

# Presentation of an Example of Private - Government Cooperation in Environmental Education in Korea

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Centering an example of operating the Ganghwa Tideland Center  
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## **. Establishment and Evaluation of the Ganghwa Tideland Center**

### **1. Background of Establishment and the Opening Date**

**Background**  
In 1999, as the Korean Foundation of Environment Movement and the British Embassy in Korea started working seriously together on the marshy preservation project in , they formed a cooperation system with local autonomous entities Incheon City and Ganghwagun, performing a wide range of activities, such as participating in seminars, symposium, visits to the tideland in the UK and Germany. With such achievement, Incheon, Ganghwagun, and the Korean Foundation of Environment Movement held a joint signing ceremony for the project of building a tideland center on the 4<sup>th</sup> of April in 2001, and established the Ganghwa Tideland Center.

#### **. Center Opening Date**

2005.6.8

### **2. Management and Funding Plans**

#### **1) Subject of Management and Operation**

##### **. Subject of Management and Operation of the Center:**

- Facility management : Ganghwagun(GO)
- Operation: The KoreaFoundation of Environmental Movement (NGO)

- Type of Operating the Center

- Operation in cooperation/partnership between the Ganghwa province and the NGO

Ganghwagun, the Korea Foundation of Environmental Movement

- Collaboration between the department of culture and tourism in

Ganghwagun, the marshy center in the Korea Foundation of Environmental Movement, the Ganghwa Tideland Center

## 2) Goals, Mission, and Vision of the Center

- Goals of the Center

- To offer opportunities to promote all the information about tideland and experience the tideland by building a tideland center in Ganghwa province

- To set an example of eco - friendly tourism for domestic and international visitors by making good use of the scarcity value and ecological value of tideland.

- To help contribute to the healthy life and economic stability of the residents living near tideland

- Mission of the Center

- Revitalization of the local community by forming ties with the residents (active exchanges between the government and people)

- Place of specialized experience and training about domestic and international tideland

- Revitalization of local economy by developing eco - friendly goods relating to tideland and visitors

- Place of the research of tideland and ecological culture from a personal viewpoint and of the development of ecological research programs.

- Vision of the Center

Not only the building itself, the tideland center also includes the neighboring tideland and is also considered a cultural center of eco-friendly tideland research and training, by providing exploration groups in the area where migratory birds return as well as guided and self-guided types of learning.

Creation of the learning place and an area for migratory birds to return in the neighboring tideland

Installation of ecological education programs about tideland

Concept of building an educational center building

- The Number of Visitors

- Average monthly visitors: 1,000
- Average annual visitors: 13,000

### 3) Progress of Project Execution (The Korea Foundation of Environmental Movement)

1999.7 the British Embassy gets down to working on the marshy preservation project.

10.13. The 1<sup>st</sup> orientation on the site which is an example of marshy preservation in the U.K (the British Embassy)

12.24. Government subsidiary secured (Ganghwa office)

2000.2.27 29: The Korea - UK marshy preservation symposium is held; visit to the tideland of Korean marshy, Ganghwa.

(Hosted by: The Korea Foundation of Environmental Movement, the British Embassy / Place: the British Embassy in Korea)

3.15. Establishment of a project of building a tourism attraction in Ganghwa Southern Tideland (Ganghwa Office)

6.20. Meeting at Ganghwa Office about the construction of the Ganghwa Tideland Education Center (Ganghwa Office)

7.14. Briefing about the construction of the tideland education center to preserve Ganghwa province tideland (Ganghwa Office)

8.16 20. Observation of an example area of marshy preservation and a training center in the UK (Incheon mayor, Ganghwa province, the head of Ganghwagun, secretary - general of the Korea Foundation of Environmental Movement, and so forth participated)

10. 12. Field survey to examine the land for the Ganghwa Tideland Center (several times)

2001.2.2 10. The staff from the Ganghwa Tideland Center visits and inspects an example of marshy preservation and the educational center in the UK

(Incheon mayor, the chief officer of Ganghwagun, The Korea Foundation of Environmental Movement, exerts participated)

3.8 14. A British WWT expert visits Korea about the establishment of the Ganghwa Tideland Center (Focusing on the field observation and meeting to select the land for the Ganghwa Tideland Center).

