

Agency for Cultural Affairs

Actions for Recovery and Reconstruction from the Great East Japan Earthquake Initiatives the Agency for Cultural Affairs Has Taken to Date

1. Recommendation from the Cultural Policy Committee of the Council for Cultural Affairs

As part of follow-up attempts on “The (3rd) Basic Policy on the Promotion of Culture and the Arts,” the Agency for Cultural Affairs held intensive discussions and conducted interviews on the extent of creativity to be taken in reconstruction. Based on the results of the discussions and interviews, the Agency compiled a proposal titled, “Recent Conditions and Future Cultural Policies,” issued in the name of the Cultural Policy Committee of the Council for Cultural Affairs. (Cultural Policy Committee of the Council for Cultural Affairs, September 28, 2012)



Miyata Ryohei, Chairperson of the Cultural Policy Committee, hands the proposal to Kondo Seiichi, Commissioner for Cultural Affairs.

[Proposal details] - Refer to Reference 1

(1) Matters relating to support for affected areas

- Development of art organizations rooted in local communities
- Development and appointment of workers able to play coordinator roles for pairing demands at field sites with artists, etc.
- Dispatch of artists, etc. to elementary and junior high schools, stronger support for performing arts presentations, etc. planned by local communities in affected areas, etc.

(2) Matters relating to roles culture and arts play and policies for promoting culture and arts in all of Japan

- Practical use of human networks built through The Cultural Property Rescue Program, etc.
- Specialist training at universities, etc.
- Participation in issues relating to promotion of culture and arts by universities, etc.

Individuals chosen for intensive interviews that the Cultural Policy Committee of the Council for Cultural Affairs conducted on the Great East Japan Earthquake

Akasaka Norio (director of Fukushima Museum, and member of Reconstruction Design Council in Response to the Great East Japan Earthquake)

Akanuma Hideo (senior curator at Iwate Prefectural Museum)

Ito Toyo (architect and representative of architectural design office)

Oishi Tokio (general manager of Alios Iwaki Performing Arts Center)

Osawa Takao (consultant for Sendai Philharmonic Orchestra)

Kamiyama Azusa (third-year doctoral program student at Tohoku University Graduate School of Agricultural

Science and employee at Onagawa Town Office)

Kamei Nobuo (chairman of Committee for Salvaging Cultural Properties Affected by the 2011 Earthquake off the Pacific Coast of Tohoku and Related Disasters and director general of National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo)

Shimada Makoto (managing director of Art Support Center Kobe and councilor of Arts Aid Tohoku)

Tazawa Yuichi (executive director of Japan Council of Performers' Organizations)*

*Tazawa made a presentation with Seki Isao, manager of performing arts promotion division of the Council.

Hirata Oriza (playwright and stage director)

Miyajima Tatsuo (vice president of Tohoku University of Art & Design and director of Tohoku Revival Services Organization)

Murakami Yasumichi (director of Cultural Assets Office at Hyogo Prefectural Board of Education)

Yamaki Toshibumi (second director of Sendai Drama Studio 10-BOX)

2. Actions Taken Thus Far

(1) Actions Related to Affected Cultural Properties, Etc.

① Research on Damage Caused to Cultural Properties

○The Agency for Cultural Affairs dispatched its cultural properties specialists to affected areas in line with requests made by local boards of education. The specialists offered guidance and advice on points including how to comprehend the conditions of affected cultural properties, their repairs and restoration.

○Number of research visits made thus far: 250 (to field sites in nine prefectures) (*The Agency completed the visits on August 10, 2011.)

② The Cultural Property Rescue Program

○The Agency for Cultural Affairs has rescued fine arts, crafts, etc. (movables) from among affected cultural properties, taken emergency measures for these items and stored them temporarily at museums and similar facilities to offer them emergency protection.

○The Agency has engaged in rescue activities for the fine arts, crafts, etc. in Miyagi Prefecture (Ishinomaki Cultural Center, Utatsu Gyoryu-kan Hall and other places), Iwate Prefecture (Rikuzentakata City Museum and other sites), Fukushima Prefecture (Sukagawa City Museum, Futabacho History Folk Museum and other locations) and Ibaraki Prefecture (Oarai Culture Center and other places).

○Individuals who have taken part in this program total 6,760.

(As of February 28, 2013)

③ Dispatch Conservators for Historic Monuments

○The Agency for Cultural Affairs has dispatched Conservators for Historic Monuments to field sites where buildings among affected cultural properties are located in order to study damage inflicted on the buildings, offer emergency measures and provide specialized technical support and other forms of assistance toward their restoration.

