

**CANDIDATE FOR THE BOARD OF ICOMOS
CANDIDAT AU CONSEIL D'ADMINISTRATION DE L'ICOMOS**

TAKEYUKI OKUBO

JAPAN – JAPON



Professor, College of Science and Engineering, Ritsumeikan University /
Dean, Division of Research /
Board Member, Institute of Disaster Mitigation for Urban Cultural Heritage /
PhD, Kyoto University in 1999 /
Member of ICOMOS Japan and ICOMOS-ICORP since 2004, Board member of ICOMOS
Japan since 2019. Board member of ICOMOS International since 2021 /
Recent international contributions: proposal of “Disaster Risk Management Plan in Patan
WCH, Kathmandu” (since 2008); publication of “Memory of the 2015 Earthquake” (2020).

PLATFORM / PLATE-FORME / PLATAFORMA

The main pillar of my professional activities is disaster mitigation of historic cities. I joined ICOMOS in 2004 and have worked with the ISC on Risk Preparedness (called ICORP) as one of its long-time members.

Beside my activities with ICOMOS, I work as professor of Ritsumeikan University (Kyoto, Japan) since 2008 and served as Director of the University’s Institute of Disaster Mitigation for Urban Cultural Heritage (R-DMUCH) from 2013 to 2022. Now, I am working as Dean for Division of Research.

Over my years of activities in this heritage field, I also have engaged myself in many practical projects such as the development of a “citizens’ firefighting system” for the historic wooden district of Kiyomizu-dera temple World Heritage Zone in Kyoto, together with the national and local governments.



1. Fire Mitigation Project around Kiyomizu WCH 2. Easy Hydrant System for Community

In 2008, our Institute’s team proposed a base of “disaster risk management plan” for the Patan World Cultural Heritage Site at Kathmandu Valley, in Nepal. And after the Gorkha Earthquake of 2015, we published a booklet as feedback of our research outcomes, for the local communities who survived the long-term evacuation period by using traditional courtyards and religious water places.



3. Evacuation Site in Traditional Courtyard 4. Workshop with local communities

Since 2021, I am also taking part in a joint project with Turkey on the “Establishment of Local Community Engagement Based Mutual-Help System for Disaster Risk Reduction in Istanbul Historical District”, which is supported by the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey. I lead the town-watching and disaster-simulation workshops with local people. In this regard, I would like to make the best use of my experiences to contribute for Built-Back-Better in the areas affected by the serious earthquake in Turkey and Syria in February 2023.



5. Town watching in Istanbul's old town



6. Workshop with local communities

From my experience in Nepal, Turkey and Japan, I work on raising awareness as well as combining traditional knowledge and cultural resources with modern technologies for disaster risk management. I believe this is the way to build “ a culture of disaster mitigation” while saving communities, people and cultural heritage values at the same time.

Since 2007 our Institute has been organizing every year an International Training Course on Cultural Heritage and Disaster Risk Management as a UNESCO Chair Program. In this course, we have supported participants in developing the basis of a Disaster Risk Management Plan designed for each country and region.

The COVID-19 pandemic drove us to develop the course online, and since 2021 we share our experience with the whole world through e-learning contents.



5. Lectures



6. Site Visits



7. Group Work

8. Symposium

If I am elected to the ICOMOS Board for the coming mandate, I would like to devote my time and energy to large ranges of ICOMOS activities, and continue developing ideas and frameworks in the following four fields.

1. The activation of ICOMOS' action in disaster risk management for cultural heritage in the world, and namely, the promotion of activities that contribute to worldwide movements such as those initiated after the sad accidents or natural disasters that affected heritage sites over the world in the past years.

One of my missions as a Board member is to conduct a questionnaire research project to analyze current planning and implementation status of Disaster Risk Management (DRM) plans and/or measures in each World Cultural Heritage Site, with the aim to understand the main challenges and potential solutions to provide support in developing and implementing measures to strengthen resilience in the long-term.

2. To support the action of "Emerging Professionals" as the generations that will carry ICOMOS' expertise into the future. They are the generations that will take over both our endeavor and that of our teachers. For this purpose, I actively take part in all projects by ICOMOS Japan EPs, as a mentor for the first step, to further expand my activities and support various EP projects throughout the world.

3. To promote the development of the idea of inter-relationship between tangible and intangible heritage. In the aftermath of serious disasters, the rehabilitation of intangible cultural heritage such as traditional festivals alongside that of tangible heritage, is an indispensable step to support local communities in their process of re-identification. Therefore I would like to contribute to conserve both intangible and tangible cultural heritage in the scope of this common social aspect.

4. To promote ICOMOS' expertise in the application of conservation principles and support the World Heritage Convention. By contributing to the evaluation process of heritage sites, ranging from local sites to World Heritage properties, I will work to consolidate our Council's essential role as a consultative body to UNESCO and leading NGO in the field of heritage.

I would like to express my sincere will to continue devoting my time and energy to the work of ICOMOS.

I promise you to do my very best.

CURRICULUM VITAE

Takeyuki OKUBO is a professor at the Graduate School and the College of Science and Engineering of Ritsumeikan University (Kyoto, Japan). Board member of the Institute of Disaster Mitigation for Urban Cultural Heritage (R-DMUCH) (<http://www.r-dmuch.jp/en/index.html>) of the same University, he also teaches as UNESCO Chair Professor from 2019 to 2023. Member of ICOMOS-ICORP since 2004, he serves Board Member of ICOMOS Japan since 2019 and Board Member of ICOMOS International since 2021. His background in civil engineering, architecture and global environmental engineering informs his current research interests: urban and architectural design for

disaster mitigation of historic cities, which promote the utilization of traditional knowledge for disaster mitigation of heritage built with wood and flammable materials. His recent work includes the management of the UNESCO Chair International Training Course on “Disaster Risk Management for Cultural Heritage and Historic Cities”, which has been held every year since 2006. His recent articles include “*Memory of 2015 Earthquake - Experience of local residents utilizing resources in UNESCO World Heritage site - Nagbahal, Ilanani, Kutibahal*” as a feedback of research outcomes for local communities in Nepal, total 136 pages (English and Nepalese), Subhash Printing Press (Lalitpur, Nepal), January 2020, “*Traditional Knowledge for Disaster Mitigation in History of Japanese Architectures and Cities*”, total 199 pages (Japanese), Gakugei Publishing (Kyoto, Japan), June 2012, and “*Introductory Volume to Cultural Heritage Disaster Mitigation Studies*”, Part2 III. “*Fire Disaster Mitigation Project in Historic Area around Sanneizaka*”, pp.49-59 (English), Asia Insatsu (Tokyo Japan), March 2010.