

## **Consideration of the Preservation and Utilization of Materials Collected by the Regional Museums**

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In this paper we consider the role that regional museums play in working to enrich society, as well as the relationship between regional museums and local residents, based on initiatives taken in Taiwan to revitalize museum activity through proactive engagement with the local community. Collection materials are the lifeblood of regional museums, and we look at what one small team of staff from a museum have been doing to preserve them by using a closed-down school as a storage facility. We also consider the example of a regional museum that has developed an educational kit to try and encourage more active use of the museum among the local community.

What these examples from Taiwan showed is that, whether the initiative in question was being led by the museums or the local residents, the key characteristic of the approach to implementation was that each party clearly identified and delineated what it is was possible for them to achieve according to their own individual circumstances. Japanese regional museums have a lot they can learn from this approach. Regional museums play an important role as a hub for local culture, by both preserving and utilizing the materials which represent that culture. We demonstrate that the introduction of IPM for cultural properties, as well as collaboration with an IPM for cultural properties coordinator, PCO, and researchers specializing in museum environments is essential for the successful preservation of materials. In terms of utilizing the materials, it has long been posited that there is a need for collaboration between museums and schools. We propose a new approach for this, which acknowledges that the issues cannot be solved at the individual museum and school level, and places emphasis on the need for cooperation at an administrative level between the national and local governments.

In addition, we propose an activity model based on a notion of “cultural succession” as something that regional museums should aspire to adopt. The objective of this is to preserve and make use of local culture by accepting its transformation, while at the same time deepening understanding of and passing down its form prior to transformation.

Key words: local culture, Regional Museums, cultural properties, Great East Japan Earthquake, conservation science

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