

# Sendai Symposium

March 16, 2015

Multi-Purpose Hall, 5F, AER, Sendai City Information & Industry Plaza  
Sendai City, Miyagi, Japan

## Contents

- Opening Remarks                      Johei Sasaki,  
President, National Institutes for Cultural Heritage (NICH)
- Keynote Presentation “Cultural Heritage and Disaster Risk Reduction”  
Koichiro Matsuura, Former UNESCO Director-General
- Panel Discussion              Facilitator: Yuji Kurihara, Secretary General, National Task Force for  
the Japanese Cultural Heritage Disaster Risk Mitigation Network,  
NICH
- Panelists: (in alphabetical order)  
Masanori Aoyagi, Commissioner, Agency for Cultural Affairs (ACA)  
Giovanni Boccardi, Chief of Emergency Preparedness and Response,  
Culture Sector, UNESCO  
Stefano De Caro, Director-General, ICCROM  
Koichiro Matsuura, Former UNESCO Director-General  
Kenzo Toki, Professor, Ritsumeikan University
- Closing Remarks                      Takamasa Saito, Councillor for Cultural Properties, ACA

Essential points of the presentation “A Global Perspective on Cultural Heritage and Disaster Resilient Communities” by Joseph King, ICCROM, are incorporated in the “Recommendations of the International Expert Meeting on Cultural Heritage and Disaster Resilient Communities (14 March, Tokyo, Japan)” in the Appendices at the back of this book.

Essential points of the presentation “A Japanese Perspective on Cultural Heritage and Disaster Resilient Communities” by Yuji Kurihara, NICH, are incorporated in the “Future Prospects” of the Tokyo Symposium.



## Opening Remarks

Johei Sasaki

President, National Institutes for Cultural Heritage (NICH)

I would like to take the opportunity to say a few words to open this symposium.

I first express my deepest condolences to those who lost their lives in the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake, and extend my heartfelt sympathy to affected people, including those who remain living in temporary housings even till this day.

I am pleased to see the presence of so many participants here today. It is particularly moving to be able to hold this Symposium in Sendai – one of the cities struck by the earthquake – four years after the devastating disaster.

The UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR) is a major United Nations forum where discussions are held on a global scale in respect to various disaster risk reduction topics. The first WCDRR was held in 1994 in Yokohama and the second in 2005 in Kobe. Now, the third WCDRR is taking place in Sendai to develop a DRR framework beyond 2015, which will follow the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005 – 2015 adopted at the second conference.

In preparation for this symposium, we held a strategy meeting in Tokyo a few days ago to discuss in depth disaster preparedness of movable and immovable as well as tangible and intangible cultural heritage, for each of the stages of before, during, and after disasters. The meeting emphasized the need for policies and frameworks aimed for the next fifteen years to reflect the significance of cultural heritage disaster risk reduction, as various types of cultural heritage have proved to play an important role in reviving local communities after disasters.

Today's Symposium is held in order to share the outcomes of these discussions with a wider public. It is a part of the International Expert Meeting within the framework of the Third WCDRR, organized by the Agency for Cultural Affairs of Japan (ACA), UNESCO, ICCROM, and NICH, with generous support from ICOM and ICOMOS. Following my opening remarks, the former UNESCO Director-General Mr. Koichiro Matsumura will deliver a keynote speech to address cultural heritage and disaster re-

silient communities. We will then have Mr. Joseph King, the Director of Sites Unit at ICCROM to provide an international perspective on heritage DRR, followed by Mr. Yuji Kurihara from NICH who will share a Japanese outlook on the issue. Finally, there will be a panel discussion joined by Mr. Masanori Aoyagi, the ACA Commissioner; Mr. Giovanni Boccardi, the Chief of Unit at Asia and the Pacific Section of the UNESCO World Heritage Center; Dr. Stefano De Caro, ICCROM Director-General; as well as Prof. Kenzo Toki from Ritsumeikan University.

Today's symposium will be a very significant opportunity for Japan to present our progress on post-disaster recovery, and to make an international contribution through sharing with the world our experience and knowledge on heritage DRR. It will serve as an opportunity to enhance awareness for mitigating risks and preserving the cultural heritage of humanity.

In concluding my remarks, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the people whose efforts have made this symposium possible.

Thank you.

