Creating Creative Cities?
Cultural Administration and Local Authorities in Japan since the 1970s

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Contents

• Introduction
• What is the Designated Manager System?
• The Concept of “Cultural Administration”
• The Problems of Publicly Funded Arts Facilities
• Conclusion
Typical ‘Cultural Facilities (Cultural Hall)’ in Japan

- Upper: Concert Hall (Bach Hall) in Nakanishi Village (currently Kami Village) in Miyagi Prefecture, established 1981

- Below: This is the pamphlet of the typical Japanese Cultural Hall. Koidego Bunka Kaikan (Cultural House of Koidego) situated in Uonuma City in Niigata Prefecture which population is about 41,000. Established in 1996.

- These halls were constructed not in the city but in the countryside. It symbolizes local authorities' commitment for cultural access in less populated areas

- Furnished pipe organ or imported grand pianos with excellent acoustics

- There are 3283 Cultural Halls, and over 664 Arts Museums in Japan (researched by Japan Foundation for Regional Art Activities in 2007)
What is the Designated Manager System?

- the management system of publicly installed facilities
- a local government chooses the best supplier of a public service
- a designated manager executes a public service on behalf of the local government itself.
- This supplier could be anyone who could supply a public service.
Why the system has changed?

• introduced by new provisions in the Local Government Act: Article 244, in 2003
• before the revision, they were limited to the public companies
• The reasons for the revision are,
  – resident's needs have diversified
  – the number of the private sector able to offer satisfactory service in the public service domain
  – it is effective to use the know-how of a private entrepreneur or company in the supply of public services
The Background of “Cultural Administration”

- Uniformity of Japanese society had increased under the economic growth and widespread industrialization
- Local authority needs to create autonomous and decentralized political systems
- To encourage the formulation of policies based on each region’s distinctive history and cultural requirement
The principle of “Cultural Administration”

• Local residents’ autonomy
• Municipality initiative
• Administrative innovation
Epoch-making points of Cultural Administration

• The target is regional culture and identity
• New attention was brought to various regional culture
• The notion of a citizenship newly defined
• The reform of Local Governments’ attitude to the citizen
The Problem of Publicly Funded Arts Facilities

Number of Publicly Funded Arts Facilities

- Total
- Concert Halls or Theaters
- Museums
- Studios, Ateliers

Timeline:
- 1950–1954
- 1955–1959
- 1960–1964
- 1965–1969
- 1975–1979
- 1980–1984
- 1985–1989
- 1990–1994
- 1995–1999
- 2000–2004
- 2005–2008
Characteristics of these Facilities

• Local authorities construct elaborate multi-functional stages for the performing arts and music, especially for classical music
• There are no creative groups, such as drama or dance companies, or orchestras
• Construction budgets are significant, but management budgets are minimal
• Some of the facilities managed by a foundation, but its management is something bureaucratic.
Conclusion

- Cultural facilities were constructed, but new policies of Cultural Administration were not implemented
- Cultural facilities without “software” were recognized as problematic
- Cost reduction over quality has progressed
Positive Potentials

• Some local governments are taking cultural promotion more seriously
• Movement toward making plans, goals, and legislation with citizen participation
• Some foundations are revitalizing their core mission
• A few independent private groups are taking part in the management of publicly-funded cultural facilities
Za Koenji
Ekin-gura
The Workshop of making ordinance for arts promotion
In 2006 in Koganei City, Tokyo.
Cultural Budget in Local Government since 1992
B. 芸術文化経費の推移

Expense for cultural facilities construction

Managing expense for cultural facilities

Project expense for arts and culture

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Public Administration: Uses and Promotion

• Culturally-based Japanese Lifestyle Activities
  – Ikebana (Flower arranging), tea ceremony, calligraphy

• Cultural Properties → Museums

• Traditional Culture: Highly developed performing arts in previous Edo period → Cultural Halls
  – Kabuki, Noh, and Kyogen, etc...

• Art Culture: Imported from the West
  – Opera, Classical Music, Ballet, Dance, Drama, etc...
    → Cultural Hall

• Movie, Animation, Manga