4.4. Agreement upon a joint project of building the Ganghwa Tideland Center (by Incheon City, Ganhwa Province, the Korean Foundation of Environmental Movement)

10.13. Meeting about the preservation of Ganghwa tideland and construction of the tideland center with a German expert from the national tideland park administration office

2. 12. Selection of the land for the Ganghwa Tideland Center and meetings about construction (several times)

2002.7.30. Field Presentation about the Ganghwa Tideland Center  
2003. 1 12. Meetings about the design of the Ganghwa Tideland Center (several times) and preliminary review and discussion about environmental characteristics

4.1. Approval of the construction of public facilities(5,254m<sup>2</sup>)

5.14. Building permit (Total area: 704.43m<sup>2</sup>, one basement, two floors above the ground, steel - frame structure)

11.14. Informal meeting in the area of the Ganghwa Tideland Center (the chief officer of Ganghwagun, Ganghwa non - government organization, the Korea Foundation of Environmental Movement, Incheon, the Tideland Center Project Promotion Committee)

2004.1. 12. Conferences about building the Ganghwa Tideland Center (several times) – exterior, interior, and landscape, etc)

11. 12.Meetings about the preparation of educational programs at the Ganghwa Tideland Center (several times)

2005.1. 3. Construction of the interior and educational facilities of the Ganghwa Tideland Center establishment of the plan and rules for operating the Ganghwa Tideland Center

5. The Ganghwagun and the Korean Environment Foundation sign a commission contract

6. 8. the Ganghwa Tideland Center opens

4) Main Evaluation Issues about Private - Government Cooperation in the process of building

· In case of building another center like this, it is important to have a subjective entity only for this project in its early stages. There are too many limitations of this one - person system.

- The project should be carried out after the building design, interior design, educational programs, and an operation plan are duly prepared in a comprehensive, specific way.
- From the beginning to design, construction, and completion, it is critical to have an official system for as many experts, environmental activists, and residents as possible to participate and discuss

## II. Introduction, Operation, and Evaluation of Ganghwa Tideland Center

### 1. General Descriptions about the Ganghwa Tideland Center

#### 1) Main Types of Marshy

Tideland and estuary tideland

#### 2) Overview of the Ganghwa Tideland Center

##### · Overview of the building

- Lot Area: 12,873m<sup>2</sup> (Common facility area: 5,254m<sup>2</sup>)
- Building: Total area 704.43m<sup>2</sup>, one basement, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> floors,

Steel - frame structure

##### · Tideland Area

- Ganghwa Tideland : 353km<sup>2</sup>
- Southern Tideland:(Yeocha - ri – Dongmak - ri –Geomgeom - ri):

90km<sup>2</sup>

##### · Major Facilities

Classroom, Laboratories, Exhibition halls, Library, Observatory rooms, Sightseeing Course, Parking lot

##### · Main Exhibits

Models of Ganghwa Southern tideland, black - faced spoonbill, tideland diorama, and Korean shellfish exhibits

#### 3) Flagship Species and Characteristics of Center Education

· Birds: black - faced spoonbills and yellow - beaked egrets

· Tideland creatures: Clam, crab

·Main Characteristics of the Ganghwa Tideland Center (Ganghwa Southern tideland) Different from Other Areas

- Typical tideland located at the mouth of the Han River, the most natural tideland among those existing at the mouth of the river, with groups of benthos, a variety of small ecosystems, multiple sorts of creatures.
- East Asia for aquatic birds: Located on a path to Australia (East Asian - Australasian Flyway), one of the habitats for snipe or plovers, the wading birds, to get sources of energy for breeding and wintering.
- Habitat, stopover, and the place for wintering for cranes, yellow - beaked egrets, and black - faced spoonbills, which are in danger of extinction and under international protection

2. Philosophy of the Ganghwa Tideland Center: "Education and Activities to Promote Public Awareness to Preserve Marshy (CEPA activity)

Tideland is for every creature including plants, animals, and human beings. It has a wide variety of sea creatures, flying, swimming, or walking sideways, which all attract a number of birds.

Such tideland ecosystem provides itself as a place for human beings to come together and become at one with nature.

To convey ecological, educational, economic, and social functions of tideland, it is essential to build a place for more systematic education.

This not only indicates official facilities but also a new type of a tideland center which can teach the entire nature in tideland in an organized way.

3. Educational Programs and Main Exhibitions

1) Basic Guide Programs

- Creatures and birds in Ganghwa Tideland: Video materials
- Ecology of black - faced spoonbills: Models and the display board
- Tideland type: Display board

- Ecology of tideland: Aquarium, outdoor observation, display board
- 2) Main Recognition Program Target
- Infants, Youths
- 3) Exhibit Replacement Cycle
- Irregular (Not Frequently)
- Replace with educational achievements

#### 4) Programs for Schools and Universities

The center offers 3 - hour and 6 - hour programs and two - day/one - night program

#### 5) Expert/Advanced Programs

: With the Marshy Center of the Environment Association, the center has begun an ecology school about black - faced spoonbills and a tideland guide program for the residents in 2007.

