

IRCI BIENNIAL REPORT

for the First Half of FY 2015

(April 2015 – September 2015)



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

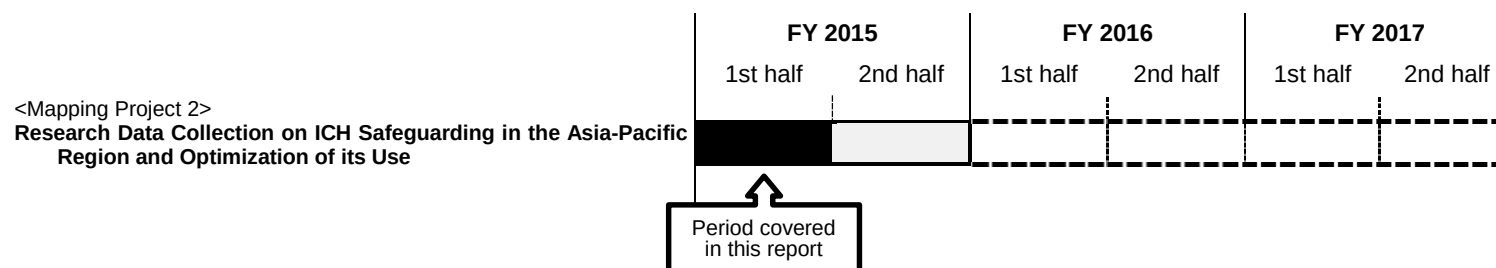
Monitoring of Programme Implementation for IRCI's Activities in the First Half of FY 2015 (April 2015 – September 2015)

Activity Focus 1: Mapping Studies on the Safeguarding of ICH			
Project Title	Performance Indicators (PI) and associated Benchmarks (B)/baselines (b)		Achievements including challenges
	Programmed	Attained	
<Mapping Project 1> International Experts Meeting: Mapping Project for ICH Safeguarding in Asia and the Pacific Countries (FY2015)	PI: 1. IRCI will make contracts with research institutes/researchers in the Asia-Pacific region, for conducting systematic survey and analysis. 2. An international expert meeting will be successfully organized, according to the rigid preparatory process and timeframe. 3. Experts from all the 6 sub-regions in the Asia-Pacific regions participate in the meeting. 4. The meeting delivers recommendations for (a) research focuses to be implemented in future programmes, and (b) <u>themes and panels for the international conference in FY 2016.</u> 5. Survey papers will be revised after the meeting to be published as the final report (including online publication). B/b (by Mar. 2016): 1. At least 10 institutions/researchers conduct a survey in contract with IRCI. 2. At least 15 researchers participate in the meeting. 3. Researchers from all the 6 sub-regions in the Asia-Pacific region participate in the meeting. 4. Recommendations include (a) at least 5 future research topics, <u>and (b) the draft structure of the 2016 conference.</u> 5. Publish the final report, which should include all survey papers.	1. 17 institutions/researchers participated in the survey in 16 countries in contract with IRCI.	Achievements: IRCI was able to carrying out the survey effectively in 16 countries covering all six sub-regions in the Asia-Pacific region. Countries surveyed by participants are: Japan, Republic of Korea, China, Thailand, Malaysia, Vietnam, Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos, Bangladesh, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Fiji, and Australia. An international experts meeting based on the survey results is in preparation. The meeting is to be held in Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan) on 8-9 December 2015, in cooperation with Bishkek-based Aigine Cultural Research Center. Challenges: Assuring the quality of the summary reports remains as a challenge. This issue will be discussed at the Bishkek meeting to improve the survey guidelines and formats.
	Amendment to the project: 1) This project was originally approved as the international forum on ICH safeguarding. In response to the decision made at the Kuala Lumpur meeting in FY 2014, however, the project design has been revised to conduct systematic literature survey to hold an international experts meeting based on collected information. This amendment was already approved by the Governing Board. 2) IRCI established cooperative partnership with National Museum of Ethnology (Minpaku) in Osaka to co-organize an international conference in FY 2016. IRCI research section and Minpaku researchers are in the process of setting up a planning committee to discuss the contents of the 2016 conference independently of the Mapping Project in FY 2015. Reflecting this positive development, programme activities as well as performance indicators and benchmarks related to the 2016 conference are removed from the current PDM (item 4b of PI and B/b; underlined).		



