

KEY FACTS AND FIGURES ON JAPAN / UNESCO COOPERATION
--

1. **Membership in UNESCO:** since 2 July 1951
2. **Membership on the Executive Board:** Yes
Note: Japan has had uninterrupted membership on the Board since 1952.
3. **Membership of Intergovernmental Committees, Commissions, etc.:**
 - Intergovernmental Council for the International Hydrological Programme (term expires in 2017)
 - International Coordinating Council of the Programme on Man and the Biosphere (term expires in 2015)
 - Intergovernmental Council of the "Management of Social Transformations" Programme (term expires in 2017)
 - Intergovernmental Committee for Promoting the Return of Cultural Property to its Country of Origin or its Restitution in Case of Illicit Appropriation (term expires in 2015)
 - Intergovernmental Committee on World Heritage (term expires in 2015)
 - Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (Executive Council Member State)
4. **The Director-General's visits to Japan:** 5
 - August 2015
 - November 2014
 - November 2012
 - February 2012
 - November 2010
5. **Permanent Delegation to UNESCO:**
 - H.E. Ms Kuni Sato, Ambassador, Permanent Delegate to UNESCO (since 2 April 2015)
 - Staff: Mr Satoshi Nara, Minister, Deputy Permanent Delegate, and 10 staff
 - Previous Permanent Delegate: H.E. Mr Kenjiro Monji (October 2013 – March 2015)
6. **UNESCO Office in Beijing:** Japan is covered by the UNESCO Office in Beijing.
Director a.i.: Ms Eunice Smith (P-4, Grenade) (since 1 January 2015)
You intend to appoint Ms Marielza Oliveira (Brazil) to the post of Director of the UNESCO Office in Beijing and UNESCO Representative to the People's Republic of China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Japan, Mongolia, and the Republic of Korea. Consultation with the Chinese authorities on this appointment is underway.
7. **National Commission of Japan for UNESCO:**
 - Date of establishment: August 1952
 - Chairperson: Mr Yuichiro Anzai (since December 2013)
 - Secretary-General: Mr Yoshio Yamawaki (since November 2014)
8. **Personalities linked to UNESCO activities:**
 - Goodwill Ambassador : Dr Genshitsu Sen (grand master of tea ceremony, 2012)
 - Artists for Peace: Mr Eijin Nimura (violinist, 1998), Ms Miyako Yoshida (ballerina, 2004), Countess Setsuko Klossowska de Rola (painter, 2005); and Ms Missa Johnouchi (composer 2006)

- Member of the United Nations Secretary-General's Scientific Advisory Board: Ms Reiko Kuroda, Professor, Research Institute for Science and Technology, Tokyo University of Science
- Member of IBC: Professor (Mr) Akira Akabayashi (2012-2015), Professor, Department of Biomedical Ethics, School of Public Health, University of Tokyo
- President of ACCU: Mr. Fujio Cho (Chairman of Toyota Motor Corporation) as of 19 March 2010

9. UNESCO Chairs: 3

- UNESCO Chair on Environmental Management and Infrastructure Development Engineering, Saitama University (1997)
- UNESCO Chair in Sustainable Human Security and Capacity-building in Post-conflict Societies, Doshisha University (2012)
- UNESCO Chair in Research and Education for Sustainable Development, Okayama University (2007)

UNITWIN Networks: 2

- UNESCO/KU/ICL International Consortium on Landslides Mitigation for Society and Environment Cooperation Programme, Kyoto University, Kyoto (2003)
- The Network on Emergency Preparedness and Responses, Waseda University, Tokyo (2005)

10. Associated schools: 924 (27 nursery and pre-schools, 483 primary, 25 primary and secondary, 382 secondary, 5 teacher training and 2 vocational and technical). Japan joined the ASP Network in 1953.

The Government of Japan has an official policy to promote school-based ESD through ASPnet schools at all levels.

The ASPnet National Coordinator is currently Mr Motomura Hiroaki, Japanese National Commission for UNESCO, Assistant Secretary-General, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT).

Major projects:

- With the financial support of BASF, UNESCO implements (October 2011-March 2014) the "Bring Back Smiles Project" for students, teachers and parents and community members in the cities of Kesenuma and Rikuzentakata in North-East Japan. Both cities were heavily impacted by the Great East Japan earthquake and tsunami.
- Japanese ASPnet schools were part of the first ASPnet in Action online collaborative platform dedicated to learning and exchanging about biodiversity. The purpose of this platform, developed with the support of the Japanese Funds-in-Trust, is to facilitate a global exchange of experiences and to take concrete actions to actively engage in local and global initiatives to support and promote biodiversity.

11. Category 2 Institutes and Centres: 2

- International Centre for Water Hazard and Risk Management (ICHARM), Tsukuba
- International Research Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region

12. Biosphere Reserves: 7

- Mount Hakusan
- Mount Odaigahara & Mount Omine
- Shiga Highland

- Yakushima Island
- Aya
- Tadami
- Minami-Alps

Note: Japan is a member of the Eastern Asian Biosphere Reserve Network (EABRN) consisting of China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Japan, Mongolia, the Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation.

13. **World Heritage sites:** 19

Cultural sites:

- Buddhist Monuments in the Horyu-ji Area (1993)
- Himeji-jo (1993)
- Historic Monuments of Ancient Kyoto (Kyoto, Uji and Otsu Cities) (1994)
- Historic Villages of Shirakawa-go and Gokayama (1995)
- Itsukushima Shinto Shrine (1996)
- Hiroshima Peace Memorial (Genbaku Dome) (1996)
- Historic Monuments of Ancient Nara (1998)
- Shrines and Temples of Nikko (1999)
- Gusuku Sites and Related Properties of the Kingdom of Ryukyu (2000)
- Sacred Sites and Pilgrimage Routes in the Kii Mountain Range (2004)
- Iwami Ginzan Silver Mine and its Cultural Landscape (2007)
- Hiraizumi- Temples, Gardens and Archeological Sites Representing the Buddhist Pure Land (2011)
- Fujisan (2013)
- Tomioka Silk Mill and Related Sites (2014)
- Sites of Japan's Meiji Industrial Revolution: Iron and Steel, Shipbuilding and Coal Mining (2015)

Natural sites:

- Shirakami-Sanchi (1993)
- Yakushima (1993)
- Shiretoko (2005)
- Ogasawara Islands (2011)

14. **Tentative List:** 10 properties

- Temples, Shrines and other structures of Ancient Kamakura (1992)
- Hikone-Jo (castle) (1995)
- Hiraizumi – Temples, Gardens and Archaeological Sites Representing the Buddhist Pure Land (extension) (2001)
- Asuka-Fujiwara: Archaeological sites of Japan's Ancient Capitals and Related Properties (2007)
- Churches and Christian Sites in Nagasaki (2007)
- Main Building of the National Museum of Western Art (2007)
- Jōmon Archaeological Sites in Hokkaido, Northern Tōhoku and other regions (2009)
- Okinoshima Island and Related Sites in Munakata Region (2009)
- Mozu-Furuichi Kofungun, Ancient Tumulus Clusters (2010)
- The Sado complex of heritage mines, primarily gold mines (2010)

15. **Intangible Heritage Lists:** 22 inscriptions on the Representative List

- Washi, craftsmanship of traditional Japanese hand-made paper (2014)
- Washoku, traditional dietary cultures of the Japanese, notably for the celebration of New Year (2013)

