

## Petition

To The Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Japan  
To The Commissioner of the Agency for Cultural Affairs of Japan

### Stop Destroying the Grass Field at Nara Palace immediately

We, the undersigned, protest the "Maintenance of the square at The First Chodo-in" at Nara Palace, one of UNESCO World Heritage sites, and we call for immediate cessation of the construction work.

The construction, which started on September 25th 2012 and was planned by Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Japan, is to landfill the grass field and the wetland in the center of the Great Imperial Palace and to fill the square with soil-cement. The area is 45,000 square meters, the same size as Tokyo Dome.

The eco-system will be severely disturbed at Nara Palace.  
This means that the natural vegetation and wildlife in this area will be totally destroyed.

Furthermore, there is an undeniable effect on underground water.  
For 1,300 years underground water has preserved the precious archaeological heritage, such as ancient wooden strips, so that if the water is drained, the buried heritage will be damaged.

And above all things, it would be unbearable if the lush green field and the wetland, which have been kept as a part of Japanese hometown landscape, change to a lifeless square covered with dull cement.  
Up until now, and in the future, this has been a place of relief for people and a home for flora and fauna.

It is shameful of Japan that such a major change to the ancient Imperial Palace is not reported to UNESCO World Heritage Committee.  
Therefore, Nara Palace could be disqualified as World Heritage.

Landfill work starts on November 10th 2012 and soil-cement paving will be completed in March 2013.  
Our much-loved green grass field needs to be protected, urgently.  
We require prompt action on the matter.

October 5th 2012  
Save Nara Palace Organization

AGREED UPON BY THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE:

First Name	Last Name	Address

- \*Use pen, not pencil \*Do not use "same as above", "ditto" or "idem"
- \*Everyone can sign (inc. people outside Nara or minors)
- \*Your information will be used exclusively for the purpose of submitting a petition

**Send your signed petition : Narapress 1-1-103 Nakatsuji-cho, Nara-shi, JAPAN post code 630-8315**

**Save Nara Palace Organization**

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