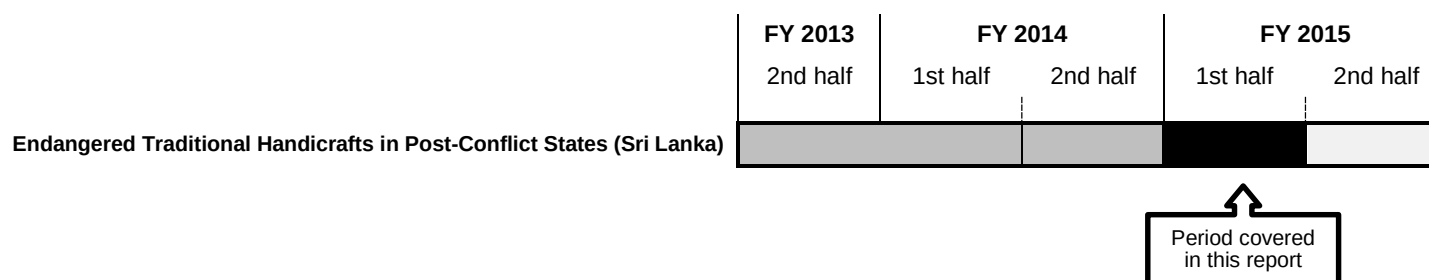
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<Mapping Project 2>Research Data Collection on ICH Safeguarding in the Asia-Pacific Region and Optimization of its Use (FY2015-2017)	PI: 1. Provision of additional entries by other institutions and experts will be increased. 2a. Database entries will be increased. 2b. Database function will be strengthened by adding modifications and new functions to the current database design. 3. Access to the database will be increased in the total access count, and in the number of unique visitors. 4. The process of data collection and optimization is monitored through constant review sessions. B/b (by Mar. 2016): 1. At least 5 institutions/specialists provide data entries. 2a. Expand the database at least 600 entries. 3. Access count reaches 500. 4. Hold at least 3 review sessions.	1. 17 institutions/specialists provided data entries. 3. Access count reached 2000, far exceeding the benchmark.	Achievements: By making use of systematic data collection conducted under <Mapping Project 1>, IRCI was able to collect more than 700 entries, which will be fed into the database later in this fiscal year. Above-mentioned systematic data collection was also extremely effective for collecting literatures written in non-English languages. Adding such information with English summaries significantly enriches the content of the database. Statistic summary as of 30 September 2015 Total number of entries: 517 Access count: 2929 Challenges: Review sessions are yet to be arranged. The first review is going to be made by holding a session at the Bishkek meeting (under <Mapping Project 1>) in December 2015. This should include the reconsideration of the review process and corresponding benchmarks.



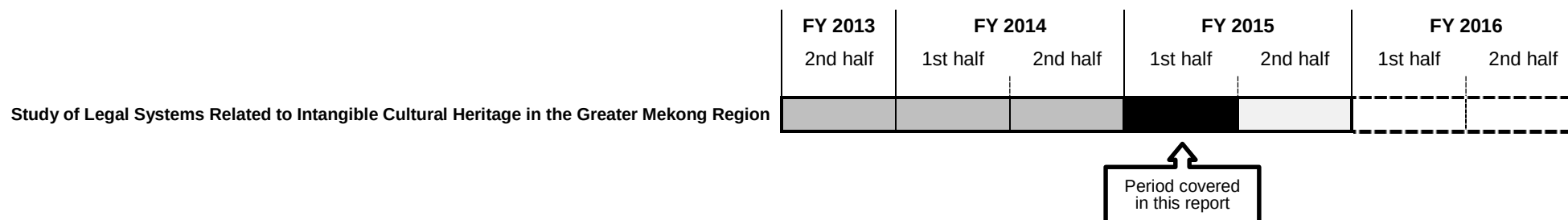
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Activity Focus 2: Research for Safeguarding Endangered ICH			
Project Title	Performance Indicators (PI) and associated Benchmarks (B)/baselines (b)		Achievements including challenges
	Programmed	Attained	
Research for Endangered Traditional Handicrafts in Post-Conflict States (Sri Lanka) (FY2013-2015)	PI: 1. Information regarding handicraft production covering 10 provinces of the northern and the eastern Sri Lanka will be collected. 2a. Information regarding good practices of craft revitalization in other countries will be collected. 2b. Action plans for revitalizing traditional handicrafts in the above regions of Sri Lanka will be drafted. 3. Final report will be published. B/b (by Mar. 2016): 1. Collect further handicraft data in northern, northwestern, and eastern regions. 2a. Collect information on good practices of craft revitalization. 2b. Draft action plans. 3. Complete the final report.	N/A (as of September 2014) - Further project activities have been discussed with Sri Lankan counterparts and project partners. (as of March 2014) - The feasibility study has been completed. - Collection of the ICH elements and traditional artisans have been completed in 10 provinces (3 eastern, 5 northern and 2 north-eastern).	Achievements: IRCI research staff had meetings with craft artisans in Takaoka city (Toyama) in June and July, to collect information on good practices on craft revitalization. IRCI is preparing to hold a final meeting summarizing the activities in the past 3 years, and to discuss future plans for sustainable craft revitalization. IRCI has been seeking a suitable location and venue in rural towns in Japan displaying a good example of craft revitalization. Challenges: Reduced amount of the MEXT budget allocated to IRCI necessitated the reconsideration of possible project activities. As a result, it may not be possible to complete the benchmark item 1 (to collect further handicraft data). IRCI, in cooperation with Craft Revival Trust, will focus on attaining other benchmarks through holding a final workshop.