○The Agency has dispatched a total of 519 Conservators for Historic Monuments to 198 cities, towns and villages in 11 prefectures thus far.

(As of February 28, 2013)

④ Repair and Restoration of Affected Cultural Properties

○The Agency for Cultural Affairs set aside 1.9 billion yen in the fiscal 2012 budget, in addition to a total of 3.2



Restoration work for Jigendo Pagoda at Nikko Rinnoji Temple (photo courtesy of Nikko Cultural Assets Association for the Preservation of Shrines and Temples)



Emergency measure in progress for work of fine art

billion yen earmarked in the initial fiscal 2011 budget and third supplementary budget for the fiscal year, for repairing and restoring affected cultural properties designated by the central and local governments with the use of subsidies for funding preservation and maintenance of national treasures, important cultural properties, etc..

(Amount of subsidies scheduled for provision in fiscal 2013: 1.7 billion yen)

⑤ Affected Museum Restoration Project

○The Agency for Cultural Affairs has supplied funds needed for activities such as repair work on museum materials damaged by the Great East Japan Earthquake, organization of the repaired museum materials, their conversion into a database, provision of sites for storing museum materials for which emergency measures had been taken, and execution of programs for restoration and exhibitions that put affected museum materials to practical use.

(Funds supplied in fiscal 2012: 510 million yen; funds scheduled for provision in fiscal 2013: 380 million yen)

⑥ Designated Donations Program for Affected Religious Organizations

○The Agency for Cultural Affairs has indirectly assisted the restoration of buildings, etc. that belong to affected religious organizations by applying the designated donations program to the restoration of such buildings, etc.. (Donors can receive preferential income or corporate tax treatment when the funds they donated are designated under the program.)

(Number of applied cases in fiscal 2012: 3; cumulative total of applied cases in period after Great Earthquake:

7)

(2) Actions Related to Handling of Buried Cultural Properties in the Context of Recovery and Reconstruction Projects
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○With regard to the handling of buried cultural properties in the context of recovery and reconstruction projects, the Agency for Cultural Affairs has notified concerned boards of education of the need to handle excavation and research flexibly by taking steps such as the elimination in principle of the requirements for prospecting and confirmation studies in cases where knowledge based on prior studies, etc. is present.

(Notifications issued in the name of the Deputy Commissioner for Cultural Affairs dated April 28, 2011 and February 18, 2013)

○The Agency for Cultural Affairs has notified concerned boards of education of the need to work for the flexible application of excavation and research, improve and expand a research organization with steps such as adequate introduction of private research agencies, and work for the speedy implementation of such organization in order to strictly observe the excavation and research period and complete the tasks within limited time available.

(Notification issued in the name of the Deputy Commissioner for Cultural Affairs dated April 17, 2012)

○The Agency for Cultural Affairs has reduced financial burdens involved in the excavation and research of buried cultural properties in the context of recovery and reconstruction projects by including these tasks in the core operations under the Great East Japan Earthquake Reconstruction Grant.

○To quickly handle excavation and research of buried cultural properties in the context of recovery and reconstruction projects, the Agency for Cultural Affairs has asked prefectural and other boards of education nationwide for cooperation and sent buried cultural properties specialists from all parts of Japan to Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima Prefectures. (The Agency dispatched 20 such specialists to the three prefectures from April 2012 and an additional 12 specialists from that October.) The Agency plans to continue its dispatch in fiscal 2013 and subsequent fiscal years, taking requests from affected areas and the progress of reconstruction projects into consideration. (The Agency plans to send about 60 specialists, including foundation employees, from April 2013.)

○The Agency for Cultural Affairs has sponsored periodic meetings with three prefectures (Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima) and one city (Sendai) for exchanging and sharing information about the handling of buried cultural properties in the context of recovery and reconstruction projects with boards of education in the affected prefectures and city.

(Such meetings organized by the Agency totaled 14 as of February 28, 2013. Observers at the meetings: Boards of Education of Hyogo Prefecture, Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Reconstruction Agency, reconstruction bureaus, etc.)

(3) Actions Related to Special Scenic Site Matsushima

○Concerned municipalities and the Agency for Cultural Affairs took part in a meeting with the Miyagi Prefectural Government set up for the preservation and administration of the special scenic site of Matsushima in the context of post-earthquake reconstruction projects as the administrative body for the site. The participants compiled the final report on the subject on January 25, 2012. The Agency is taking actions in response to individual cases of alteration of the status quo based on this final report.

