

UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage of Japan

As of December 2016

Summary of the Convention

- 2003 The **Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage** adopted
 [2004: convention accepted (Japan became the 3rd state party to the convention), 2006: convention came into effect]
 ※World Heritage Convention [Tangible Heritage]
 (convention adopted:1972, convention came into effect:1975)
- 【Purpose】 ■ **Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage**
 ■ Improving awareness on the importance of intangible cultural heritage and need for peer assessment
- 【Contents】 ■ **Making an inventory of the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity**
 ■ Making an inventory of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding
 ■ International assistance through the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund **Total number of state parties: 171**

Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity

21 at present
366 worldwide

Important Intangible Cultural Properties Decision by Council for Cultural Affairs
 Important Intangible Folk Cultural Properties Referred

2008	Nogaku theatre Ningyo Johruri Bunraku puppet theatre Kabuki theatre
2009	Gagaku Ojiya-chijimi, Echigo-jofu : techniques of making ramie fabric in Uonuma region, Niigata Prefecture [Niigata Pref.] Koshikijima no Toshidon [Kagoshima Pref.] Oku-noto no Aenokoto [Ishikawa Pref.] Hayachine Kagura [Iwate Pref.] Akiu no Taue Odori [Miyagi Pref.] Chakkirako [Kanagawa Pref.] Dainichido Bungaku [Akita Pref.] Daimokutate [Nara Pref.] Traditional Ainu dance [Hokkaido Pref.]
2010	Kumiodori, traditional Okinawan musical theatre Yuki-tsumugi, silk fabric production technique [Ibaraki and Tochigi Prefectures]
2011	Mibu no Hana Taue, ritual of transplanting rice in Mibu, Hiroshima [Hiroshima Pref.] Sada Shin Noh, sacred dancing at sada shrine [Shimane Pref.] [Referred] Hon-minoshi, papermaking in the Mino region of Gifu; Chichibu Matsuri no Yatai-gyoji to Kagura, Chichibu; Takayama Matsuri no Yatai Gyoji, Takayama spring and autumn float festivals; Oga no Namahage, New Year visiting of masked deities in Oga, Akita
2012	Nachi no Dengaku, a religious performing art held at the Nachi fire festival [Wakayama Pref.]
2013	Washoku, traditional dietary cultures of the Japanese, notably for the celebration of New Year
2014	Washi : craftsmanship of traditional Japanese hand-made paper [Sekishu-Banshi, Hon-minoshi, Hosokawa-shi] ※In addition to the Sekishu-Banshi (Shimane Pref.) inscribed on the Intangible Cultural Heritage list in 2009, Hon-minoshi (Gifu Pref.) and Hosokawa-shi (Saitama Pref.) designated by the Japanese government as an Important Intangible Folk Cultural Property were newly added to the Representative list.
2016	Yama, Hoko, Yatai Float Festivals in Japan ※In addition to the Yamahoko, the float ceremony of the Kyoto Gion festival (Kyoto Pref.) and the Hitachi Fuyumono (Ibaraki Pref.) inscribed on the Representative list in 2009, 31 festivals designated by the Japanese Government as Important Cultural Folk Properties, including the Chichibu Festival (Saitama Pref.) and the Takayama Festival (Gifu Pref.) were collectively added (33 festivals in total) to the Representative list.
Pending file	Raiho-shin, ritual visits of deities in masks and costumes ※In addition to the Koshikijima no Toshidon inscribed on the Representative list in 2009, the nomination submitted in March 2016 recommends the following Raiho-shin rituals to be collectively added to the list: Oga no Namahage [Akita Pref.], Noto no Amamehagi [Ishikawa Pref.], Miyakojima no Paantou [Okinawa Pref.], Yuza no Koshogatsu Gyoji [Yamagata Pref.], Yonekawa no Mizukaburi [Miyagi Pref.], Mishima no Kasedori [Saga Pref.], Yoshihama no Suneka [Iwate Pref.]