

About the National Museum of Japanese History

The National Museum of Japanese History (Rekihaku) is located in Sakura-shi, Chiba, approximately 15 kilometers east of Tokyo and almost 50 kilometers west of Narita International Airport. In 1983, Rekihaku was opened as an inter-university research institute at the site where Sakura Castle once stood 150 years ago. Since then, it has conducted collaborative investigations with domestic and foreign researchers. Today, it is also in charge of the doctoral course of the Graduate University for Advanced Studies.



Exhibition of Early Modern Times in the Third Gallery Room

Rekihaku promotes interdisciplinary and advanced research on Japanese history and culture, developing a model of museum-based research integration. This model consists of interrelated operations organically linking three elements: research, exhibitions and resources. Rekihaku possesses more than 200,000 historical documents as well as around 300,000 selected reference books and magazines. It also has interdisciplinary research facilities with the natural sciences. Making use of these research facilities, more than 40 Rekihaku researchers engage in around 40 collaborative research and exhibition projects every year with more than 470 inviting visitor researchers from Japan and overseas. Research meetings, symposiums and lectures are also held regularly.



Rekihaku is the only museum that exhibits Japanese history and culture from primitive and ancient periods to modern times. It shows the latest results of research through general displays and special exhibitions. In recent years, international exchange activities have been promoted to deepen the research projects from the various perspectives of world history.



International Exchange Activities of the National Museum of Japanese History

Rekihaku promotes international exchanges activities such as international cooperation agreements with leading universities, museums and research institutions, various international exchange projects, collaborative research, investigation of documents, field surveys and the mutual dispatch of researchers overseas. The achievements of these activities include opening the special exhibitions at Rekihaku, publishing the Bulletin of the National Museum of Japanese History, and holding international exhibitions and symposiums both in Japan and overseas.

Japanese scholars and foreign researchers have been invited to Rekihaku as members of collaborative research and exhibition projects. In addition, more than 50 researchers from overseas (the average of the last three years) have been accepted annually by the Programs for Inviting Foreign Researchers, among others. Through these projects, new research networks are being actively created.



Materials Survey at the Daehan Cultural Property Research Center, Korea
March 19-20, 2014

International Exchange Activities (Major Projects in 2014)

- Korea The National Folk Museum of Korea: Japan-Korea Area Studies through Museum-based Research Integration
- Korea Pusan National University Museum: Analytical Sciences and Chronological Studies on Japan-Korea Ancient Human Remains and Actual Dates of the Three Kingdoms Period
- Korea National Research Institute of Cultural Heritage: Exchange Activities with the National Research Institute of Cultural Heritage
- China Institute of Archaeology, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences: Exchange Activities with Institute of Archaeology, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences
- Canada Canadian Museum of History: Comparative Study of Representation of Indigenous Peoples in Museums
- Germany German Historical Museum, Federal Republic of Germany: Academic Research Exchange in the Exhibition Project "Relations between Japan and Germany: 150 Years of Friendship between Germany and Japan"
- Taiwan National Taiwan University of Arts: Museums, Cultural Interpretation and Communication through Objects

International Symposiums (Recent Major Events)

- Cities in Asia: India, China, Japan (2011)
- Exhibiting "Japan" in Foreign Countries: Experience from "Japan: Tradition, Innovation" at the Canadian Museum of Civilization (2011)
- Exchange of the Character Culture in Ancient Japan and Korea (2012)
- New Japan-South Korea Area Comparative Folklore Study: Museum-Based Research Integration (2013)



► **Germany** With the international exchange agreement in December 2013 between Rekihaku and the German Historical Museum, Federal Republic of Germany, the exchange activities especially focused on the studies of contemporary history have been developed. Moreover, various academic exchange activities with universities and museums in Germany have been promoted. The special exhibition, Relations between Japan and Germany will be planning to hold in Rekihaku in 2015 as well as the special exhibition on the theme of Siebold in 2016. More interchange is expected.



Research Presentation of Visiting Researcher 27 November 2014



Special Exhibition: Experience from Japan:
Tradition, Innovation The Canadian Museum of Civilization (Formerly)
20 May 2011-10 October 2011

► **Canada** In September 2009, an international exchange agreement between Rekihaku and the Canadian Museum of Civilization (now the Canadian Museum of History) was concluded. As a result of these exchange activities, a series of exhibition projects was developed. In 2011, the special exhibition, the Experience from Japan: Tradition, Innovation was opened in Canada and the international symposium, Exhibiting "Japan" in Foreign Countries, was held both in Canada and at Rekihaku in Japan. As the second stage of the international exchange activities, studies of indigenous people are being conducted.

