhibition for the 50th Anniversary of the Museum's Founding "Hakka and Japan: Another History of East Asian Relations Created by Chinese Overseas"

September 5–December 3, 2024

Organizer: The National Museum of Ethnology
Project leader: NARA Masashi

Among the overseas Chinese communities is a group known as the Hakka. As they have settled worldwide and have achieved success in politics, economics, and culture, they are sometimes described in China as the "Jews of the East." Since the late 19th century, the Hakka have built close ties with Japan. Particularly when Japan colonized Taiwan in 1895, Japan became a familiar presence for the Taiwanese Hakka. Some Hakka also migrated from Taiwan and other regions to Japan, where they established associations and communities. By specifically addressing the relations between the Hakka and Japan, this exhibition explored a lesser-known aspect of East Asian history.



Traveling Exhibitions

“UNIVERSAL MUSEUM”: Exploring the New Field of Tactile Sensation

July 6–September 16, 2024

Nogata Tanio Art Museum
Project leader: HIROSE Koujirou

A Traveling Exhibition of the Special Exhibition “Universal Museum: Exploring the New Field of Tactile Sensation,” originally held at the National Museum of Ethnology in the autumn of 2021, was presented in Nogata. At this exhibition, visitors were able to directly touch widely diverse works and focus on tactile perception (other than vision), thereby raising awareness of the diversity of human senses. By questioning the conventional visual-dominant mode of exhibitions, this universal (inclusive) exhibition transcended the framework of accessibility and support for people with disabilities. It has attracted international attention and conveyed the infinite possibilities presented by “touch.”



Photographer: KUWATA Chiaki

“National Ainu Museum 9th Special Exhibition REGNUM IMAGINARIUM: Realm of the Marvelous and Uncanny”

September 14–November 17, 2024

National Ainu Museum
Project leader: YAMANAKA Yuriko

In Europe and the Middle East, tales of “the marvelous”—giants, mermaids, and unicorns and other strange beings and phenomena from the edge of the known world—became an important component in the encyclopedic compilations of knowledge about the human and material world. In East Asia, “the uncanny”—anomalous, out-of-the-ordinary beings and incidents—were considered as signs of disturbances in the cosmic order. How have these strange things, which deviate from an instinctive understanding of nature, been recognized, explained, and at times, used as an inspiration for creative works?

This exhibition displayed paintings, books, sculptures, and ritual implements, from the collection of the National Museum of Ethnology, with additional content original to the Hokkaido venue, such as the Jomon era chimeric clay figure nick-named “Bibi-chan” (held by the Chitose City Board of Education, Nationally Designated Important Cultural Property), materials related to the “Hokkaido image” created by early colonists, and contemporary illustrations of creatures based on Ainu oral traditions. It invited visitors to enjoy a journey through the labyrinth of human imagination.



Photographer: INAGAKI Satoshi

Exhibitions in 2025

Special Exhibitions

“MINGU Design Expo: Discovering Sources of Wisdom”

March 20–June 3, 2025

Organizer: The National Museum of Ethnology
Project leader: HIDAKA Shingo

“Humans and Boats: Maritime Life in Asia and Oceania”

September 4–December 9, 2025

Organizer: The National Museum of Ethnology
Project leader: ONO Rintaro

Thematic Exhibitions

“Lines and Dots: The Aesthetic Journey of Arabic Calligraphy”

March 13–June 17, 2025

Organizer: The National Museum of Ethnology
Project leader: AISHIMA Hatsuki

“Formosa ∞ Art: Contemporary Indigenous Art from Taiwan”

September 18–December 16, 2025

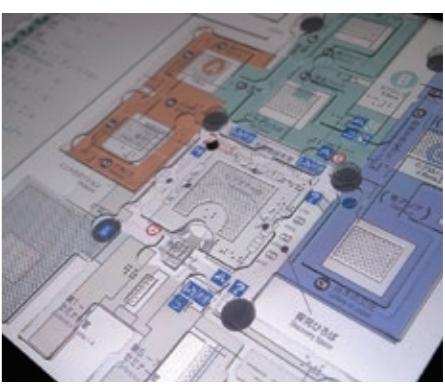
Organizer: The National Museum of Ethnology
Project leader: NOBAYASHI Atsushi

The Digital Tactile Map

[National Museum of Ethnology Touch Panel Guide]

The digital tactile map, National Museum of Ethnology Touch Panel Guide, is an interactive tactile map that makes information in the museum accessible to people, including for those with visual disability. The finger guide placed on the touch panel display and a voice guide are linked to provide tactile and audio information about the person's location in the museum and about the exhibitions. Currently, three of these touch panel guides are placed in the exhibition halls of Minpaku.

This digital tactile map was developed in Minpaku's Cultural Resource Projects. Members who led the design development of this project were Professor HIRAI Yasuyuki of the Graduate School of Design at Kyushu University and Associate Professor FUMOTO Koichiro of the Faculty of Global and Science Studies, Yamaguchi University.



The Digital Tactile Map was Awarded Various Prizes [National Museum of Ethnology Touch Panel Guide]



Data Station

Go on an exclusive virtual museum tour of past special exhibitions and permanent exhibitions captured as a panorama movie, and view a database of artifacts in the Museum's collection.



WHILL Autonomous Mobility Vehicle

The autonomous mobility vehicle, a single-passenger vehicle designed for exhibition viewing, moves automatically without user operation. As it travels safely along its pre-set route, it allows all visitors, including elderly people and people with disabilities, to use it with confidence. This mobility system was introduced through industry-academia collaboration with WHILL, Inc.



Virtual Museum (Europe exhibition)

Virtual Museum

A virtual museum is available on the Minpaku website. The Main Exhibition Halls were photographed wall-to-wall using a super-wide-angle camera. Each exhibition hall can be viewed from various angles on a PC or smartphone. Commentary videos are available for some exhibits.

International Cooperation

JICA Knowledge Co-Creation Program: "Museums and Community Development"

This course, fully commissioned by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), provides specialists from developing countries with lectures and practice sessions to gain a thorough understanding of the museum's activities, such as collection, organization, preservation, display, and education. The goal is to foster human resources capable of contributing to cultural promotion through museums in their respective countries.

In FY2024, 9 program participants from nine countries and regions (Egypt, Maldives, Mongolia, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Seychelles, Sudan and Zambia) were accepted for training from October 3, 2024 to December 19, 2024. Besides implementing training at Minpaku, we also delivered a sequential program at the Lake Biwa Museum, conducted individual training at the Gangoji Institute for Research of Cultural Property, and organized study tours to the Tokyo National Museum, the National Museum of Nature and Science, Intermediatheque, the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum and the National Ainu Museum. Furthermore, on November 2, 2024, we hosted the Public Forum "Museums in the World 2024," an open forum where all trainees reported on and discussed the activities and challenges faced by museums in their respective countries. The forum was held at Minpaku and attended by 63 people.

While the name of the course and its format have evolved, the goal remains unchanged: to promote international interaction and exchange with museums worldwide. During the 31-year history of the course, 305 participants from 66 countries and regions have been accepted. This program will continue to contribute to the expansion of international museology networks.



Public Forum



Lecture at Minpaku (Culture on display today)



Practical training at Minpaku (Preventive conservation)



Study trip to Hiroshima



Ainu folk instrument experience



Closing Ceremony

Minpaku Fellows

This is a network of international researchers who have worked with or for the Museum in the past, and foreign and domestic research institutions with close ties to the Museum. In order to promote awareness and improve information exchange, our English Newsletter (*MINPAKU Anthropology Newsletter*) is published regularly.

Minpaku Fellows Breakdown by Area as of March 31, 2025

Regions	Number of Fellows
Asia, Middle East, Oceania	573
Europe	146
North America, Latin America and the Caribbean	189
Africa	81
Total	989

Organization

Research Activities

Joint Use of the Museum

International Cooperation etc.

Data Collection

NIHU

SOKENDAI

General Information

Partnership between the Museum and Society

The Museum has been working to build networks to ensure the more systematic and viable use of cultural resources through academic collaboration with museums and universities, both in Japan and overseas. The Museum is also promoting various projects and activities that benefit local communities and international society, in cooperation with many organizations.

Min-pack

In order to contribute to a better understanding of our research, the Museum has developed a learning-kit for children, called Min-pack. It is lent to schools and other educational institutions. Min-pack is a learning kit carried in a suitcase that contains a variety of materials including clothes, musical instruments, and everyday commodities, of the world's countries and regions, with children's learning aids. 21 packs and 12 types are now available.

Lending period: April 8, 2024–March 12, 2025

FY2024 Number of loans: 166 Total number of users: 22,175

- Treasure Box of the Andes: The Festivals and Life of the Peruvian Southern Highlands
- Costumes in Java: Religion and Tradition
- Indian Costumes: Saris and Kurtas
- The Arabian Nights (until June)
- Islam and Life of the Arab World
- Korean Children's Time: Everyday Life and Tradition
- Ainu Culture Encounter
- Expedition to the Steppes of Mongolia
- The 2011 Umesao Tadao Exhibition: Tools of Knowledge Production (This uses artifacts from the Special Exhibition "Umesao Tadao" held in 2011.)
- Muslims around the World: Daily Prayers
- Muslims around the World: Contemporary Life
- Ethiopian Coffee Ceremony
- Wearing Ethiopia: the Traditional Clothing of Amhara People



Min-pack
"Expedition to the Steppes of Mongolia"



Min-pack
"Korean Children's Time: Everyday Life and Tradition"

Workshops

Workshops are organized to introduce the culture of the world through hands-on experiences (crafts) and to share research outcomes of the museum researchers with society.

Date	Workshop	Lecturer
July 21, 2024	Kids Workshop for Summer Holiday "Fieldwork Experience: Experiencing Japanese festivals through the five senses"	SUZUKI Kota
September 16, 23, 2024	Workshop Related Thematic Exhibition for the 50th Anniversary of the Museum's Founding Hakka and Japan: Another History of East Asian Relations Created by Chinese Overseas "Learning Hakka Lifestyle through Making Hakka Tea"	NARA Masashi MATSUMOTO Manabu (Matcha Store) KAWAI Hironao (Associate professor, Tokyo Metropolitan University)
December 22, 2024 January 11-12, 2025	Year-end and New Year Event, "Let's Find Snakes at MINPAKU!"	Information Planning Section
March 29, 2025	Workshop Related Thematic Exhibition for the 50th Anniversary of the Museum's Founding, Lines and Dots: The Aesthetic Journey of Arabic Calligraphy "Arabic Calligraphy Workshop I"	AISHIMA Hatsuki YAMAOKA Koichi (Secretary General, Japan Arabic Calligraphy Association)



"Fieldwork Experience: Experiencing Japanese festivals through the five senses"



"Learning Hakka Lifestyle through Making Hakka Tea"



"Let's Find Snakes at MINPAKU!"



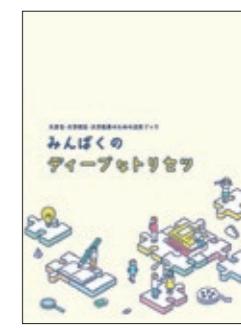
"Arabic Calligraphy Workshop 1"

The project for building up partnership between the museum and society

To examine the potential for multifaceted use of the museum's cultural resources in higher education and to assess their educational effectiveness, we planned and implemented collaborative education programs with Konan Women's University, as well as projects targeting individual university and graduate students. Based on the findings from these activities, a booklet was created and distributed to facilitate the multifaceted use of the museum's cultural resources by university students, graduate students, and faculty members.

"Minpaku Sama-Sama School"

Envisioning a new museum model providing lifelong learning opportunities for People with Intellectual Disabilities, we have organized the Minpaku Sama-Sama School learning workshop for participants with intellectual disabilities at the junior high school level and above. The program comprises three parts: lectures on world cultures, a quiz rally in the exhibition halls, and art-making activities. In FY2024, it was held 2 times in July and October, with a total of 63 participants.



