

文化財レスキュー事業

2011年3月11日に発生した東日本大震災により、地域の人々の誇り、アイデンティティーの基盤であり、また、国民共有の貴重な財産でもある文化財の多くが被害を受けました。このため、文化庁の要請により組織された被災文化財等救援委員会等が中心となり、官民あがての文化財レスキュー事業（被災文化財の保全、救出、応急措置等をおこなうもの）がおこなわれており、奈良文化財研究所も、同事業に参画しています。

4月20日に文化財レスキュー事業として初めておこなった石巻文化センターにおける活動を皮切りに、5月下旬以降は、毎週月曜日から金曜日までの期間、研究系職員3～4名を現地に派遣しました。特に埋蔵文化財関係のレスキュー事業が予定される場合には、主体となって事前調査と実施計画の策定等を担当しました。この結果、宮城県等12箇所に、36名の職員が延べ239日にわたって参加しました。

その他、被災した水損文書類の救援もおこなっています。水損文書類は、カビが生えたり、場合によっては腐敗してしまうため、一時的な保管手段として、回収された水損文書類を民間業者の協力を得て冷凍保存したうえで、順次、凍結乾燥をおこなっています。また、乾燥が終了した文書類については、ボランティアの協力を得ながら、泥を落とす等クリーニング作業をおこない、少しでも良い状態で地元に戻すようにしています。

被災した文化財を元の姿に戻すためには、今後、本格的な修復をおこなう必要があります。また、いつおこるかわからない災害に対して、いかに文化財を守るのか、日常的な準備も必要です。



真空凍結乾燥機への搬入作業
Bringing the materials into the Vacuum Freeze Dryer

Cultural Properties Rescue Project

Due to the Great East Japan Earthquake which struck on March 3, 2011, there was damage in the afflicted area to a great many cultural properties, which are not only the foundation for the identity and pride of the people of the region, but also precious assets held in common by the nation as a whole. For this reason, centering on agencies such as the Committee for Salvaging Cultural Properties Affected by the 2011 Earthquake, organized at the request of the Agency for Cultural Affairs, a cultural properties rescue project (for carrying out the conservation, salvaging, and emergency treatment, etc.) involving both the government and citizens en masse has been underway, with the Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties also participating.

With activity at the Ishinomaki Culture Center on April 20 leading off as the start of the rescue project, from the latter part of May three or four researchers were dispatched by the Institute to the region from Monday through Friday every week. In cases where rescue operations for buried cultural properties in particular were anticipated, they assumed the lead role and took responsibility for the exploratory investigation and determination of the working plan. As a result, 36 staffs participated in the rescue project ultimately included 12 destinations centering on Miyagi prefecture and extended over 239 days.

In addition, rescue work was conducted for documentary materials that were water-damaged in the disaster. As water-logged written materials can be affected by outbreaks of mold, and in some cases decomposition, after freezing the materials with cooperation from the private sector as a means for temporary safe-keeping, the freeze-drying was then conducted in orderly fashion. Also, for items that were finished drying, cleaning such as washing the mud was done with the aid of volunteers, so that these materials could be returned to the region in slightly better condition.

In order to restore damaged cultural properties to their former condition, it is necessary to conduct full-scale restoration work. Preparations are also needed on a daily basis with regard to how cultural properties can be protected against disaster, which may occur anytime in unpredictable fashion.



瓦礫からの文化財の回収
Recovering of cultural properties from rubble