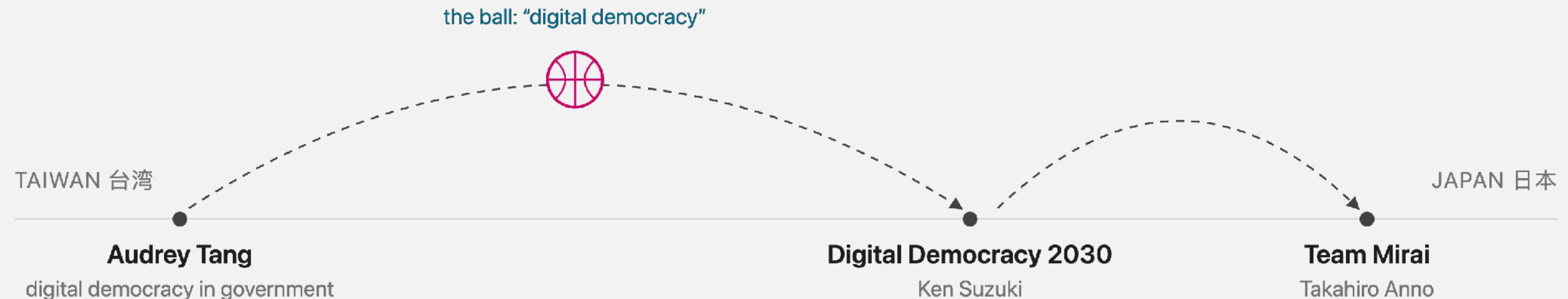


Taiwan's present, after touching the future

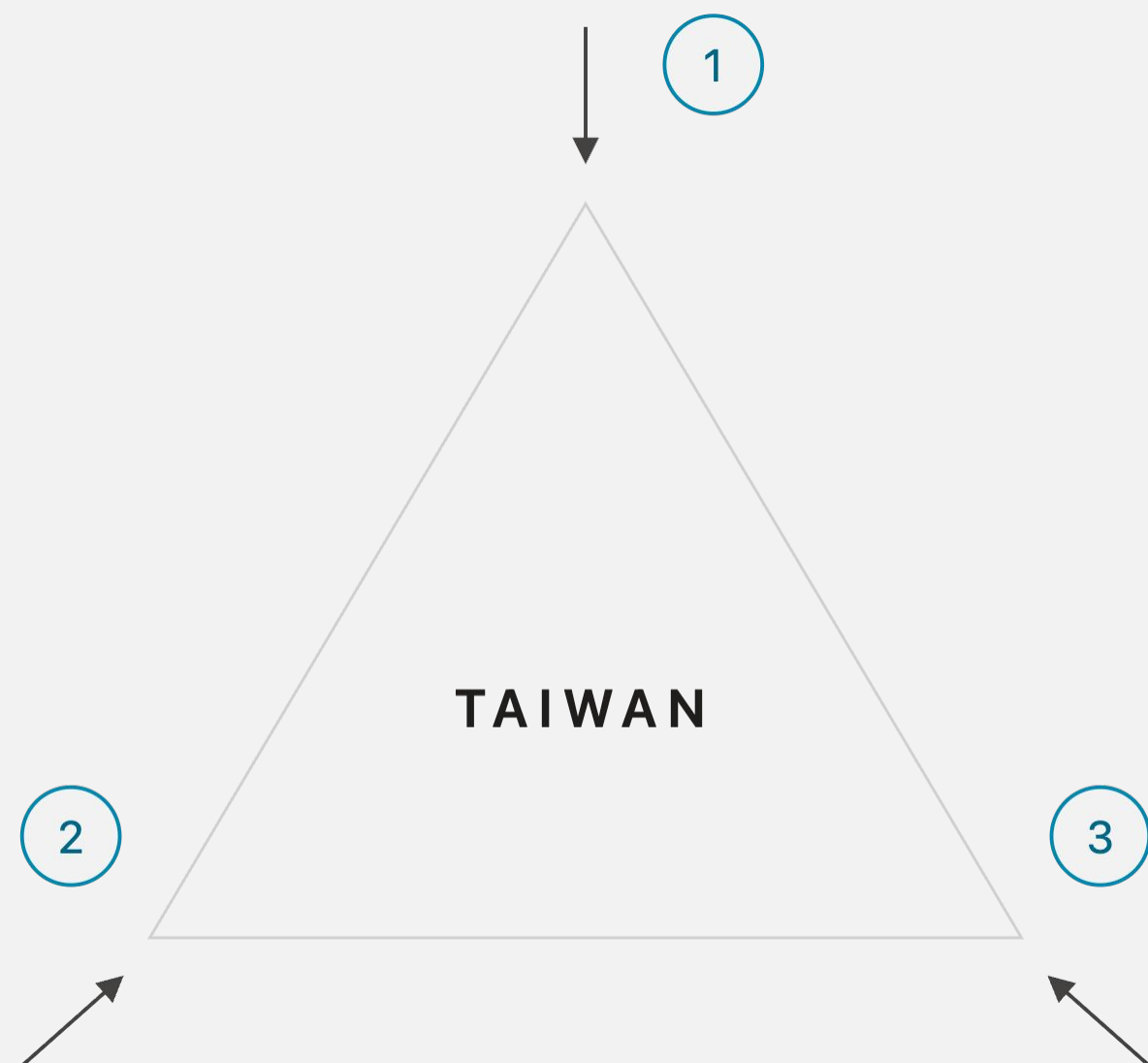
“After working with Audrey Tang, I felt like I was working in the future. After facing institutional reality, I felt I had returned to the present. Being here in Japan feels like Back to the Future.”

