

TK Conference on Reading 2012



Citizen Action for Reading Culture

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Citizen Action for Reading Culture

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1. Citizen Action for Reading Culture with the Book Culture Foundation of Korea

Citizens with Awareness

Mankind with Reflection

Society with Thought

“Citizen Action for Reading Culture” is a movement of people who aim for a society based on the dignity of man, reflection, and maturity.

Citizen Action for Reading Culture is a civic movement that seeks to expand and improve knowledge-based facilities, so that every citizen enjoys the equal right to have free access to knowledge; to form a society in which even underprivileged citizens can have access to books whenever they want to; and to renew society so that all citizens create their own values with truly equal access to education, culture, information and knowledge.

Citizen Action for Reading Culture is a people’s solidarity created for the purpose of building a community with a mature sense of citizenship, alert self-examination, reasonable civic judgment and democracy full of justice by cultivating mature civil culture through reading.

Citizen Action for Reading Culture is a spontaneous movement of people that aims to expand the base for decent lives with warm hearts from sense of morals, imagination and refined emotions empowered by reading; to prepare the way for a society guaranteeing tolerance, coexistence and mutual prosperity.

Citizen Action for Reading Culture is a valid and sincere movement to create a better life. The significance of reading has been degraded and equitable opportunities to access good reading materials are not provided to all as a result of the pressures of competitive



systems and social injustice today. The efforts of Citizen Action for Reading Culture are aimed at restoring humanity and justice by the dissemination of desirable reading culture and education.

Citizen Action for Reading Culture believes that we can right the wrongs of society and open the benefits of mental culture to all by people's cooperative power generated from reading and knowledge.

1-1. What We Do

The missions of Citizen Action for Reading Culture are to:

- Expand the social equality of access to information and knowledge.
- Realize mature civil society through reading culture.
- Make a culture and community based on humanity.

Under those missions, Citizen Action for Reading Culture has carried out a variety of projects:

- Policy proposals
- Library projects
- Bookstart
- Support for little libraries and school libraries
- Reading promotion
- Strengthening welfare based on mental culture
- Legislative proposals
- Study, Research, Promotion, Education
- Developing cultural contents and programs
- Support for cultural movement concerned with the humanities



1-2. Libraries bring up children

Citizen Action for Reading Culture builds up “Miracle Library.”

Citizen Action for Reading Culture started the “Miracle Library Project” in 2003 to bring library services to children in small towns, cities and rural areas, and has been able to build, as of now, a total of 11 libraries for children. There are Miracle Libraries in Suncheon, Jecheon, Jinhae, Jeju, Seogwipo, Cheongju, Ulsan, Geumsan, Bupyeong, Jeongeup, and Gimhae.

The “Miracle Library Project”, first of its kind in Korea, has been working miracles for children.

Miracle Libraries provide all children with attractive environments in which they read books without discrimination while nurturing their dreams. Miracle Libraries are the cultural hubs of the communities, child care support facilities for parents, and at the same time, fantastic reading spaces for children.

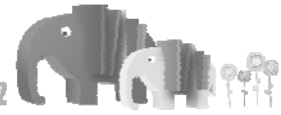
“Miracle Library” introduced three innovative paradigms.

1. Space Model

“Miracle Library” is designed according to the idea that Children’s library should be a fun place full of bright and cheerful imagination. Miracle Library is a beautiful and pleasant library for children. It is unique building for children with *ondol* floor, babies’ rooms, storytelling rooms, multipurpose room, little hollows and lofts.

2. Operation Model

“Miracle Library” has been built by the public-private cooperative planning, and managed by privately led system. The construction of “Miracle Library” is funded by public donations and the contribution of local government, while the operating body of “Miracle Library” is a steering committee made up of people from all walks of life representing the local community and local governments.



3. Program Model

“Miracle Library” has a myriad of programs to attract children: “Reading Aloud,” “Singing a Song,” “Act Play,” “Painting,” “Activities with Multi-Media,” “Field Trips,” “Concerts” and so on. Many creative programs in the “Miracle Library” make children and the local people happy.

1-3. Bookstart Korea program (Babies like books)

Citizen Action for Reading Culture runs the “Bookstart Korea” program.

Bookstart is social support for childcare under the motto of “starting life with books.” Bookstart aims to provide a free pack of books to every baby in Korea to inspire, stimulate and create a love of reading that will give children a flying start in life. Bookstart packs are distributed by public health centers, public libraries, Miracle Libraries, village offices and other public institutions. Babies and parents can communicate with each other; get to know each other, read picture books together. Books help the emotional and intellectual development of babies. Bookstart programs contribute to the family communal culture through books.

Citizen Action for Reading Culture started Bookstart Korea programs in 2003. So far, 137 local areas (at present 137/229 local areas, 60%) are covered by Bookstart Korea programs nationwide, and the number is increasing every year.

Bookstart Korea is affiliated to similar projects in Europe, Japan, Taiwan, Australia, Thailand and the Falkland Islands, and has links with other projects in New Zealand, the USA and Canada.

Bookstart Korea suggests a novel paradigm of childcare. Bookstart Korea programs propagate the idea of cooperative childcare because they are founded on the partnerships among all parents.



