

Challenges in Disaster Prevention and Protection for Local Cultural Resources : Focusing on Post-March 11 2011 Relief Efforts for Cultural Resources of Rikuzentakata, Japan

AKANUMA Hideo

Since the aftermath of the 2011 Tohoku earthquake and tsunami, the Rikuzentakata City Museum in Iwate Prefecture, Japan, has been continuing efforts to recover and restore disaster-damaged cultural and historical materials. These efforts have highlighted the importance of preparing for future natural disasters by creating a database of the historical and cultural resources that have been passed on in the region. In the event of a natural disaster, full use of such a database is necessary, in order to grasp the level of damage and loss at an early stage and engage in salvage and restoration activities. In order to restore damaged cultural and historical materials, it is also important to establish a foundation for the succession and dissemination of stabilization techniques that have been established up to this point, and the development of new techniques. To ensure the efficient progression of various types of activities, it is necessary to establish a system for the promotion of the various projects based on regional cooperation between organizations and groups that are aligned with the aims of each activity, and if necessary, each project should include organizations and groups outside the region, as well as establish a regional center for each effort. Furthermore, by forming a loose network between the institutions and organizations that oversee each of these efforts, and by developing each activity with the cooperation of local residents, it should be possible to protect and pass on the historical and cultural resources of the region.

Key words: 2011 Tohoku earthquake and tsunami, historical and cultural resources, database, stabilization technologies, regional collaboration