THE 11TH WORLD HUMAN RIGHTS CITIES FORUM

HUMAN RIGHTS IN TIMES OF CHALLENGE:
A NEW SOCIAL CONTRACT
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02. Greetings
I am pleased to take part in this World Human Rights Cities Forum.


We are facing a perfect storm of challenges.

COVID-19 began as a health emergency.

But we know that the pandemic is also an economic crisis, a humanitarian crisis, and, at heart, a human rights crisis.

The most vulnerable are suffering most.

The pandemic revealed glaring fragilities and deep inequalities in our societies and economies.

The weakness of health care systems.

The inadequacy of social safety nets.

And the erosion of trust – in leaders to serve the people, and in one another to stand in solidarity.

Cities have been particularly affected by the crisis.

They play a central role in building forward together.

Local governments are closest to people and critical to helping shape a New Social Contract – grounded in human rights and human dignity.

I am pleased that this Forum will focus on the human rights-based pandemic response of cities and local governments and solutions to build more inclusive, equal, and resilient societies.

I wish you every success in your discussions and look forward to your contributions.

Together, we can translate global aspirations into local impact and make our cities – and our world – a better, fairer place for all.

Thank you.
Congratulations Remarks

KIM Yong-jyb
Chairperson of Gwangju Metropolitan Council

First and foremost, I would like to offer my heartfelt congratulations for hosting the 11th World Human Rights Cities Forum (WHRCF) in Gwangju, a mecca of democracy and human rights in this time of difficulty caused by the global pandemic.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to deliver my deepest gratitude to human rights experts at home and abroad for their dedication and hard work to protect and promote human rights in everyday life, and also to Gwangju Metropolitan City, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), UNESCO, the Gwangju Metropolitan Office of Education and the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) for their effort to make this event possible.

Today, the humanity is faced with rising inequality and discrimination between different continents, countries and races which have been brought to the surface by the worldwide health threat and climate crisis.

Despite the current challenge, the general agreement that human rights are fundamental and universal should continue to be upheld. In fact, now is time to pay more attention to a human rights based approach to overcome the crisis triggered by the pandemic and renew justice and equity in our daily lives.

This year, the 11th WHRCF is held under the theme of “Human Rights in Times of Challenge: A New Social Contract.” The forum will serve as an invaluable venue to have an in-depth discussion on human rights issues related to the tasks at hand brought about by the global pandemic and explore a number of productive ideas at the local government level to build a resilient community.

I hope you have a fruitful time in this forum to expand the human rights cities network and enhance solidarity among member cities with an aim to create a better post-pandemic world without leaving anyone behind.

Promoting the spirit of sharing and solidarity known as the spirit of Gwangju, the Gwangju Metropolitan Council is committed to engaging in fair and just activities to let the light of Human Rights City of Gwangju illuminate the world.

It is my sincere hope that this forum will help further strengthen peace and human rights across the globe. I wish you fulfilling and successful years ahead.

Thank you.
03. Concept Note
The Background of the 11th WHRCF

Confronted with the global COVID-19 pandemic threatening the rights to life, health, and other human rights, cities have been faced with the challenge continuing their work in protecting and promoting human rights of their citizens. It has had a great impact on humankind, destabilizing everyday life in diverse areas such as economy, local communities, environment, politics, and culture. The pandemic has widened and deepened human rights challenges: increasing unemployment, expanded inequalities and exposed discrimination, uncovered the vulnerability of people such as the elderly and persons with disabilities as well as basic freedoms such as the freedom of expression, assembly and privacy have been severely curtailed. Gender equality is faltering, and in many cases even reversing. Incidents of racial hate and scapegoating have increased over the past year and there has been an upsurge in racial violence, including racial violence. In the cracks created and widened by Covid, the social and cultural dimensions of inequalities have made themselves clear, as well as the links between these inequalities and discrimination.