## Keynote Presentation

### Cultural Heritage and Disaster Risk Reduction

Koichiro Matsuura

Former UNESCO Director-General

#### 1. Introduction

The second session of the UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction was held 10 years ago in January 2005 in Kobe. It was 10 years after the Kobe earthquake, and I then participated as Secretary-General of UNESCO. Although in Japan UNESCO is mainly known as the international organization with a focus on culture in charge of world heritage and intangible cultural heritage, UNESCO is also responsible for education, natural science, social science and communication. As part of the field of natural sciences, UNESCO also deals with natural disasters, and it was mainly for this reason that I participated.

#### 2. Cultural Heritage and Disasters – Natural Disasters and Man-made Disasters

As you will remember, in December 2004, a large earthquake occurred in the Indian Ocean causing a tsunami, and more than 200,000 people lost their lives. Compared to the Tohoku earthquake causing 20,000 deaths, the great tsunami in the Indian Ocean left more than 10 times the number of people dead or missing, finally totaling around 220,000 people - an enormous human cost. The biggest reason for this huge loss was that there were no proper warning devices.

It was in the wake of the 1960 earthquake in Chile that UNESCO introduced tsunami warning devices in the Pacific Ocean in 1965. I became Director-General of UNESCO in 1999 and already then experts were warning that a major earthquake and tsunami may occur in the Indian Ocean anytime. And when a large earthquake and tsunami did actually hit the area in 2004, more than 200,000 people lost their lives.

This United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction is exclusively focused on natural disasters and in terms of human lives, of course, protection from natural disasters is the most important.

The strategic meeting in Tokyo was concerned with immovable and movable cultural properties. The most apparent examples of the immovable cul-

tural heritage, speaking of the Japanese context would be shrines, temples and castles. Fortunately, the tsunami did not reach the Golden Hall of Chusonji of the World Heritage site Hiraizumi, and earthquake damage was minor. It is important to take firm measures against natural disasters, but protection from man-made disaster measures are just as important. To say more specifically, these disasters include war, civil war, civil unrest, and intentional destruction. Damages from these disasters are often much larger.

There was a report from UNESCO stating that the Islamic State (IS) has been intentionally destroying ruins of the Assyrian civilization.

Then, from the *chargé d'affaires* of the Embassy of Japan in Syria, Northern Syria was reported to be experiencing similar conditions. World Heritage sites in Africa are most seriously endangered by man-made disasters. I have mentioned that there were two categories in man-made disasters: war or civil war, and human destruction. In the case of the Middle East, the latter is the problem, but in Africa it is the former – war and civil war.

So, we should think about cultural heritage, in terms of the basic theme of the United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, that is natural disasters, but we also need to think seriously about the measures against the man-made disasters. This was pointed out very clearly yesterday, and I could not agree more. Actually, UNESCO also has the same vision.

#### 3. UNESCO and Japan

As you know UNESCO was founded on November 16, 1945, at the London meeting, immediately after the end of the Second World War, when the UNESCO Charter was adopted. This day is marked as the day of foundation, and UNESCO will celebrate its 70th anniversary this year. Because the United Nations was established the same year in September, it is also the 70th anniversary of the United Nations.

Today, UNESCO is an international organization, a specialized agency of the United Nations, but

at that time, the combined United Nations and UNESCO were promoted by the intellectuals of the Allies. The United Nations was to focus on “hard power,” especially in the political and military fields, and UNESCO on “soft power.” UNESCO was established subsequently with a constitution that states “since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defenses of peace must be constructed.” This is the so-called UNESCO Constitution. In response to this, a group of intellectuals from various countries including in Japan, starting with Dr. Hideki Yukawa, who was awarded the first Nobel Prize in Physics, started a civilian UNESCO movement, and in response to this public movement, the first UNESCO Association, not just in Japan but in the world, was founded. It was here in Sendai that this organization was established in July 1947. Then, it spread nationwide, and now there are about 300 UNESCO Associations in Japan. The most active public movements of UNESCO in the world can be seen here in Japan.

When I was UNESCO Director-General this made me very proud, because it was even before Japan acceded to the United Nations in 1951. In fact, the first international institution that Japan joined was UNESCO. The peace treaty was negotiated in San Francisco in September 1951 and entered into force in April 1952. But UNESCO gave a big welcome to Japan as early as July of 1951. Japan wanted to join the United Nations, but, unfortunately, Japan-Soviet relations were not normalized, and the Soviet Union was on the Security Council, so because of their veto, this was not realized until 1956. In UNESCO, there was no system for country to exercise a veto right, they welcomed us unanimously.

