

Tri-partite Partnership among Government, Business and the Third Sector

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The Philosophies of Government, Business and Third Sector on Tri-partite Partnership

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Concepts and Definitions Revisited (1)

■ What is the Third Sector?

◆ Non-government:

- ◆ Not forming part of the government to carry out governmental tasks
- ◆ Not coming under the control and the directive of the government

◆ Non-profit-making:

- ◆ Not working for the interests of the owners/founders/directors/holders
- ◆ Working for the interests of others – altruistic

Concepts and Definitions Revisited (2)

- What is the purpose of the partnership?
 - ◆ To work for the good of certain members of the society with specific needs/problems/difficulties, like cancer children, homeless people.
 - ◆ To work for the welfare of certain vulnerable groups in the society, like lonely elderly, new arrivals, children of poor families.
 - ◆ To work for a common cause for the benefit of the entire society, like environmental protection.

Tri-partite Partnership and Welfare

- The purpose and scope of the tri-partite partnership is closely related to the welfare system adopted, which in turn is determined by:
 - ◆ Role of the government –
universal benefits/welfarism selective benefits/residualism
 - ◆ Ideologies on welfare –
welfare as a right of the citizen welfare as a matter of
the individual or the family

Welfare Systems World-wide

Role of the Government

Universal ————— Selective

Ideologies
on
Welfare

As a right

As a matter of the individual

Sweden	UK	USA	Australia
	Japan	HKSAR	Singapore

Typologies of the Tri-partite Partnership

	Typology I	Typology II	Typology III
Role of the government	Universal benefits	Selective on top of universal benefits	Selective benefits
Ideologies on welfare	Welfare as a right	Shared responsibilities	Welfare as a matter of the individual/family
Purpose of the Third Sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ To work for a common cause, like anti-globalization ➤ To protect particular groups, like sex workers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ To fill the gaps of service provisions ➤ Gather together individual or group efforts in self-help ➤ To play a “bridging” role 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ To advocate for the welfare rights of specific vulnerable groups ➤ To make up the shortcomings of existing provisions
Scope of the Third Sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Limited ➤ Very focused 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Small scale organizations ➤ Project-based 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Could be larger than government counterpart, like elderly services in Singapore ➤ Multi-purpose organizations

Future of the Third Sector in Hong Kong

- The HKSAR government must clearly define its role in welfare
- The ideology on welfare should move towards one of shared responsibilities
- Business corporations should develop their image as a socially responsible sector
- A revival of the spirit of altruism