specializing in paintings conservation, established the Traditional Art Conservation Association to encourage the nurturing of successors.

The Association is planning a three-year investigation of the various traditional art fields that support the conservation of paintings, including paper, fabric dyeing, metal and wood work. The Association's goal is to identify if there are successors, as well as the current quantity of products produced annually. At the same time, the Association is scheduling a project to order products considered to be difficult to produce for technological reasons. This is for the purpose of nurturing successors in these traditional techniques and to assist technological inheritance.

Efforts of the Imperial Household Agency

The Imperial Household Agency is also stimulating the passing on of traditional techniques through incorporating copying and restoration works of auxiliary components within conservation projects. For example, in the treatment of the *Kasuga Genki* hand scroll painting created in the fourteenth century, the woven silk cover and *raden* (mother-of-pearl) work applied at the ends of the roller knob were also restored.

The restoration required very high quality craft techniques as well as superb materials. The silk cover was restored with a deep blue dye and hand woven, using silk threads produced by the *koishimaru* silkworm which is an old domestic variety that is bred by Her Majesty Michiko. The *raden* work at the ends of the roller knob was finished by Mr Shosai Kitamura and his successor, Mr Shigeru Kitamura, and thus the *raden* technique is being passed on to the next generation.

Conclusion

Japanese painting conservation projects can provide a much-needed impetus to reinvigorate related traditional arts and reinforce the need for high quality materials and craftsmanship. This will trigger the revitalization of the Japanese market and promote the passing on of traditional techniques to the next generation. It is the author's sincere wish that this be achieved.