

I. Report of Conservation works

Chapter 1 Process of the Dismantling Work

Interim Report 1 on the dismantling work, issued previously, outlined the progress of the project, from the dismantling of N18, which constitutes the top surface of the lower platform, to the excavation of the inside of the lower platform. At the stage where the south stairways of the Central Sanctuary was found inside the lower platform of the Southern Sanctuary, the dismantling of the upper stone blocks of the lower platform was discontinued, and an investigation and documentation of the stairways was conducted during the latter half of FY2012. Thereafter, the dismantling of the upper blocks of the lower platform was resumed in FY2013. As of the end of FY2013, the dismantling of N25, the bottommost tier has been completed, and the stone lines discovered in the foundation have been investigated. This report covers the progress of the survey and restoration work up to the end of FY2013.

In June 2013, test earthfill was prepared for two places on the south side of the Southern Sanctuary to collect data for improving the foundation soil. In July, a conservation science survey was conducted, the mixing ratio for the consolidated filling soil of the foundation was decided, and preparations were made for producing laterite powder and clay powder. The basement digging ground was also investigated as required, and buried pottery was discovered. In September, N23 was dismantled. Upon completion of the dismantling of N23, it was decided that the connecting area between the upper blocks of the foundation of the Southern Sanctuary and the Central Sanctuary should be examined, and the Architecture Unit made an examination in October. A 3D survey was conducted once again in November by Kyowa Corporation, mainly of the connecting area with the Central Sanctuary. In November, after the rainy season had ended, the dismantling of N24 and N25 was begun. As these two tiers were made almost entirely with laterite and their dismantling and removal required the excavation of their surrounding area as well, an area roughly 1m around the outer circumference of the foundation was excavated. In that process, more buried pottery artifacts were discovered from two locations outside the south side of the foundation.

From January, the stone lines in the foundation were examined as needed, and preparations were made to rebuild and re-compact the foundation based on an examination of reassembly and re-compacting methods. Thereafter, efforts were made to produce two types of powders to improve the soil, and upon final confirmation of the work method in consideration of a proposal from ICC in June 2014, re-compaction of the foundation soil was begun in the latter half of June.



Fig. 1: Restoration of the south stairways of the Central Sanctuary



Fig. 2: Test foundation earthfill



Fig. 3: Survey by the Architecture Unit



Fig. 4: Boring test using a hand auger