

Act on Facilitation for Exhibiting Overseas Works of Art, etc. to the Public in Japan (Act No. 15 of 2011)

(Temporary translation)

(Purpose)

Article 1 The purpose of this Act is to establish measures to prohibit execution, etc. against overseas works of art, etc. and to increase opportunities for the general public to experience the world's diverse cultures by providing for the development and enhancement of the facilities of national art museums and other museums in order to facilitate the exhibiting of overseas works of art, etc. to the public in Japan, and thereby contribute to the promotion of international cultural exchange and enable the development of culture.

(Definitions)

Article 2 In this Act, the term "overseas works of art, etc." refers to the following objects, which are kept overseas excluding those periods for the purpose of exhibiting them to the public in Japan:

- (i) Paintings, sculptures, artifacts and other movable property which is tangible cultural property;
- (ii) In addition to those objects given in the preceding item, movable property with an academically distinguished value and which is provided for in a Cabinet Order.

(Prohibition of Execution, etc. against Overseas Works of Art, etc.)

Article 3 (1) Of the overseas works of art, etc. exhibited to the public in Japan, execution, provisional seizure and provisional disposition may not be carried out against those works of art, etc. which are deemed to be highly necessary in facilitating their exhibition to the public in Japan from the perspective of the promotion of international cultural exchange and have been designated by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology as coming under other requirements prescribed by a Cabinet Order; provided, however, that this shall not apply in cases where execution, provisional seizure or provisional disposition is conducted based on a petition by the person who lent the overseas work of art, etc. pertaining to such designation for the purpose of exhibiting it to the public, and other cases prescribed in a Cabinet Order.

(2) The designation under the preceding paragraph (hereinafter referred to simply as

“designation” in this Article) shall be carried out based on an application made by the person intending to exhibit the overseas work of art, etc. to the public in Japan.

(3) Where the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology intends to make a designation, he or she shall consult the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

(4) Where the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology intends to make a designation, he or she shall give public notice of the matters provided for in an Ordinance of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology with regard to the overseas work of art, etc. pertaining to such designation.

(5) The Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology may revoke the designation where the overseas work of art, etc. pertaining to the designation no longer meets the requirements prescribed in the Cabinet Order under the main text of paragraph (1) or in other cases provided for by a Cabinet Order. In such case, the provisions of the two preceding paragraphs shall apply *mutatis mutandis*.

(6) In addition to those matters prescribed in the preceding paragraphs, necessary matters relating to designation or revocation of designation shall be prescribed in an Ordinance of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology.

(Development and Enhancement, etc. of the Facilities of National Art Museums and Other Museums)

Article 4 The government shall take necessary measures to develop and enhance the facilities of national art museums and other museums, and to enhance opportunities for appreciation with regard to such facilities in order to facilitate the exhibiting of overseas works of art, etc. to the public in Japan.

(Training of Persons with Specialized Knowledge and Improvement of Their Quality, etc.)

Article 5 The government shall train curators who have specialized knowledge relating to overseas works of art, etc. and improve their quality, and shall offer support such as providing information for the activities conducted by private organizations relating to exhibiting overseas works of art, etc. to the public and shall take other necessary measures in order to facilitate the exhibiting of overseas works of art, etc. to the public in Japan.

(Fiscal Measures, etc.)

Article 6 The government shall endeavor to take necessary fiscal measures in order

to facilitate the exhibiting of overseas works of art, etc. to the public and other measures.

Supplementary Provisions

This Act shall come into effect from the date specified by a Cabinet Order within a period not exceeding six months from the date of promulgation.