

Selected Conservation Techniques: The techniques of master craftsmen that have protected cultural properties

The precious cultural properties that were born from our unique culture have been protected and passed down to us. In order to hand these properties down to future generations, the Agency for Cultural Affairs selects traditional skills and techniques that are necessary for the preservation of cultural properties and techniques and knowledge concerning the production of tools and materials used in the repair work as Selected Conservation Techniques. The Agency also recognizes persons who are masters of these techniques as holders and organizations that aim to preserve the techniques by organizing appropriate events as preservation associations.

These techniques that support cultural properties are influenced by changes in the lifestyles of modern Japanese and the widespread use of manufactured goods. Other issues faced include a decreased demand for traditional techniques, the aging of craftsmen and a shortage of successors, and difficulties securing materials and tools.

Therefore, the Agency for Cultural Affairs grants subsidies to holders of Selected Conservation Techniques and preservation associations involved in projects (training successors, practicing techniques, securing materials, etc.) in order to protect and hand down the techniques.