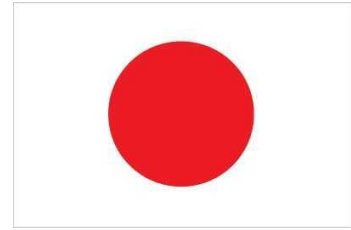


Country: Japan

Committee: UNESCO (United Nations Educational,  
Scientific and Cultural Organization)

Agenda Item: Preserving Cultural Heritages



Japan, an East Asian island nation situated in the Pacific Ocean, has the world's tenth-largest population. It is a constitutional monarchy, with Emperor Naruhito serving as the ceremonial head of state, wielding limited powers. Japanese is the official language, with the majority of the population being ethnically Japanese, though there are also descendants of Korean immigrants following World War II. Opening its ports in 1854 marked the beginning of Japan's intensive modernization and industrialization efforts. By the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Japan had emerged as a regional power. Despite its defeat in World War II, Japan rebounded to become an economic powerhouse and a key ally of the US. While the emperor symbolizes national unity, actual decision-making power lies with elected politicians. Japan has the world's third-largest economy, achieving remarkable growth in the latter half of the 20th century through resource utilization, technological advancements, and investments. Japan prioritizes strengthening ties, fostering understanding, and promoting stability and prosperity worldwide, with a particular focus on Asia. Japan has been active at the United Nations since 1956 and since then Japan actively strives to maintain peace and cooperation on the global stage.

In our interconnected world, cultural heritages relies on the memory of our shared human history and It is key to identity, well-being, decisions and actions. We must be deeply committed to protecting both of intangible and tangible cultural heritages against expectative hazards. Insufficient military awareness may lead to substantial harm to cultural heritage sites, resulting in the irreversible loss of priceless cultural and historical artifacts. Moreover Cultural assets may suffer intentional damage through deliberate targeting, especially if they are considered military targets. In the ongoing Russia-Ukraine warfare, a total of 823 cultural heritage sites have been damaged or destroyed. The absence of planning for hazards can jeopardize cultural heritage, leading to irreversible loss, economic setbacks, and social disruption. In times of conflict and disasters, neglecting cultural heritage jeopardizes it by obstructing access, hampering maintenance operations, and accelerating its deterioration. In times of hazards, looting and pillage cause irreversible loss of artifacts, erosion of cultural identity, disruption of preservation efforts, increase in illegal trade, damage to heritage sites, and significant social and economic consequences.

UNESCO offers a unique platform for support the development of national policies for heritage protection, with an emphasis on preservation, management and training. Cultural heritage is protected in international law with contribution of UNESCO. For 40 years, Japan has consistently demonstrated its commitment to supporting collaborative initiatives between UNESCO and recipient nations. Its voluntary contributions through the Japanese funds-in-trust presently total \$260 million (2019). The 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict was the first international treaty dedicated solely to the protection of cultural heritage. Other protections of cultural heritage the 1954 Hague Convention and the 1970 UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property. At this

point in 1970 Hague Covenant call to fight illicit trafficking of Afghan cultural property. As a country which recognizes the critical importance of preserving cultural heritages, Japan has demonstrated active participation in international cooperation endeavors. Japan signed the Hague Convention. Since 1993, Japan has had 25 World Heritage sites ratified by the World Heritage Convention. Japan has allocated \$68 million to the Preservation of World Cultural Heritage fund, channeling support via UNESCO for various projects in conflict zones like Afghanistan, Cambodia, and Iraq. Japan's funding also aids UNESCO's endeavors in safeguarding cultural assets post-conflict. Since 2003, Japan has actively participated in the preservation of the Bamiyan site in Afghanistan. With this investment Japan includes, reaffirms the importance of awareness and planning, prioritizing assets, enforcing laws and commitments.

Innovatively, Japan proposes solutions by investing in agreements with international and non-governmental organizations to raise awareness and education, promoting preservation, and establishing comprehensive plans. Additionally, Japan foresees the necessity of a new convention specifically tailored for conflict zones, incorporating stringent laws. Besides that Japan is firmly decisive to continue its active support to these efforts.