

Report on Additional Certification of Holders of Intangible Cultural Properties

Department of Cultural Properties



(Full English translation of the [official document](#) published May 19, 2020)

1. Additional Certification of Holders of "Okinawan Traditional Music Tansui-ryu"

In accordance with Article 20, Paragraph 5 of the Okinawa Prefecture Cultural Property Protection Ordinance, the six individuals listed in the table below have been additionally certified as holders of the Okinawa Prefecture-designated intangible cultural property "Okinawan Traditional Music Tansui-ryu." The certification date is May 19, as published in the Okinawa Prefecture Official Bulletin.

Name of Intangible Cultural Property	Holder Name	Address
Okinawan Traditional Music Tansui-ryu	Moriaki Shiroma	Nishihara Town
	Masakazu Takaesu	Okinawa City
	Tetsuzo Tokeshi	Tomigusuku City
	Choki Hamazato	Yomitan Village
	Yasuaki Miyagi	Naha City
	Masaya Yamauchi	Naha City

(1) Explanation

Okinawan sanshin music was founded by Tansui Oyakata during the Ryukyu Kingdom era. The Tansui-ryu style is said to retain old forms in both performance and singing methods, and is considered to have significant artistic value for the study of sanshin music. It was designated as a prefectural intangible cultural property on December 28, 1972.

To date, 20 holders have been certified, but 11 have passed away, leaving nine current holders.

The six individuals newly certified this time are all recognized for their distinguished careers and skills, their long-standing dedication to inheriting and refining the techniques, and their ability to embody the Tansui-ryu style at a high level. They are also recognized for their abilities as instructors. Therefore, they have been newly certified as holders of the intangible cultural property "Okinawan Traditional Music Tansui-ryu," and efforts will be made to preserve and pass on this tradition.

2. Additional Certification of Holders of "Ryukyu Opera"

In accordance with Article 20, Paragraph 5 of the Okinawa Prefecture Cultural Property Protection Ordinance, the nine individuals listed in the table below have been additionally certified as holders of the Okinawa Prefecture-designated intangible cultural property "Ryukyu Opera." The certification date is May 19, as published in the Okinawa Prefecture Official Bulletin.

Name of Intangible Cultural Property	Holder Name (Stage Name)	Address
Ryukyu Opera (Dance)	Keiko Akamine	Naha City
	Toshimi Ashimine	Naha City
	Sayuki Kinjo (Sayuki Irahama)	Tomigusuku City
	Shinji Kinjo	Tomigusuku City
	Wakako Komine	Okinawa City
	Sanehito Takamiyagi	Naha City
	Yoshiaki Tome	Okinawa City
	Hiroshi Onna	Uruma City
Ryukyu Opera (Chant)	Takehiro Miyagi	Naha City

(1) Explanation

Ryukyu Opera is a unique Okinawan theatrical style in which performers sing lines in dialect to the melodies of traditional folk songs while acting out the drama. It was designated as a prefectural intangible cultural property on September 29, 1989, and at the same time, four holders were certified.

To date, 47 holders have been certified, but 23 have passed away, leaving 24 current holders.

The nine individuals newly certified this time are all recognized for their distinguished careers and skills, their long-standing dedication to inheriting and refining the techniques of Ryukyu Opera, and their ability to embody the techniques at a high level. Therefore, they have been newly certified as holders of the intangible cultural property "Ryukyu Opera," and efforts will be made to preserve and pass on this tradition.

3. Additional Certification of Holders of "Okinawan Karate and Kobujutsu"

In accordance with Article 20, Paragraph 5 of the Okinawa Prefecture Cultural Property Protection Ordinance, the six individuals listed in the table below have been additionally certified as holders of the Okinawa Prefecture-designated intangible cultural property "Okinawan Karate and Kobujutsu." The certification date is May 19, as published in the Okinawa Prefecture Official Bulletin.

Name of Intangible Cultural Property	Holder Name	Address
Okinawan Karate and Kobujutsu	Kotaro Iha	Uruma City
	Seikichi Iha	Nishihara Town
	Masanari Kikugawa	Yonabaru Town
	Shintoku Takara	Yomitan Village
	Tsutomu Nakahodo	Yomitan Village
	Morinobu Maeshiro	Naha City

(1) Explanation

Okinawan karate and kobujutsu are believed to have originated from martial arts introduced from China during the Ryukyu Kingdom era. These arts formed the foundation of karate and kobujutsu, which have been passed down to the present day. To preserve and continue their outstanding value for future generations, they were designated as a prefectural intangible cultural property on August 8, 1997, and at the same time, three holders were certified.

To date, 14 holders have been certified, but 10 have passed away, leaving four current holders.

The six individuals newly certified this time are all recognized for their excellent techniques and for their long-standing dedication to inheriting and refining the skills of Okinawan karate and kobujutsu. They are acknowledged as being able to embody the techniques at a high level. Therefore, these individuals have been newly certified as holders of the prefectural intangible cultural property "Okinawan Karate and Kobujutsu," and efforts will be made to preserve and pass on these traditions.

4. Background of the Additional Certification Process

- On March 28, 2019, the Board of Education consulted the Cultural Property Protection Council regarding additional certifications for holders of "Okinawan Traditional Music Tansui-ryu," "Ryukyu Opera," and "Okinawan Karate and Kobujutsu."
- On April 11, 2019, the Cultural Property Protection Council instructed the 4th Expert Subcommittee to conduct an investigation.
- On April 22, 2019, the 4th Expert Subcommittee confirmed the details of the consultation and discussed the investigation.
- From April 22, 2019, to March 11, 2020, the 4th Expert Subcommittee conducted investigations and deliberations.
- On March 11, 2020, the 4th Expert Subcommittee decided on candidate recommendations.
- On March 25, 2020, the Cultural Property Protection Council reached a conclusion regarding the additional certifications, and on March 26, 2020, Council Chair Takashi Tsunami handed over the recommendation to Superintendent Akito Heshiki.
- On March 30, 2020, the Superintendent approved the additional certifications for the intangible cultural properties "Okinawan Traditional Music Tansui-ryu," "Ryukyu Opera," and "Okinawan Karate and Kobujutsu."
- On May 19, 2020, the certifications were published in the prefectural bulletin.