1-4. School Library Initiative

Citizen Action for Reading Culture supports school libraries in rural areas.

Many schools in remote and secluded places have such poor surroundings that they have few decent libraries. Every schoolchild has the right to read books in beautiful and pleasant school libraries. Moreover, in rural areas, the school is often the focal point for the local community. Citizen Action for Reading Culture not only builds school libraries as the heart of education, but also takes the initiative in suggesting the new model of school library.

1-5. Small Libraries for All

Citizen Action for Reading Culture supports small libraries.

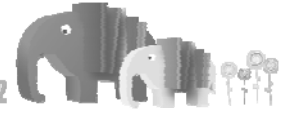
“Small Libraries for All” project has been providing free access to information services and tools to local residents of all age groups. So far Citizen Action for Reading Culture has managed to build or renovate 19 community libraries, 2 farmers’ libraries, and furnished books, computers and other digital tools to 298 small community libraries.

Cheoram Children’s Library in an abandoned mine area of Gangwon was remodeled in 2007. Children in Cheoram now enjoy study and reading rooms as a result of the “Small Libraries for All” project of Citizen Action for Reading Culture. Also, Citizen Action for Reading Culture built Baebawoo Library in Okcheon, Gangwon a place which had no library.

1-6. Read, think, create--and you can realize democracy.

Citizen Action for Reading Culture works for reading promotion in the form of:

- Panel discussions
- Open forums
- Seminars



- Policy forums
- Development programs
- Educational support
- Advisory services

1-7. Educational Course for Debate

Citizen Action for Reading Culture runs the educational course for debate in order to create a mature discussion culture. There are discussion training programs and book discussions for teachers, librarians, college students and parents in the educational course of Citizen Action for Reading Culture.

1-8. Public Lecture

Public lectures hosted by Citizen Action for Reading Culture are special lectures about topical issues. Professionals from each field give in-depth opinions and speeches to the ordinary citizens.

1-9. Lecturing Tour of Cultural Ambassadors

Writers, musicians, play specialists, artists are invited as guest speakers to the seminars in libraries, school libraries, small libraries, and Miracle Libraries throughout the country.

1-10. Beloved Reading Companions

“Beloved Reading Companions” program helps children who have reading and learning disabilities from the poorest backgrounds. They are encouraged to read and study through some special care of volunteers in the libraries affiliated with Citizen Action for Reading Culture.



1-11. Books with Wings

Citizen Action for Reading Culture provides schoolchildren throughout the country with free packs of books and the opportunities to have a variety of cultural experiences.

1-12. Support for Book Clubs

Citizen Action for Reading Culture gives aid to various book clubs, thus promoting reading culture and citizens' free study.

2. How to Donate

Please enroll in the list of monthly donators through CMS. Your monthly gift will help the projects to expand the social equality of access to education, culture, information and knowledge; to make people lead a decent life by life-long learning; to upgrade library services.

The Book Culture Foundation of Korea

The Book Culture Foundation of Korea backs Citizen Action for Reading Culture and legally represents Citizen Action for Reading Culture.

2-1. Be a Supporter with Citizen Action for Reading Culture

Citizen Action for Reading Culture with Book Culture Foundation depends on voluntary contributions for all our work. You can donate, or become a volunteer.

The Grants from Cooperate

We are looking forward to donations from cooperate and benefactors.



3. Declaration of Citizen Action for Reading Culture

Commemoration of World Book and Copyright Day

A book is mankind's memory, creation, thought, and expression. As we know, early human culture was introduced by Egyptian and Mesopotamian letters and books. The first evidence of books comes from Mesopotamia five thousand years ago, where stylus-inscribed clay tablets were used to record cruciform pictographs. And Mesopotamians built a library of cuneiform tablets to house them. It was the source of our current form of library. According to a Sumerian Cuneiform script, when the sky god went into the earth and competed with the god of darkness for seven days, a green tree rose from the wild earth where everything needed was not brought into being yet. It is possible owing to a heritage known as a book that the beautiful story about 5,000 years ago has been transmitted to posterity and its thought and imagination have continuously inspired to generate another thought and imagination. If human beings were not beings of remembering, thinking, and expressing imagination, we would have no self-identity. Books exist in the heart of being.

It is greatly important in this age of discord not only to make a way of communicating with people in other parts of the world but also to understand others and to respect their differences. We believe that 'World Book Day' organized by UNESCO is designated on the basis of communication, mutual understanding, and the spirit of liberality, and that books are the best peaceful, powerful instruments for promoting those spirits. We are confident that books open doors of mutual understanding and liberality and guide human beings to the way of making peaceful co-existence and their future.

Thus our society should not disregard the fact that books convey the best knowledge, they evoke the best imagination and they are the best medium for creation. Therefore this medium should be easy to access and enjoyable for all people. We maintain that school libraries should be broadly used for everyone and public libraries need to be more constructed, expended and improved because spreading reading culture provides all



people with the equity of knowledge, information, and expression, and allows our society to realize a proper, creative, normal culture. Celebrating the 7th World Book and Copyright Day, we hope to remind all of our social request and tasks that encourage activities for our society.

Citizen Action for Reading Culture, 23 April 2002

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