#### 6) Personnel Organization

·Full - time Employees: 5 (2 for general administration, 2 for the Environment Association, 1 for information desk)

· Resource Activity Group: 9 people from Ganghwa Non - government Organization Volunteer Group, 34 people from Ganghwa Culture Interpretation Group

30 "Tideland School" students

·Partner Groups: Marshy Committee of the Environment Association, Marshy Center of the Environment Association, and Ganghwa NGO

#### 4. Evaluation of Private - Government Cooperation in Terms of Commission Operation\

·Public evaluation of cooperation

1) The agreement specifies the lack of the discussion system between the administrative entity (Ganghwagun) and the environment association, problems with commission, and the formation of the



project promotion committee to establish the the Ganghwa Tideland Center. Until the opening of the center, a few people in charge of practical work held meetings on an irregular basis, but there was still disbelief because of a few problems, such as the absence of the minutes by the Ganghwa province staff in charge or non - fulfillment of the plan.

Even after the Ganghwa Tideland Center was open, there are still a few official issues left because of the absence of meetings and decision - making system to discuss the practical management of the center according to the rules, such as the formation of the operation committee or the practical operation committee.

Furthermore, the agreement says that, as the Ganghwa Tideland Center opens, every part of the work shall be commissioned to the Environment Association. Unfortunately, however, the association has not reviewed it carefully yet and thus were entrusted to programs and training only.

Including

- No regular meetings
- Frequent replacement of civil servants in charge
- Absence of discussions about the budget related to the center

operation

- the Ganghwa Tideland Center in terms of profits
- No financial support for the center operation

2) Lack of functions and cooperation system between the Central Environment Association and the Ganghwa Tideland Center

There have been a lot of changes in the initial determination and status of the central environment association to establish and operate the Ganghwa Tideland Center. (Practically, the status of the staff in charge and the tideland center)

Even before the opening of the center, none of in-depth reviews or discussions were carried out in different aspects on the level of the central execution committee, related committees, and central practical affairs committee of the central environment association. It was a big mistake that only one person was in charge of everything.

This directly links to the current status of the Ganghwa Tideland Center, caused by the center itself failing to remind all the central staff in charge and committee members of the importance of the center

For example, the entire environment association should have held concrete discussions about an issue about 15% of the contribution stated in the building contract and how they should have prepared and supported it.

The evaluation reveals that, since the opening of the center, the staff assigned to the center has not been able to operate smoothly for many reasons like problems in the process of construction, practical conflicts with the Ganghwa province after signing the contract, restrictions on activity conditions, and limited movements, which also caused the management of the environment association to fail to be independent and organized.

### 3) Problems with Working as a Member of the Environment Association of the Ganghwa Tideland Center

Aside from the aforementioned reasons, there are too many restrictions in terms of activity and time and the working conditions are too bad for an activist to do more than simple office work. It should not be overlooked that activists cannot do their own job only because of bad working conditions, even with 10 years of experience

at the environment association. Their incapability might have come from a lot of practical and personal reasons of the Ganghwa province, the central environment association, and the Ganghwa Tideland Center.

## **. Conclusion**

The controversy over the value and roles of tideland has brought national attention to coastal ecosystem, attracting more and more visitors to the tideland areas every year. Despite such positive attention, excessive human invasion on the tideland continuously destroys the coastal ecosystem, which have remain natural for thousands years. Further, it has ruined the functions of the ecosystem.

In many cases, the ecosystem is threatened with destruction, especially in crowded areas, because of the lack of national awareness of the importance of the environment.

For example, Janghwari tideland in Ganghwa used to have a lot of benthos, crustaceans and shellfish a few years ago, so it has small tourist groups traveling to the tideland and doing exploration work, centering environmental organizations and schools. However, only a couple years ago, there was a movement of developing the area into tourism resource, degrading it to a mere tourism spot for children tideland camps and shellfish collections, far from ecological experience.

Such trend of visiting the Ganghwa tideland certainly brought a lot of people without much knowledge about tideland and natural ecosystem, who took away its self-purification and carrying capacity from the tideland and eventually polluted and damaged the tideland ecosystem.

Considering such reality, the roles that the Ganghwa Tideland Center commissioned to the Environment Association can be a solution to preserve the tideland ecosystem and conduct desired ecological

education at the same time. Therefore, the Ganghwa Tideland Center will be able to achieve its own goals and meaning of existence by developing and performing a variety of programs.

Also, the controversial relationship with the Ganghwa province is now in the process of developing into partnership. This will set an example of private - government cooperation in a positive way.



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