► **Korea** International exchange agreements were concluded with the National Folk Museum of Korea in May 2003, the National Research Institute of Cultural Heritage in March 2004, and the National Museum of Korea in April 2006. An international symposium was held in cooperation with the National Folk Museum of Korea and international exchange with the National Research Institute of Cultural Heritage was deepened through exhibition cooperation as well as the investigation of the unearthed articles in Korea. As for cooperative activities with the National Museum of Korea, studies of the culture of ancient characters in Korea and Japan have been conducted, resulting in a special exhibition and international exhibition in both countries. International exchange activities with various other institutions in Korea have also been promoted in recent years.



International Symposium: Exchange of the Character Culture
in Ancient Japan and Korea
15, 16 December 2012





Ship Magnetic Compass, Rekihaku Collection.

International Cooperation Agreements

Since 1989, Rekihaku has conducted international cooperation agreements with leading research institutions overseas, promoting international academic exchange. As of January, 2015, more than 17 institutions overseas, mainly in East Asia and Europe, have cooperation agreements with Rekihaku. We will continue to create a worldwide international network with overseas research institutions by concluding cooperation agreements. By building a relationship of trust and cooperation, Rekihaku aims to promote the globalization of research in the fields of Japanese history and culture as well as to deepen mutual understanding of history.



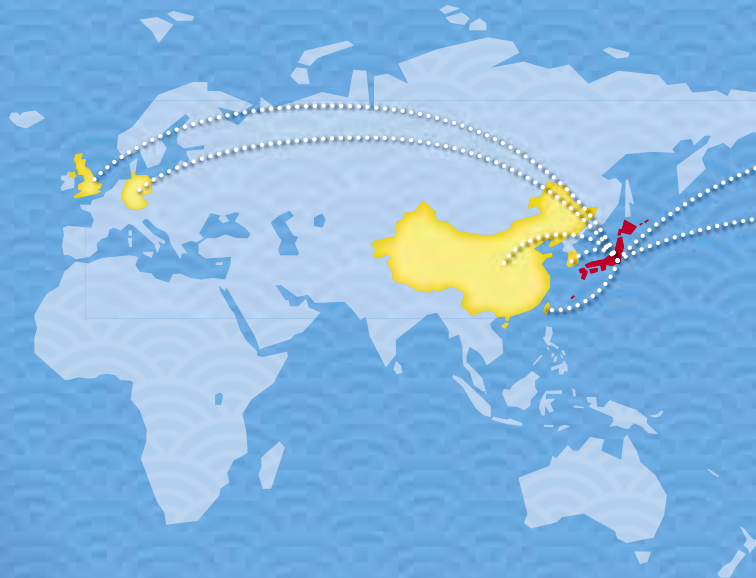
Cooperation Agreement with German Historical Museum 11 December 2013



Cooperation Agreement with National Museum Wales 10 June 2014

Rekihaku's International Cooperation Agreements (As of March 2015)

Country /Region	Institution (Date of Agreement)
U S A	Smithsonian Institution (January 1989)
C h i n a	Institute of Archaeology, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (January 2003)
K o r e a	The National Folk Museum of Korea (May 2003)
K o r e a	National Research Institute of Cultural Heritage (March 2004)
K o r e a	Pusan National University Museum (July 2004)
K o r e a	National Museum of Korea (April 2006)
U S A	The University of Illinois (June 2005)
K o r e a	Foundation of East Asia Cultural Properties Institute (May 2009)
C a n a d a	Canadian Museum of History (Formerly the Canadian Museum of Civilization) (September 2009)
K o r e a	Kyungpook National University Museum (August 2010)
K o r e a	The yeongnam Institute of Cultural Properties (April 2012)
K o r e a	Yeungnam University Museum (July 2012)
T a i w a n	National Taiwan University of Arts (October 2013)
Germany	German Historical Museum, Federal Republic of Germany (December 2013)
K o r e a	Daehan Cultural Property Research Center (March 2014)
U K	The National Museum Wales (June 2014)
T a i w a n	National Museum of Taiwan History (July 2014)



Programs for Inviting Foreign Researchers

Rekihaku has accepted foreign researchers from all over the world through various programs. On average more than 50 overseas researchers a year have been invited to Japan over the past three years. The major programs are shown below.

