1. HISTORIC SITES, PLACES OF SCENIC BEAUTY AND NATURAL MONUMENTS

Japan began to implement a wide-scale measure for the protection of cultural assets, after some of them had been damaged in the anti-Buddhist movement around the Meiji Restoration about 1870 that led to the abolition of Buddism and Buddhism. Some cultural assets were also managed by the military during World War II; some were destroyed and devastated during the chaotic period immediately following World War II. At present, the cultural assets are protected under the Cultural Properties Protection Law (Law No. 25 of 1950).

The cultural assets designated under the Cultural Properties Protection Law include important cultural properties, important intangible cultural properties, important folk culture, important historic sites, places of scenic beauty, and natural monuments.

The Imperial Household's properties and also national assets under the jurisdiction of the Imperial Household Agency include a group of extremely precious cultural properties, such as the Imperial mausolea, synods in Nara, Shi, Imperial Palace and Kyoto Imperial Palace in Kyoto City. As a rule, these properties are excluded from being designated as cultural properties. They are placed under the protection of the Imperial Household Agency.

To preserve the historic landscape of each ancient capital, the Law Concerning Special Measures for the Preservation of Ancient Capital Historic Landscapes (Law No. 1 of 1986) also known as the Ancient Capital Preservation Law, was enacted in 1988. Under the law, the areas which have been preserved as historic landscapes are designated, and a wide variety of controls and measures are implemented for their preservation. The five areas designated as such at present are: (1) Kyoto City, (2) Nara City, (3) Kioto-ku, (4) Tenri City in Nara Prefecture and (5) Ise-Jingu in Mie Prefecture, covering a total area of more than 1,000,000 ha. Of these, one designated Special Preservation Area total about 680,000 ha.

2. NATIONAL TREASURES AND IMPORTANT CULTURAL PROPERTIES (BUILDINGS)

In case historic sites, places of scenic beauty and natural monuments were concentrated in various areas and it would be impossible to indicate such a site with its respective symbol, an allusive symbol-shewing the kind of object designated and the number of objects designated under an age classification was used for each St., Mot or Mna.

With respect to artefacts designated as national treasures without specifying their habitat, the name of such designated artefacts is not printed near the center of the area in which their distributions were concentrated. However, no symbols were shown for bronze animals, such as dogs and demonic forms. The standards for the designation of historic sites, places of scenic beauty and natural monuments are as follows:

Historic sites: Consist of shrines, temples, ancient burial mounds, palaces remains, castle-remains, Shinto shrines and Buddhist temple remnants, checking station remains, etc., which are of scientific value in appreciating the history of Japan.

Places of scenic beauty: Consists of bridges, gardens, mountain torrents, beaches, mountains, etc., which are of scientific value or scenic beauty.

Natural monuments: Animals which are unique to Japan or well-known in southern Asia and their habitats are designated as national monuments. The flora designated as national monuments include rare trees, giant trees, precious forests, alpine flora zones, boundary areas for the distribution of flora, etc. The geological features and minerals designated as national monuments consist of rocks, minerals, dykes, river courses, miniature topography, lava zones, thermal spring phenomena, etc. The Protected National Area is a limited area in which the natural monuments that have to be protected exist in abundance, and which of scientific value and symbolizes the nature of Japan.

Special historic sites, places of scenic beauty and natural monuments: Consist of historic sites, places of scenic beauty and natural monuments which are of particular high value.

3. IMPORTANT CULTURAL PROPERTIES (BUILDINGS)

All the buildings designated as important cultural properties, such as shrines or Buddhist temples are designated as important cultural properties, the flora designated as national monuments, since it is difficult to indicate with individual symbols, as allusive symbol was adopted for each such St., Mot or Mna.

In view of the fact that buildings designated as important cultural property are concentrated in the periphery of Kyoto City, the middle part of Saga Prefecture, the southern part of Kyushu Prefecture, the northern part of Osaka Prefecture, and other districts in particularly great number, all inclusive symbols were used with several St., Mot and Mna or several groups in a category. When the important cultural properties were classified by kind, the five-class symbol of the Shinto Tengu Shrine, Tablets of the Shinto Manuals, etc., were used, based upon temple structures, and the Kagami Birih (Mirror of the Heart) of the Daigo ji Temple as a shrine structure, even though they constitute an integral part of a shrine or temple.

In the sector of residences, private houses, Western-style buildings, etc., the residences, as referred to here, suggest "sou" type buildings and town houses, including those of shrines and temples. The Western-style buildings as referred to here, include private house buildings, Western-style buildings, etc., as referred to here, include school buildings (including Western-style buildings) and other Western-style buildings, as referred to here, are all included in Western-style buildings. The Western-style buildings and other Western-style buildings are treated as separate categories. When the number of cultural properties is shown, the number of cultural properties in each category is included.