

VI. Living Human Treasures System (LHTS)*

1) Title

“Living National Treasure” is not a formal legal terms. Here is the explanation of so-called “Living National Treasure” by the general public. The formal title is Important Intangible Cultural Property Holder (Individual Recognition).

2) Year of establishment

1954

3) Objectives

For the preservation and transmission of Important Intangible Cultural Properties.

4) Legal provisions

The Law for the Protection of Cultural Property.

5) Identification and designation process, etc.

6) The commission of experts

Below is the procedure for designation. For the criteria of designation, please see II. Intangible Cultural Heritage Inventory, B.2)Criteria, (1) Intangible Cultural Property, for the detail.

1. Reviewing designation candidates (Traditional Culture Division)
2. Field research and drawing up the first draft (Traditional Culture Division)
3. Through Agency settlement followed by consultation to Subdivision on Cultural Properties, Council for Cultural Affairs from Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, MEXT.
4. Request for deliberation to the Forth Investigative Commission from Council for Cultural Affairs.
5. Report to the Council for Cultural Affairs after deliberation at the Forth Investigative Commission.
6. Submit the report to MEXT from Council for Cultural Affairs.

7. Notice through official gazettes (this date will be the official designation date)
8. Promulgation of the designation certificate

* Refer to P.6 of below website for the organizational correlation chart of Agency of Cultural Affairs, Council for Cultural Affairs, and Investigative Commission.

http://www.bunka.go.jp/english/pdf/h24_chapter_01.pdf

Here is the brief summary of the Council for Cultural Affairs (Subdivision on Cultural Properties).

Term duration: 1 year

Committee: The committee is composed of the advisors

There are 5 committee members as of March, 2013.

-SUZUKI, Norio: former Director, National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo

-ISHIGAMI, Eiichi: Director, Inter-University Research Institute Corporation, National Institute for the Humanities

-KAWAHIGASHI, Yoshiyuki: former Professor, Chiba Institute for Technology

-KANZAKI Noritake: Director, Institute for the Culture of Travel

-MORINISHI Mayumi, Professor, OSAKA SHOIN Women's University

Here is the brief summary of the Forth Investigative Commission.

Term duration: 1 year

Committee: The committee is composed of the advisors. There are 24 committee members as of March, 2012.

7) Criteria selection

Please see II . Intangible Cultural Heritage Inventory, B.2) Criteria, (1) Intangible Cultural Property, Individual Recognition.

8) Number of nominees

For the number of the nominees, see Annex B-1, and for the names of the nominees, see Annex.B-3, 1. Important Intangible Cultural Properties, (a) Individual Recognition.

9) Rewards for appointees

In order to accomplish below 10) Duties of appointees, special grant is provided to appointees. Refer to above I.Safeguarding System & Policy, 2. Cultural Policy for the detail.

10) Duties of appointees

To transmit the skills and techniques to the successor, as well as to train the designated skills

11) Cancellation of appointment

By law, it is possible to cancel the designation when skill holder is considered to be inappropriate or in case of any other special reasons. However, there is no special reason other than the death of skill holders until this point.

12) Training

Each skill holder trains independently.

13) Copyright

The copyright in Japan is protected by the Copyright Act and there is no law to protect the copyright specifically related to Important Intangible Cultural Property skill holders.

*UNESCO & KNCU, *Guidelines for the Establishment of Living Human Treasures Systems*, 2002: 6-13