#### **4. Destruction of Cultural Properties by Armed Conflict**

The Hague Treaty was established as one of UNESCO’s treaties in 1954. This was aimed at the protection of cultural properties against man-made disasters, especially war, civil war and civil unrest. The term cultural property was still used then. Under this treaty, leaders that do not respect its protection during armed conflict can be accused of war crimes. Actually, in the 1990s, civil war broke out alongside the breakup of Yugoslavia. In that process, designated cultural properties were intentionally destroyed. Accusations of war crimes are now being made through this strict treaty in which neglect of cultural properties can be taken as a crime.

In 1954, after the Second World War, UNESCO put the most effort into establishing this treaty.

As for Japan, we did not actively participate in the negotiations, but we voted in agreement. But, unfortunately, it was not ratified for a long time. After I became the Director-General and lobbied the Japanese government at the time, Japan was finally ratified.

I remember clearly that during the Second Gulf War, I was the Director-General of UNESCO, at the time when the Saddam Hussein regime was overthrown, and I was contacted by the US Department of State confidentially. Because Iraq had already ratified the Hague Convention, they asked us to provide a list Iraq’s cultural properties. We thoroughly informed the US military and sent out an order that cultural properties must not be attacked and in fact, the United States complied. In the riots at the end, as we all know, there was the unfortunate incident of the Museum of Baghdad being plundered, not by the US military, but by the local people, and a series of cultural properties were destroyed. However, the various militaries, including the US military, firmly protected them. In Africa, there are still many countries that have not yet ratified the Hague Convention, so it is important that they ratify the Convention and thoroughly communicate with in their countries.

#### **5. Human-Induced Damage to Cultural Heritage Properties**

Similarly, in Japan during World War II (this is of course before UNESCO and the Hague Convention), Kyoto and Nara are said to have been spared from bombing by the consideration of the United States. Though, of course, many other cities were badly destroyed, Kyoto and Nara, due to a unilateral blockade by the United States, escaped the bombing. So, it is clear that such considerations are important at the time of war.

The other thing is artificial destruction, which is the same, or even worse. As I mentioned earlier, various measures have been taken by the Security Council of the United Nations, concerning the destructions by the Islamic State, but to be honest, I don’t think it will have any effect. Rather, we must overcome IS, so the measures beyond the realm of protection of cultural property are needed.

When I saw this incident on TV, I recalled the example of Afghanistan, which I struggled very much with during my time as UNESCO Director-General. I think you all remember that the Taliban regime destroyed the two great Buddha statues of Bamiyan. The Taliban wanted to destroy the idols because in the Qur'an, the sacred book of Muslims, idolatry is prohibited. This was their argument for the destruction.

However, the Taliban regime has existed for a long time together with the two Buddhas of Bamiyan, as well as the sculptures in the Kabul Museum in Afghanistan. If they were to have actually followed the Qur'an, these cultural properties would have been lost much earlier. The action that I took was to hold a meeting in Doha collaborating with Arab religious leaders, Islamic leaders and the Qatar Government. At that time, we adopted a declaration of religious leaders saying that protecting cultural heritage of humanity's past does not violate the teachings of the Qur'an, and this was delivered to the Taliban regime. But unfortunately, this was at almost the same time that the two Great Buddhas were destroyed. So I struggled very much for two weeks, but, unfortunately, with no result. The Islamic leaders went as far as adopting a resolution in Doha to state that the protection of cultural properties do not violate the Qur'an, so I think that the destruction was done intentionally only in order to make the world take notice of them.

In any case, how to protect cultural heritage from armed conflict such as war and human destruction, is a very important theme. After the Hague Convention in 1954, there were increased interests in the protection of immovable cultural properties in the 1960s. UNESCO used its power to protect the immovable cultural heritage since the 1960s, followed by a treaty banning the illegal international trade of cultural properties in 1970. This finally led to the 1972 treaty on the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage.

This 1970 treaty was adopted in response to the overseas trafficking by individuals of Buddha images that happened before the large events we see now, such as in Afghanistan under the Taliban regime. In contrast to that, with trafficking, an individual removes the Buddha statue from its site, to be first bought by an art dealer and then sold to individuals. This type of international trade is forbidden, and if the involvement of another country is discovered, there is an obligation to return the artifacts to the country of origin. But to repeat again,

this is no countermeasure for the deliberate destructions by the Taliban and IS.