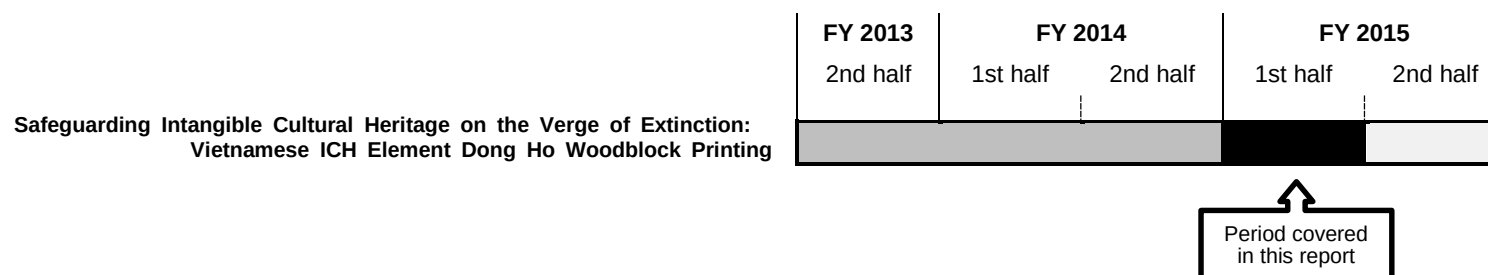
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Project Title	Performance Indicators (PI) and associated Benchmarks (B)/baselines (b)		Achievements including challenges
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Study of Legal Systems Related to Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Greater Mekong Region (FY2013-2016)	PI: 1a. Current legal systems related to ICH in three countries in the Mekong region (Laos, Cambodia, and Myanmar) will be studied and analyzed. 1b. Current legal systems related to ICH in other countries in the Mekong region (such as Thailand and Vietnam) may be analyzed. 2. At least one workshop/seminar will be held in the FY 2015. 3. Final report will be drafted and completed. B/b (by Mar. 2017): 1. Complete the analysis of current legal systems related to ICH in the Mekong region. 2a. Hold a workshop inviting participants from at least 3 countries in the Mekong region. 2b. Current legal systems in at least 3 countries are analyzed at the workshop. 3. Project final report completed by Mar.2017.	N/A (as of March 2015) 2. A workshop with 13 participants from 9 countries in Southeast Asia (including the Mekong countries such as Laos, Cambodia, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam), and 3 Japanese experts was held to analyze current ICH related legal conditions. (as of September 2014) - An interim report has been drafted. (as of March 2014) - Questionnaire has been sent to 2 countries, and Cambodia has provided the answer. - Field researches including interviews and collection of local documents were conducted in Laos and Cambodia.	Achievements: Activities in FY 2015 aims to obtain much detailed qualitative information on ICH-related legal systems in the Mekong countries. For this purpose, IRCI in cooperation with Graduate School of Law, Kyushu University has been preparing for the 2nd workshop and field interviews. "IRCI 2nd Workshop on the Study of Legal systems Related to Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Greater Mekong Region" is going to be held on 17-19 December 2015 in Toyama. Field interviews are conducted in early November in three countries in the Mekong region (Laos, Myanmar, and Thailand). Results will be shared at the 2nd workshop. IRCI and Kyushu University both developed questionnaires for this purpose, which were already sent to selected stakeholders in above-mentioned Mekong countries.



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Research for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage on the Verge of Extinction: Vietnamese ICH Element Dong Ho Woodblock Printing (FY2013-2015)	PI: 1. Video records and documents regarding the Dong Ho woodblock printing will be produced by Dong Ho community in cooperation with Bac Ninh local government. 2. Interviews with bearers and people in the Dong Ho community will be conducted. 3. Final report will be published. B/b (by Mar. 2016): 1. Hold a workshop. 2. Conduct interviews with bearers and people in the community. 3. Publish the final project report.	N/A (as of March 2015) 1. A research workshop was held in Hanoi and in Bac Ninh Province (January 27-28, 2015). 2. Interviews with ICH bearers and community members were carried out. (as of September 2014) 2a. Researchers identified information regarding bearers and risk factors. (as of March 2014) 1a. A bearer and a representative of Bac Ninh province participated in the workshop organised by IRCI in February 4-6, 2014. 1b. First version of the video record was produced.	Achievements: IRCI and VICAS (Vietnam Institute of Culture and Arts Studies) researchers are in the process of drafting research papers, which is to be published as the final project report.



FY 2015 Project Budget

(JPY)

Project title	Allocation	Source ⁽¹⁾
<Mapping Project 1> International Experts Meeting: Mapping Project for ICH Safeguarding in Asia and the Pacific	9,000,000	A
<Mapping Project 2> Research Data Collection on ICH Safeguarding in the Asia-Pacific Region and Optimization of its Use	1,497,778	A
Research for Endangered Traditional Handicrafts in Post-Conflict States (Sri Lanka)	2,905,290	B
Study of Legal Systems Related to Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Greater Mekong Region	4,556,960	A
Research for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage on the Verge of Extinction: Vietnamese ICH Element Dong Ho Woodblock Printing	2,094,710	B

Notes

- (1) A: International Collaborative Project for the Safeguarding of Cultural Properties (Agency for Cultural Affairs)
 B: ODA for Supporting UNESCO's Activities (MEXT: Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology)