

IP Survey Report

I . Institute Overview

National Research Institute of Cultural Heritage (NRICH) is located at 132 Munji-ro, Yuseong-gu, Daejeon 305-380 Republic of Korea. NRICH is the only comprehensive research institute of cultural heritage in Korea. As a government organisation, it is affiliated with the Cultural Heritage Administration of Korea (CHA). The following is a timeline highlights some of the milestones of the Institute since its inception in 1969

November 5, 1969

The Cultural Heritage Research Office is set up in the Cultural Heritage Bureau of the Ministry of Culture and Information.

March 9, 1973

The Cultural Heritage Research Office is reorganised into the Office of Cultural Heritage Researchers.

April 17, 1975

The Office of Cultural Heritage Researchers is promoted to the Cultural Heritage Research Institute affiliated with the Cultural Heritage Bureau.

September 1, 1988

The Archaeological Research Division is created.

January 3, 1990

The Gyeongju Cultural Heritage Research Institute, the Buyeo Cultural Heritage Research Institute, the Changwon Cultural Heritage Research Institute and the Mokpo Marine Antiques Preservation Center are established.

May 4, 1994

The General Affairs Division is created and the Mokpo Marine Antiques Preservation Center is renamed the National Marine Antiques Museum and placed under the jurisdiction of the Cultural Heritage Bureau.

November 22, 1995

The Institute is renamed the National Research Institute of Cultural Heritage.

July 25, 2003

The Architectural Research Division is created.

January 17, 2004

The Institute moves to a new building in Daedeok Science Town.

August 16, 2005

The Naju National Research Institute of Cultural Heritage is established, and the Institute opens the Restoration Technology Division and renames its General Affairs Division the Policy and Planning Division.

April 6, 2006

The Natural Heritage Research Division is created.

January 1, 2007

The Institute is designated a responsible operational institution.

March 15, 2007

The Research Planning Division is created.

November 30, 2007

The Jungwon National Research Institute of Cultural Heritage is established, the Changwon National Research Institute of Cultural Heritage is renamed the Gaya National Research Institute of Cultural Heritage, and the Architectural Research Division is renamed the Traditional Architecture Research Division.

August 12, 2008

The Institute changes the names of three divisions—the Arts and Crafts Research Division changes to the Research Division of Artistic Heritage; the Traditional Architecture Research Division changes to the Research Division of Architectural Heritage; and the Folklore Research Division changes to the Research Division of Intangible Cultural Heritage.

April 29, 2009

Cultural Heritage Conservation Science Center is created.

February 2012

There are two divisions, seven research divisions, five research institutes in provinces, and one Center.

Under its major goal to promote the value of cultural heritage through creating and using cultural heritage knowledge, NRIC has developed into a leading cultural heritage research institute. The Institute could be seen as one institute with its five functions: cultural heritage research and information institute, cultural heritage complex research institute, cultural heritage conservation research institute, cultural heritage policy leading research institute, and cultural heritage research exchange and international cooperation institute.

NRICH researches all kinds of national cultural heritage, including intangible cultural heritage, archaeology, artistic and architectural heritage, natural heritage, and conservation science. In the field of intangible cultural heritage, it is involved with various types of elements, such as music, dance, play, ritual, craftsmanship, and food.

The budget for NRIC is funded by the state and from the cultural heritage fund.

The parent organisation of NRIC, CHA, is in charge of tasks related to preserving, managing, promoting cultural heritage as a central administration agency under the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism. As the organisational goal is on the contribution to the advancement of national culture through conservation by creating value from cultural heritage, CHA has three major functions as follows:

1. Establish a base for conserving and managing cultural heritage by enhancing the quality of heritage policy and research and by training specialists in the field of cultural heritage
2. Enhance the quality of conservation and management of cultural heritage to increase the social, historical, and economic values of cultural heritage
3. Expand the value of our cultural heritage domestically and internationally by increasing opportunities for the appreciation of cultural heritage

Accordingly, CHA's main tasks could be divided into six parts.

Designation and Registration of Cultural Heritage

CHA manages important cultural properties that were designated as State or City/Province cultural heritage. State-designated cultural heritage, such as National Treasures, is directly managed by CHA, and in the case of City/Province-designated cultural heritage, CHA supports local governments for managing cultural heritage. CHA also registers particular

cultural properties that require special attention for conservation as Registered Cultural Heritage.

Approval for Alteration and Excavation

To alter State-designated cultural heritage and protected areas or to excavate underground or underwater cultural properties, the approval of a CHA administrator is necessary. CHA also supervises the export of cultural properties abroad.

Conservation of Cultural Heritage and Financial Support

CHA provides financial support conserving and managing cultural heritage. Government subsidies are also granted for the management and restoration of State-designated cultural heritage and for the protection and promotion of important intangible cultural heritage.

Management of Royal Palaces, Tombs, and Historic Sites of the Joseon Dynasty

CHA directly manages Joseon royal palaces and tombs located in Seoul and surrounding areas. These sites include Gyeongbokgung Palace and Changdeokgung Palace. CHA is also in charge of managing important historic sites, such as the Historic Site of King Sejong and Hyeonchungsa Shrine. In addition, the National Palace Museum of Korea and National Research Institute of Maritime Cultural Heritage are also under the control of CHA.

Globalisation of Cultural Heritage and Exchange with North Korea

CHA is in charge of submitting to UNESCO Korean candidates for the World Heritage, Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, and Memory of the World of Korea for registration on the UNESCO lists. Through these efforts, CHA publicises the value and excellence of Korean cultural heritage internationally. It also strives to strengthen international cooperation in the field of cultural heritage through partnerships with other countries. By providing support for ancient tombs of Goguryeo located in the North, CHA has made an effort to promote a cultural heritage exchange with North Korea.

Research and Investigation of Cultural Heritage and Training Specialists

Through NRIC, CHA conducts a variety of research and investigation for scientific conservation and the management of cultural properties. The Korean National University of Cultural Heritage, a national university specialising in cultural heritage, was also established and is now run by CHA.