Booklet

Conducting *Kamuyonomi* and Traditional Craft Training with the Ainu Association of Hokkaido

The National Museum of Ethnology carries out two projects under an agreement with the Ainu Association of Hokkaido. The first involves holding a *kamuyonomi* rite. *Kamuyonomi* is an Ainu term meaning ‘prayer to *kamuy* (spirit-deities).’ Through this ceremony, the Museum seeks both to ensure the appropriate care of its Ainu collections and assist in the handing down of this traditional rite to future generations. In the past, the late KAYANO Shigeru performed the rite in a closed ceremony at the Museum as master of ceremonies. Since FY2007, regional members of the Ainu Association of Hokkaido have conducted public performances combining *kamuyonomi* with traditional Ainu dance. In FY2024, the ritual was held in cooperation with the Obihiro Kamuitou-upopo Preservation Society.

The second project concerns the reception of traditional craftspeople dispatched by the Ainu Association of Hokkaido as visiting researchers. This initiative aims to enhance the Museum’s research and utilization of its Ainu cultural collections while contributing to the promotion of Ainu culture more broadly. However, no craftspeople were accepted in FY2024.



The *Kamuyonomi* Rite (FY2024)

Music Day at Minpaku

Music Day at Minpaku is a co-creative, citizen-participation event inspired by the spirit of the World Music Day, which began in France in 1982. Irrespective of a performer’s professional or amateur status or musical genre, individuals and groups wishing to perform at the museum were invited to apply, after which performers were selected by lottery. The event was held on Sunday, June 23, 2024, at the National Museum of Ethnology Auditorium. This initiative has become established as a way of opening the museum as a venue for civic activities. Its 21st event was also well received.



Museum-School Partnership Program

To introduce tools that facilitate preparation and learning, before and after using Minpaku as a field trip or an excursion, we provide “Prior Visit Guidance” twice a year in spring and autumn at the Museum, promoting the use of museums in lessons. We also offer junior high school students the opportunity to participate in our “Work Experience Program,” by accepting seven individuals from three schools.

Volunteer Activities

Minpaku Museum Partners (MMP) is a group of volunteers established in September 2004, to assist the Museum in the planning and implementation of its activities.

MMP is promoting a widely various range of activities in cooperation with the Museum, such as “Main Exhibition Hall Guidance for Visually-Impaired Persons” (a program to support them to experience the exhibitions in the hall), “Wakuwaku Taiken at Minpaku” (a hands-on tour mainly for elementary school children), and craft workshops for general visitors. MMP also actively involves itself in workshop festivals and volunteer exchange programs outside the museum to deepen the relationship with other museums and facilities.



MMP Workshop Related to the Special Exhibition “Transformative Experience! Let’s Make Festival Masks”

Performance “West African Story Time”

Wakuwaku Taiken at Minpaku Scenes from Picture Books and Storytelling

Main Exhibition Hall Guidance for Visually-Impaired Persons

Experiencing Braille at the Workshop

Minpaku Seminars

On the third Saturday of every month, the Museum’s academic staff and others give lectures in plain language to the general public on the newest research findings.

FY2024 Total Attendance: 2,084

□ indicates seminars associated with special exhibitions ○ indicates seminars associated with thematic exhibitions

No.	Date	Lecturer	Title
544	April 20, 2024	SASAHARA Ryoji	Masks of Japan
545	May 18, 2024	FUKUOKA Shota	Masks of Southeast Asia
546	June 15, 2024	SUZUKI Kota	What is Kagura?: An Attempt at a Functional Analysis Focusing on Word Meaning
547	July 20, 2024	FUJII Shinichi	How to Spend a Civil War: the Conflict Experience of the People of Gadarcanal, Solomon Islands
548	August 17, 2024	MINAMI Makito	“Minstrels” of Nepal: Sharing Visual and Audio Materials with the Source Community
549	September 21, 2024	KAWASE Itsushi	Singing and Storytelling that Differentiate the World: Ethiopian Poet-singers
550	October 19, 2024	KAWAI Hisanao (Associate Professor, Tokyo Metropolitan University) KOBAYASHI Hiroshi (Associate Professor, Yamaguchi University) NARA Masashi	Hakka Vernacular Architectures and Japan
551	November 16, 2024	MATTHEWS, Peter J.	Searching for Taro, Finding the World
552	December 21, 2024	UDAGAWA Taeko	Living in the Local Community: Italians’ Lives in the Midst of Globalization
553	January 18, 2025	KAWANISHI Eriko	Paganism in Europe
554	February 15, 2025	UEBA Yoko	Plant Resources Used in Making Implements: The Case of Basketry
555	March 15, 2025	YOSHIDA Kenji	Constructing a Museum as a Forum for Knowledge: 50 Years with Minpaku, 37 Years at Minpaku



No.546 What is Kagura?: An Attempt at a Functional Analysis Focusing on Word Meaning



No.550 Hakka Vernacular Architectures and Japan



No.555 Constructing a Museum as a Forum for Knowledge: 50 Years with Minpaku, 37 Years at Minpaku

Minpaku Weekend Salon: A Chat with a Researcher

To understand our research better, this event provides an opportunity for the public to talk directly with research institute staff in the Museum’s exhibition hall. The Minpaku Weekend Salon was launched in FY2007 as part of the Museum’s 30th Anniversary project. The Salon was held in a Minpaku seminar room in 2022 to prevent the spread of COVID-19. However, since January 2023, it has been held at the Thematic Exhibition Area and the Special Exhibition Hall, in addition to being held in Navi-Space. In FY2024, it was held 23 times on Sundays, with a total of 1,919 participants.

Special Lectures and Performances

FY2024 Total Attendance: 670

Performing arts of the world’s peoples are staged, with the aim of deepening understanding of cultural anthropology and ethnology among the public.

The performance of *Senbon Enma-do Dainenbutsu Kyogen* at Minpaku

Date	April 14, 2024
Lecturer	SASAHARA Ryoji
Commentator	MIYATA Katsuyuki (Director, Conservation Society of <i>Senbon Enma-do Dainenbutsu Kyogen</i>)
Performer	Conservation Society of <i>Senbon Enma-do Dainenbutsu Kyogen</i>
Attendance	342



Over the Arirang Pass: The Future of Zainichi Korean Musics

Date	August 25, 2024
Lecturer	FUKUOKA Shota
Commentator	Koh Jeongja (Director of the Osaka Korea Town Museum)
Performers	Lee Jeongmi, Ahn Sungmin, Haa Yeongsu, Kim Yongsil, Ryang Songhwi
Attendance	328



Minpaku film shows for the 50th Anniversary of the Museum's Founding

Valuable films on cultural anthropology and ethnology, hardly available in public, are shown with commentary by researcher.

FY2024 Total Attendance: 2,574

Date	Lecturer	Title	Attendance
May 3, 2024	FUKUOKA Shota SASAHARA Ryoji FUJIOKA Motoshi (Director, Professor at Ritsumeikan University), TOKUDA Tamotsu (Director, Conservation Society of Hassaku Taiko Odori) MURONOSONO Takanori (Superintendent of Mishima Village) SATO Hisataka (Board of Education, Mishima Village)	People and Mendon in Iojima, Kagoshima メンドン	290
June 8, 2024	HIRAI Kyonosuke YOSHINAGA Toshio (Director, General Incorporated Association For-By-With Minamata)	Minamata Revolt: A People's Quest for Life	311
July 13, 2024	NOBUTA Toshihiro SHIMAMURA Ippei	TRIO	Canceled
September 8, 2024	NARA Masashi KAWAI Hiroao (Associate Professor, Tokyo Metropolitan University)	The Legend of Formosa in 1895	344
October 13, 2024	HIROSE Koujirou KAYAMORI Naoko (Goze-Uta Player) SAITO Hiromi (Adviser, Goze Museum Takada)	Restore the Sense of Touch: Blind People See the Unseen World	360
November 23, 2024	OKADA Emi ABE Sakurako (Film Director)	Music documentary film 'The Path'	237
			Total 1,542

Minpaku Visual Ethnography Theater

Date	Lecturer	Title	Attendance
February 2, 2025	KURODA Kenji KONAGAYA Yuki (Professor Emeritus, National Museum of Ethnology)	Mongolian Leaders in the 20th Century: Industry, Pastoralism, and Agriculture	65
February 11, 2025	KURODA Kenji KAWASE Itsushi	Living in Connection: Ethiopians in Tokyo	74
			Total 139

Minpaku World Cinema

By selecting appropriate movies for theme "Thought on The Future of Humanity from Films", the Museum offers a series of film showings accompanied by researcher commentary.

No.	Date	Lecturer	Title	Attendance
57	May 25, 2024	SUGASE Akiko NOBAYASHI Atsushi	GAGA	302
58	December 14, 2024	SUGASE Akiko	God Exists, Her Name Is Petrunya	272
59	February 24, 2025	KURODA Kenji SHIMAMURA Ippei	The Sales Girl	291
			Total	865

Visual Anthropology Forum

Date	Lecturer	Title	Attendance
October 26, 2024	KAWASE Itsushi, MINAMI Makito	The Perspective of Audiovisual Ethnography on Bards: Comparison of Ethiopia and Nepal	28

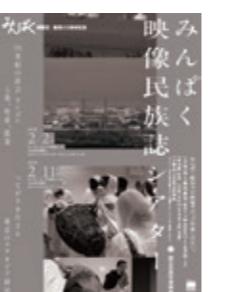
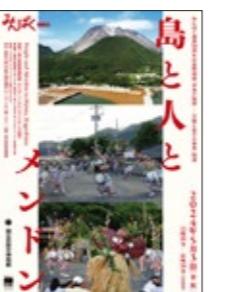
Campus Members

This membership program is aimed at providing opportunities to learn about cultural anthropology and ethnology through cooperation between the National Museum of Ethnology and educational institutions such as universities.

Member schools and corporations receive privileges such as participation in events, including exhibition tours, special lectures and performances, and movies free of charge and discounts at the Museum Shop.

Member schools in FY2024

Osaka University, Kyoto University, Senri Kinran University, Tsukamoto Gakuin Institute (Osaka University of Arts, Osaka University of Arts Junior College, Osaka College of Art), Doshisha University (Faculty of Global and Regional Studies, Faculty of Culture and Information Science, Graduate School of Culture and Information Science, The Institute for the Liberal Arts), Ritsumeikan University, Otemon Gakuin University (Faculty of Letters, Faculty of International Studies, Faculty of International Liberal Arts)