(4) Actions Related to the Restoration of Cultural Facilities

○The Agency for Cultural Affairs has restored public cultural facilities damaged by the Great East Japan Earthquake, using the subsidy for the restoration of disaster-affected public social education facilities included in the first and third supplementary budgets for fiscal 2011. (The amount of such subsidy was included in 8.7 billion yen appropriated for the first supplementary budget and 32.9 billion yen set aside for the third supplementary budget.)

The Agency continued the restoration work in fiscal 2012.

○The Agency for Cultural Affairs has carried out onsite surveys related to post-disaster restoration projects and confirmed business plans for the restoration of public cultural facilities thus far.

(The Agency has confirmed 107 of 119 business plans scheduled for application already [as of February 20, 2013].)

(5) Improvement and Expansion of the “Art and Culture Experience Program for Children who will lead the Next” (Dispatch Program)

○The Agency for Cultural Affairs has implemented this program for offering cultural and artistic activities to children at schools and evacuation centers in affected areas as part of its actions in support of reconstruction from the Great East Japan Earthquake with the aims of developing an environment in which children can feel safe and live healthily and of making contributions to the smooth reconstruction of affected local communities.

○The Agency for Cultural Affairs dispatched artists to requested schools and similar facilities after seeking requests through executive committees in affected prefectures and ordinance-designated cities (consisting of affected local governments, cultural and arts organizations, etc.), which act as executing bodies for the program, from September 2011. The Agency continued the program in Iwate Prefecture, Miyagi Prefecture, Fukushima Prefecture and Sendai City in fiscal 2012.

(Result for fiscal 2012: 344 dispatch cases, with cumulative total of dispatch cases after Great Earthquake totaling 803)



Elementary school students listening intently to music played on piano, violin and clarinet (in Fukushima City, Fukushima Prefecture)

(6) Arts and Culture Consortium for Reconstruction

○The Agency for Cultural Affairs set up the Arts and Culture Consortium for Reconstruction (secretariat: the Association of Public Theaters and Halls in Japan), a scheme that enables parties such as administrative agencies, artists, art organizations, cultural facilities, companies and aid-giving foundations, to cooperate with one another across fields in May 2012 for supporting the reconstruction of affected areas through culture and arts. The Consortium took measures such as the development of human and organizational networks, collection of information and studies for promoting the reconstruction through culture and arts.



Liaison Meeting for Reconstruction Promoters (in Iwate Prefecture)

(Reconstruction promoters: 24)

(Reference 1)

Recent Conditions and Future Cultural Policies (Proposal) [Summary]

-Lessons Learned from the Great East Japan Earthquake, Reconstruction of Local Communities and Japan with the Power of Culture

(Proposal by Cultural Policy Committee of the Council for Cultural Affairs dated September 28, 2012)

1. Recent Conditions Surrounding Culture and Arts

The Agency for Cultural Affairs has promoted culture and arts thus far based on “The (3rd) Basic Policy on the Promotion of Culture and the Arts.”

Recent conditions

- (1) Need for sustained assistance to areas damaged by the Great East Japan Earthquake
- (2) Enactment of acts, etc. for revitalization of theaters, concert halls, etc.

2. New Expectations for Culture and Arts and Challenges under Recent Conditions

- (1) Matters relating to support for affected areas
 - Mismatch of demands in affected areas and what artists offer
 - Need for long-term support related to the rescue of affected cultural properties, etc.
- (2) Matters relating to roles culture and arts play and policies for promoting culture and arts in the whole of Japan
 - Expectations for the social inclusion functions of cultural facilities
 - Reacknowledgment of the point that cultural facilities are facilities able to play diverse roles at the time of a great earthquake
 - Limits to flexible assistance under the designated administrator system at the time of a large-scale disaster, etc.

3. Proposals for promoting culture and arts

- (1) Matters relating to support for affected areas
 - Development of art organizations, etc. rooted in local communities
 - Development and appointment of individuals able to play coordinator roles for matching demands at field sites with what artists offer

- Dispatch of artists, etc. to elementary and junior high schools, stronger support for occasions for appreciating performing arts planned by local governments in affected areas, etc.

(2) Matters relating to roles culture and arts play and policies for promoting culture and arts in the whole of Japan

- Practical use of human networks built through the Cultural Property Rescue Program, etc.
- Preparation of a system for rescuing cultural properties in accordance with the degree of their priority in times of peace
- Development of specialists at universities, etc.
- Participation in issues related to the promotion of culture and arts by universities, etc.

(Reference 2)


Fiscal 2013 Draft Budget in Response to Recommendation from the Cultural Policy Committee of the Council for Cultural Affairs (dated September 28), etc.

