



Third Circular

Call for Paper <ICOFORT International Conference 2026 in Matsue> 8 - 11 November, 2026

The Executive Committee for ICOFORT International Conference 2026 in Matsue has a pleasure to announce that the **extension of due date for submission of Abstracts until Monday 22 June, 2026.**

The International Scientific Committee for Fortification and Military Heritage (ICOFORT), one of ICOMOS's scientific committees, is responsible for the conservation and research of so-called military heritage, including castles, fortresses and fortified towns. It has been assessing the heritage value of such sites scattered across the globe, proposing conservation measures and promoting academic research. While its activities were initially centred on Europe and the Americas, in recent years it has been actively expanding its work to include East Asia.

Japan's early modern castles are the focus of ICOFORT's keen interest as a cultural heritage to be proud of on the world stage. The walled cities of China (Ming and Qing dynasties) and the capital cities of Korea (Joseon dynasty), built during the same period, are also subjects of heritage conservation and joint research with a view to World Heritage inscription, attracting international attention supported by public participation. Consequently, ICOFORT has planned the publication of a glossary of fortification terminology—a common manual for Japan, China and Korea—and work on this is currently proceeding vigorously.

To take this opportunity to open up Japan's fortified cities to the world and promote exchange between experts and citizens on a global scale, it has been decided to hold the ICOFORT International Conference in Matsue this coming November. With the strong support of the three cities (Matsue, Inuyama and Matsumoto) that are home to National Treasure castle *tenshus*, we plan to exchange a wide range of views on issues relating to castles and fortifications from ancient times to the present day through a commemorative symposium and an academic conference, thereby deepening international exchange in this field. We also hope that participants will enjoy the Japanese castle heritage and landscapes distributed from Izumo to Shinano and Owari through the excursion.

Papers will be presented in accordance with standard academic conference procedures: interested parties should first submit an abstract, and those whose abstracts are accepted will then be invited to submit their full papers. We look forward to welcoming a wide range of participants.

Riichi Miyake, chairman
ICOFORT International Conference 2026 in Matsue Executive Committee



Matsue Castle, Bird's eye View



Matsue Castle, *Tenshu*

[Date]

International Conference : 8 November (Sun) - 11 November (Wed), 2026

Post-Conference Excursion: 12 November (Thu) - 14 November (Sat), 2026

Visits to Izumo, Matsumoto and Inuyama areas

[Venu]

Matsue Terrsa

478-18 Asahi-machi, Matsue-shi, 690-0003 Japan (in front of JR Matsue Station)

[Organization]

Organized by "ICOFORT International Conference 2026 in Matsue" Executive Committee

Co-organized by ICOFORT / ICOMOS Japan / Matsue City / Inuyama City / Matsumoto City /

Preparation Working Group for the Promotion of the "Early-Modern Japanese Castles" for the

World Heritage Inscription / ARCHI-DEPOT CORPORATION

[Theme of the Conference]

Castle, Fortification and *Tenshu* - Defensive System or Symbols?

[Schedule]

date	main event	accompanying Event	remark
7 Nov (Sat)	Arrival of Participants at Matsue		
8 Nov (Sun)	AM: Registration (at Matsue Terrsa) PM: Opening Addresses + Keynote Speeches Symposium "The Age of Exploration and Fortified Cities" (tentative)	Evening: Welcome Reception (Hotel Hakucho)	Opening event held in Matsue Terrsa in the afternoon. Reception held in Hotel Hakucho
9 Nov (Mon)	AM: Academic Session (Parallel Session) PM: Academic Session (Parallel Sesson)		Venue: Matsue Terrsa
10 Nov (Tue)	AM: Academic Session (Parallel Session) PM: Academic Session (Parallel Session)		Venue: Matsue Terrsa
11 Nov (Wed)	AM: Visit to Matsue Castle and History Museum etc. PM: Cruising around Castle (option), Break-up		Participants of the Post-Conference Excursion are to be transferred to Izumo by bus in the afternoon
12 Nov (Thu)	Post-Conference Excursion Visit within Izumo Region		Izumo Shrine, Tataru Furnac Workshop, Medieval Fortress etc.
13 Nov (Fri)	Post-Conference Excursion Visit to Matsumoto City and Castle		AM: transfer from Izumo Airport to Matsumoto by air and bus PM: Matsumoto Castle, Municipal Museum, Kaichi School, etc.
14 Nov (Sat)	Post-Conference Excursion Visit within Inuyama City and Castle Break-up at Nagoya in the late afternoon		AM: Matsumoto to Inuyama PM: Inyuaya Castle and Shiro to Machil Museum, etc. Accommodation in Nagoya eventually (option)