The pandemic has affected all continents and regions, and the ways forward depends strongly on the protection of human rights and public services’ response facing the challenges. Local and regional governments are at the front line to respond to these challenges and build the cities and communities of tomorrow. There is a need to examine existing institutional, legal, and informal frameworks that create opportunities for, and barriers to, inclusion, and which can help to explain the successes of anti-racism and anti-discrimination agendas. Local and regional governments play a crucial role in fostering solidarity and creating opportunities to make civil society come together and to contribute to the resilience of communities, while re-inventing a new social contract based on human rights principles and participation.

However, the current situation has not resolved previous crises. While humankind is facing huge health issues, climate change still represents one of the most important threats to the very foundation of life on planet earth. While building forward fairer from the Covid crisis, the climate challenges may further aggravate inequalities and divides at global, national, and local levels. Thus, the agenda of the future has to combine these two mega challenges in order to ensure human rights of present and future generations. As recovery strategies and reconstructions plans are being developed, the implementation of sustainable development models realizing human rights is more than ever a priority that should be at the center of all government’s response. Here is a chance to ensure that the post-Covid world is one that is built back better, one in which no one gets left behind.

The Goals and the Theme

The theme of the 11th World Human Rights Cities Forum (hereinafter the ‘Forum’) is Human Rights in Times of Challenge: A New Social Contract. The universal understanding that human rights are the basic values and principles of life faces no exception even in the face of crisis. Accordingly, human rights-based approaches are today even more urgently needed in order to overcome crises and rebuild a fairer version of everyday life.

In this regard, the 11th Forum aims to comprehensively examine the human rights issues inherent in the current profound challenges brought about by the pandemic and harvest the lessons learned. The 11th Forum will explore how human rights policies developed by local and regional governments over the past twenty years can build and inspire the development of a new social contract embracing all human rights including non-discrimination and equality.

In the attempts to build forward fairer, cities will play a key role. Without a profound commitment by local governments, the ills of our societies so clearly unmasked and accentuated by the COVID-19 crisis will be deepened in years to come. The WHRCF will contribute to the understanding of the challenges and explore the ways for human rights cities to build resilient communities.

Main Agendas

Focusing on the following four points, the Forum will gather the thoughts and wisdom of the forum participants: Politicians, local government officials, human rights activists, academics, and representatives of international human rights bodies.

First, the Forum will identify key issues such as universal health care, social protection, adequate housing, education, gender equality, non-discrimination etc. all of which, if they had been addressed by authorities, would have permitted a better handling of the Covid pandemic.

Second, the Forum intends to find human rights-based solutions for local governments to cope with short-term and long-term challenges by sharing insights and practical experiences at local level.

Third, the Forum will discuss the ways of promoting awareness of human rights of local government officials, youth, and citizens through training and education.

Fourth, the Forum will promote solidarity among human rights cities by exploring ways to strengthen the international human rights movement and to reinforce the dialogue with UN and regional mechanisms towards the realization of human rights protection.
## 04. Program

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October 6th: Pre-Forum

10:00-16:00
03:00-09:00 (CET)

PRE1: Human Rights Paper Presentation

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<tr>
<td>Theme</td>
<td>Human Rights Cities’ Responses to the COVID-19 Pandemic: Localization of Human Rights Based Solutions for the Development of Inclusive Societies</td>
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<td>Organizers</td>
<td>Raoul Wallenberg Institute (RWI), Chonnam National University Education and Research Program for Fostering Cultural Memory Curators, Gwangju International Center</td>
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Moderator
Robert Grotpeter [USA]
Former Professor of Chonnam National University English Literature Department

Speakers
- Mary Levine [USA] Researcher of Center for the Study of Humanitarian Law at RULE
- Stefanny Justino [Colombia] LLM of Northeastern University School of Law
- Pilar Espinosa [Mexico] Founder of Radiografias por Mexico
- Michelle C. Castillo [The Philippines] Researcher of UPNCFAG Center for Local and Regional Governance
- Marie Chan-Tayo [The Philippines] Researcher of UPNCFAG Center for Local and Regional Governance
- Alicia B. Celestino [The Philippines] Assistant Professor of UP National College of Public Administration and Governance
- Kristoffer Berse [The Philippines] Director of University of the Philippines Resilience Institute
- Don Jeffrey Quebral [The Philippines] Researcher of UP National College of Public Administration and Governance