Dr. Ikuo Hirayama, the UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador who sadly passed away, bought up from Kabul Museum more than 100 extremely impressive artifacts, which are now kept at the Tokyo University of the Arts. He said he was ready to return them at any time if a proper location was established in Kabul.

## 6. Natural Disasters

Next, I would like to mention natural disasters including earthquakes, tsunami, volcanic eruptions, floods, landslides, typhoons and hurricanes. In terms of how to cope with such natural disasters, we must think about how to respond to them, by all means saving human lives. In terms of life-saving, today's theme of cultural heritage has been widened, which I am very pleased about.

In Japan, the 1950 Act on Protection of Cultural Properties is an admirable law that covers not only tangible cultural properties, but also intangible cultural properties. Intangible cultural heritage is at the roots of the local community, passed on from person to person, and this is something I focused on greatly, bringing it to a Treaty of 2003. The 2003 Treaty covers various regional festivals, traditions and rituals. All this is passed from person to person, so the saving intangible cultural heritage is linked to life saving. I think this is a very important point.

Another important thing is that multiple natural disasters can occur at the same time and fire prevention is a very important topic. Later Dr. Toki will elaborate on this matter. Fire is not only caused by natural disasters such as earthquakes and volcanic eruptions but also can be the result of war, man-made acts or mismanagement by individuals, and it is important that we are vigilant against fires.

## 7. Fostering Human Resources

So, in the case of disasters, speaking about cultural heritage, I think that proactive countermeasures are very important. It is also the same for life-saving.

In that sense, I was very pleased when the "Abe Initiative" was announced recently in which, according to a summary in a newspaper report, 40,000 people will be educated. I hope that the field of cultural heritage is also included in this human resource development. I think it is very important that in each country and region disaster prevention experts are fully educated, so that they can go back

to their communities as leaders and train local people in disaster prevention measures.

Then, there is crisis management following a disaster. Japan is, unfortunately, a country that suffers from various natural disasters, perhaps, the most in the world, and I believe that our disaster prevention measures are the most reliable. Even in this most well prepared country, crisis management at the time of the Great East Japan Earthquake four years ago revealed numerous problems and I feel it most necessary to have these defects altered.

### **8. International Cooperation for Disaster Recovery**

In any case, Japan is a global leading country in terms of disaster management particularly regarding natural disasters. Therefore, I think the education of 40,000 people under the “Abe Initiative” is very important, and although, of course, top priority on human life should be emphasized, I hope that the field of cultural heritage protection is also included. Crisis management is essential in saving cultural heritage, as for saving lives. Another important factor in cultural heritage is post-disaster repair and restoration and I would like to promote international cooperation in this area by all means.

So, speaking in terms of international coopera-

tion, there is the World Heritage Fund, which supports developing countries in particular. But because the World Heritage Fund is very limited, I think that we must rely on developed countries that can afford to help through voluntary contributions, or through bilateral support. In terms of post-disaster repair and restoration of cultural heritage, I think the international community, including Japan, must make greater efforts.

However, returning to the previous example of Bamiyan, I led an international consortium in the year following the Bamiyan’s destruction and provided post-disaster support. While the treatment of the damaged Big Buddhas is of course an important issue, there are other artifacts that need to be restored. Cambodia’s Angkor Wat was the first cultural property to be the subject of international cooperation for the repair work. I am very pleased that it was removed from the List of World Heritage in Danger. Although we have no idea as to when the civil wars in Syria and Iraq would end, I wish for the numerous cultural heritage properties to be listed in as World Heritage in Danger. I hope that the civil wars will end as soon, so that repairs can be commenced, and I hope that there will be active international cooperation then.

Thank you very much.



Opening Remarks by Johei Sasaki, President of NICH (Photo by NICH)



Keynote Speech by Koichiro Matsuura, former UNESCO DG (Photo by Randolph Langenbach)



Presentation by Joseph King, Director of the Site Unit, ICCROM (Photo by Randolph Langenbach)



Presentation by Yuji Kurihara, Secretary General, National Task Force for the Japanese Cultural Heritage Disaster Risk Mitigation Network, NICH (Photo by Randolph Langenbach)

## Panel Discussion

Facilitator

Yuji Kurihara

Panelists (in alphabetical order)

Masanori Aoyagi, Commissioner, Agency for Cultural Affairs (ACA)

Giovanni Boccardi, Chief, Emergency Preparedness and Response, Culture Sector, UNESCO

Stefano De Caro, Director-General, ICCROM

Koichiro Matsuura, Former UNESCO Director-General

Kenzo Toki, Professor, Ritsumeikan University

### **Yuji Kurihara:**

In this panel discussion, we have five panelists. For the first, I'd like to ask Professor Kenzo Toki to come to the stage. He is a professor at Ritsumeikan University. This is the Third WCDRR and Professor Toki has also attended the First and Second WCDRR in Kobe and Yokohama.

