

The Association for Conservation of National Treasures

Assembly of Experts who specialize in Conservation and Restoration of Cultural Properties in Japan and East Asia

Greetings



Arts such as paintings and calligraphies are painted or written on fragile media like papers or silk, but regular restoration has allowed them to survive several centuries and even a millennium until today. The Association for Conservation of National Treasures (ACNT) is an assembly of experts who specialize in conservation and restoration of cultural properties, mainly the National Treasures and National Important Cultural Properties.

Cultural properties are our national treasures that make up our cultural foundation. In order to protect and pass them onto the next generation reliably, it is essential to inherit, polish, and improve our traditional art based on many years of experiences. In addition, we are now demanded to respond to various issues surrounding conservation of the cultural properties appropriately, by leveraging our creativity based on abundant knowledge and deep cultural insight. Our mission is to contribute to the society through conservation of the cultural properties by promoting these activities.

Mission

The mission of the Association for Conservation of National Treasures (ACNT) is to improve and popularize the repair and restoration techniques and to contribute to the development of these techniques in Japan, by improving repair and restoration techniques for the National Treasure and Cultural Properties, exchanging associated knowledge, and by promoting collaboration and cooperation among the members, domestic and foreign workshops.

- 1 Granting the Restorer Certificate to the restorers working for the corporate member;
- 2 Hosting research presentations, technical workshops, lectures, and workshop visits;
- 3 Exchanging and cooperating with domestic and foreign organizations related to the National Treasures and Cultural Properties;
- 4 Encouraging development, improvement, and research of repair and restoration techniques and repairing materials;
- 5 Cooperating in trainings restorers with the Cultural Properties Selected Conservation Techniques related to repair materials;
- 6 Co-procuring repairing materials and preparing shared equipment;
- 7 Training succeeding generations in repair and restoration techniques;
- 8 Subcontracting restoration business, dispatching restorers, and selling restoration-related materials; and
- 9 Other businesses necessary to achieve the objectives.

Workshops

12 members are in activity.



Brief History

1959

Representatives of seven workshops (one in Tokyo, five in Kyoto, and one in Osaka) that specialize in restoration of the National Treasures at that time got together and established the ACNT to improve their restoration techniques, as well as to start associated business



1960

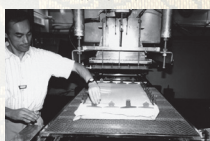
Granted with the Organization Award from the National Commission for Protection of Cultural Properties

1967

Participated in "Repairing and Conserving Painting of the East Asia" co-hosted by the UNESCO and the International Council of Museums (ICOM)
Translated H.J. Plenderleith, "The Conservation of Antiquities and Works of Art-Treatment, Repair, and Restoration" (1956)

1972

Started co-development of electron-beam deteriorated silk for repairing silk-book cultural properties together with the Agency for Cultural Affairs, the National Research Institute for Cultural Properties and the Takasaki Advanced Radiation Research Institute in the Japan Atomic Energy Agency



1990

Started cooperation for "Conservation and Restoration of Japanese Antiques in Foreign Countries" with the Agency for Cultural Affairs, the National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo, and the Foundation for Cultural Heritage and Art Research

1995

Received designation of the Selected Conservation Technique Conserving Organization by the Agency for Cultural Affairs
Granted with the Special Awards from the Japan Foundation
Hosted the international symposium "Techniques for Conserving, Repairing and Restoring Japanese Arts" in Nara

2003

Started operation of the restorer registration system and restorer certification system

2004

Hosted "International Symposium on the Present and the Future of Oriental Cultural Property Conservation" in Kyoto



2006

Started providing technical assistance in the British Museum
Hosted "The First International Symposium on Paper Conservation in East Asia" in Beijing, China
Started internship for restorers

Social Contribution

through Conservation of Cultural Properties

Human Resource Development

Holding regular training workshops (since 1996)

Hosting internship for restorers (since 2006)

Building systems for allowing restorers to focus on repair of the cultural properties with assurance (Introduced an earnings standard with the certification systems unified among the member workshops/unified pension system)

International Cooperation

Giving instructions about techniques of restoring paintings of the East Asia, based on the requests from foreign countries
Activating technical exchange through international symposium, etc

Accountability

Restorer Certification System (Objective Evaluation of Technical Skills)

Planning Restoration Guidelines (Standard Specifications) for Designated Cultural Properties

Development and Improvement of Techniques and Materials

Development of electron-beam deteriorated silk (since 1972)

Maintaining, training, and inheriting traditional restoration techniques by active use of materials and tools designated as selected conservation techniques (hand-made Japanese papers, Japanese brush)

Access

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Get off at "Karasuma Oike" Station [Karasuma Line K08 • Tozai Line T13] of the Kyoto Municipal Subway, exit from the 3-1 or 3-2 Exit; 3 min. on foot.
(Karasuma Oike Station is the third station from the Kyoto Station; it takes 5 min.)



About Logomark

For the entire tone and atmosphere, we used the motif of "Rising Sun," which is the symbol in the Japanese national flag, to sublime the image of "National Treasures". The dusky-red color is used to emphasize the "tradition," and the overlapping tweezers express "precise work" and "modernity." The letters "The Association for Conservation of National Treasures" and the abbreviation "ACNT" are placed beside it so that even the foreigners can easily recognize it.

Members

As of April 2016

Director

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Sakata Bokujudo Co.Ltd.

Vice Director

Yutaka SUZUKI
Shokakudo Co.Ltd.

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Noriko YAMAMOTO

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Masaki UTSUNOMIYA
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Katsura Bunkazai Shuri Kobo Co.Ltd.

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