Part 2

Moderator
KIM Seonghoon [Korea]
Professor of Chonnam National University English Literature Department

Speakers
- Shahnavaz [Pakistan] Doctoral Student of Sogang University
- Boravin Tann [Cambodia] Lecturer of Royal University of Law and Economics
- Sophorn Tuy [Cambodia] Researcher of Center for the Study of Humanitarian Law at RULE
- Giovanni Hutaurok [Indonesia] Student of Lampung University
- Iwan Sulisty [Indonesia] Lecturer of Lampung University
- Khoirunnisa Indah Cahayani [Indonesia] Student of Lampung University
- Zid Fransisco [Indonesia] Student of Lampung University

Part 3

Moderator
KIM Youngmin [Korea]
Professor of Chonnam National University English Literature Department

Speakers
- Md. Saimum Talukder [Bangladesh] Senior Lecturer of BRAC University School of Law
- Joanna Arriola [The Philippines] Communication Strategist of WiseOwl Management Consultancy
- Michaela Ortega [The Philippines] Communication Manager of WiseOwl Management Consultancy
- Alireza Azadfar [Iran] Researcher of Sistan and Baluchestan University

Part 4

Moderator
Alejandro Fuentes [Argentina] Senior Researcher of Raoul Wallenberg Institute

Speakers
- Livia Perschy [Austria] Junior Researcher of European Training and Research Centre for HR and Democracy
- Emma Lennhammer [Sweden] Postgraduate Student in Human Rights Law of Bristol University
- Tatenda Kerina Zvobgo [Zimbabwe] Legal Intern of Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum
- Lynnet Phiri [Zimbabwe] Legal Projects Associate of Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum

13:00-15:00
06:00-08:00 (CET)

PRE2: Human Rights Cities and Public Diplomacy

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<td>Theme</td>
<td>Human Rights Cities and Local Government Public Diplomacy (City Diplomacy) – Current Status and Future Challenges</td>
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<td>Organizers</td>
<td>The Korean Association for Public Diplomacy</td>
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Moderator
SONG Jinho [Korea] Board Member of Pyeongchang Peace Foundation

Congratulatory Remarks
SHIN Hochang [Korea] President of the Korean Association for Public Diplomacy

Speakers
- KIM Joongseop [Korea] Professor Emeritus of Gyeongsang National University Sociology Department
- Anselmo Lee [Korea] Senior Researcher of Kyung Hee University Global Academy for Future Civilizations

Discussants
- JEONG Gyuunglok [Korea] Head of Human Rights Exchange Team of Gwangju Metropolitan City Democracy and Human Rights Division
- LEE Kibong [Korea] Secretary-General of the May 18 Memorial Foundation
- YI Minhong [Korea] Director of Ministry of Foreign Affairs Public Diplomacy Division
- KIM Taekyoung [Korea] Professor of Seoul National University Graduate School of International Studies

16:00-17:30
09:00-10:30 (CET)

PRE3: WHRFC Opening Concert: Human for Human

Contents
This year's opening concert of the World Human Rights Cities Forum, focusing on the theme of "human", will provide a ground for international exchange through classical music performances by Korean and international musicians living in Gwangju. We hope to turn the crisis COVID-19 has brought to our society into an opportunity to work together to protect and strengthen the human rights of people all around the world, as well as to create safer and healthier societies.