Data Collection

History

Organization	<p>1935 A plan to establish an ethnological museum of Japan as an incorporated foundation is developed under the leadership of SHIBUSAWA Keizo and SHIRATORI Kurakichi.</p> <p>1964 The Japanese Society of Ethnology, the Anthropological Society of Nippon, the Japanese Archaeological Association, the Folklore Society of Japan, and the Japanese Association of Ethnology jointly submit to the Minister of Education and other relevant authorities a request to establish a national ethnological research museum.</p> <p>1972 A research council (chaired by KUWAHARA Takeo) conducts a feasibility study on the establishment of a National Ethnological Research Museum. A basic concept plan for the museum is submitted to the Minister of Education.</p> <p>1973 A preparatory council for the establishment of a National Ethnological Research Museum (tentative name) and a preparation office are set up.</p> <p>1974 The National Museum of Ethnology is founded under the "Law to amend part of the National School Establishment Law" (No. 81, 1974), with an Administration Department, an Information and Documentation Center, and five Research Departments. Collecting artifacts from overseas was started in Papua New Guinea.</p> <p>1975 A collection of folklore reference materials (28,432 items) owned by the former Ministry of Education Archive were transferred from the National Institute of Japanese Literature.</p> <p>1977 The Museum buildings (28,778m²) are completed and the surrounding area is landscaped. An opening ceremony is held. Exhibitions on Oceania, the Americas, Europe, Africa, West Asia, Music, Language, Southeast Asia, and East Asia (Japanese Culture), as well as the Videothèque are opened to the Public.</p> <p>1978 Long-term and carefully organized "Special Projects" are started as key components of ethnological research.</p> <p>1979 The fourth Exhibition Hall (1,272m²), which accommodates an additional exhibition on East Asia (Japanese Culture), is completed and opened to the public. Exhibitions on Central and North Asia, and East Asia (Ainu Culture) are opened to the public.</p> <p>1981 The Auditorium (3,704m²) is completed.</p> <p>1983 The eighth Exhibition Hall and other facilities (4,816m²) are completed. The exhibition on East Asia (Cultures of the Korean Peninsula and Regional Cultures of China) is opened to the public.</p> <p>1984 The 10th anniversary of the Museum's founding is celebrated. "A Ten-Year History of the National Museum of Ethnology" is published.</p> <p>1987 The 10th anniversary of the Museum's opening to the public is celebrated.</p> <p>1989 The School of Cultural and Social Studies (with the Department of Regional Studies and the Department of Comparative Studies) of the Graduate University for Advanced Studies is established within the Museum. (It has been reorganized as Anthropological Studies of Graduate Institute for Advanced Studies since 2023AY.) The Special Exhibition Hall and the library stacks (5,292m²) are completed. The first special exhibition, "The Great Andes Civilization: Inca, the Reviving Empire of the Sun" is organized to celebrate the completion of the Special Exhibition Hall.</p> <p>1993 The main Museum building is expanded and a joint research facility (891m²) is completed.</p> <p>1994 The 20th anniversary of the Museum's founding is celebrated. The Japan Center for Area Studies is established. (Discontinued in FY2005)</p> <p>1995 Owing to damage caused by the Hanshin-Awaji Great Earthquake, the entire collection is closed for 45 days. (Earthquake-proof reinforced construction was retrofitted between 2002 and 2003) The Center of Excellence (COE) program is established: "Pioneering Research for the Development of New Ethnological Studies Using Multimedia in the Global Era." (Concluded at the end of FY1999)</p> <p>1996 The seventh Exhibition Hall (6,439m²) is completed. Exhibitions on Language and Southeast Asia are renovated. An audio-visual gallery, the Materiathèque, and the exhibition on South Asia are opened to the public.</p> <p>1997 The 20th anniversary of the Museum's opening to the public is celebrated.</p> <p>1998 Following the enactment of the Ministerial Ordinance to revise part of the administrative rules for the Inter-University Research Institute (Ordinance of the Ministry of Education No. 24 of 1998), the five research departments are reorganized into four research departments and one research facility.</p> <p>1999 The Minpaku "Digital Guide and Study Area" are completed and opened to the public.</p> <p>2000 A renovated exhibition on the Cultures of the Korean Peninsula is opened. Partial renovation of the Museum exhibitions continued until 2003.</p> <p>2004 As authorized by the National University Corporation Act (Act No.112,2003), the National Institutes for the Humanities, as part of the Inter-University Research Institute, is established. The former system of 4 research departments and 1 research center is reorganized into a system with 3 research departments and 2 centers. To facilitate joint research, screening by the Joint Research Committee, whose members include representatives from the research community, is established and the scope of the call for joint research applications expanded. "Core research projects" conducted by the Museum are launched. The 30th anniversary of the Museum's founding is celebrated.</p> <p>2006 "A Thirty-Year History of the National Museum of Ethnology" is published. The Minpaku Collections Help Desk opens.</p> <p>2007 The 30th anniversary of the Museum's opening to the public is celebrated. Anniversary ceremony is held in November.</p> <p>2008 A collaborative agreement is signed with the Japanese Society of Cultural Anthropology.</p> <p>2009 Renovation of the Main Exhibitions is initiated.</p> <p>2010 New systems are consolidated including the establishment of the Center for International Academic Exchange.</p> <p>2013 Consolidation of new systems, including the Audit Office and Umesao Archives.</p> <p>2014 Multifunctional Storage Building (1,423m²) is completed.</p> <p>2017 Renovation of the Main Exhibitions was completed, anniversary ceremony is celebrated. The former system of 3 research departments and 2 research centers is reorganized into a system with 4 research departments and 1 research center. The 40th anniversary of the Museum's opening to the public is celebrated. Anniversary ceremony is held in November. Joint-Use Facilities for Scientific Research is established.</p> <p>2018 The exhibition hall was closed for 66 days because of damage caused by the Osaka northern district earthquake. The library was closed for 49 days.</p> <p>2019 Renewal of the Main Exhibition is initiated (Completed in March 2024).</p> <p>2020 The National Museum of Ethnology was closed for 111 days because of the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. New totem pole is raised.</p> <p>2021 The National Museum of Ethnology was closed for 59 days because of the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. Operation of the auditorium is started as Minpaku Intelligent Hall.</p> <p>2022 Minpaku Theater and Data Station are completed and opened to the public.</p> <p>2024 The 50th anniversary of the Museum's founding is celebrated. "A Fifty-Year History of the National Museum of Ethnology" is published.</p>
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Former Directors-General

as of April 1, 2025

First Director-General June 1974–March 1993 UMESAO Tadao*	Second Director-General April 1993–March 1997 SASAKI Komei*	Third Director-General April 1997–March 2003 ISHIGE Naomichi	Fourth Director-General April 2003–March 2009 MATSUZONO Makio	Fifth Director-General April 2009–March 2017 SUDO Ken'ichi
Ethnology, Comparative Study of Civilizations	History of Agriculture in East and South Asia	Cultural Anthropology	Social Anthropology	Social Anthropology

Professors Emeriti

as of April 1, 2025

1984– SOFUE Takao*	1997– SUGIMURA Toh*	2005– MATSUBARA Masatake	2015– SHOJI Hiroshi*	2023– NISHIO Tetsuo
Psychological Anthropology	Study of Ethno-arts	Social Structure, Turkey, Eastern Asia, Central Asia	Finnno-Ugric Linguistics, Ethnolinguistics, Language Policy; Northern Europe, China	Linguistics, Arab Culture; Middle East, North Africa
1985– IWATA Keiji*	1998– WADA Shohei	2005– OHTSUKA Kazuyoshi	2015– YASUGI Yoshiro	2023– SUZUKI Nanami
Cultural Anthropology	Comparative Study of Cultures, Anthropology of Africa	Aynu (Ainu) Culture, Material Culture of North Asian Food Gatherers, Paleogeology, Prehistoric Subsistence, Japan	Linguistic Anthropology, Writing Systems, Mayan Civilization, Mesoamerica	Cultural Anthropology, Culture of Medicine, Life-Design Studies, American and European Medieval Social History
1986– KATO Kyuzo*	2000– SHIMIZU Akitoshi	2006– ISHIMORI Shuzo	2016– ASAKURA Toshio	2024– IKEYA Kazunobu
Ethnic History in North and Central Asia	Comparative Study of Families, Study of Oceania	Cultural Development Studies, Anthropology of Tourism, Museum anthropology, Cultural Resource Management; Micronesia, Polynesia, Southeast Asia, Japan	Social Structures in East Asia; Korea, Japan	Environmental Anthropology, Cultural Geography, Southern African, Japan
1988– ITOH Mikiharu*	2001– HATA Nobuyuki	2006– NOMURA Masaichi*	2016– SASAKI Shiro	2024– KISHIGAMI Nobuhiro
Anthropology of Religion	Economic Anthropology, Anthropology of Africa	Nonverbal Communication, Ethnology of Mediterranean Europe	Socioeconomic History of Reindeer-Breeders and Forest Hunters; Northern Asia, Siberia	Cultural Anthropology, Inuit Studies; North America
1988– NAKAMURA Shunkichi*	2001– KURODA Etsuko	2007– OMORI Yasuhiro	2016– SUGIMOTO Yoshio	2024– SONODA Naoko
Study of Ethnic Technologies and Tools	Theory of Ethnicity and Social Culture, Anthropology of Central America	Ethnology, Visual Anthropology	Social Anthropology; Sri Lanka, South India	Conservation Science
1989– KIMISHIMA Hisako*	2001– SAKIYAMA Osamu	2007– SUDO Ken'ichi	2017– INTOH Michiko	2025– MATTHEWS, Peter J.
Chinese Folklore	Linguistic Anthropology, Oceanic Linguistics	Social Anthropology	Prehistory of Oceania; Oceania, Island Southeast Asia	Ethnobotany, Prehistory, Crop Plant Biogeography; Asia, Pacific
1990– WADA Yuji*	2002– TARUMI Minoru*	2007– YAMAMOTO Norio	2018– SEKI Yuji	2025– SHINMEN Mitsuhiro
Linguistic Anthropology	Anthropology in Spatial Domains	Ethnobotany, Ethnology, the Andes, the Himalayas	South American Archaeology, Cultural Anthropology	Science of Religion, Eastern Europe
1991– TARUMI Minoru*	1992– SUGIMOTO Hisatsugu*	2009– MATSUZONO Makio	2019– YOSHIMOTO Shinji	Anthropological Perspectives on Development Assistance Evaluations
Anthropology in Spatial Domains	Cultural Geography, Cultural Anthropology	Social Anthropology	Cultural Anthropology, Gender Studies; Italy, Mediterranean Europe	Anthropology
1993– UMESAO Tadao*	1993– KATAKURA Motoko*	2010– MATSUYAMA Toshio	2021– UDAGAWA Taeko	2025– YOSHIDA Kenji
Ethnology, Comparative Study of Civilizations	Social Geography, Ethnology	Ethnology of Contemporary Australian Aboriginal Society	Cultural Anthropology, Performing Arts	Cultural Anthropology, Museum Anthropology
1994– TAKEMURA Takaji*	1994– OGYU Chikasato*	2011– NAGANO Yasuhiro	2022– KONAGAYA Yuki	* Deceased
Social Anthropology	Cultural Structure of Latin America	Historical Linguistics, Lexical Semantics; Tibeto-Burman Area	Cultural Anthropology, Performing Arts	
1995– CHOU Ta-sheng*	1995– MATSUZAWA Kazuko	2012– AKIMICHI Tomoya	2023– MORI Akiko	
Theory of Material Culture	Social Anthropology	Maritime Anthropology, Ecological Anthropology; Oceania, Southeast Asia, Japan	Cultural Anthropology, Ethnography; Central Europe, Germany, Austria, Japan	
1996– DAIMARU Hiroshi*	1996– KUMAKURA Isao	2012– TERADA Yoshitaka*	Cultural Anthropology, Gender Studies; Italy, Mediterranean Europe	
Comparative Study of the History of Lifestyles, Based on Clothing, etc.	History of Japanese Culture	Ethnomusicology, Study of South India	Cultural Anthropology, Gender Studies; Italy, Mediterranean Europe	
1996– FUJII Tomoaki*	1996– TACHIKAWA Musashi	2014– HAYASHI Isao	Cultural Anthropology, Gender Studies; Italy, Mediterranean Europe	
Ethnomusicology, Anthropology of Music	Philosophy of Religion, Buddhist Thought	Social Structure, Cosmology, Risk and Disaster; Melanesia, Polynesia, Japan	Cultural Anthropology, Gender Studies; Italy, Mediterranean Europe	
1996– TOMOEDA Hiroyasu*	1996– YAMADA Mutsuo*	2014– SEKI Yuji	Cultural Anthropology, Gender Studies; Italy, Mediterranean Europe	
Social Anthropology	History of Latin America, Area Study of Latin America	South American Archaeology, Cultural Anthropology	Cultural Anthropology, Gender Studies; Italy, Mediterranean Europe	
1997– SASAKI Komei*	2005– EGUCHI, Paul K.*	2014– YOSHIMOTO Shinobu	Cultural Anthropology, Gender Studies; Italy, Mediterranean Europe	
History of Agriculture in East and South Asia	Oral Literature and Material Culture of the Fulfulde-speaking People, Cameroon	Textile Arts and Technology; Asia, Africa, America, Europe	Cultural Anthropology, Gender Studies; Italy, Mediterranean Europe	
		2015– KUBO Masatoshi	Cultural Anthropology, Gender Studies; Italy, Mediterranean Europe	
		Ethno-Informatics, Computer Ethnology, Study on Aboriginal Australian Culture	Cultural Anthropology, Gender Studies; Italy, Mediterranean Europe	

Staff as of December 1, 2025

Note: Visiting Research Fellows and Overseas Visiting Fellows are not included in the numbers given for "Staff" members.

Category	Director-General	Prof.	Assoc. Prof.	Assist. Prof.	Project Prof.	Project Assoc. Prof.	Project Assist. Prof.	Research Fellow	Subtotal	Administrative & Technical Staff	Total
Staff	1	22	20	8	0	0	2	2	55	48	103
Visiting Research Fellows	9	6	3						18		18
Overseas Visiting Fellows											0
Director-General	1							1			1
Audit Office								(4)		(4)	
Office of Administration									27		27
Office of Information and Documentation		(1)						21(1)		21(2)	
Research Departments	20	16	5	0	0	2		43			43
Center for Cultural Resource Studies	2	4	3					9			9
National Museum of Ethnology								2	2		2

Parenthesis () shows the number of staff members holding two posts. The figure for administrative staff includes one project specialist.

Budget

FY2024	
Revenue	
Category	(Millions of yen)
Management Expenses Grants	2,677
Foundation	2,469
Others	208
Revenue	67
Admission fee	49
Others	18
Facilities	222
Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research	235
Total	3,201

FY2025	
Revenue	
Category	(Millions of yen)
Management Expenses Grants	2,603
Foundation	2,448
Others	155
Revenue	62
Admission fee	45
Others	17
Facilities	581
Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research	349
Total	3,595

Expense

Category		(Millions of yen)
Salaries		1,183
Others		1,783
Education and research		606
Joint use		537
General management costs		418
Facilities		222
Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research		235
Total		3,201

Note: These figures are from the revised budget include the carry-over from the previous fiscal year and exclude the carry-over to the next fiscal year.

Category		(Millions of yen)
Salaries		1,177
Others		2,069
Education and research		466
Joint use		591
General management costs		431
Facilities		581
Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research		349
Total		3,595

Note: These figures are from the annual budget include the carry-over from the previous fiscal year.

Facilities

The Basic Concept of the Museum Design

The Museum consists of low-rise buildings which naturally blend with the surrounding park environment. In designing the buildings, special emphasis was placed on the aesthetics of traditional Japanese architecture. Each floor of the Museum's main building is composed of several blocks. While the outer walls of these blocks have no openings for natural lighting, plenty of light is let in through the inner courtyards (patios). The patios provide a sense of openness and connection with the outer world, and are also used as open-air exhibition space.

Each floor is designed to be dedicated to a specific purpose, namely, storage on the first floor, exhibitions on the second, and research on the third and fourth. Elevators and staircases provide direct access to these floors. As the route is laid out in a manner that allows for a circular trip, visitors can either go through all the exhibitions, or choose to visit certain exhibitions of interest.

In addition, in order to make the Museum barrier-free and universally accessible, changes such as the installation of Braille labels are ongoing.

Total area of grounds: 40,821 m²
Ground area occupied by the museum buildings: 18,177 m²
Total floor space: 52,648 m²

Fourth Floor 7,207 m²

Offices of research staff members, laboratories, library stacks, and storage area.

Second Floor 16,830 m²

Exhibition halls, patio, central patio, multifunctional terminal room, administration offices, Special Exhibition hall and auditorium (seating capacity for 462 persons).

Main Exhibition Halls 10,938 m²

Third Floor 7,340 m²

The library, library stacks, audio-visual monitoring room and storage areas.

Ground Floor 17,410 m²

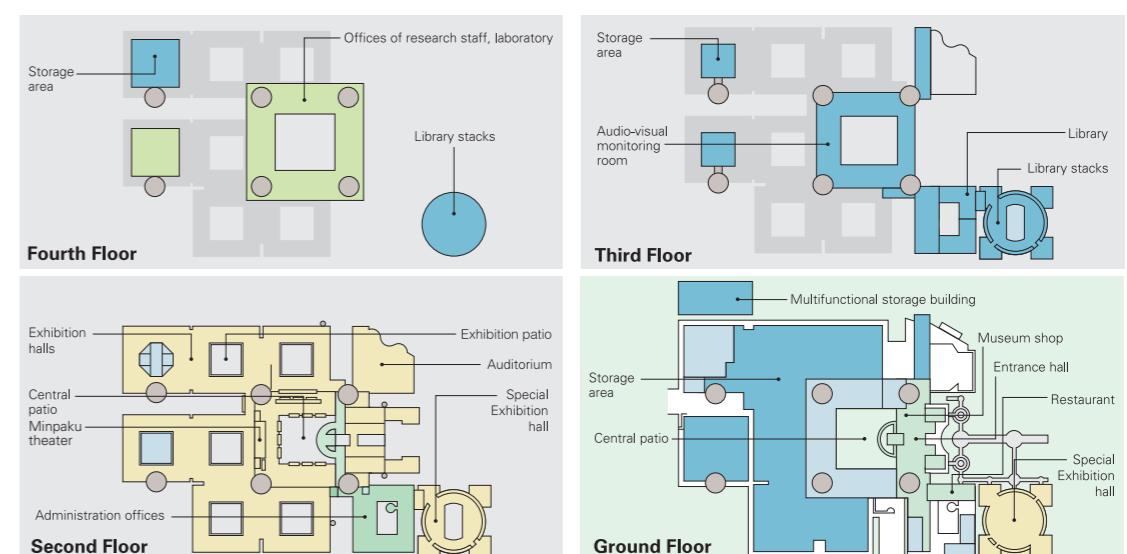
Entrance hall, central patio, restaurant, Special Exhibition hall, storage area and museum shop.

Rooftop 846 m²

Basement 3,015 m²

Special Exhibition Halls Ground Floor 851 m²

Second Floor 639 m²



Cooperative Agreements

Promotion of Research Coordination and Collaboration with Overseas Research Institutes

Minpaku has established academic agreements with overseas research institutions for research cooperation and collaboration. In FY 2024, the agreements were renewed (concluded) with Shung Ye Museum of Formosan Aborigines (Taiwan), Taipei National University of the Arts (Taiwan), The Museum of Northern Arizona (USA), National Museum of Taiwan History (Taiwan). And the agreements were newly concluded with The University of the South Pacific (Fiji), iTaukei Trust Fund Board (Fiji), and Addis Ababa University (Ethiopia).

Name of the Institutes	Date of Agreement	Outline of Agreement
The University of the South Pacific (Fiji)	September 12, 2024	Academic exchange and promoting fieldwork in research.
iTaukei Trust Fund Board (Fiji)	July 1, 2024	Academic exchange, promoting fieldwork in research, and cooperation in exhibitions.
Addis Ababa University (Ethiopia)	July 1, 2024	International joint research, exchange of researchers, and academic collaboration in organizing events.
Taiwan Hakka Culture Development Center (Taiwan)	November 21, 2023	Exchange and cooperation in museum exhibitions.
The Grand Egyptian Museum (Egypt)	October 1, 2023	Exchange of information relating to personnel, management, display, analysis of museum materials, and overall museum management; and promotion of joint research and exhibition planning.
Ghent University (Belgium)	September 18, 2023	International joint investigations and research, researcher exchanges, and information exchange related to exhibition materials.
The Faculty of Forestry, Kasetsart University (Thailand)	November 22, 2019	Academic research and exchange in joint research, training, publishing, and exhibition projects.
National Museums of Kenya (Kenya)	November 7, 2019	Conducting collaborative research projects including those on museum objects possessed by the Parties; Organizing lectures, symposia and joint exhibitions; Exchange of research information and materials; Promoting cultural and museological exchange programs; and Cooperation in exchange of research staff.
Bangladesh Agricultural University (Bangladesh)	November 3, 2019	Academic research and exchange in joint research, training, publishing, and exhibition projects.
Samarkand Archaeological Institute named Y. Gulomov, Agency of Cultural Heritage of the Republic of Uzbekistan (Uzbekistan)	September 19, 2019	Cooperation in a variety of research and academic projects; collaborative research in archeology, anthropology, geography, conservation science and other related fields; exchange of visiting scholars, curators and/or other research staff, etc.
Research Center for Environmental Archaeology, Maritime Archaeology and Sustainable Culture, Research Organization for Archaeology, Research Organization for Archaeology, Language, and Literature, The National Research and Innovation Agency (Indonesia)	June 10, 2019	International joint archaeological research in Indonesia, to reporting programme effectiveness, activities, and research results, etc.
National Museums Board (Zambia)	August 12, 2018	International joint research, exchange of researchers, exchange of museum-related materials and information, etc.
National Museum of Iran (Iran)	November 8, 2017	International joint research, exchange of researchers, exchange of museum-related materials and information, etc.
University of British Columbia, Museum of Anthropology (Canada)	March 9, 2017	Academic cooperation and exchange on research projects, exhibitions, database development, etc.
Zhejiang University (China)	April 19, 2016	Contribution of references, exchange of human resources, joint research.
Vanderbilt University (USA)	January 15, 2016	Strengthening global collaborative research and organizing international symposia.
National Museum of Taiwan History (Taiwan)	October 16, 2015	Collaborative research and cooperation on exhibition development.
The Museum of Northern Arizona (USA)	July 4, 2014	Strengthening academic exchange and collaborative research.
The Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (China)	August 28, 2012	Along with other scholarly exchanges, Minpaku participates in research projects and the exchange or shared use of research materials, academic data and publications.
The National Museum of the Philippines (Philippines)	July 18, 2012	International joint research, exchange of researchers, exchange through projects that include joint research training, publication and exhibits.
A:shiwi A:wan Museum and Heritage Center (USA)	June 3, 2012	Scholarly cooperation, development of joint research projects, and exhibits or educational use of museum materials.
Taipei National University of the Arts (Taiwan)	May 15, 2009	Academic exchange, development of research projects, cooperation on museum exhibitions and educational initiatives, exchange of academic information and publications.
The National Folk Museum of Korea (Korea)	July 11, 2007	Exchange between teaching faculty and researchers, development of research projects, cooperation on museum exhibitions and education, exchange of academic documents and publications.
Shung Ye Museum of Formosan Aborigines (Taiwan)	July 1, 2006	Collaborative research and cooperation on exhibition development.
The National University of San Marcos (Peru)	June 14, 2005	Joint research projects and academic exchanges in archaeology.

Promotion of Collaboration and Cooperation with Research Organizations in Japan

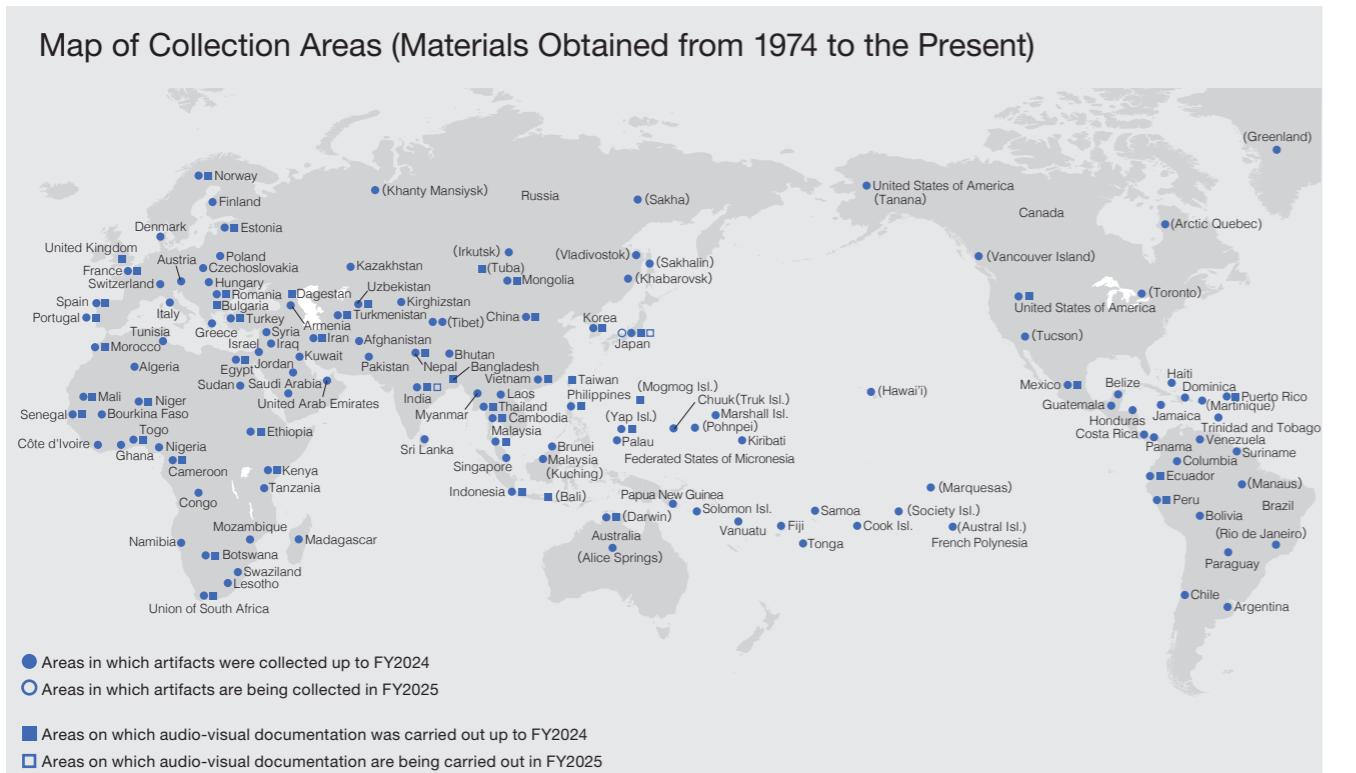
To promote collaboration, cooperation and joint research with universities, research organizations and academic associations in Japan, agreements are concluded following consideration. In September 2024, agreement was concluded with Toyooka City, Hyogo Prefecture (Japan Mongolia Folk Museum).