■ Visiting Scholars

The purpose of the Visiting Scholars Program of three to six months duration is to invite researchers who are working as a professor at an overseas research institution. Researchers will engage in studies on Japanese history and culture and participate in projects such as collaborative research and collaborative exhibitions. In addition, researchers are required to participate in international exchange activities as well as to announce the results of research in meetings. Two or three researchers have been invited every year. Solicitation for application usually starts around October every year and the selection committee in the museum determines the final candidates.

■ Short-Term Visiting Researchers

The Short-Term Visiting Scholars Program of one month's duration for young researchers or mid-career researchers has also been conducted. This program promotes continuous international exchange activities through further discussions and meetings with Rekihaku scholars. It also aims to develop networks between Rekihaku and the foreign institutions to which participants belong and to plant the seeds of international collaborative research. Three to five researchers have been accepted every year. This program also begins solicitation for application around October every year and the selection committee in the museum determines final candidates.

For more information, please refer to our museum's homepage: <http://www.rekihaku.ac.jp>

Research Subjects in Programs for Inviting Foreign Researchers (Recent Major Studies)

- A Research to Gain Better Understanding of Japanese Collections in the National Museum Wales (2012, UK)
- The Understanding of Japan about China in the Edo Period (2012, China)
- The Comparative Research of Settlement Structure between Jomon-Yayoi Period and Bronze Age in Korean Peninsula (2012, Korea)
- Study for the Export Lacquer in the 19th Century (2013, Netherlands)
- Early Japanese Encyclopedias: Authors, Sources, and Links between General and Specialized Books (2013, France)
- Gender and Status in the Representation and Performance of Samurai Identity in Early Modern Japanese Blood-Revenge (2014, USA)
- Comparative Study on the Serpent Stories of Japan, China and Korea (2014, Korea)
- A Study on Relation of Material Culture between Japan and the Korean Peninsula in the Yayoi Period (2014, Korea)