Organizer
Gwangju International Center

16:00-18:00
09:00-11:00 (CET)

PRE4: UNESCO City Art Lab

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<tr>
<td>Theme</td>
<td>City Art Lab: Cities Promoting Human Rights through Art</td>
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<td>Organizers</td>
<td>UNESCO Asia-Pacific Coalition of Cities Against Discrimination (UNESCO APCAD), Gwangju International Center</td>
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Moderators
Sue Vize
[Regional Adviser for Social and Human Sciences in Asia and the Pacific of UNESCO] Amina Hamshari [UNESCO Programme Specialist]

Speakers
- Fabricio de Jesus Bawabdamutima [Democratic Republic of Congo] Konga Drama Company Coordinator and Artistic Director
- Grisana Punpeng [Thailand] Chairperson of the Undergraduate International Program at the Faculty of Communication Arts in Chulalongkorn University
- Osman Khawaja [Pakistan] Executive Director of Phase Ponieul Selpak
- JIO Hong [Korea] Curator of Mayhall
- PARK Taesang [Korea] Gwangju DREAMERS Community Representative
### October 6th: Pre-Forum

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<tr>
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<td>PRES: Localizing Human Rights with SDGs - Voluntary Local Review (VLR)</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>Promoting Human Rights with SDGs Locally - Localizing the SDG 16 Plus</td>
<td>Asia Democracy Network (ADN), Asia Civil Society Partnership for Sustainable Development (APSD), Asia Development Alliance (ADA), Civil Society Development Association (ARGO), International NGO Forum on Indonesian Development (INFID)</td>
<td>Anselmo Lee (Korea) Regional Coordinator of Asia Civil Society Partnership for Sustainable Development (APSD)</td>
<td>Ichal Supriadi [Thailand] Secretary-General of Asia Democracy Network (ADN)</td>
<td>Bernadia Tjandra Dewi [Indonesia] Secretary-General of UCLG ASPAC, Joshua Cooper [USA] CEO of the GOOD Group, Sugeng Bahagio [Indonesia] Director of International NGO Forum On Indonesian Development (INFID), Arjun Bhattrai [Nepal] Deputy Secretary-General of NGO Federation of Nepal (NFN), OH Soogil [Korea] Professor of the Cyber University of Korea</td>
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Human Rights Paper Presentation

Human Rights Cities’ Responses to the COVID-19 Pandemic:
Localization of Human Rights-based-solutions for the Development of Inclusive Societies

Cities are rising. More than half of the world’s population currently lives in urban areas, a figure that is expected to increase to 68% by 2050. In order to meet the many challenges that will arise as a direct result of this upward trajectory, cities are claiming new roles in governance by positioning themselves as Human Rights Cities, Cities of Refuge, Climate-friendly cities, or cities that work towards the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Within this conceptual framework, the 2021 WHRCF will focus on the theme of “Human Rights in Times of Challenge: A New Social Contract”, paying special attention to the effects generated by the global COVID-19 pandemic at local and regional levels. The contribution of cities and local governments gained a central relevance in dealing with these socio-economic effects generated by the COVID-19 pandemic. In fact, local authorities faced and are still facing everyday challenges in finding an adequate balance between the protection of public health and the respect of fundamental rights and freedom.

Cities are essential components in the implementation of the UN SDGs. For instance, SDG No. 11 calls for making cities and urban settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable, in order to deal with “acute challenges in managing rapid urbanization — from ensuring adequate housing and infrastructure to support growing populations, to confronting the environmental impact of urban sprawl, [and] to reducing vulnerability to disasters.” The intersection between the SDGs and human rights provides a unique opportunity to guide priority-setting, decision-making, and policy implementation in cities. In fact, as defined by the Gwangju Declaration (2011), a human rights city is “both a local community and a socio-political process in a local context where human rights play a key role as fundamental values and guiding principles”.

Human Rights Cities and Public Diplomacy

Human Rights Cities and Local Government Public Diplomacy (City Diplomacy)
Current Status and Future Challenges

The trajectory of the World Human Rights Cities Forum (WHRCF) for the past decade is recognized as the living history and ‘successful’ example of the international solidarity among cities based on human rights and expansion of human rights cities.

Systematically reflecting on such experiences from the standpoint of the public diplomacy for local municipal governments (i.e. ‘city diplomacy’) and seeking future development roadmap is a pivotal task in order to enhance the effectiveness of international cooperation projects of other local governments in Korea.

It would be particularly meaningful to make comparisons with other local international forums including the Jeju Forum, Busan Democracy Forum, P’yongyang Peace Forum, and DMZ Forum to understand their strengths and areas to improve and accordingly devise mid-to-long term development roadmap would greatly contribute to the growth of city diplomacy in Korea.

