

Traditional Aynu Dance

Our Mission

The National Museum of Ethnology, known popularly as Minpaku, is a research institute for cultural anthropology and ethnology. It was founded in 1974 as an Inter-University Research Institute, and is expected to play a leading role in developing and conducting joint research projects throughout Japan and with foreign countries. Approximately 60 academic staff conducts anthropological and ethnological research to promote understanding and awareness of the world's peoples, societies and cultures. We also provide graduate-level training in anthropology and ethnology. Among National Institutes, Minpaku is unique as the museum facilities allow research to be shared directly with visitors.

Minpaku has a total floor space of 51,225m² for research, exhibition, collection and education.

We also collect and conserve ethnographic materials, which are used for research and exhibitions.



National Museum of Ethnology

National Museum of Ethnology (Minpaku)
10-1 Senri Expo Park, Suita, Osaka 565-8511, Japan.
Website: <http://www.minpaku.ac.jp/english>
E-mail: international@idc.minpaku.ac.jp



国立民族学博物館

National Museum of Ethnology Japan

Research Museum Education

Research

The National Museum of Ethnology, known popularly as Minpaku, conducts three kinds of research program. These are interrelated and stimulate one another: core, inter-university and individual.

Core Research Projects require organization-wide involvement to cover interdisciplinary and fundamental issues that span anthropology and the social sciences generally. Most projects are conceived and realized in collaboration with foreign research institutes with whom we have exchanged academic agreements (currently 17 agreements).



Inter-University Research Projects are based on collaborative research with scholars and students from other academic institutions in Japan. Both regional and thematic projects are encouraged. There are usually about 40 such projects in progress each year.

Individual Research Projects are based on the wide-ranging academic interests of individual Minpaku staff, and are frequently conducted together with core research and inter-university research projects. The projects are often supported by Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research from the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (<http://www.jsps.go.jp/english/index.html>). Minpaku researchers have an excellent record of receiving competitive grants.



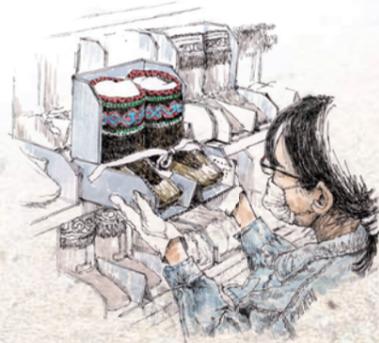
Exhibitions

Minpaku shares research results with the general public through exhibitions that are curated by our academic staff. The Main Exhibition Halls have two types of gallery: regional and cross-cultural. The regional galleries start with Oceania, and continue eastwards around the world: Oceania, the Americas, Europe, Africa, West Asia, South Asia, Southeast Asia, Central and North Asia, and East Asia (Culture of the Korean Peninsula; Regional Cultures of China; Aynu Culture; Culture of Japan). With an emphasis on clothing, food and housing, our regional exhibitions invite visitors to experience everyday life in different parts of the world. Further, two cross-cultural galleries focus on themes that are basic to human life: music and language.

The Special Exhibitions and Thematic Exhibitions are organized periodically. They feature some of the latest research in cultural anthropology and ethnology, and often focus on rapidly changing aspects of the world's cultures.

Collections

Since its inception, Minpaku has collected a vast number of ethnological and anthropological artifacts, and other materials and information. The current collection includes 335,000 artifacts, 70,000 audiovisual items, 650,000 books and periodicals, and 385 Human Relations Area Files (HRAF) documents. These resources are available for academic research in Japan and overseas. Items from our collections can also be lent to universities, museums and other organizations for educational and research purposes.



International Symposia and Forums

Minpaku hosts approximately 20 international symposia, forums and workshops every year. These are important to development of anthropological and ethnological research.



Publications

Minpaku produces a number of high quality, research publications. The *Bulletin of the National Museum of Ethnology* is our flagship journal. It is peer-reviewed and published quarterly. Monographs and collections of articles are published in the *Senri Ethnological Studies* (SES) series. In the *Senri Ethnological Reports* (SER) we present topical work that requires timely distribution and basic source materials such as bibliographies and data collections.



Visiting Researchers

Minpaku has hosted numerous visiting researchers with a wide range of specializations (including ethnology, museology, cultural and social anthropology, linguistics, history, and ethnomusicology), from universities and museums around the world. Each year, the *Overseas Visiting Fellows* program enables six foreign scholars to stay at Minpaku for up to one year, for collaborative research with our staff.

International Cooperation:

Administration of the JICA Group Training Program "Comprehensive Museology"

Since 1994, Minpaku is cooperating with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for the organization of the training course on museology, and actually offers, jointly with Shiga Prefectural Lake Biwa Museum, a four-month course named "Comprehensive Museology". This course is intended for museum curators around the world, and provides practical training in collection, materials management and storage, research, and exhibition activities that are indispensable for museum operation.

Graduate Education in Minpaku

Since 1989, Minpaku offers highly specialized graduate education within the framework of the Graduate University for Advanced Studies. Minpaku houses the two departments (Regional Studies and Comparative Studies) of the University's School of Cultural and Social Studies. Each department offers a Ph.D. program, and conducts educational and research activities that make full use of Minpaku's facilities. As of April, 2013, 20 doctoral students were enrolled; 10 each for the two departments. A total of 84 doctoral degrees have been awarded until now.



Research

Museum

Education