### **Kenzo Toki:**

I would like to focus on Kyoto today. Why Kyoto in Sendai? You might think it is strange, but there is a good reason for that. And also, I will talk about the city's past, present, and future.

I first became involved in cultural properties after the Kobe earthquake in 1995. My fields of specialization are earthquake engineering, structural engineering and anti-seismic structures. I then had a chance to see aerial photographs taken from a helicopter immediately after the earthquake. Although there was also a big fire, no National Treasure structures were burnt or lost to fire. This was because there were no National Treasures in areas where the fires occurred.

However, in Kyoto, there are many National Treasure buildings dispersed over the entire city. Should many fires occur simultaneously in central Kyoto as in Kobe, they would all be lost. If we include Important Cultural Properties and Intangible Cultural Properties, there are countless numbers of cultural properties in the area. This idea scared me and led me to become involved in fire protection of the historic city.

In those days, most specialists in the field of fire protection considered cultural properties to be something they should stay away from and tried to keep a distance.

For example, when the five-storied pagoda at Muro-ji Temple In Nara was toppled by a typhoon, people in the field of cultural properties did not reconsider disaster prevention, thinking this was only a rare incident. It was then that I realized there was

a deep gap between the areas of cultural heritage protection and natural disasters, and strongly felt the necessity of bridging this gap between experts in natural disasters and cultural heritage. I started all by myself and there was nobody in the beginning to assist me.

At the beginning of my lecture, I mentioned that I would be focusing only on Kyoto today. There is a reason for this. Please compare the density of National Treasures and Important Cultural Properties to the area's population among ordinance-designated cities in Japan. In Kyoto, there is one cultural property per 1,000 persons. It is 13 times more than the average of other cities, and that is why we have to start with Kyoto. When a number is tenfold the average, there would be no other way than to start with this area, Kyoto, for starting businesses, doing research or studying. I live in Kyoto and I have for decades taught at a university in Kyoto, but that is not the reason why I am focusing on Kyoto. Objectively speaking, Kyoto is a place that no doubt attracts attention.

Let's take a look at Kyoto City. This map of Kyoto in 2010 depicts a very dense population in all corners of the Kyoto Basin. However, in 1890, in mid Meiji era, there are a lot of fields and uncultivated land. This is the age when our grandparents lived. It is only in the last 120 years that Kyoto went through a drastic change, increasing dangers of loss of temples and shrines to earthquake-induced fires located on the perimeters of the Kyoto Basin.

For example, at Kōryū-ji Temple in the past, as long as the temple itself did not become the source of fire, it was safe from disasters including earthquakes. However, today, there is fear of fire from the surrounding neighborhood spreading to the temple, which is very scary. People in Kyoto who have lived in this city all their lives are not aware to what extent the city has changed in merely 120 years. That is why I decided to think of ways for people to reconsider the history of Kyoto.

When we think about the future, we have to look at the past. I looked back upon the history of past disasters on the cultural heritage of Kyoto and created an animation of the city's past 800 years. Over the ages, the population expanded to the east and north, with people settling in smaller places. Thus, during the wartime Sengoku era, around 1500, there were hardly any people living in the center of the city. There were numerous fires over the years and these disasters were shown as well. It became apparent that it was only in the last 100 years or so that people started living in all areas of Kyoto. We have to be aware of this history in order to foresee the future.

In the past, in Kyoto, there were two times when many cultural heritage properties were lost. One was at the time of a series of civil wars triggered by Ōnin Civil War around 1270. It was not a natural disaster but a human-induced disaster. In the earlier sessions, we heard from former UNESCO Director-General Mr. Koichiro Matsuura and Mr. Joseph King of ICCROM that man-made disasters were particularly troublesome. If an earthquake occurred in the middle of a desert, there would be no disaster. Disasters takes place where people live and particularly when they live in cities. Disasters occur because these cities are not made to be safe against earthquakes.