It is also critical to cooperate with the Korean Association for Public Diplomacy to theorize and spread the discourse of local public diplomacy so that such issues are reflected in the next administration’s government agenda, and eventually pave the way for a systematic enhancement of local public diplomacy.

Furthermore, based on such experiences and theorization, we intend to explore the possibilities of developing and introducing professional expert training course in the field of local government public diplomacy.

The upcoming World Human Rights Cities Forum marks the 5th forum on local government public diplomacy organized this year by the Korean Association for Public Diplomacy. Building on from previous discussions, it will focus on the current status and challenges of human rights cities and local governments (cities) public diplomacy.
Human Rights Cities in Korea and Other Countries

KIM Joongseop
Professor Emeritus of Gyeongsang National University Sociology Department

There are three main aspects to the institutionalization of human rights cities in Korea. The first aspect involves establishing ordinances, a legislative element of human rights implementation. As of September 2021, all of the 17 metropolitan and provincial governments and 108 out of 226 municipalities (47.8%) have a human rights ordinance in place. The percentage of local governments having such an ordinance is higher in urban areas than in their rural counterparts. Human rights ordinances include those for the disabled, immigrants, youths, janitors at multi-family housing, people engaging in emotional labor, and infectious disease patients.

The second aspect is the formation of a commission at local governments to deal with human rights issues. All of the 17 metropolitan and provincial governments have established a human rights commission whereas only 46 out of the 226 municipalities (20.4%) have formed such a commission (as of September 2019). When it comes to municipalities with a human rights ordinance, only 46 of them (43%) have formed a human rights commission.

The final aspect is the establishment of a dedicated unit such as an administrative department for human rights or a human rights center. All of the 17 metropolitan and provincial governments have formed a human rights department, whereas only 17 municipalities have such a department in place (as of September 2019). In addition, all of the 17 metropolitan and provincial governments have created a human rights plan but only 36 municipalities have done so.

The progress toward becoming a human rights city varies greatly among local governments in different regions. While some local governments take the lead on the implementation front, it appears that human rights have not been mainstreamed in many regions. Against this backdrop, the Consultative Council of Local Government Human Rights Commissions and the National Consultative Council for Human Rights Cities have strengthened their efforts to promote solidarity. The sharing of information and ideas on future directions at the Korea Human Rights Conference, the Jeju Human Rights Conference, the World Human Rights Cities Forum (WHRCF) in Gwangju, and the Seoul Human Rights Conference have contributed to the movement for growing human rights cities that transcend regions, groups, and nations. (Further details are omitted here.)

World Human Rights Cities Forum and the Public Diplomacy of Local Autonomous Entities (Cities)

Anselmo Lee
Senior Researcher of Kyung Hee University Global Academy for Future Civilizations

The World Human Rights Cities Forum (WHRCF) has advanced both in quality and quantity over the last 11 years since its inception in 2011 as Gwangju’s globalization strategy for human rights cities. This abstract analyzes the developments from the perspective of public diplomacy and shares their implications.

From the perspective of public diplomacy, the WHRCF is characterized by city diplomacy of local autonomous entities and value diplomacy that involves human rights at the subject level, and leadership in agenda setting, the establishment of standards and international practice mechanisms in terms of its roles in global governance.

In particular, the WHRCF has established itself as a multilateral platform for discourse and cooperation where not only central government ministries and public agencies, but also various international organizations and NGOs participate, thanks to co-hosts, co-organizers, sponsorships and collaborations, all under the leadership of the city of Gwangju.

In its early days, the WHRCF introduced discourse on human rights cities to Korea and the world by defining and systematizing human rights cities. At the same time, it allowed local autonomous entities in Korea and around the world and relevant organizations to share their experience in building human rights cities. The WHRCF also served as a catalyst in proposing human rights cities as an agenda to the United Nations Human Rights Council and establishing relevant standards.