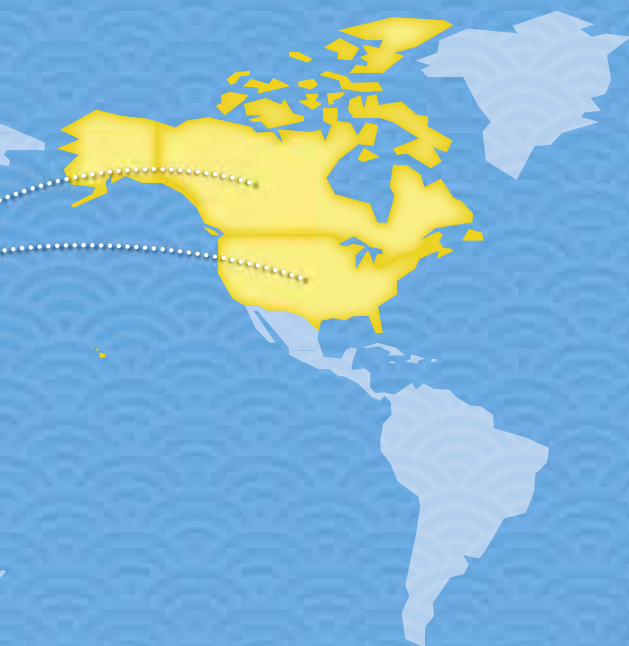
International Exchange Office

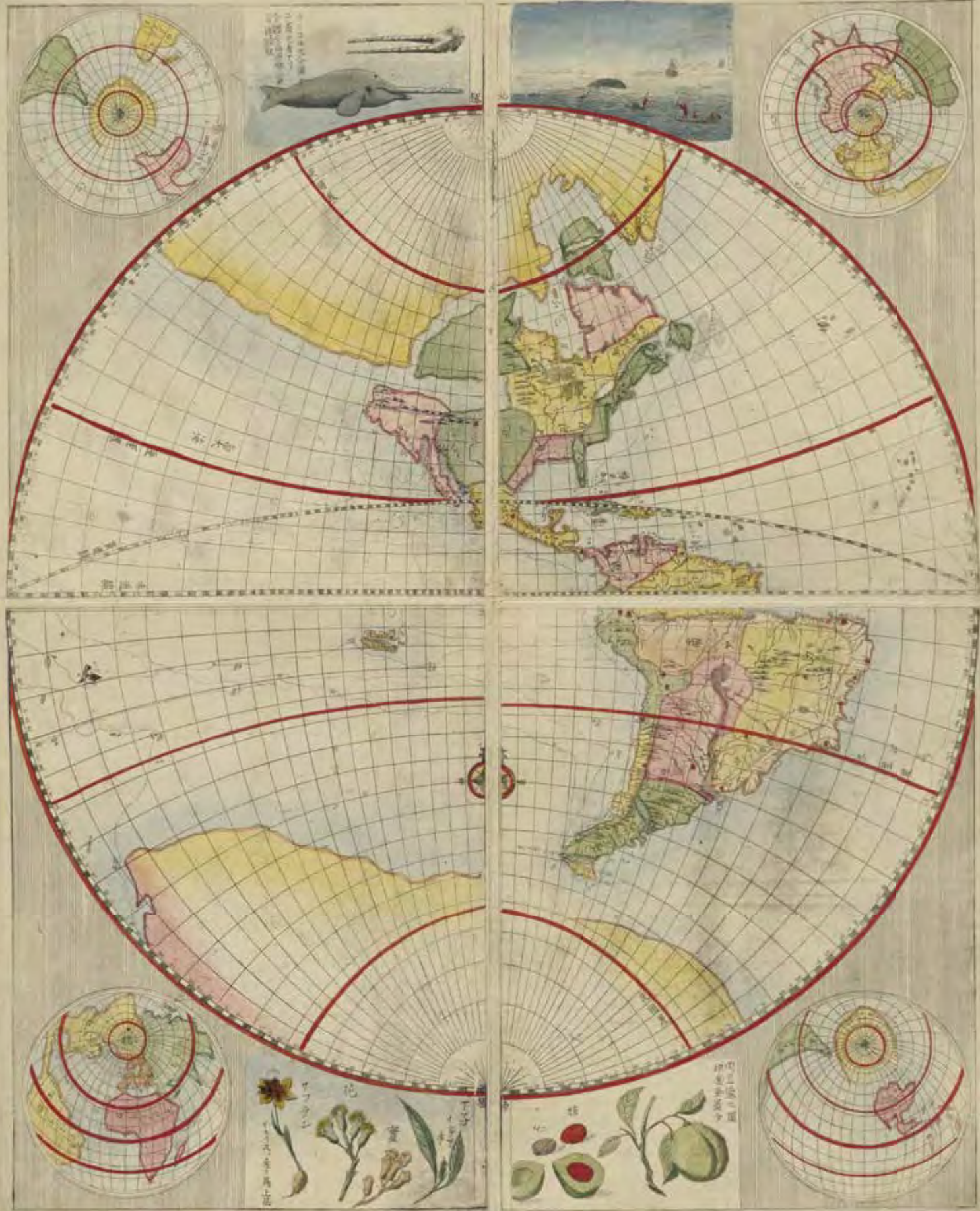
Rekihaku International Exchange Office was established in March 2014. The office mainly conducts the general activities of Rekihaku's international exchange such as international cooperation agreements, international exchange projects, programs for visiting scholars and short-term visiting researchers, and the collection of information on overseas research institutions.

Seven office workers (two specialized staff for foreign languages) are now registered in the international exchange room and support various activities through multilingual systems. Facilities for the long-term accommodation of researchers from overseas are being installed in the international exchange building, which is under construction on the site of Rekihaku.

If you have any inquiry about international exchange, please send your e-mail to the following address:

National Museum of Japanese History, International Exchange Office:
kokusai-e@ml.rekihaku.ac.jp





Inter-University Research Institute Corporation
National Institutes for the Humanities
National Museum of Japanese History
117 Jonai-cho, Sakura City, Chiba 285-8502 JAPAN
<http://www.rekihaku.ac.jp>
kokusai-e@ml.rekihaku.ac.jp

Cover Picture: Global Map, 1792: Bird View of Edo (Part),
Early Edo Period, Rekihaku Collection.



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