Yen-Lin Huang **mashbean** — Taiwan civic tech → government → platform governance → digital identity



Taiwan's digital environment: three forces at once

分極化 / 情報操作 / 市民テック



1 Polarized public discourse

Food safety, housing, elections, identity — the same facts produce different realities. Online debate turns ineffective fast.

2 External manipulation and cyber pressure

Information operations make people doubt authenticity itself: genuine advocates can be mistaken for “coordinated actors,” and the whole policy debate gets contaminated.

3 High-capacity civic technologists

g0v, vTaiwan, Cofacts, civic hackers, AI-agent experiments. A small community with real effects — and in the AI era, tools get built very quickly.

Gate 1: tools do not automatically create feedback loops

制度化の壁 / フィードバックループ

Government experiments I saw

Polis — Computational Democracy Project

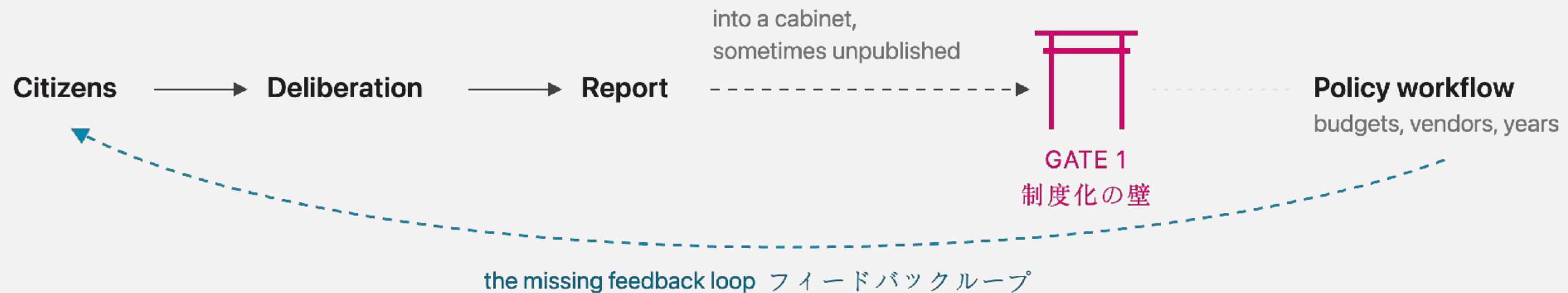
Talk to the City — AI Objectives Institute

Online Deliberative Platform — Stanford DDL

Service-design deliberation workshops

Insight

Leadership matters before deliberation becomes procedure. Fancy tools can improve access and summarization — they cannot replace institutional uptake. The missing piece is the feedback loop.



Gate 2: participation without follow-through becomes tokenism

参加の形骸化 / 実装への距離

Taiwan has a long deliberative-democracy tradition and a unique youth-facilitator ecosystem. Many youth deliberation events use simple tools: whiteboards, sticky notes, transcripts, careful facilitation.

The problem: after the event, ideas enter administrative red tape. Professional advocates may track them. Ordinary participants usually cannot.

