

**Official Event  
Opening Ceremony**

**The 13th World Human Rights Cities Forum  
Congratulatory Remarks**

**JEONG Muchang  
[Chairperson, Gwangju Metropolitan Council]**

I am glad to meet you. I am Jeong Muchang, Chairperson of Gwangju Metropolitan City Council.

It is my great pleasure to host the 13th World Human Rights Cities Forum in Gwangju, the city of democracy, human rights and peace.

I would like to convey my sincere gratitude to the officials of the Gwangju Metropolitan City, UN Human Rights, UNESCO, the National Human Rights Commission of Korea, and the Gwangju Metropolitan Office of Education in working with human rights experts home and abroad.

This year's theme is 'Human Rights Cities Responding to Poverty and Inequalities'. The poverty and inequalities are the most imminent issues that humanity has faced. Especially, since the outbreak of Covid 19, poverty and inequalities have intensified.

Poverty and inequalities are violating the fundamental human rights and human dignity. There are a number of people who can not get access to sufficient foods, healthcare, education, housings and welfare services. The reality in which helpless children hurt the most makes many people heart wrenching.

In order to cope with poverty and inequality, international cooperation is badly needed. I hope this year's forum could successfully raise awareness and provide a venue to seek for concrete solutions.

I hope we would have an opportunity to share experiences and know-hows of best practices around the globe and widely spread good policies of Gwangju Metropolitan City. Therefore, the City Council of Gwangju will be committed to keeping keen interests in the welfare of the socially vulnerable.

Thank you very much.

2023. 10. 4.

Jeong Muchang, Chair of the Gwangju Metropolitan City Council