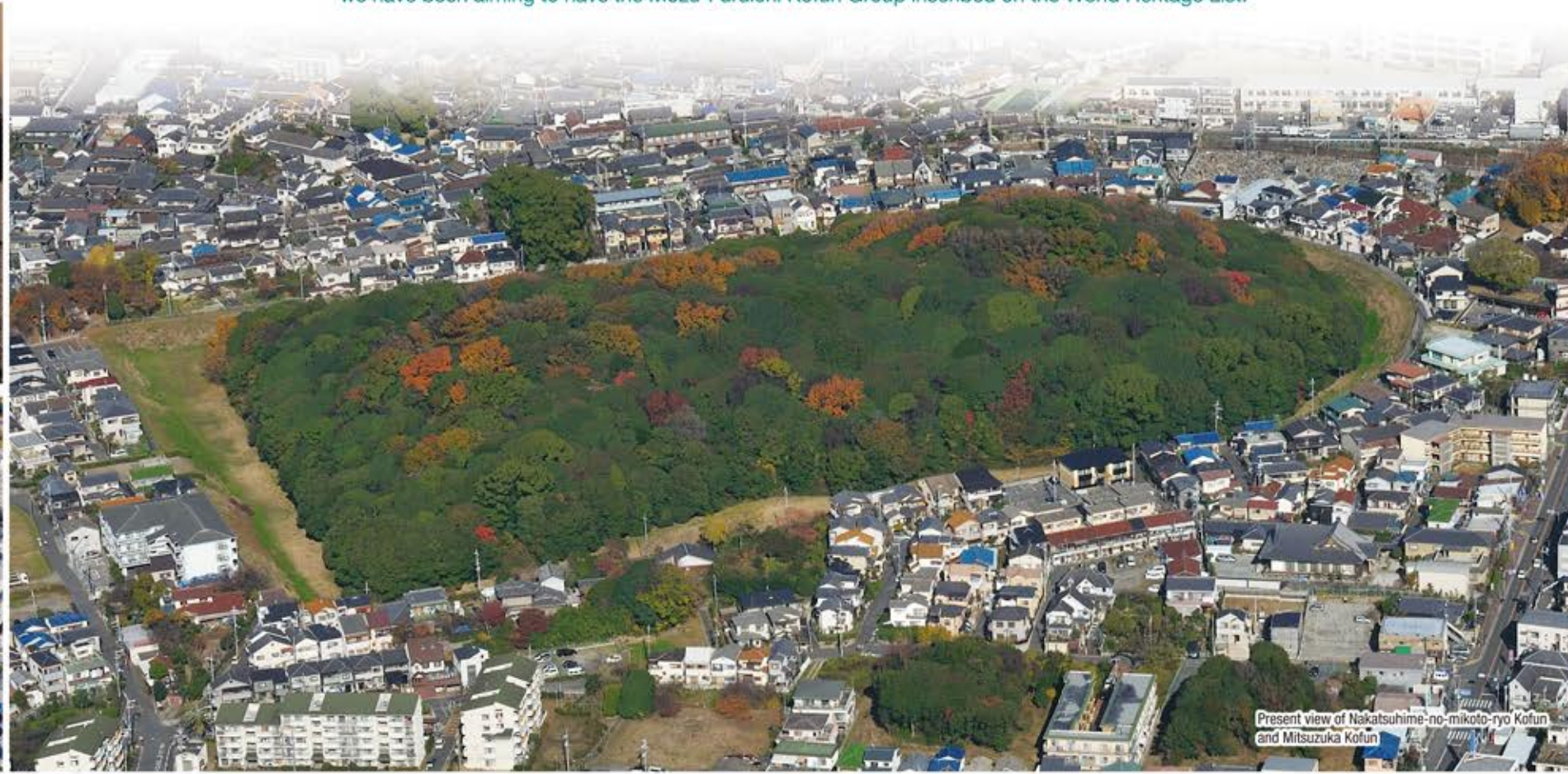


# World Cultural Heritage for Osaka

Humans and animals existing on the earth vary greatly. Preserving valuable properties and bequeathing them to future generations by appreciating cultural and natural diversity is one of the important objectives of listing World Heritage sites. The Mozu-Furuichi Kofun Group has survived for more than 1,500 years, overcoming numerous threats to its existence and sharing its home with local communities. The kofun have been handed down to us today as a part of our cultural heritage. In order to pass on these assets to future generations as the common heritage of humanity, we have been aiming to have the Mozu-Furuichi Kofun Group inscribed on the World Heritage List.



## Proposed Outstanding Universal Value of the Mozu-Furuichi Kofun Group

**Criterion (iii)**  
To bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilization which is living or which has disappeared.

The Mozu-Furuichi Kofun Group is exceptional testimony to the Kofun period's culture, in which the socio-political structure of the time was demonstrated by the shape and the size of kofun built as a collective entity. The property illustrates that there once existed a highly sophisticated funerary system that suggested social class differences. The most fully and clearly demonstrated hierarchical structure of the property became the reference for kofun groups of the archipelago, situating this group at the top of their hierarchy. The way of social rule mediated by the kofun and the funeral rituals spread to a wide area of the archipelago and the number of tombs discovered to date totals more than 160,000.

**Criterion (iv)**  
To be an outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history

The Mozu-Furuichi Kofun Group is an outstanding example of kofun, a type of burial mound original to the Japanese archipelago. It illustrates a unique historical stage of the archipelago – the period of formation and development of an ancient kingly power that emerged in response to the political turmoil in East Asia – in which ancestral tombs were created as monuments most clearly demonstrating the power of the different groups and societies. The densely concentrated mounded tombs in the Mozu-Furuichi area are contemporaneous, yet varied; they come in four standardized plan types – keyhole shape, scallop shape, round and square – and in an extremely wide range in scale from 20 meters to nearly 500 meters in mound length. Moreover, a kofun is not a simple earth or piled-stone mound covering over a coffin or a burial chamber, which is often the case for burial mounds found in many other parts of the world. It is an exceptional architectural achievement that was designed as a stage for funerary rituals, decorated with paving stones and clay objects, and built with highly elaborate and geometry-based architectural planning and technology.

## To preserve and pass on our heritage sites to future generations

### For the everlasting beauty of kofun

In the Mozu-Furuichi area, local residents are engaged in voluntary activities to clean up kofun tombs and their surroundings. These activities show that local communities are motivated to maintain the kofun in good condition, in order to hand them down to future generations.

Kofun are urban oases. We want to take good care of them for our children and grandchildren!



Cleaning-up activity by Nintoku-ryo wo mamori tai

Ms. Nakaya, Supporter Group for the World Heritage Inscription of the Mozu-Furuichi Kofun Group

### What we learn and hand down through contact with kofun

In the past, people lived in harmony with kofun tombs, using the mounds as community forests or fields, and irrigating rice paddies from the moats. Through various kofun-related experiences like these—part of the way in which the sites have co-existed with local communities since ancient times—children are able to learn their value.

We arrange kofun tours to attract more people and make them feel like living in a city where the kofun group is located!



Furuichi Kofungun Exploration Project

Mr. Hosomi, Field Museum Talk Shiyu-kai

