

## PRESERVATION ACTIVITIES OF SUMMER COTTAGES AS THE CULTURAL HERITAGE IN KARUIZAWA

In 1992, The Karuizawa National Trust began as “The Research Association for the Preservation of Karuizawa Cottages” preserving historical villas for summer retreat. As an initial preservation achievement, the post office building in Kyu-Karuizawa was relocated and renamed to ‘Meiji Forty-fourth-year Building’ in Karuizawa Taliasen. The Karuizawa National Trust has preserved historical cultural heritage and natural landscapes, mainly villa buildings, and progressively promoting activities for about a quarter of century since then.

The activities of The Karuizawa National Trust can be divided into two. One is the diffusion of the town’s history and cultural heritage. Cottage tours, issuing maps of historical buildings and workshops for the Armstrong House. The latest commissioned for management by its owner, participant in the Blue Plaque administration supporting the city government.

The other activities are concerned to preservation actions. The association has provided guidance to more than eleven house-owners achieving official recognition of six cottages as historical buildings. Further preservation actions have been thoroughly engaged such as workshops for repairing and maintenance of historical buildings, and proposals for reuse of historical cottages.

Thus, as a general incorporated association, The Karuizawa National Trust has been established to preserve built heritage and to enlighten people through development of preservation actions towards historical buildings.