(Unit: million yen)

Items proposed on September 28	Action policies and related measures	Amount set aside in fiscal 2013 budget	Amount set aside in fiscal 2012 budget
Support for the dispatch of artists, etc. to elementary and junior high schools and for occasions for appreciating performing arts planned by local governments in affected areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Art and Culture Experience Program for Children who will lead the Next (To realize performing arts presentations by first-class cultural and art organizations, lectures by individual artists, etc. or skill instruction, etc. at elementary schools, junior high schools, etc.) 	4,784	4,502
Support for the dispatch of artists, etc. to elementary and junior high schools and for occasions for appreciating performing arts planned by local governments in affected areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Originating from local communities: Initiative for cultural and artistic creation and dissemination (To support projects related to culture and arts planned by local governments for regeneration of regional culture, reconstruction of local communities and promotion of regional revitalization) 	2,936	3,215
Expansion of measures that enhance the “artist-in-residence” function in affected areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Program of Forming International Points of Communication for Arts and Culture (To give proactive support to artist-in-residence programs in affected areas, promote international cultural exchanges, contribute to regeneration of communities and link these activities to transmission of the message of Japan’s reconstruction through artists in residence) 	Included in 177	—

	○Program of Forming International Points of Communication for Arts and Culture [reposted]	Included in 177	—
Publication of the power of Japanese culture and arts overseas and transmission of the images of Japan's reconstruction	○Research Program for Strengthening Cultural Publication Power (To undertake studies for examining measures for strengthening the publication power needed for transmitting the attractions of culture Japan has holds to parties in and out of Japan)	Included in 46	—
Support for reconstruction education that puts culture and arts to practical use	○Reconstruction Education Support Program (To disseminate the achievements of distinctive educational initiatives various bodies take in affected areas for putting the power of culture, arts, etc. to practical use, etc.)	95	55
Importance of the point that cultural facilities play their original role as bases for local cultural activities and transmission of information about culture and arts	○To promote the revitalization of cultural facilities as bases for culture and arts by supporting the creation and transmission of performing arts by theaters, concert halls, etc. (comprehensively supporting activities undertaken by theaters, concert halls, etc., such as the creation and transmission of performing arts, training for performing artists and activities for disseminating and inspiring performing arts)	3,003	1,474
Support for repair and restoration of tangible and intangible cultural properties that are regional treasures, reinforcement and succession of disaster-prevention functions, and initiatives taken by fine art and other museums	○Subsidy for the Preservation and Maintenance of National Treasures and Important Cultural Properties (The subsidy helps owners of state-designated and other cultural properties, etc. pay expenses needed for preserving, succeeding or using the cultural properties.)	27,216	22,745

	<p>○Affected Museum Reconstruction Program (To assist with expenses needed for activities such as the repair of museum materials damaged by the Great East Japan Earthquake, organization of the repaired materials, their conversion into a database, provision of sites for storing the materials for which emergency measures have been taken, execution of programs for reconstruction and sponsoring of exhibitions that put museum materials to practical use)</p>	381	507
<p>Securing of individuals able to support the preservation and practical use of cultural properties in local communities (development of heritage managers, for example)</p>	<p>○Practical Use of Measures Planned in the Project for Revitalization of Local Communities that Makes Optimal Use of Cultural Heritage (This project promotes regional revitalization in addition to culture by supporting distinctive and comprehensive initiatives such as those for offering access to traditional events and performing arts that make practical use of diverse and rich regional cultural heritage, which is Japanese treasure, for supporting activities for training successors and making classics approachable, and for offering chances to experience traditional culture in local communities to children and their parents.)</p>	Included in 3,384	—
	<p>○Practical Use of Measures Planned in the Project for Promoting Culture and Arts that Makes Optimal Use of Universities (This project supports programs for developing and executing practical curriculums, including those for staging live performances and exhibitions, for the purpose of training art managers with the proactive and practical use of resources that art universities, etc. possess.)</p>	Included in 450	—

<p>Promotion of organizational participation by universities, etc., focusing on them as new resources and the importance of them to contributing to the training of individuals equipped with specialized knowledge and skills</p>	<p>○Project for Promoting Culture and Arts that Makes Optimal Use of Universities [reposted]*</p> 	<p>450</p>	<p>—</p>
<p>Promotion of actions aimed at applying the creativity and attractions of regional culture to fields such as education, welfare, tourism and business, transmitting them to parties abroad and revitalizing local communities</p>	<p>○Promotion of Creative City Network (To support actions for creative city networks that apply locally rooted culture and arts to various fields [such as education, welfare, tourism and business] and bring such culture and arts to parties in Japan and abroad)</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>34</p>
	<p>○Originating from local communities: Initiative for cultural and artistic creation and dissemination [reposted]</p>	<p>2,936</p>	<p>3,215</p>
	<p>○Project for Revitalization of Local Community that Makes Optimal Use of Cultural Properties, Other Buildings, etc. [newly posted] (To inaugurate projects for supporting actions that raise the attractiveness of local communities with the open use of regional treasures such as important cultural properties, and other traditional buildings, and at the same time to support measures for saving traditional buildings from disasters from the standpoint of safety)</p>	<p>1,700</p>	<p>Included in 5,812</p>
	<p>○Project for Supporting and Promoting Comprehensive Use of Historic Sites, etc. that Makes Optimal Use of Regional Characteristics [newly posted] (To support the development of attractive local communities that comprehensively combine open application with safety for the purpose of promoting and revitalizing local communities with the practical use of core regional treasures such as historic sites, other monuments and buried cultural properties)</p>	<p>3,200</p>	