Name of the Institutes	Date of Agreement	Summary of the Agreement
Toyooka City, Hyogo Prefecture (Japan Mongolia Folk Museum)	September 1, 2024	Contribution to academic research, education, and social development
Sacred Heart Institute for Sustainable Futures, University of the Sacred Heart	January 9, 2024	Contribution to academic research, education, and social development
Osaka International Peace Center	December 1, 2023	Contribution to academic research, education, and social development
Hokkaido Kushiro Koryo High School	March 27, 2023	Contribution to education and social development
Research Institute for the Dynamics of Civilizations, Okayama University	September 12, 2022	Contribution to academic research, education, and social development
National Institute of Informatics	August 1, 2022	Contribution to academic research, education, and social development
Kanazawa College of Art	March 22, 2021	Based on the Heisei Hyakukouhishou collection database, the status and use of databases in higher education are verified. Educational materials for higher education were put to practical use by linking them to social businesses
Institute for the Study of Japanese Folk Culture, Kanagawa University	March 26, 2020	Contribution to academic research, education, and social development
The Society for Research in Asiatic Music	November 3, 2019	Contribution to the sustainable development of music culture and the elaboration of research on music culture
The Japan Society for the Conservation of Cultural Property	November 19, 2018	Promotion and dissemination of science, technology and skill for conservation of cultural property
Kyoto University of the Arts	March 19, 2018	Contribution to academic research, education, and social development
Osaka University	March 17, 2018	Contribution to academic research, education, social contribution, and development of other activities
Yamagata University	February 16, 2018	Contribution to academic research, education, and social development
Graduate School of Humanities, Kobe University	July 15, 2016	Academic exchange on research education
Research Institute for Languages and Cultures of Asia and Africa, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies	November 25, 2015	Academic research, collaboration, and cooperation related to language and culture around the world
The Osaka Aquarium Kaiyukan	November 19, 2015	Contribution to society, collaboration, and cooperation through promotion of cooperation between businesses and universities, and advancement of academic research and research outcomes
Osaka Institute of Technology	March 23, 2015	Academic research and collaborative cooperation related to information media digital contents
Kanazawa University	March 23, 2014	Organizational system strengthening based on collaboration and cooperation of both institutions
Japanese Society of Cultural Anthropology	February 27, 2008	Promotion of utilization of research collaboration, research exchange, and mutual research outcomes. Contribution to the development and spread of academic matters in human society

Materials and Databases

The Museum has collected and stored a vast amount of materials and information concerning ethnology and anthropology for researchers inside and outside the country, and has made them available to society through exhibitions and other activities. To carry out these activities efficiently, the Museum has been trying to develop better ways to collect and manage materials, organize and provide information, create database systems and contents, hold exhibitions, and implement various other activities.

Map of Collection Areas (Materials Obtained from 1974 to the Present)



The Museum Collection of Artifacts and Other Materials as of March 31, 2025

Artifacts (registered and unregistered)	347,183
From abroad	181,020
From Japan	166,163
Audio-Visual Materials	73,311
Visual Materials	8,426
Audio Materials	64,885

Books and Periodicals	
Books (Including bound magazines)	700,323
Japanese materials	278,604
Foreign language materials	421,719
Journals	17,542
Japanese periodicals	10,396
Periodicals in other languages	7,146

Human Relations Area Files (HRAF)	
Area files (ethnic groups)	465 files
Original texts	9,115 volumes

List of Databases as of March 31, 2025

Databases of research resources held in the Museum and outcomes of research projects are made and open to the public. (For each database description, the numerical value(s) in brackets at the end means the number of records contained in it. Databases with an asterisk are for use only inside the Museum.)

Museum Objects

Catalog of Museum Objects

A catalog of museum objects related to livelihoods, daily life, rituals, and production techniques. Each entry includes basic information such as object name, place, culture, the date of acquisition, dimensions, weight, and images. [287,800]

Detailed Information about Museum Objects

Provides more detailed information about the museum's collection of objects, such as object names, their local names and Japanese translation, images, materials and techniques used in their production, dimensions, weight, as well as when, where and how they are created or used and by whom. [Inside the Museum: 287,768, including 138,969 records open to the public]

Index of Published References on Museum Objects

A database that organized bibliographic information concerning the museum objects published by the museum. [84,114]

Korean Daily Commodities Collection

Information (including images) on all daily commodities owned and used by a family in Seoul, South Korea. For each item, its location in their apartment, manner of acquisition, and the family's memories about it are recorded. [7,827]

The George Brown Collection (Japanese and English versions)

Basic collection information (including images) for materials collected by George Brown, a missionary and ethnographer who worked in the Pacific Islands from the late 19th century to the early 20th century, and now held in the Museum. [2,992]

Prints by Indigenous Peoples of Canada *

Basic information and description (including images) on our collection of typical prints created by indigenous peoples of Canada, most of which were displayed in our special exhibition *Voices from the Land, Visions of Life: Beauty Created by the Indigenous Peoples of Canada* in 2009. [158]

The Minpaku Collection of Tibetan Icons and Amulets

Basic information about a wooden religious image of a white cat included in the Tibetan Buddhist painting collection stored by Minpaku and protective charms of traditional Tibetan Buddhism and Bon (image included). [1,439]

Mao Zedong's Badge

It contains information on the characters and patterns of 98 Mao Zedong badges created in various parts of mainland China in 1966-1969, owned by the Museum (image included). [98]

Audio-Visual Materials

Visual Materials Catalog

Information on our collections of movie films, videotapes and DVDs (photographs excluded). [8,426]

Videotheque

Information on visual contents provided by the *Videotheque* System in the main exhibition hall of the Museum. It is searchable by keywords as well as by the menu of a Videotheque booth. [860]

Performing Arts Film

Information (including videos) on film records of music, dance and theater that the Museum has made at various places in the world since 1982. Videos are available only inside the Museum. [849]

The Matsuo Minoru Postcard Collection

Information (including images) on picture postcards bought by MATSUO Minoru in places visited during his service in the Japanese Navy from 1919-1923. [170]

Photograph Collection of the Kyoto University Scientific Expeditions

Photographs taken by the Kyoto University Scientific Expedition to the Karakoram and Hindukush in 1955, by the Tonga Expedition of Kyoto University in 1960, by the Kyoto University African Scientific Expedition from 1961-1967, and by the Second Kyoto University Europe Scientific Expedition in 1969. [Inside the Museum: 42,210 including 24,869 records open to the public]

The Umesao Tadao Photo Collection *

Photographs taken by UMESAO Tadao, the first director general of the National Museum of Ethnology, during his fieldwork at various places in the world. [35,481]

Photographs on Aboriginal Australian Culture *

Photographs of various scenes including ceremonies, daily life and landscapes in Aboriginal Australia from 1980-2004 taken by KOYAMA Shuzo, Professor Emeritus, National Museum of Ethnology. [7,999]

The Asaeda Toshio Collection *

Photographs of people, animals and plants in the Pacific Islands taken by ASAEDA Toshio when he visited there in the 1930s as a member of several academic investigation teams. [Inside the Museum: 8,842 including 7,889 records open to the public]

Photographs of Maritime Peoples of Indian and Western Pacific Ocean: The Ohshima George Collection

Photographs taken by OHSHIMA George, during his fieldwork in Asia and Oceania from 1967-1991. [Inside the Museum: 8,842 including 7,889 records open to the public]

Photographs of Cameroon, Africa: The Hata Nobuyuki Collection

Photographs taken by HATA Nobuyuki, Professor Emeritus, National Museum of Ethnology, during his fieldwork mainly in the Republic of Cameroon from 1969 to early 1990s. [6,543]

Morihiro OKI's Photographs of India

Photographs taken by a photographer OKI Morihiro in various places in India and Nepal from 1977-1996. The database includes photographs focused on rituals, festivals, folk paintings, performing arts, artifacts, and everyday life. [Inside the Museum: 22,120 including 21,971 records open to the public]

Library Materials

Book and Periodical Catalog

Bibliographic and holdings information about the books (including microfilms, etc.) and periodicals held in the Museum Library. [Books: 633,629 Periodical Titles: 17,564]

Nepal Photo Database (Japanese and English versions)

Photographs taken by TAKAYAMA Ryuzo, a graduate student of Osaka City University at that time, and other members of the Japanese Scientific Expedition for Northwestern Nepal Club Manasu in 1958, and information (including images) on artifacts collected by the expedition and now held in the Museum. [3,879]

Photographs on Northwestern Nepal and Manasu *

Photographs taken by the Japanese Scientific Expedition for Northwestern Nepal from 1958-1959, partly including ones probably taken by the science team of the first Japanese Alpine Club Manasu Expedition in 1953. They were part of materials of the former Ministry of Education Historical Archives transferred to the Museum. [620]

Ethnographic Images of the Spirit Dance in Thailand *

Photographs and videos of the Spirit Dance in Thailand shot by TANABE Shigeharu, Professor Emeritus, National Museum of Ethnology. The photographs can be searched and viewed by category, place, and ritual host of the Spirit Dance, and are also related to one of the research reports in Thai made about the dance. [Photographs: 10,082, Research reports: 41]

Photographs from the Group of the Synthetic Research of Cultures of Southeast Asian Countries *

Photographs with related information taken by the research group of the Synthetic Research of Cultures of Southeast Asian Countries during the 1st and 2nd missions out of three missions from 1957-1964. [4,393]

Slash-and-burn Agriculture: Komei Sasaki's Eyes

Photographs on swidden agriculture in Japan taken by SASAKI Komei, former director general of the National Museum of Ethnology, during his fieldwork. [451]

Farmers World – The IWATA Keiji Collection

Photographs taken by IWATA Keiji during his fieldwork in Laos and Thailand during 1957 to 1962. [342]

Slash-and-burn agriculture in Shikoku mountains: The FUKUI Katsuyoshi Collection (1969-1972)

Photographs taken by FUKUI Katsuyoshi in the Kyoto University Slash-and-Burn Study Group, which he formed in 1969, based in the Tsubayama village in Kochi Prefecture until 1972. [211]

Audio Materials Catalog

Information on our collection of records, CDs and audio tapes. [64,885]

Itemized Information on Audio Records in the Catalog

Piece-by-piece information on music, and episode-by-episode information on traditional folktales records in our collection of audio materials. [352,748]

Umesao Tadao: Written Works (1934-)

Comprehensive catalog of written works from articles and books to endorsements on the belly bands since 1934 by UMESAO Tadao, the first director general of the National Museum of Ethnology. [7,029]

Japanese Traditional Folktales: The Inada Koji Collection

Information (including sound data) on Japanese traditional folktales, documented by INADA Koji at Kyoto Women's University and his group in 29 prefectures of Japan from 1967-1978 (446 tapes, about 190 hour recording). Sounds are available only inside the Museum. [3,696]