In that sense, almost all disasters are man-made disasters and earthquakes are not to be blamed. Disasters occur because we are not fully prepared. I am sure, without effective measures for preparing for disasters, we will lose lots of cultural heritage for the third time in history to earthquake-induced fires in Kyoto. Today, the population is much larger than ever, and therefore the scale of disasters would no doubt be greater. I am an engineer. An engineer is a person who makes structures and establish systems. Handing down such achievements to the following generations is the reason for our being. Therefore, in order to be well-prepared, I have created a disaster prevention system together with many specialists.

For example, in Kyoto, 3,000 tons of water are stored in the area around Higashiyama. This amount may be difficult to imagine. We built two 1,500-ton water tanks, equaling the volume of four to five school swimming pools each, and they are connected by seismic resistant polyethylene pipes. On Higashi-Oji Boulevard, if a fire should occur, it would travel at a great speed down the street as in an ascending kiln. The idea is to stop fires from

spreading utilizing this completed pipeline. Fees for these facilities were burdened by Kyoto City and the Kyoto Prefecture government. This was conducted as a case study by a national committee of which I was chair. As Mr. Joseph King has mentioned, such case studies were found to be very effective and when there are people who truly understand their implications, such systems can be realized.

This is an example which proved the importance of preparing for future disasters. A water curtain system for the five-storied pagoda at Yasaka Shrine was installed for fire protection, in which by manually opening a valve, a water curtain will rise to surround the structure. Here, manual operation is most reliable, rather than mechanical or electrical devices. Thus, a system for protecting this cultural heritage from the surrounding residential district has already been established.

At my university, we have been involved in various disaster prevention activities and projects as well. We are trying to link together natural disaster professionals and cultural heritage professionals. It seems that it is not only in Japan that there is a big wall or "death valley" between the two. Nine years ago in 2006, we started a training program under the name of International Training Course on Cultural Heritage and Disaster Risk Reduction.

We have a limited budget, so we can accept only a little more than ten trainees at a time; but the number of applicants has been increasing every year to 2014. From this, we see that when chances are provided, people from all over the world become interested in taking part in this field. We would like to increase the number of trainees; however, our financial resources are limited.

For three years from 2014, Toyota Foundation, which is affiliated to Toyota Motors, is scheduled to provide funding which will enable us to increase the numbers of trainees for this period. We have applicants from almost all areas of the world except North America.

So what are we going to do for the future? Are we doing something for the future generations? If we don't do anything for the future, we are just taking privilege of the past. We have to do something for the people living in Kyoto 100 or even 200 years from now.

The program that was initiated four years ago called Tomorrow's Kyoto Cultural Heritage Platform is headed by Mr. Matsuura, the former General Director of UNESCO. Other collaborators in

this platform include the Governor of Kyoto Prefecture, Kyoto City Mayor, university researchers, members of the Rotary Club and Lions Club, businesspersons and the religious sector. They gladly cooperated to make various programs possible. We are also involved in projects to provide dreams to the younger generation and future citizens. One of them is the reconstruction of the Rajomon Gate which was originally constructed as the official gate of Heian-kyo. A precise model of the gate in 1/10 scale created more than ten years ago is exhibited in front of Kyoto Station. Donations of 100 yen or 1,000 yen are asked for, for reconstructing the lost gate. Because this is a plan to reconstruct just by ourselves the gate of the capital city from 1,200 years ago, it may take 30 years or even 50 years. I'd like to stress that the aim of the project is not in rebuilding the gate for ourselves, but in the process of rebuilding. We are interested in passing down to future generations the importance of sharing the backgrounds of Kyoto as a historic city.

**Yuji Kurihara:**

I would now like to ask each of our panel speakers for a brief comment. May I start with Mr. Aoyagi, the Commissioner of Agency for Cultural Affairs for a comment on the discussions heard in the past two days?

**Masanori Aoyagi:**

In offering my input, I would like to commence by stating that I have learned a great deal today. In the first instance, I would like to comment on the issue of "resilience," which has been raised in both meetings, in Tokyo and here in Sendai.

As to the theoretical underpinnings of "resilience," I believe this can be categorized into two types, of horizontal resilience and vertical resilience. First, horizontal resilience represents something that is synchronic in nature and shares the same space. Regarding cultural properties within the same society, it is a matter of how close they are affiliated with the economy, politics, or society itself. In other words, it is about considering how well the cultural properties are integrated into the various social factors surrounding them without being treated as something special.

