

LOCAL ACTION FOR BIODIVERSITY

A SERIES OF LOCAL CASES



Ansan City, Republic of Korea

Creating a city together with citizens where biodiversity is the mainstream.

Summary: Ansan has all kinds of habitats such as forests, wetlands, rivers and oceans for each type of organism, and also many protected species such as those endangered and indigenous. The city, however, also has an old national industrial complex, and the central government is leading large-scale development projects over the long term in the area, and this is feared to cause environmental pollution and threaten biodiversity. Nevertheless, Ansan City is putting efforts to promote environment-friendly ecological policies to become "a global eco-city of the environment and culture."

Ansan's biodiversity vision: City of Forest, Ansan

"Forest City Ansan" is the long-term sustainable vision of the sixth Ansan city government elected by popular vote. As a plan till the year 2030, the vision is for integrated economic and social development to raise the competitiveness and brand of the city based on the environment, and at the same time, the vision is the unique LAB (Local Action for Biodiversity) vision of Ansan in the process of promoting the first year (2015) of ICLEI LAB. By promoting strategies to build an environmental and eco-friendly city where biodiversity is increased, the long-term plan is to create integrated benefits of policies including economic value and higher quality of life.



Photo 1 View of an industrial complex within Ansan
Source: Ansan City

Organizing and operating structure to discuss biodiversity policies: Ansan LAB Committee

As a structure to discuss what policies will become the basic promotion system for biodiversity, Ansan City has organized a LAB committee and discussed the directions of overall policies for biodiversity, as well as their implementation. Centered on the city's community, the organization of the committee saw diverse participation from the city administration, civic groups, Local Agenda 21 and think tanks. Outside experts from national research institutes and universities also took part to add depth to related discussions. The committee will not only discuss policies but also allow the biodiversity policies of Ansan become mainstream policies by actually executing them.

Preparing a framework to diagnose biodiversity: Proposal of Ansan-CBI

As a tool to diagnose biodiversity so that related policies will be promoted continuously and systematically, 'Ansan-CBI' was proposed using the Cities Biodiversity Index (CBI). The index was created through the advice and reviews of activists as well as internal and external experts. Over the model application period, the index will undergo thorough review and supplementation to become more complete. Regular reports will also be published.

Ansan: an eco-city designed by residents

The open conference, which has been promoted step by step, checked the recognition level of Ansan residents toward biodiversity. By selecting the main species and habitats of the city based on resident opinions, the conference allowed the people to grow more familiar with the term "biodiversity," and furthermore, understand the meaning of coexistence.

And based on the blueprints drawn by residents who participated in the open conference, action plans on Ansan's biodiversity were devised and these action plans will be promoted as continuous policies of the city.



Photo Forest City Ansan, Ansancheon Streams
Source: Ansan City

Participation in global initiatives

Ansan City is Korea's first city to promote ICLEI's Local Action for Biodiversity (LAB) Project. By sharing the efforts and accomplishments of promoting diversified policies for Forest City and eco-city Ansan with the world, Ansan will lead the promotion of policies for improving biodiversity in all local governments whose characteristics are similar to Ansan.

City contacts & profile



Ansan is located in the southwest region of Gyeonggi Province. The city is surrounded by low hills and has a coastal industrial complex near the Yellow Sea and Daebu Island with beautiful natural scenery. The area is 149.50km² and population 762,915. The city economy is led by the industrial complex, as well as residents working in agriculture, fishery and tourism. Though the city has all kinds of bio-habitats such as the Reed Marsh Park and Pung Island, its biodiversity is sensitive and threatened by pressure from development projects such as Sihwa District development and Daesong Complex.

Name Cho Hyeon-seon, Head of Team
Division Environmental Policy Division, Ansan City
Email chohs0310@korea.kr
Website <http://www.iansan.net>

