

Passing Kumamoto's treasures down through the generations - Establishment of a Restoration Support System for Disaster-stricken Cultural Properties (2016 Kumamoto Prefecture Earthquake Disaster Recovery Project)



Situation (background, aims, etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Kumamoto Earthquake caused significant damage to Kumamoto Castle and Aso Shrine, both of which are symbols of Kumamoto. It also caused damage to unregistered cultural assets not entitled to receive public financial aid, including buildings, personal effects and many cultural assets with historical value. This imposed the burden of restoration on the owners.
Details (project outline, etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Under such circumstances, fund-raising campaigns started by local business communities gathered momentum, and based on the donated money a subsidy system was uniquely established for Kumamoto Prefecture. It provided great support by subsidising not only cultural assets designated by the country, prefecture or municipalities, but also unregistered ones including valuable historical buildings such as town houses and personal effects such as folding screens and armour.
Results (features and innovations, future developments, etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There has been no public subsidy system for undesignated cultural assets, and the establishment of this kind of subsidy system is the first attempt to do so in Japan. ○ Since the burden to restore undesignated historical buildings was reduced, 80% of the owners decided to opt for restoration. ○ As for undesignated personal effects, the prefecture selected and granted subsidies to only those with a high historical value that are worth being designated as cultural assets. ○ The prefecture is promoting efforts to pass Kumamoto's treasures down through the generations by encouraging the designation of recovered undesignated cultural assets with historical value.