

Asia-Pacific Research Forum for ICH Safeguarding
The International Conference 2025

New Frontiers of Research for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage

General Information

Date:	13–15 February 2025
Venue:	National Museum of Ethnology (Address: Senri Expo Park 10-1, Suita City, Osaka 565-8511, Japan)
Format:	In-person, with an online participation option and live streaming
Language:	English
Organizer:	International Research Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region (IRCI) National Museum of Ethnology (TBC)

Being organized as an academic and interdisciplinary conference, this international conference aims to discuss new approaches and methodologies in ICH research and safeguarding in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond, while covering a wide range of topics, including issues and challenges related to economic development, emergencies, gender issues, migration, and many others, in line with thematic initiatives emphasized by UNESCO. Since 2021, with the growing awareness of the important role and contribution of ICH in inclusive social, economic, and environmental development, UNESCO has developed thematic initiatives on the economic dimensions of safeguarding intangible cultural heritage, safeguarding intangible cultural heritage and climate change, and safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in urban contexts (Decision 18.COM 12¹). The international conference therefore welcomes researchers working on these areas, both within and outside the framework of UNESCO's 2003 Convention, to discuss and exchange views and perspectives critically but constructively. Papers presented at the conference, which will later be published as a monograph and distributed widely, will contribute to further progress in ICH safeguarding and related policy development at the national and international levels.

Session Topics:

We welcome papers on **a wide variety of topics** that reflect **new approaches and methodologies**, as well as emerging issues and challenges, in ICH research and safeguarding. Topics include, but are not limited to, the following:

¹ <https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions/18.COM/12>

- ✓ Economic development
- ✓ Emergencies (disasters, conflicts, epidemics, etc.)
- ✓ Gender issues
- ✓ Migration (displacement, relocation, diaspora, etc.)
- ✓ Any other topics

Critical but constructive views and suggestions from researchers working outside the framework of UNESCO's 2003 Convention, as well as papers demonstrating research that contributes to the safeguarding of ICH are also welcome.

Session Format:

An approximately 2-hour session consists of paper presentations, a panel discussion, and a Q&A session. Each session should have 3–4 panelists, including the chair, who is one of the paper presenters and the moderator for the panel discussion and Q&A session. Each presenter is allotted 15–20 minutes for the presentation.

Conference Format:

The conference is held in a face-to-face format with on-site and online audiences. The audience is required to register before the conference with no registration fee. Online presentation options may be considered.

Call for Participants:

Any researchers working on ICH-related topics in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond are eligible to apply to present a paper at the conference.

The conference invites both **paper and panel proposals**. A proposed panel should feature researchers and case studies from different countries.

Those who are interested in presenting a paper at the conference can apply by submitting an online form. The call for participants will open on 30 May 2024 and close on 31 July 2024.

** Please refer to the attached Submission Guidelines for details.*

Funding:

Full or partial funding will be available for a limited number of participants who are presenting a paper.

Full funding covers both international travel expenses (round-trip economy class airfare and visa fees, if applicable) and local expenses in Japan (airport transfer, accommodation, and per diem, according to the rules of the National Institutes for Cultural Heritage, Japan) for the period of the conference.

For partial funding, IRCI will cover local expenses in Japan for the period of the conference, if participants are able to finance their trip to Japan.

If you would like to be considered for full/partial funding for participating in the conference, please check Section 5 (Availability of Funding) of the online application form.



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

Applicants who do not require financial support from IRCI are most welcome.

Publication of the Conference Papers:

The papers presented at the conference will be peer-reviewed and published in the form of an academic monograph, not just as conference proceedings. The publication process will take place in FY 2025 (April 2025–March 2026). A detailed schedule will be announced after the conference, before the start of the publication process.

Contact:

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