The NPO's Social Input to eCulture

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The emerging eCulture framework of remixed user / agent behavior, live streaming of data and current existed social norms / practices, though aiming at practical public and 3rd party data mash-ups, could not rooted nowhere but grow out of ordinary real civil societal interactions. Little spotlight is shed on civil society & its path and traces of transforming itself to step into the era of information society. Through historical review on Taiwan's earliest cyber social movement organization, Frontier Foundation, the insight is illuminating our future pathway toward eCulture.

Back to 1995 --- in its earliest initiative to support aboriginal and gender issues, Frontier Foundation had recruited young volunteers to participate information related works in several leading NGOs. The initiative was connected to its own goals related to social democracy and build Taiwan social information systems. Two kinds of major work were targeted in the initiative: office automation (辦公室 e 化) and communication website for the supporter community. One approach died and the web communication lasted almost one decade. Two kinds of work symbolize two approaches to bootstrap the civil society, and re-instill our awareness of history: when the bandwidth / limits were unleashed, people will find their own ways of unfolding new stories.

The recent big disaster of August 8th Morakot Typhoon is another example to understand the relationship with civil society, NPO and eCulture. Information perspective could lead us to discover the past and current chaos in government rescue system and civil society rescue-restoration action. Frontier Foundation, volunteered workers in Academia Sinica and other volunteers found Sahana, the open source disaster information management system, and are trying to bring Sahan into practice. Almost 15 years later, though technologies and network advancements prevail all around Taiwan, NPOs are just about to involved into a much detailed, collaborative and interactive civil society.