Hopeful signs

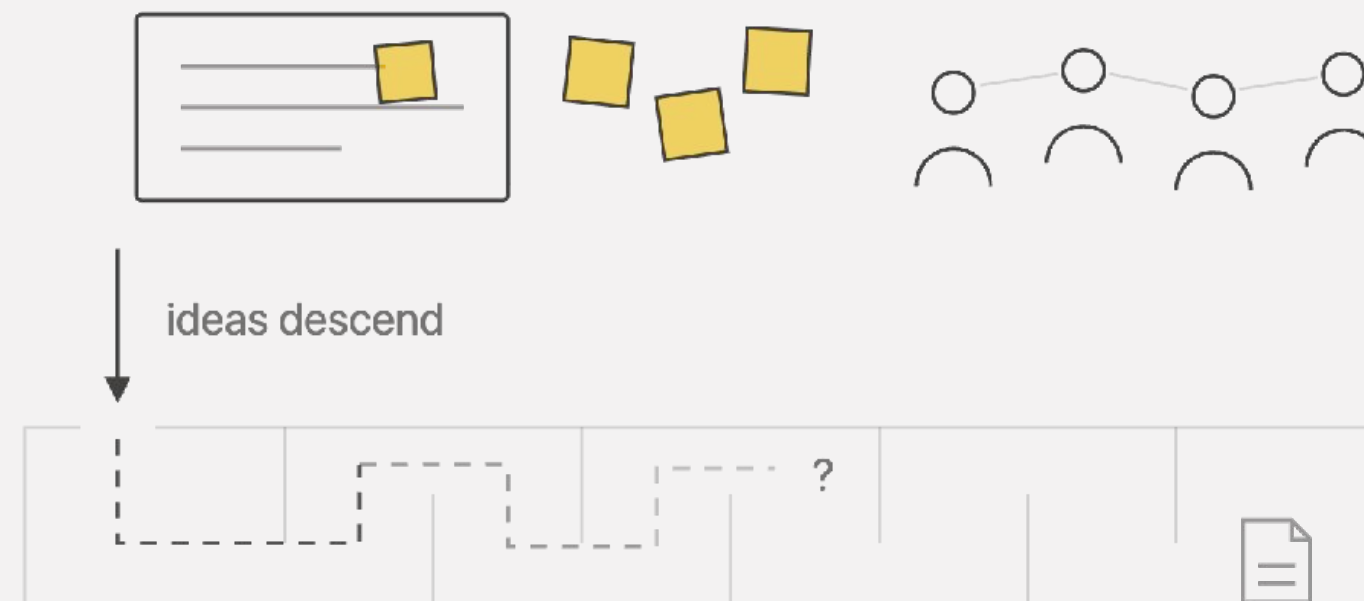
Youth Basic Act — passed last year; law, not yet practice

National Youth Conference

Children's participatory budgeting in Yuanli 苑裡

THE WORKSHOP

whiteboards, sticky notes,
careful facilitation



THE ADMINISTRATIVE MAZE

red tape, lost tracking —
advocates can follow, participants cannot

From DPI to DCI: civic agency, not just government service

市民の能動性 / Civic agency

Digital Public Infrastructure

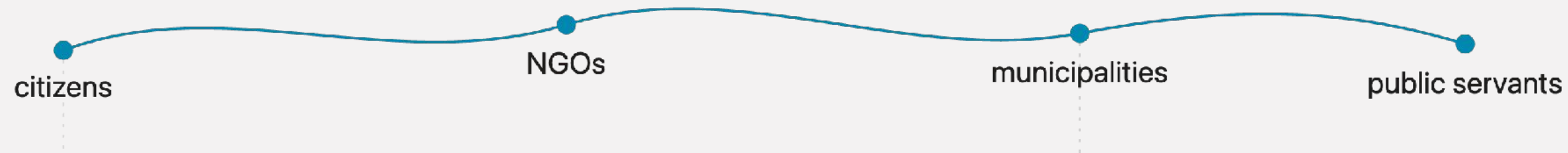
Government services: identity, payments, data exchange, administrative efficiency. The state's rails, built for delivery.

Digital Civic Infrastructure

Connection, learning, deliberation, action. Tools that help citizens and public servants move together — civic agency as the design goal.

Allen Lab observation: useful tools do not always need to be fancy. If they help key actors move one step further, they can already sustain meaningful deliberation.

DCI — CIVIC ACTION PATHS



DPI — GOVERNMENT SERVICE RAILS: identity, payments, data exchange

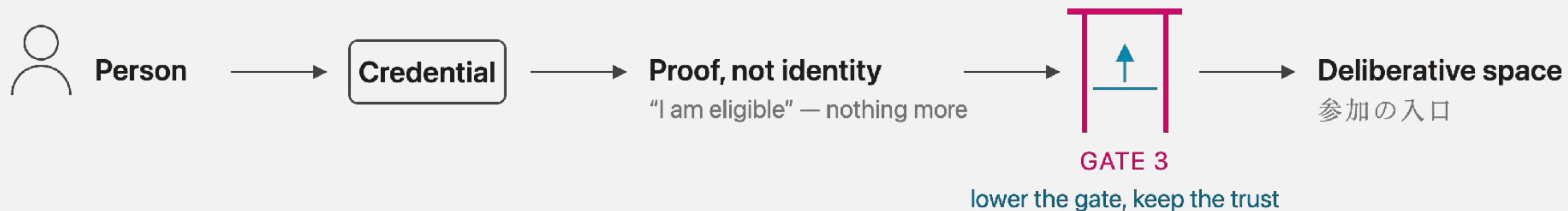
Gate 3: digital identity can build trust, but it is also a gate

信頼 / プライバシー / 参加の入口

In Taiwan, online deliberation must deal with manipulation, spam, and distrust. At **Matters**, an anti-censorship community platform, anonymity protects whistleblowers — and creates moderation pressure.

Can people prove what matters without exposing who they are?

a resident · an affected person · a member of a political community · an eligible participant



Taiwan is difficult. That is why it is interesting — polarization, external threat, and civic tech capacity make it a test site for new deliberation tools, policy processes, and digital trust.