

About Sovereignty Exemption

Exhibits that have scientific, cultural and historical significance as well as cultural heritage pertaining to a foreign state, etc. are immune from Japanese jurisdiction in accordance with the “Act on the Civil Jurisdiction of Japan with respect to a Foreign State, etc.” (Article 18, paragraph (2), item (iii),(a) & (c)) enacted on April 24, 2009.

Therefore, Japanese courts cannot impose compulsory executions, provisional seizures or provisional dispositions on works of art owned by a foreign state, etc.

The Agency for Cultural Affairs shall, when necessary, take appropriate measures in line with this statute.

I believe that the above facts enable the discharge of related materials to Japan when works of art owned by a foreign state, etc. are displayed in Japan.

In order to hold an exhibition with works of art owned by a foreign state, etc. and to encourage international cultural exchange, your contribution would be much appreciated.

Fine Arts Division,
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Agency for Cultural Affairs-Japan