[Expense]

Participants are expected to pay the following expenses:

- Registration Fee 200 US\$

This includes the participation in the opening symposium, welcome reception, academic sessions and visit to Matsue Castle and other sites (morning, 11 Nov).

* The following expenses are NOT included in the registration fee and must be covered by participants:

- Travel expense to/from Matsue
- Accommodation and meals during the Conference except the welcome reception
November in Matsue is the busiest period of the year so that the organizer is ready to arrange or intermediate the accommodation
- Post Conference Excursion (eventually, the detail of the trip will be informed at the beginning of June)

[Submission of Paper]

Those who are willing to make presentation in the Conference have to submit the full paper. The author has to pass the screening process when he/she submit the abstract. Once he/she is accepted, full paper has to be submitted in a due time. The languages of the Proceedings are English or Japanese, but all the Japanese papers will be supplemented by English translation.

Accordingly, the Proceedings will be edited and published based on the following schedule.

Submission of Abstract: deadline 22 June (Mon), 2026

Announce for Acceptance of Abstract: 13 July (Mon), 2026

Closing of Registration: 27 July (Mon), 2026

Submission of Full Paper: deadline 5 October (Mon), 2026

Completion of Final List of Presentation: 19 October (Mon), 2026

Abstract should be written in English or Japanese and sent to the secretariat by e-mail in the form of PDF and Word. The size of abstract should be around 300 words. The template can be downloaded from the official website.

URL: <https://icofort-matsue.jimdofree.com/>

E-mail: icofortmatsue@gmail.com

[Thematic Area]

The theme of ICOFORT International Conference 2026 in Matsue is ***“Castle, Fortification and Tenshu - Defensive System or Symbols”***. The presentations will be allocated into the issue-based interdisciplinary sessions. The applicants are expected to assume the following areas for their presentation.

- ✓ Defensive System and Technique for Cities and Settlements
- ✓ Military Landscape and Symbolism
- ✓ Castle / Fortification and Water System
- ✓ Naval Affairs and Port
- ✓ Modern Military Facilities and Sites
- ✓ Documentation, Conservation and Management of Military Heritage

[Time Line]

25 May (Mon): 3rd Circular on the Extension of Submission of Abstract

22 June (Mon): Deadline for submission of Abstract

13 July (Mon): Announcement on acceptance of Abstract

27 July (Mon): 4th Circular, Detail of conference and post-conference tour
Closing of Registration
5 October (Mon): Deadline of submission of Full Paper

[Language]

For the conference, Japanese and English are to be used as working languages. The sessions will be assisted by automatic translation system.

[Visa]

The organizer will support visa application formalities for those who are required to apply for Japanese visa.

[Accommodation]

Actually, the organizer has booked tentatively the following hotels from 7 to 11 November (4 nights). Those who wish to book the hotel, please take contact with the organizer.

1. Matsue Excel Hotel Tokyu
2. Hotel Rout Inn Matsue
3. Matsue Plaza Hotel
4. Toyoko Inn Matsue Ekimae

[Post-Conference Excursion]

The excursion is programmed as follows:

11 Nov (Wed)

Evening, accommodation in Izumo (Dormy Inn Izumo)

Hotels in Matsue on this date is nearly fully booked due to a big conference, so that the organizer has booked another hotel in Izumo City. After the cruising around the castle (option) of personal sightseeing in the afternoon, excursion participants are transferred to Izumo by bus in the afternoon.

12 Nov (Thu)

Visits to Izumo Great Shrine, Tatara Furnave Workshop and the site of a medieval fort. Accommodation in Izumo.