On the other hand, there is vertical resilience, which is diachronic in nature and can be regarded as the time axis. It involves the act of considering how at each point in time cultural properties are valued and utilized socially, which in turn would have

effects of reinforcing resilience of the society.

Furthermore, with respect to these vertical and horizontal resilience constructs, I believe that if the two can be organically integrated, then a genuine state of resilience would be achieved. Thank you very much.

**Yuji Kurihara:**

Thank you. Next, I would like to invite Dr. Giovanni Boccardi, Chief of the Emergency Preparedness and Response, Culture Sector of UNESCO. Dr. Boccardi, will you please give us a comment on the five-day meeting?

**Giovanni Boccardi:**

Thank you Mr. Chair. Well, everything has been already said. My comment is that this was a wonderful opportunity provided by our Japanese hosts and colleagues and I want to also take this chance to express my gratitude for an opportunity, which enabled us to put on the table the issue of culture and heritage in the larger discourse of disaster risk reduction and resilience. These, as it has been mentioned, are the two worlds rather set apart from each other. But now we are breaking the ice, and I think it was especially enlightening yesterday during the session, with some of the questions that came from the audience.

So, I think these five days have helped us to better frame the question, and to understand what each of us have to do to bring this further. The cultural sector has some work to do and disaster risk reduction sector has some work to do in order to integrate the cultural dimension. Now, we have seen the wonderful work that Japan is planning to do. You have just made a presentation on this and I am very impressed. I think in many countries, however, the cultural sector is much weaker and it will not be possible for cultural institutions to do this on their own. That is why they have to engage with the disaster risk management sector, ministries of planning, civil protection, local governments, and the private sector. This is where, I think, the recommendations presented by my colleague Joseph King make a lot of sense.

We have to develop evidence, we have to develop tools, we have to be able to assist those institutions to do what we think is the right thing, for the integrating cultural perspective and consideration for heritage in their work. If we don't do this in partnership, it will not happen in most countries of the world, so I would like to conclude by saying again,

thank you very much to the National Institutes for Cultural Heritage, to the Agency for Cultural Affairs of Japan, to all the partners that are here for helping us raising this issue here in Sendai and taking it further. Thank you.

**Yuji Kurihara:**

Thank you very much. Now, I'd like to ask Director-General of ICCROM, Mr. Stefano De Caro, to give us a comment.

**Stefano De Caro:**

Thank you. My reflection will be on what we, ICCROM, as an international training organization will do in our specific role. My answer is that we will continue to stress the importance of risk preparedness. Our council has accepted and sustained our proposal based on the evidence of the last 20 years of keeping this area program as the main area in the future years. We will do it combining the various aspects and the studies in architecture, engineering, archaeology, museology, preventive conservation, organizational issues, sociology, anthropology, spirituality and religion, etcetera.

I did not mention economics, not because I am unaware of the substantial relevance of the funds, funds raising activity, cost-effectiveness and so on, but because I share the ideas of the writers of the Italian Constitution of 1946, who put the cultural and the natural heritage among the new founding principles of the country above other legitimate interests, including the economic worlds.

Combining disciplines does not mean to be superficial and generic just for the sake of intercommunication. We must be deep and effective in treating the technical problems, but also to consider the need of spreading the consolidated results of these studies in the large network of professionals from other disciplines, and in the larger public audience. The role of the press seems substantial to me in this perspective.

I think that we also have to develop these studies and training, both for the world heritage and for the national heritage. We have to react to the criticism over the huge competition amongst state members of UNESCO in the nomination process. We can do it effectively coming back to the original spirit of the World Heritage List that sees the nominated sites as the flags of all the heritage.

This means that these sites must be the models of the protection and the fair management practices for the world heritage. The benefits of these studies

in risk preparedness have to be spread all over the heritage entities. This is particularly true for risk preparedness because earthquakes, typhoons, conflicts have no boundaries, even less so, the boundaries of the world heritage sites. Thank you.

**Yuji Kurihara:**

Thank you very much. Mr. Matsuura, please.

**Koichiro Matsuura:**

Although I'm not from Kyoto, Professor Toki's talk was very interesting, because these ideas are applicable to all over Japan, notably in the Tōhoku area. From the point of view of disaster prevention of cultural heritage, of course, we have to make sure that cultural heritage is passed onto the next generations. But, as Professor Toki said, the current generation should create new cultures and new cultures need to be passed on to the next generations, too. So, the present generation's new culture needs to be inherited.