From the perspective of the subject and agenda, the WHRCF is at levels 2.0-4.0 of human rights diplomacy.

Implications and Suggestions from the Perspective of Public Diplomacy
1. The WHRCF can be analyzed as a public diplomacy model of the Korean government in the field of human rights.
2. The knowledge and experience accumulated through the WHRCF need to be linked to tangible advances in human rights that can be felt by the citizens of Gwangju.
3. The WHRCF needs to be expanded beyond an annual event to connect with campaigns and projects throughout the year (the capacity building of public servants of local autonomous entities in Korea, etc.).
4. The forum can serve as a venue that grows domestic campaigns and projects into ODA projects for human rights by local autonomous entities in developing countries.

* Original copy of materials is available on the official website: (www.whrcf.org)
Cities Promoting Human Rights through Art

Fabrice don de Dieu Bwabulamutima
Kongo Drama Company Coordinator and Artistic Director

My presentation will be divided into three parts:

First, a brief presentation of my background and of the city of Kinshasa, capital of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Second, I will share the experience of two artistic projects whose implementation touches on the issue of human rights, they are:

- REFUGEES ON THE MOVE a project whose beneficiaries are mainly refugees. It deals with identity reconstruction, peaceful cohabitation and better living between refugees and indigenous people.

- WANGU MUTOTO NI MALI, a project that denounces accusations of witchcraft by pastors, child abuse, human dignity and the promotion of the law on the protection of children in DR Congo.

The images, photos and videos completing my presentation which ends with a word on the UNESCO Art-Lab program which aims to promote the practice of the arts in humanitarian aid and especially on social inclusion and the right to man.

I will end with a word on the first UNESCO Art-Lab workshop recently organized in Yaoundé, Cameroon for the development of the pilot project, I participated as an international expert to share our experience with the artists and other participants.

※ Original copy of materials is available on the official website. (www.whrcf.org)
Exploring the Intersection of Creative City and Human Rights Policies for Sustainable Urban Development

Grisana Punpeng
Chairperson of the Undergraduate International Program at the Faculty of Communication Arts in Chulalongkorn University

Many countries around the world believe that the development of the creative economy should start by making cities more creative. Cities are seen as actors and partners in socioeconomic and cultural development, connecting diverse communities and stakeholders through collaborative initiatives in the creative industries. With economic growth as the main goal, creative city policies seem to diverge significantly from those belonging to human rights cities, that focus on people, their rights, needs and values. Using the guiding principles and the Cities, Culture, and Creativity Framework (the CCC Framework), created by UNESCO in collaboration with the World Bank, as a basis for discussion, this paper aims to situate and amplify human rights policies and practices within the CCC Framework. From the perspective of this contribution, cities looking to translate culture and creativity into sustainable urban development could build a coalition of governmental and non-governmental actors that effectively and efficiently generate economic growth and promote human rights practices.

Impacting Social Issues and Transforming Lives and Communities through the Arts

Osman Khawaja
Executive Director of Phare Ponleu Selpak

From its founding in 1994 Phare Ponleu Selpak has been using arts to address various human rights. Accessibility to its programs has been a core value from the start, making specific efforts to make education and arts programming accessible to those with vulnerable socioeconomic backgrounds.

As part of its social impact education, the students at Phare use their skills in forum theater and social circus to participate in projects to address social issues with the communities. Over the years Phare students have reached thousands of people through their performances and art activities creating spaces for public dialogue around issues rarely addressed.

From circus performances raising awareness around HIV/AIDS to participatory theatre performances involving communities addressing domestic violence and gender issues to using artistic activities for rehabilitation of drug addicts, Phare has been promoting inclusion, justice and social cohesion. The case study presentation will highlight some of these projects past and present.
Cities Promoting Human Rights through Art

JOO Hong
Curator of Mayhall

I am an artist of Gwangju, a native of the city. I am proud to call the May 18 Democracy Square a beacon for democracy.

Here, we perform art to speak out against threats to democracy and human rights. To make a better world, we paint and dance and light candles together.