- Nachi no Dengaku, a religious performing art held at the Nachi fire festival (2012)
- Mibu no Hana Taue – the ritual of transplanting rice in Mibu, Hiroshima (2011)
- Sada Shin Noh – sacred dancing at Sada shrine, Shimane (2011)
- Kumiodori, traditional Okinawan musical theatre - a Japanese performing art found on the Okinawa islands. It is based upon traditional Okinawan music and dance, but also incorporates elements from mainland Japan, such as Nogaku or Kabuki, as well as from China (2010)
- Yuki-tsumugi, silk fabric production technique - a Japanese silk-weaving technique found principally in Yuki City and Oyama City, along the Kinu River, north of Tokyo. The region boasts a warm climate and fertile lands, which are ideal for the growth of mulberry trees and sericulture. The Yuki-tsumugi technique is employed to produce pongee silk (also called raw silk) – a light and warm material with a characteristic stiffness and softness, traditionally used to make kimonos (2010)
- Akiu no Taue Odori – traditional dance offering prayer for a good harvest (2009)
- Chakkirako - dance of the people of Miura to celebrate the New Year and bring fortune and a bountiful catches of fish (2009)
- Daimokutate - in Yahashira Shrine of Nara City in central Japan, young men of the Kami-fukawa community re-enact the feud between the Genji and Heike clans (2009)
- Dainichido Bugaku - on 2 January each year, the people of Osato, Azukisawa, Nagamine and Taniuchi communities proceed from dedicated sites to the shrine, where they perform nine sacred dances from dawn to noon as a prayer for happiness in the New Year (2009)
- Gagaku - characterized by long, slow songs and dance-like movements, this is the oldest of the Japanese traditional performing arts and is performed at banquets and ceremonies in the Imperial Palace and in theatres throughout the country (2009)
- Hayachine Kagura - folk performance to enliven the Great Festival of the Hayachine Shrine held in Hanamaki City on the first day of August (2009)
- Hitachi Fuyumono - a parade held during the cherry blossom festival each April in Hitachi City on the Pacific coast in the middle of Japan, and once every seven years in May during the Great Festival at the local Kamine Shrine (2009)
- Koshikijima no Toshidon - Japanese folk faith holds that, in times of change, a deity visits our world to bring blessings. Koshikijima no Toshidon, which occurs every New Year's Eve on Shimo-Koshiki Island in the southwestern part of the Japanese Archipelago, is one such raiho-shin, or visiting deity (2009)
- Ojiya-chijimi, Echigo-jofu - techniques of making ramie fabric in Uonuma region, Niigata Prefecture (2009)
- Oku-noto no Aenokoto - an agricultural ritual transmitted from generation to generation by the rice farmers of the Noto Peninsula (2009)
- Traditional Ainu dance - the Ainu, an indigenous people, today live mostly in Hokkaidō. Traditional Ainu dance is performed at ceremonies and banquets, as part of newly organized cultural festivals and privately in daily life; it is closely connected to the lifestyle and religion of the Ainu (2009)
- Yamahoko, the float ceremony of the Kyoto Gion festival - On July 17 every year, the Gion Festival in Kyoto culminates in a grand procession of yamahoko, floats known as 'moving museums' because of their elaborate decoration with tapestries and wooden and metal ornaments (2009)
- Nôgaku theatre (2008)
- Ningyo Johruri Bunraku Puppet Theatre (2008)
- Kabuki - a Japanese traditional form of theatre (2008)

- 16. Memory of the World Register:** 3 inscriptions
- Materials related to the Keicho-era Mission to Europe Japan and Spain (2013)
 - Midokanpakuki: the original handwritten diary of Fujiwara no Michinaga (2013)
 - Sakubei Yamamoto Collection (2011)
- 17. Creative Cities Network:** 6 cities
- The city of Hamamatsu (UNESCO City of Music since 2014)
 - The city of Tsuruoka (UNESCO City of Gastronomy since 2014)
 - The city of Sapporo (UNESCO City of Media Arts since 2013)
 - The city of Kanazawa (UNESCO City of Craft and Fork Arts since 2009)
 - The city of Nagoya (UNESCO City of Design since 2008)
 - The city of Kobe (UNESCO City of Design since 2008)
- 18. Legal instruments:** 22 ratified and 17 non-ratified
- 19. Anniversaries with which UNESCO is associated in 2014-2015:** none
- 20. Participation programme:** no request
- 21. Fellowships:** no entry
- 22. Voluntary contributions to UNESCO Extra-Budgetary Activities and Institutes (expressed in US\$):**

Year	Jan-June 2015	2014	2013
Total	11,715,361	10,282,813	30,499,173

- 23. Payment of assessed membership fees for 2014-2015:**
(Assessment rate: 10.834%; contributions assessed for 2014-2015: US\$ 70,746,020)
- 25. Representation in the Secretariat:** normally represented
33 professional staff in geographical posts (min. 23, max. 39)