Gyalrongic Languages (in English and Chinese)

Database of Gyalrongic Languages, spoken in northwestern Sichuan Province, China, compiled by NAGANO Yasuhiro, Professor Emeritus, National Museum of Ethnology and Dr. Marielle Prins. It contains 425/1200 lexical items and 200 sentences for 83 dialects/languages. It also contains sound data. [Words: 41,078 Sentences: 15,706]

Chronology of Clothing Culture in Japan 1868-1945

A digital chronology of clothing culture in Japan from 1868-1945 when western style clothing was not yet common. It consists of information on events, contemporary conditions, illustrations, and memoirs which were collected from newspapers and clothing magazines in that period. [14,514]

Image Database of Japanese Clothing Culture in the Modern Age

Image database on acculturation of clothing culture in Japan from 1868-1945 when Japanese style clothing was as popular as western style one. It includes images found in illustrations of newspaper novels and books, photographs, and posters in that period. [6,800]

The Heisei Hyakko-Hisho Collection

Information about "the Heisei Hyakko-Hisho," a compilation of samples prepared by the Kanazawa municipal government and Kanazawa College of Art by collecting and organizing samples showing the processes and techniques, product samples, production tools, and materials for crafts from regions across Japan (image included). [579]

Dyeing Sample by Yanagi Sensyoku Kakoso

Information was shared by dyer Mr. YANAGI Seiichi for approximately 200 sample cloth pieces produced at Yanagi Sensyoku Kakoso, including the names, origins, processes, techniques of dyeing and weaving, tools and dyes used, and points of ingenuity (image included). [185]

Exhibition Information Database

Basic information on exhibitions held by the National Museum of Ethnology (Main Exhibition, Special Exhibition, Thematic Exhibition, Collection Exhibition, and new acquisitions exhibitions) is included (image included). [199]

Number of Visitors in FY2024

Annual Number of Visitors

Total number of visitors	241,470	Adults	169,652
Daily average	794	Students	66,796
Total number of visitors since the establishment of the Museum	12,320,562	Children	5,022

Special Exhibitions

A Special Exhibition for the 50th Anniversary of the Museum's Founding "Masks in the Performing Arts and Festivals of Japan" March 28–June 11, 2024	44,159
A Special Exhibition for the 50th Anniversary of the Museum's Founding "THE WORLD OF POET-SINGERS" September 19–December 10, 2024	30,616
Thematic Exhibitions	53,406
A Thematic Exhibition for the 50th Anniversary of the Museum's Founding "Conveying the realities of the Minamata disease" March 14–June 18, 2024	53,406
A Thematic Exhibition for the 50th Anniversary of the Museum's Founding "Hakka and Japan: Another History of East Asian Relations Created by Chinese Overseas" September 5–December 3, 2024	47,346
Traveling Exhibitions	2,097
"UNIVERSAL MUSEUM": Exploring the New Field of Tactile Sensation July 6–September 16, 2024	2,097
Nogata Tanio Art Museum	
"National Ainu Museum 9th Special Exhibition REGNUM IMAGINARIUM: Realm of the Marvelous and Uncanny" September 14–November 17, 2024	18,192
National Ainu Museum	

Special Exhibitions

Exhibition Title	Period	Exhibition Title	Period
The Great Andes Civilization: Inca, the Reviving Empire of the Sun	Sept. 14 – Dec. 12, 1989	Pilgrimage and Sacred Places: A Voyage of Self Discovery	Mar. 15 – June 5, 2007
Masks in Equatorial Africa: Hidden Forest Spirits*	Mar. 15 – May 31, 1990	The Great Ocean Voyage: VAKA MOANA and Island Life Today	Sept. 13 – Dec. 11, 2007
The E.S. Morse Collection: Meiji Folk Crafts that Crossed the Pacific	Sept. 13 – Dec. 4, 1990	The Profound Earth: Ethnic Life and Crafts of China	Mar. 13 – June 3, 2008
Engelbert Kämpfer: The Genroku Period Viewed by a German*	Feb. 7 – Apr. 16, 1991	SELF and OTHER: Portraits from Asia and Europe	Sept. 11 – Nov. 25, 2008
Greater India: Deities and Man in the Hindu World	Aug. 1 – Nov. 5, 1991	When Japan's Tea Ceremony Artisans Meet Minpaku's Collections: Creative Art in Perspective	Mar. 12 – June 14, 2009
Dagestan, Crossroads of Civilization: Ethnic Arts of the Caucasus*	Mar. 12 – May 19, 1992	Voices from the Land, Visions of Life: Beauty Created by the Indigenous Peoples of Canada	Sept. 10 – Dec. 8, 2009
Aboriginal Australia: Fifty Thousand Years of Hunters and Spirits	Sept. 10 – Dec. 8, 1992	Africa in the Works of El Anatsui A Fateful Journey	Sept. 16 – Dec. 7, 2010
Asia Viewed by Torii Ryuzo, a Pioneer of Ethnology*	Mar. 11 – May 14, 1993	Umesao Tadao: An Explorer For the Future	Mar. 10 – June 14, 2011
Ainu Moshiri: The Ainu World Viewed through Their Designs	June 10 – Aug. 17, 1993	Devotion to the Arts of Living Daily Life Among the Aynu of the Kurile, Sakhalin and Hokkaido Islands: Objects from the Late 19th – Early 20th Century	Oct. 6 – Dec. 6, 2011
Javanese Cotton Print: A World of Diverse Traditions	Sept. 9 – Nov. 30, 1993	Collections of Ethnological Museums in Germany and Japan	
Indigenous Peoples and Cultures in Taiwan*	Mar. 10 – May 24, 1994	"Modernologio" Now: Kon Wajiro's Science of the Present	
Woven Flowers of the Silk Road: An Introduction to the Carpet Heritage of West Asia and Central Asia	Sept. 8 – Nov. 29, 1994	The Warp and Weft of Weaving: Handlooms and Textiles of the World	Apr. 26 – June 19, 2012
Music and Musical Instruments in Latin America*	Mar. 16 – May 30, 1995	Zafimaniry Style: Life and Handicrafts in the Mist Forest of Madagascar	Sept. 13 – Nov. 27, 2012
Weaving Color as Culture: The Maya Today	Sept. 14 – Nov. 30, 1995	Shibusawa Keizo Memorial Project Attic Museum	Mar. 14 – June 11, 2013
Japan through the Eyes of Siebold and His Son	Aug. 1 – Nov. 19, 1996	The Power of Images: The National Museum of Ethnology Collection	Sept. 19 – Dec. 3, 2013
Images of Other Cultures: From the British Museum Collection	Sept. 25, 1997 – Jan. 27, 1998	Food Culture in Korea and Japan: The Tastes of NANUM and OMOTENASHI	Sept. 11 – Dec. 9, 2014
What is Inside? Forays and X-rays into Ethnographic Objects*	Mar. 12 – May 26, 1998	Ishuretsuo, the Image of Ezo: Tracing Persons, Things and the World	Aug. 27 – Nov. 10, 2015
Mongolia: The Rise of Nomadic Culture	July 30 – Nov. 24, 1998	Amazing Show Tents in Japan	Feb. 25 – May 10, 2016
Cultural Heritage of the South Pacific: The George Brown Collection*	Mar. 11 – May 31, 1999	Beads in the World	Sept. 8 – Nov. 29, 2016
Ethnic Cultures Abroad: People Moving, Cultures Mixing	Sept. 9, 1999 – Jan. 11, 2000	Revisiting Siebold's Japan Museum	Mar. 9 – June 6, 2017
Theater at the Museum: The Expressive Body	Mar. 18 – May 14, 2000	A 'Tower of the Sun' Collection: Expo '70 Ethnological Mission	Aug. 10 – Oct. 10, 2017
Ethnology and the Rise of Cinema: From Shadow Theater to Multi-Media	July 20 – Nov. 21, 2000	Transmitting Art and Craft: Japanese Industrial Design Originating in Tohoku	Mar. 8 – May 29, 2018
Ethnology of Life in the Taisho and Showa Periods: Shibusawa Keizo and the Attic Museum	Mar. 15 – June 5, 2001	Toys Expo—Children in Modern Japan	Sept. 13 – Nov. 27, 2018
The Sea Otter and Glass Beads: Trade of Indigenous Peoples of the North Pacific Rim	Sept. 20, 2001 – Jan. 15, 2002	REGNUM IMAGINARIUM: Realm of the Marvelous and Uncanny	Mar. 21 – May 28, 2019
Seoul Style 2002: Life as It Is with the Lee Family	Mar. 21 – July 16, 2002	Treasures of Indigenous Peoples	Aug. 29 – Nov. 26, 2019
Wrapping Culture: Furoshiki and Wrapping Cloths of the World	Oct. 3, 2002 – Jan. 14, 2003	Local Cultures Assisting Revitalization: 10 Years since the Great East Japan Earthquake	Oct. 1 – Dec. 15, 2020
Mandala Deities in Tibet and Nepal	Mar. 13 – June 17, 2003	"UNIVERSAL MUSEUM": Exploring the New Field of Tactile Sensation	Mar. 4 – May 18, 2021
A West African Story-telling Village	July 24 – Nov. 25, 2003	100 Years of Mongolia: Encounters through Photography	Sept. 2 – Nov. 30, 2021
Messages from the Ainu: Craft and Spirit	Jan. 8 – Feb. 15, 2004	"Homō loquēns 'talking human': Wonders of Language and Languages"	Mar. 17 – May 31, 2022
Multiracial Japan: The Life and History of Immigrants	Mar. 25 – June 15, 2004	"Arte Popular": The Creative and Critical Power of Latin Americans*	Sept. 1 – Nov. 23, 2022
The Arabian Nights	Sept. 9 – Dec. 7, 2004	"Divine Affection: Enchanting Images of Hindu Deities"	Mar. 9 – May 30, 2023
More Happy Every Day: The World of Bricolage Art	Mar. 17 – June 7, 2005	"Masks in the Performing Arts and Festivals of Japan"	Sept. 14 – Dec. 5, 2023
Fashioning India	Sept. 8 – Dec. 6, 2005	"THE WORLD OF POET-SINGERS"	Mar. 28 – June 11, 2024
Minpaku Kids-World: Objects as Ties between Children and Their Society	Mar. 16 – May 30, 2006	"MINGU Design Expo: Discovering Sources of Wisdom"	Sept. 19 – Dec. 10, 2024
Arabesque of Batik Designs and Techniques: From Java to the World	Sept. 7 – Dec. 5, 2006	"MINGU Design Expo: Discovering Sources of Wisdom"	Mar. 20 – June 3, 2025

*The distinction between a special exhibition and a thematic exhibition was abolished in 2001 and now all of the temporary exhibitions are called "Special Exhibitions".

Internet

Website <https://www.minpaku.ac.jp/>

The website features Minpaku research, exhibits, and other activities, along with information on graduate education, publication, and materials in its library and collections.

E-mail magazine <https://www.minpaku.ac.jp/research/publication/column/enews>

To provide updates on the latest research, special or thematic exhibitions and various events, like Minpaku Seminars, "Minpaku e-news", a monthly newsletter is emailed to subscribers.