Kyoto was built when the capital of Japan was transferred 1,200 years ago. Heian Jingu Shrine was established in commemoration of the city's 1,100th anniversary. Visitors from foreign countries or even those from Japan may think that this was built many centuries ago, but it was constructed in 1895, only about 100 years ago.

In 1994 we celebrated the 1,200th anniversary of Kyoto, and at that time the present Kyoto Station (completed in 1997) was under construction. My apologies to the people of Kyoto, but I really don't think the design of this station is appropriate for the ancient capital.

It was in 1994 that "Historic Monuments of Ancient Kyoto" was designated as a World Heritage Site. Last year, on the occasion of the 20th anniversary, I was invited as the keynote speaker. Even though I am not in favor of the design of Kyoto Station, I'm not saying that we should change it. What I means is when something new is built, we need to consider designs appropriate for the surrounding environment, that would be appreciated by the following generations. It also applies to the great earthquake of 2011 in Tōhoku and the reconstructions that are currently underway. Let's stop and think whether the recovery projects would stand up to the time of 50 years or 100 years. Are we building something that would be appreciated by the next generation, not only in terms of the disaster preparedness, but also in terms of culture? Let's think about the possibility of this becoming appreci-

ated as a cultural heritage.

Then, going back to Kyoto again, in 90 years, there will be the 1,300th anniversary celebration. That is when the next generation will take a look at Kyoto heritage as a review of the current culture. When we talk about cultural heritage and disaster risk reduction, we tend to only think about properties from the past. But we have to think about building for the future, works that will continue to be appreciated in the next 50 or 100 years to come.

**Masashi Aoyagi:**

We are now talking about Kyoto Station. I personally think the design of Kyoto Station is very good. In order to bring the spotlight on the beauty of old buildings, we have to build something new, and when we focus on something new, there has to be something old around in it. That is why I like Kyoto Station.

My last point is that when the war in Afghanistan was over, a slogan raised for the National Museum of Afghanistan in Kabul was “A nation stays alive when its culture stays alive.” What I strongly felt

throughout this conference is that “A community stays alive when its cultural heritage stays alive.”

**Yuji Kurihara:**

Any other comments?

**Kenzo Toki:**

I am presently working on getting an architectural model of the Rajōmon Gate displayed in front of Kyoto Station. I would like to have people compare Kyoto Station and Rajōmon Gate and see how good both are. I would like the citizens of Kyoto, the Japanese, and foreigners to take a look and make donation of 1,000 yen. It may take 50 years for reconstruction of the gate, but I don't mind. I will not be here in 50 years, but I just want to make sure I put the seed in the ground.

**Yuji Kurihara:**

Thank you very much. This concludes the panel discussion. Please give a round of big applause to our panelists.



Sendai Symposium (Photo by Randolph Langenbach)



Sendai Symposium (Photo by NICH)



Panel Discussion (Photo by ACA)



Panel Discussion (Photo by ACA)

## Closing Remarks

Takamasa Saito  
Councillor for Cultural Properties, ACA

Thank you very much for the introduction. I am Takamasa Saito, Councillor for Cultural Properties, ACA. I would like to say a few words to close this symposium.

The International Expert Meeting on “Cultural Heritage and Disaster Resilient Communities” started on March 11th, and the end of this symposium marks the closing of the entire meeting. Through the series of the events, we can say that disaster prevention for cultural heritage itself has to be strengthened, and at the same time we need to recognize the importance of how this can help to construct local communities with high level of disaster prevention awareness during normal times, as well as in time of emergency. Also, discussions were made on what can be done, which reinforced the importance of participation through cooperation. I think this has been a very meaningful meeting.

I would like to thank Mr. Koichiro Matsuura who is the Former Director-General of UNESCO, and also all the speakers and all the participants. I would also like to extend my gratitude to all the specialists, who were with us for the discussions from March 11th, and especially the staff from UNESCO, ICCROM, ICOMOS, ICOM, who have contributed greatly to the success of the specialist panel discussions.

I would like to wish all of you good health and success, and, at the same time, I would like to seek your understanding and cooperation for the rapid reconstruction of areas affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake. Also, as an ending note, I hope that the strong messages presented at this expert meeting will be conveyed to the people and cultural heritage affected by natural disasters or those caused by human error in every parts of the world. Thank you very much.