In May 1980, Gwangju citizens gave their lives resisting the military junta. We proudly carry on their legacy today. The Myanmar coup reminded us of our past, and spurred us to stand with their people through art, furthering an alliance of international democracy.

Our democracy was built on the blood of our people. When we bled in 1980, people across the world supported our cause. We depict these acts of solidarity with our artworks. And today, we stand with our friends overseas resisting dictatorship, and carry on the spirit of democracy through art.

Global warming is another crisis we face. Whales wash ashore with bellies full of plastics and nets. COVID-19, too, stems from the rampant destruction of the environment.

Japan continues to cover up nuclear contamination from Fukushima, making the horrifying decision to release nuclear waste into the sea.

These environmental disasters are all connected to human rights. They stem from greedy decisions made by the powerful few. That is why we perform on-site demonstrations.

Korea endured Japanese imperial occupation, WWII, the Korean War, and brutal military dictatorships. Through those times, Gwangju stood against acts of tyranny.

I perform at the sites of these atrocities to bring healing, in hopes that history will not repeat itself. That human rights violations may never occur again.

I am honored to be given a chance to speak today. Thank you very much.

Cities Promoting Human Rights through Art

PARK Taesang
Gwangju DREAMERS Community Representative

The massacre of citizens by the military government in May 1980 awoke the people of Korea, and the yearning for restoring democracy and human rights silently permeated the heart of each and every citizen. The ensuing continuous resistance and struggle enabled the Korean people to establish democracy on their own, which meant the victory of the May 1980 Gwangju Uprising. As a city where people risked their lives to protect the lives of others and a city that refused to give in and triumphed in the end, Gwangju inspires the democratization and human rights movements of countries in Asia. It also instills in global citizens the belief that the desire of people for universal human values eventually prevails.

The importance of culture-based citizens’ alliance in global democratization and human rights movements that experience frustration and failure due to ideological, geopolitical, and political limitations

Even when humanity’s universal values are undermined, human rights are violated, or the common good is destroyed, countries around the world make the wrong decision to remain silent or look the other way, prioritizing their own interests over the protection of such values. It is the mandate and responsibility of the cultural and artistic community to remind global citizens of universal human values and ask questions continuously.

The DREAMERS has grown from the seeds of universal human values and has been nurtured by the spiritual soil of Gwangju. (Further details are omitted here.)
Localizing Human Rights with SDGs - Voluntary Local Review (VLR)

Promoting Human Rights with SDGs Locally: Localizing the SDG 16 Plus

The Session on "Localizing Human Rights with SDGs – Voluntary Local Review (VLR)" is a joint initiative of the Asia Civil Society Partnership for Sustainable Development (APSD) in partnership with the Asia Democracy Network (ADN), Asia Development Alliance (ADA), ARCO, International Forum on Indonesian Development (INFID), United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) Asia-Pacific, Sustainable Development Solution Network (SDSN)-Korea, and Local Sustainability Alliance of Korea (LSAK) at the 11th World Human Rights Cities Forum (WHRFC) held in Gwangju in a hybrid manner on 6 to 8 Oct. 2021.

It aims at promoting the SDGs locally through human rights-based approach with the specific objectives, i) Setting the agenda of integrating and localizing SDGs with human rights through the SDG 16+ approach, ii) Promoting networking among CSOs engaged in SDGs and human rights locally in Asia and iii) Developing discourse and tools on integration of SDGs, human rights and democracy at the local level.

It is a widely shared wisdom that localizing SDGs through human rights-based approach is a key for successful implementation of the UN Decade of Action to Deliver the SDGs by 2030 in the context of the response to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. At the same time, participatory democracy and citizen participation in local governance are also key for effective response and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and human rights-based approach need to guide the recovery process. In this regard, participatory budgeting system can be a good example for participatory and inclusive local governance.

Human rights city has played a leading role in promoting human rights locally but faces challenges in effectively improving citizens’ lives – economically, socially and environmentally through human rights-based approach.