Social Media Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/MINPAKU.official>

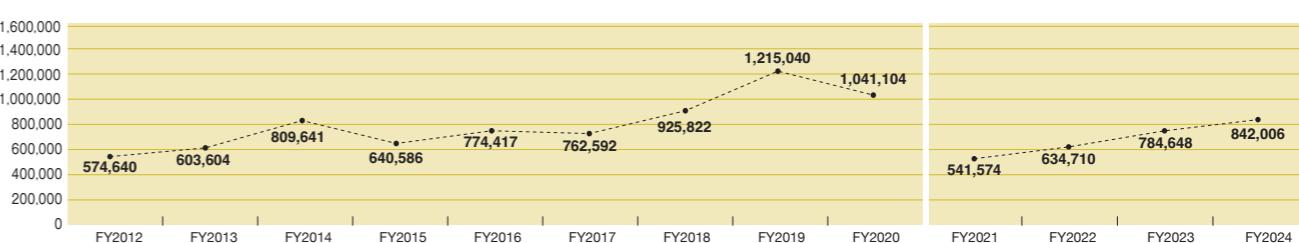
X(Twitter) <https://x.com/MINPAKUofficial>

YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/MINPAKUofficial>

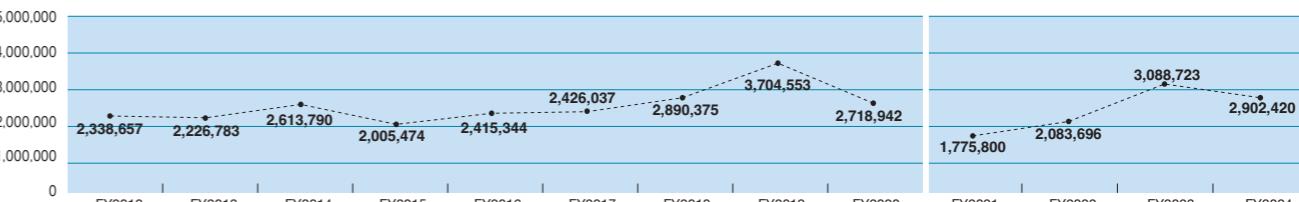
Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/MINPAKUofficial>

Using various social media provides opportunities to link Minpaku with people interested in cultural anthropology and ethnology, and also to give information on research and museum activities.

Number of Visitors to the Minpaku Website 842,006 (FY2024)



Number of Web Pages Accessed 2,902,420 (FY2024)



*Counting procedures have changed, due to the renewal of our website since FY2021.

Publicity through the Public Media

Publicity is developed through the mass media to convey information about Minpaku's activities. A program entitled "Window of Research" was launched through the "Meeting for Media and Minpaku Staff", held monthly on every third Thursday. The Museum has been mentioned in a total of 802 programs and articles: 24 on TV and on radio, 447 in newspapers, 164 in magazines and 167 in other media. Minpaku has also been featured in regular radio broadcasts and newspaper series.

"*Tabi, Iroiro Chikyūjin* [Journeys: Various People on the Earth]"

Published from April 2005 to March 2009 as a series entitled "The Study of Other Cultures" in the Mainichi Shinbun newspaper.

Materials for the General Public

Publicity

MINPAKU Anthropology Newsletter

Gekkan Minpaku [Minpaku Monthly]

Minpaku Calendar



Guidebooks and Catalogues

Special Exhibition catalogue

"THE WORLD OF POET-SINGERS"

Special Exhibition catalogue

"MINGU Design Expo: Discovering Sources of Wisdom"





National Institutes for the Humanities (NIHU)

The National Institutes for the Humanities (NIHU) was established in 2004 as a corporation to support and further develop inter-university research institutes* that promote research in the humanities.

*Inter-University Research Institutes

As Japanese Centers of Excellence (COE) in their respective research fields, these institutes provide universities and other research institutes in Japan and overseas with large facilities and equipment as well as vast materials and information that are difficult for any individual university to maintain, thereby facilitating effective joint research.

NIHU's six institutes

- National Museum of Japanese History (REKIHAKU)
- National Institute of Japanese Literature (NIJL)
- National Institute for Japanese Language and Linguistics (NINJAL)
- International Research Center for Japanese Studies (NICHIBUNKEN)
- Research Institute for Humanity and Nature (RIHN)
- National Museum of Ethnology (MINPAKU)

These six institutes offer courses at the Graduate University for Advanced Studies, SOKENDAI. The six graduate (doctoral) courses take advantage of the institutes' respective resources to train scholars for broad perspective and a high level of expertise and learning.

The NIHU Headquarters houses the Center for Innovative Research (CIR), which conducts research and projects that link multiple institutes and universities, and promotes joint research using a research infrastructure built on digital technology.



NIHU's Mission

As the only inter-university research institute corporation for the humanities, NIHU's mission is to comprehensively explore humanity and its cultures, and through this exploration, to ask what true abundance is, to promote harmony between nature and humanity, and to contribute to the survival and coexistence of humankind.

NIHU's Vision

To realize its mission, in the NIHU's Fourth Mid-term Plan Period (FY2022-2027), NIHU aims to explore various social issues related to the diversity of human culture and social dynamics, try to solve them, and present new values and humanities knowledge that will serve as guidelines for the formation of a future society in which people and nature live in harmony and where science, technology, and humanity coexist. To achieve this, the Center for Innovative Research (CIR) was established in April 2022 with the aim of forming new knowledge open to society. Based on the philosophy of open humanities research through co-creation with various people in Japan and overseas, the center continues to build a research platform using digital technology, promote joint research through that platform, and work on the formation of a "Knowledge Forum" as a place for exchange and collaboration with various people in society and the formation of an international network.

Center for Innovative Research (CIR)

Based on the mission and vision, CIR promotes "NIHU Research Projects" and "NIHU Co-creation Initiatives."

NIHU Research Projects

NIHU Research Projects conduct basic and interdisciplinary researches, and promote three types of projects: Institute-based Projects, Multidisciplinary Collaborative Projects, and Network-based Projects.

Institute-based Projects

NIHU's six institutes have established priority research themes in accordance with their respective missions. They collaborate with institutes and researchers both in Japan and overseas to conduct research that deepens knowledge and understanding of their respective specialist areas.

Multidisciplinary Collaborative Projects

These are the projects in which NIHU's institutes take on a central role while collaborating with other NIHU's institutes as well as universities and other external institutes, working with research themes that cut across different fields.

Network-based Projects

These are the projects in which NIHU's institutes play a central role in forming a network with universities and other research institutes in Japan and overseas as well as implementing issues that are important to Japan and the world.

Construction of Japanese Historical Knowledge and Open Science Research
Model Building in the Humanities through Data-Driven Problem Solving
Empirical and Applied Research on the Japanese Language Based on Open Language Resources
New Departures and Consortium for Global Japanese Studies: Pioneering and Cultivating Global Japanese Studies
Renewing Modern Civilization through Nature-culture Complex toward Solving Global Environmental Problems
Sustainable Development Humanities Research Based on the Info-Forum Archives of Human Culture
Interdisciplinary and Integrated Studies on Local Cultures: Aiming for the Emergence of Novel Communities
Object-based Research of Nature-human Interactions up to the Anthropocene
Expansion Studies of Synthetic Bibliography
Global Area Studies Program
Inter-University Research Institute Network Project to Preserve and Succeed Historical and Cultural Resources

NIHU Co-creation Initiatives

These are projects that promote the sharing of research results and co-creation with local communities and societies, promote "Co-creation Research Projects" and "Co-creation Outreach," whose aim is to develop research in three ways: "Social Co-creation" "Digitalization," and "International Co-creation".

Co-creation Research Projects

These projects promote joint research through co-creation with various organizations and people inside and outside NIHU as well as develop research in the following three ways.

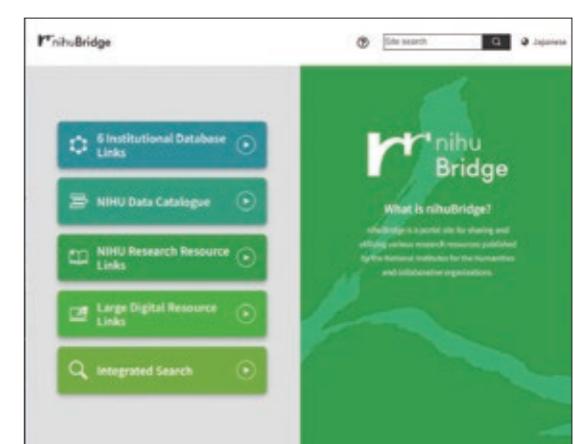
- Establishing Science for Universal Communication (S_COM) [Social Co-creation]
- Building Digital Library for Humanities [Digitalization]
- Japan-related Documents and Artifacts Held Overseas [International Co-creation]

- 1) Early Diplomatic Japanese Collections Abroad: Contextualizing 19th Century Japanese Material Heritage in World History through On-site and Online Research and Use
- 2) Study on the Construction of Archival Infrastructure for the History of Modern Japan-Vatican Relations
- 3) Japan-related Documents and Artifacts in Hawai'i: Historical and Social Survey Interface

Co-creation Outreach

These initiatives implement projects to accelerate the three types of research development as well as aim to enhance and innovate research at NIHU's institutes and universities and other external institutes.

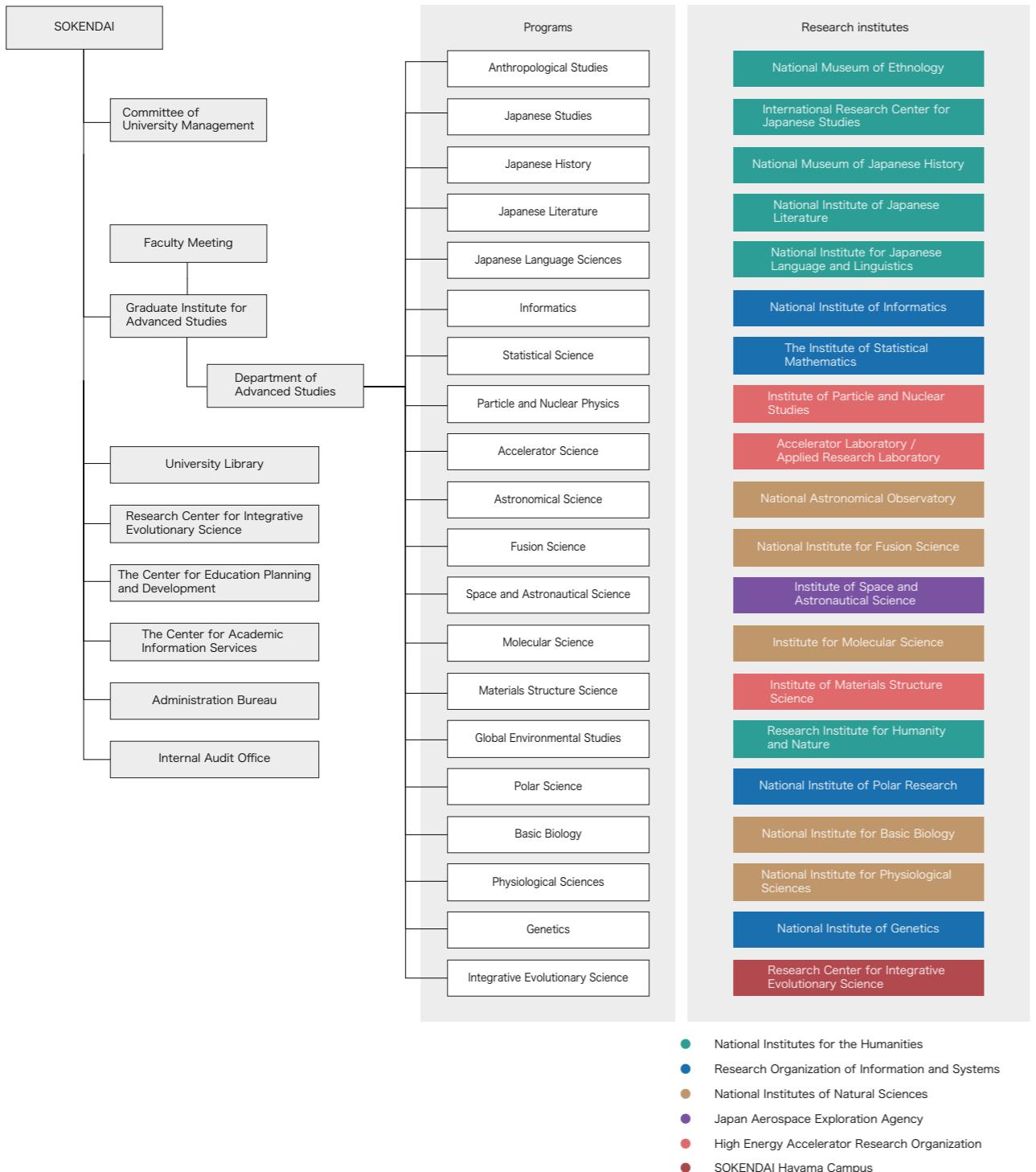
- NIHU Knowledge Co-creation Projects [Social Co-creation]
- NIHU "Digital Humanities" (DH) Projects [Digitalization]
- NIHU Global Partnership [International Co-creation]



nihuBridge
This is a portal site for sharing and utilizing diverse research resources disseminated by NIHU and its constituent institutes.