	○Project for Supporting Creative Activities at Fine Arts and History Museums in Collaboration with Local Communities [newly posted] (To revitalize fine arts and history museums as regional cultural bases and to support the development of programs at such museums that at the same time take advantage of their multifaceted potential in collaboration with local communities)	1,010	
	○Project for Revitalization of Local Community that Makes Optimal Use of Cultural Heritage [newly posted]	3,384	
Diffusion of understanding of the power of culture so each citizen can position culture as part of everyday life	○Research Program for Strengthening Cultural Publication Power [reposted]	Included in 46	—

(Reference 3)

1. Damaged National Properties and others

○Number of damaged properties: 744 in 19 prefectures

Breakdown by type of properties

National Treasures	Important Cultural Properties	Special Historic Sites	Historic Sites	Special Places of Scenic Beauty	Places of Scenic Beauty	Natural Monuments	Important Preservation Districts for Groups of Traditional Buildings	Important Tangible Folk Cultural Property	Others (Registered Cultural Properties, etc.)	Total
5	160	6	90	5	17	16	6	4	445	754

*Since these properties have more than one type of designation, the above figure does not correspond with the total number of cultural properties based on the type of designation.

○Major Cultural Property Damaged

- National Treasure: Zuiganji Temple priest's quarter and corridor (Miyagi Pref.) (some collapse and crack in the Japanese traditional plaster walls)
- National Treasure: Amidado Hall (Fukushima Pref.) (minor damage to door)
- Special Place of Scenic Beauty: Matsushima (Miyagi Pref.) (huge damage from the earthquake and tsunami at various locations)

- Special Place of Scenic Beauty, Special Historic Sites: Motsuji Garden (Iwate Pref.) (garden stones inclined)
- Special Historic Sites: Edojo-ato Remains (Tokyo Pref.) (some collapsed stone walls)

2. Damaged Cultural Halls and other Cultural Facilities

○Number of damaged facilities: 278 in 16 prefectures

[Breakdown by prefecture]

Aomori (3) Iwate (19) Miyagi (36) Akita (2)

Yamagata (11) Fukushima (40) Ibaraki (35) Tochigi (22)

Gunma (4) Saitama (35) Tokyo (20) Chiba (27)

Kanagawa (11) Niigata (7) Nagano (1) Shizuoka (5)

○Major Damages

- Falling of concert hall ceilings and ceiling damage
- Damage caused to stage sets
- Damage caused to walls and glass sections
- Damage caused to water supply pipes, etc.

3. Adverse Effects on Concerts, etc.

Concerts, exhibitions, etc. were cancelled or postponed under the adverse effects of the Great East Japan Earthquake.

(1) Cancellation or Postponement of Concerts

- Voluntary restraint in view of social conditions
- Damage caused to concert halls
- Difficulty in securing sufficient means of transportation
- Cancellation of Japanese tours by overseas artists, etc.

(2) Cancellation or Postponement of Exhibitions, etc.

• Birth of the Impressionism Exhibition at the Hiroshima Prefectural Art Museum, and Maurice Denis Exhibition at the Yamanashi Prefectural Museum of Art

• Giorgio Morandi Exhibition at the Toyota Municipal Museum of Art, and Hokusai Exhibition at the Mitsui Memorial Museum

• Pushkin State Museum of Fine Arts Exhibition at the Yokohama Museum of Art, and Special Sharaku Exhibition at the Tokyo National Museum

• Alpine Painter Giovanni Segantini Light and Mountains Exhibition at the Seiji Togo Memorial Sampo Japan Museum of Art

• Heaven on Earth, the Beijing Palace Museum Exhibition at the Tokyo Fuji Art Museum

• Glassware Loved by Emperors Exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art, Gunma; Ben Shahn Exhibition at the Fukushima Prefectural Museum of Art; etc.