13 Nov (Fri)

In the early morning, flight from Izumo Airport to Nagoya-Komaki Airport, then transfer to Matsumoto by bus. In the afternoon, visits to Matsumoto Castle, Historical Museum, Kaichi School and so on. Accommodation in Matsumoto.

14 Nov (Sat)

In the morning, transfer from Matsumoto to Inuyama by bus. Visit to Inuyama Castle and Siro-to-Machi Museum, eventually Uraku-en Tea House Garden. In the late afternoon transfer to Nagoya, then break-up. Eventually accommodation in Nagoya

15 Nov (Sun)

Technical visit to the Restoration Site of Nagoya Castle (optional, free)



Izumo Great Shrine



Performance of Japanese sword making in Oku-Izumo



Izumo Kagura



Site of Mitoya Fortress



Matsumoto Castle



Kaichi School (Matsumoto)



Inuyama Castle



Joan Tea House in Uraku-en Garden (Inuyama)

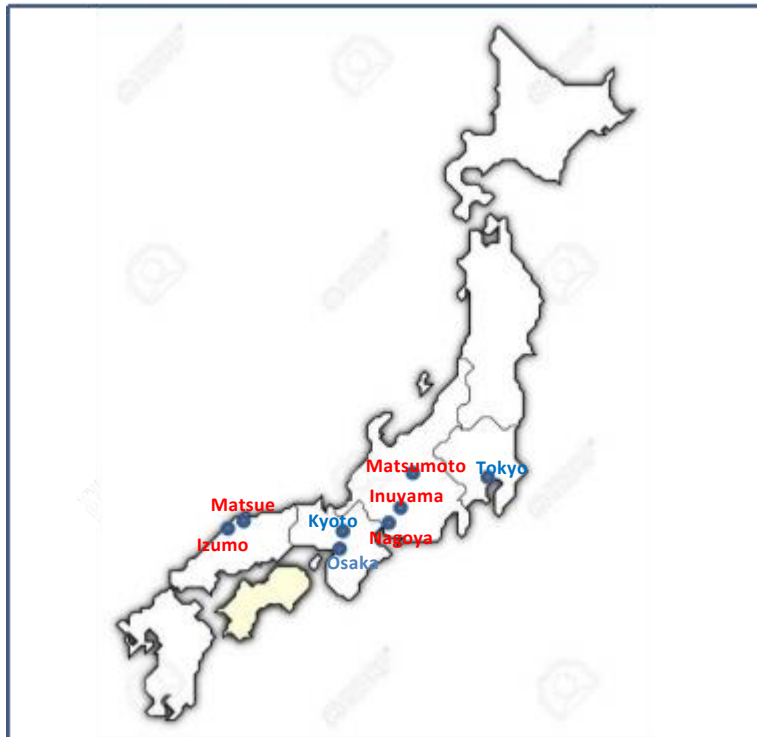


South-western Tower of Nagoya Castle



Interior of Honmaru Palace in Nagoya Castle

The detail of the post-conference excursion will be announced by the 4th Circular on 13 July. Those who want to participate in the excursion will be requested to register and pay the travel expense by the middle of August.



Related Cities in Japan

[Access]

Air: Matsue has 2 airports

Izumo Airport (20km, 35min) connecting to major cities in Japan

Yonago Airport (24km, 45min) connecting to Seoul-Incheon and major cities in Japan

Rail: After Shinkansen from Tokyo / Shin-Osaka to Okayama, transfer by local JR train

Okayama to Matsue (180km, 2h30)

Bus:

Hiroshima to Matsue (180km, 2h30)

Okayama to Matsue (180km, 2h30)

For more information: <https://www.visit-matsue.com>

[Contact]

For the detail of the conference, please refer to the web-site of the conference (English and Japanese)

URL: <https://icofort-matsue.jimdofree.com/>

For inquiries, please contact the secretariat:

Secretariat of the Executive Committee for ICOFORT International Conference 2026 in Matsue

Chairman Riichi Miyake
Secretary General Ichita Shimoda

c/o Japan ICOMOS National Committee

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