The Graduate University for Advanced Studies, SOKENDAI, is a graduate university based on Inter-University Research Institutes. By promoting interaction among universities and graduate schools, both domestic and overseas, using a world-leading research environment of those institutes as a training ground, SOKENDAI aims to develop researchers with the ability to think from broad, comprehensive, and global perspectives.

University Organization



The Anthropological Studies Program

The Museum has established the Anthropological Studies (doctoral) program, Graduate Institute for Advanced Studies, SOKENDAI. It provides education and conducts research on the diverse cultures that humankind has created worldwide, from prehistoric to modern times. From the viewpoints of cultural anthropology, ethnology, and related fields, we guide ethnographic research, which descriptively analyzes a specific culture, and cross-cultural research, which compares different cultures from a specific perspective. Students aim to complete their doctoral dissertations using data collected through field work, objects, videos/sounds, and documentary materials held at the Museum.

Outline of the Program

Educational studies are composed of lectures and instruction by individual faculty members and shared seminars by multiple faculty members. Two types of shared seminars are offered: the basic seminar called the "First year Seminar" which is mainly for freshmen and the "Dissertation Seminar" for sophomores and more advanced students focusing on instruction for thesis writing. Common subjects (advanced theory) on cultural anthropology and ethnology are also conducted primarily for first year students.

Under student exchange agreements, credits for the program can be transferred among the Graduate School of Asian and African Area Studies at Kyoto University, the Graduate School of Human Sciences at Osaka University, the Graduate School of Intercultural Studies and the Graduate School of Human Development and Environment at Kobe University.

In most cases, students work on preparation for fieldwork during the first year, and proceed to fieldwork in the second or subsequent years under the supervision of their advisors. Then, after finishing their fieldwork, the students complete their dissertations under the individual guidance of their advisors and through participation in the "Dissertation Seminar".

Number of Students as of April 1, 2025

Quota and Current Number of Students

Department / Program	Quota	Current Students			Total
		First year	Second year	Third year	
Anthropological Studies	4	3	2	4	9
Regional Studies				7	7
Comparative Studies				6	6
Total		3	2	17	22

* In April 2023, the Departments of Regional Studies and Comparative Studies were reorganized into the Anthropological Studies Program.

Number of Doctoral Degrees Awarded

Academic Year	Regional Studies		Comparative Studies		Anthropological Studies		Total
	By Completing Doctoral Course	By Submitting Dissertation	By Completing Doctoral Course	By Submitting Dissertation	By Completing Doctoral Course	By Submitting Dissertation	
1991-1993			2	1			3
1994	2			1			3
1995	2			1			3
1996		3					3
1997	3			4			7
1998	4	2					6
1999							
2000	2			2	1		5
2001	1	1	2	1			5
2002	1	1		2			4
2003							
2004	2	3					5
2005	4	2			2		8
2006	2			3			5
2007	2	1	3				6
2008	1		1				2
2009		1	1	1			3
2010	2		2	3			7
2011	3		1	1			5
2012	1	1	1	1			4
2013			1	1			2
2014	2	1	2				5
2015	3	1					4
2016	1	1	1				3
2017	1			1			2
2018	1						1
2019	1			2			3
2020	1	1	2				4
2021	4		3	1			8
2022	1			1			2
2023	1						3
2024	1		1				2
Total	49	19	38	15			124

Acceptance of Overseas Researchers under the JSPS RONPAKU Program

Grantees of the JSPS RONPAKU (Dissertation Ph.D.) Program conduct their research under the supervision of advisors in the program.

General Information

Hours and Closing Days

Hours	10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Entry permitted up to 4:30 p.m.
Closing days	Every Wednesday. When a national holiday falls on a Wednesday, the Museum is closed on the following weekday. The Museum is closed from December 28 until January 4 for the year-end and New Year period.

Admission Charges

	Individual	Groups (20 persons or more) and visitors eligible for discount *
Adults	¥780	¥660
College and University Students	¥340	¥270
High School Students and Younger	Free	

An additional charge may be necessary for Special Exhibitions.

Admission is free for holders of a Disabled Person's Handbook and one accompanying person per holder.

Admission is free for members of the Japanese Society of Cultural Anthropology, International Council of Museums, and Japan Association of Museums (a membership certificate is required).

*The following visitors qualify for a discounted admission charge (please present documentation):

- 1) Groups of 20 or more.
- 2) College, university, graduate, and vocational school students who use the Museum as part of their course work.
- 3) Those who have visited the Museum within the previous three months.
- 4) Visitors aged 65 and over (ID required).

Contact Information

National Museum of Ethnology
10-1 Senri Expo Park, Suita, Osaka 565-8511, Japan
Tel: +81-6-6876-2151 Fax: +81-6-6875-0401

Website

<https://www.minpaku.ac.jp/en>

Information and Services

The Minpaku Associates Tel: +81-6-6877-8893 (The Senri Foundation 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. on weekdays only) minpaku@senri-f.or.jp

The organization, Minpaku Associates was formed to support the activities of the National Museum of Ethnology and to use its facilities actively.

With the cooperation of the museum, the Minpaku Associates publishes *Kikan Minzokugaku* (Ethnological Quarterly) and organizes and operates Ethnological Tours and Experiential Seminars offering opportunities for direct contact with various cultures, lectures, and other events.



Minpaku Associates Desk

Kikan Minzokugaku [Ethnological Quarterly]

Museum Shop (Hours: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.)

At the museum shop, visitors can purchase folk crafts from various parts of the world, books about anthropology and ethnology, and the museum's original goods.



Restaurant (Hours: 11:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Last Orders: 4:00 p.m.)

Tel: +81-6-6310-0810

We serve lunch and dinner, including such dishes as hamburger steaks and pastas, and light meals and desserts. We can seat 110 diners, and our restaurant accepts reservations from small groups with a few individuals to large groups such as parties with many people. Group customers can also reserve our box lunches.

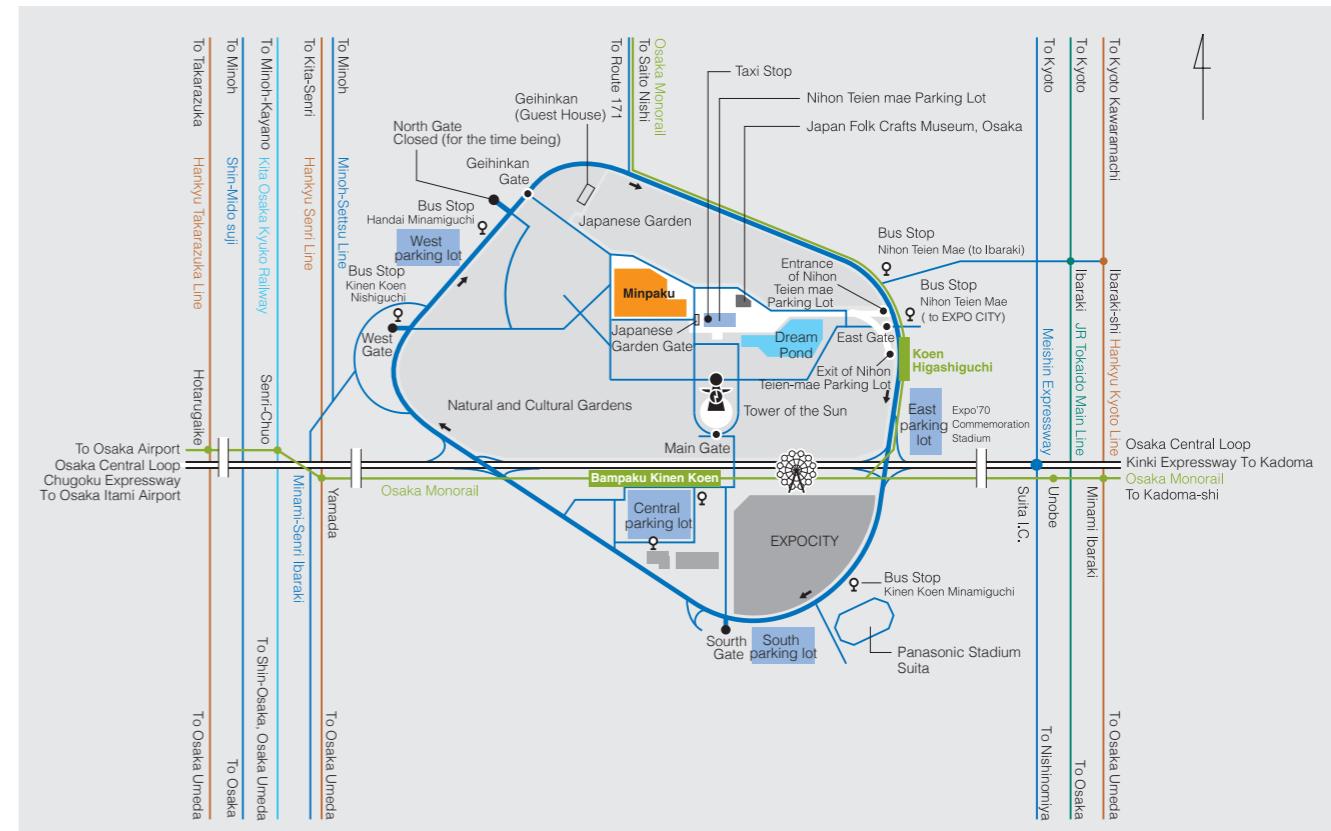
Access Information

- By Osaka Monorail, from Bampaku Kinen Koen Station or Koen Higashiguchi Station it is about a 15-minute walk to the Museum through the Natural and Cultural Garden.
- By car, please park at one of the parking lots for the Expo'70 Commemoration Park. From the nearest pay parking lot, in front of the Japanese Garden, it is about a 5-minute walk to the Museum. Please enter the Museum through the Japanese Garden Gate.
- By taxi, you will get dropped off in the parking lot in front of the Japanese Garden. Please enter the Museum through the Japanese Garden Gate.

* Please buy a museum ticket at the gate of the Expo'70 Commemorative Park. Ticket holders can pass through the park at no charge.

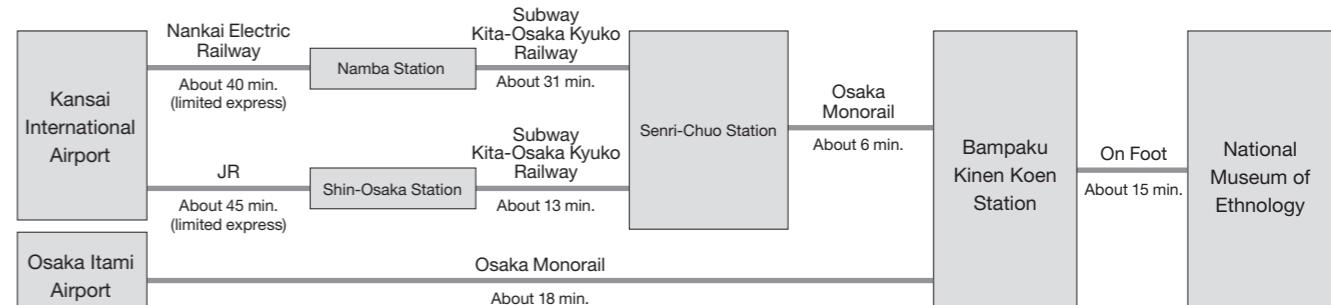
* If you visit the Expo'70 Commemorative Park, you need to buy an entry ticket.

Map



Major Access Routes

Access routes to the Museum from airports and major railway stations are as shown below.



The National Museum of Ethnology's emblem was created at its foundation (1974), symbolizing the solidarity and activity of the Earth (ethnicity and culture). The protruding parts represent Earth's seven continents and civilizations. The part surrounding the circle and protrusions represents Earth's seven seas.

Survey and Guide
2025-26



National Museum of Ethnology

10-1 Senri Expo Park, Suita, Osaka 565-8511, Japan