

Cultural Policy

Localized, Autonomous, Diversified, Opened, and Balanced

Cultural affairs were first characterized by its social nature, hence modern democratic nations tend not to intervene in its development. However, the recent trend of globalization that triggered the powerful menace on regional cultures and traditions as well as the gradual trend of commercialization of the culture itself has pushed the modern democratic countries start considering their national culture policies actively. Yet the challenges encountered by cultural environment in Taiwan are more than the abovementioned situations, it must preserve the uniqueness of its cultures and distinguish itself properly from the adjacent Chinese neighbor's cultural dominance. Therefore, Taiwan has to establish its own cultural policy.

In our visions of cultural policies, the Taiwan Brain Trust (TBT) considers that the cultural policy must be stable, inclusive and open to ensure that the civil society would not suffer from unreasonable intervention by the government; therefore the following 4 core values must be consolidated: 1. pass down Taiwan's inherent cultures by regarding its society as the subject; 2. Safeguard the principle of cultural diversity, respect the differences while accepting the exchanges among each ethnic cultures; 3. Take advantage of Taiwan's openness of its geographical location to absorb the essence of the international cultures; and 4. Balancing the cultural sharing and development within domestic society to avoid excessive resources of cultural investments, consumptions, and developments be put on Taipei Metro.

In TBT's viewpoints, due to five predicaments including the lack of cultural development system, insufficient and unreasonable listings of the cultural budget, imbalance on the distribution of cultural and artistic resources and facilities, the threat of cultural dominance by other countries, the unsound constitution of the cultural and creative industry, Taiwan's environment for cultural development is relatively in a weak position rather than others in terms of the responsible agency in the government. Thus, to deal with these difficulties, the TBT comes up with seven concrete suggestions:

Strengthen the functions of the responsible government agencies and its cultural administration: this will manifest on the operations of organizations, personnel, and expenses. In the aspect of the organization, the Ministry of Cultural Affairs should be established to be generally responsible for all cultural matters; make better division of

works between Council for Cultural Affairs and National Culture and Arts Foundation and design national cultural agencies into a central 3rd-level agency. In the aspect of the personnel and expenses, their scales should be expanded in accordance with their needs;

1. By revisions of law, the government should inject resources and energy from civil society by the government reward;
2. Build community awareness: keep promoting community building for one thing, depict and interpret systematically on Taiwan's local customs and history by the form of arts;
3. Preserve and enhance Taiwanese local history and cultures: including the aspects of languages, history, culture, and traditional holidays, etc. and enforce the Local Cultural Heritage Act;
4. Promote Taiwan's unique cultural achievement actively to the international and internal societies: the concrete approaches include engaging in cultural diplomacy, participating in international cultural meetings, and holding large international cultural and artistic activities in Taiwan;
5. Train person with talents for culture and arts: concrete means include enhancing people's sense of arts, normalize the consumption of cultural and artistic enjoyments, and improve current government subsidy and guidance mechanism toward arts;
6. Develop cultural and creative industry: for effectively manage the available resources, government should develop localized and irreplaceable cultural and creative industries that will deeply root in Taiwan even after it succeeds. Those strategical industries must be provided with proper business managerial methods, along with reconsideration of related laws for more effective government assistances.

Therefore, Our propositions: the direction and development of Taiwan's culture still has to be determined by the people and society to safeguard the free development of artistic and cultural creations. The position of government should only intervene in it in a limited way. Thus, cultural policy should be emphasized on preparing a better legal regime for the cultural development and environment, passion down creatively the cultural heritages and forming the symbols or rituals that share common national values as well as taking measures such as tax reduce and other rewards to encourage people to donate or engage in cultural and artistic careers. Besides, when promoting cultural policy, other related government agencies responsible for education, media, industry, and tourism should coordinate together to enforce the satisfied result of the policy. In the end, TBT is anticipating that through the implementation of the national cultural policy, Taiwan will become an ethnically diversified society where all its people will coexist and live happily as a common unity.