In this regard, the human rights city agenda needs to be linked to and aligned with the SDGs at the local level, especially through the SDG 16 Plus approach. Civil society organizations (CSO) can and should play a catalyst role in promoting the SDGs locally with human rights through the SDG 16+ approach in line with the human rights city agenda and initiatives in partnership with local governments.

The proposed session is the first step for jointly exploring the possibility of independent Voluntary Local Review (VLR) and/or Voluntary Sub-national Review (VSR) of the SDGs implementation in partnership between the UCLG ASPAC and CSOs in Asia.

Global Charter-Agenda for Human Rights in the City

Asia-Pacific Region Consultation on the Charter-Agenda for Human Rights in the City: Local Experiences and Perspectives on Human Rights

Human rights have played an ever-increasing role in local government agendas and regional cooperation dynamics in Asia over the last decades.

The Asian Human Rights Charter adopted in Gwangju in 1998 was a key landmark for Asian human rights activists in the region. It symbolized an unprecedented effort by regional stakeholders to not only look at human rights from a specific, Asian perspective, but to explore also alternative pathways for the effective promotion and implementation of human rights.

This crucial initiative, which was particularly marked by key events such as the advance of democratization in countries like South Korea or Indonesia and the Asian financial crisis, ultimately laid the foundations of the human rights cities’ movement in Asia.

The Asia consultation on the update process of the UCLG Global Charter-Agenda for Human Rights in the City will be held on the occasion of the 11th WHRFC in Gwangju. It will focus on assessing the latest developments of the human rights cities’ movement in Asia in the light of more than two decades of action. It will gather inputs from local leaders and human rights defenders to explore the region’s specificities, lessons learnt and key messages for policymaking and advocacy.

It will focus on local government and civil society initiatives, as well as successful multi-level cooperation schemes. As a result, it hopes to bring all these valuable inputs to the UCLG process of updating the Global Charter-Agenda 10 years after its adoption, towards the establishment of a new roadmap on human rights by local governments and local human rights defenders.

The process to gather inputs for the Global Charter-Agenda for Human Rights in the City update is led by the UCLG Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights (CSIDHR). On the occasion of WHRFC, the Committee seeks to highlight Asian actors’ contribution to the human rights cities’ movement: A key region set to play a fundamental role in shaping the global understanding and roadmap on human rights which UCLG aspires to articulate.
UNESCO ICCAR
Global Steering Committee Panel
Solidarity and Resilience at the Heart of Cities’ Actions in the Context of COVID-19

In the long and arduous work of shifting global paradigms and changing mindsets to create a world in which racism and discrimination are problems of the past, cities have proven to be critical and immensely valuable global actors and partners. In the midst of the many crises caused or exacerbated by Covid-19, cities have come together in solidarity to craft social commitments and contracts that have proven monumental in what they can achieve. Additionally, these demonstrations of solidarity have shown to contribute greatly to a city’s resilience and ability to both stay strong in times of difficulty, but also to grow and improve. This plenary meeting is proposed as an opportunity to celebrate solidarity, resilience, and efforts made by and between cities in this global fight against racism and discrimination, as well as to share best practices for future partnerships and programmes in the “next normal”.

Messaging around solidarity and global commitment at the level of cities is not just uplifting discourse but has proven to be crucial. The current global context has highlighted how solidarity among humanity is a key component of response and recovery to crises, and an essential component in the new normal. And with the resilience that accompanies solidarity comes the strength and space to respond quickly and effectively and build back even better than before.

UNESCO’s International Coalition of Inclusive and Sustainable Cities (ICCAR), has been aiming to put the spotlight on global solidarity and collaboration to promote inclusive urban development free from all forms of discrimination. The Coalition was launched by UNESCO in 2004 following the call made for a common front in the global fight against racial discrimination. Since its inception, ICCAR has developed into an active global front against racism and discriminations with over 500 members across the globe. ICCAR stands out as a unique city-level platform in the UN system and in the international community that tackles a wide range of initiatives including policymaking, capacity-building and awareness-raising activities. Studying the movements of ICCAR members since the start of the pandemic highlights exactly the types of resilience and responses to the “next normal” that this plenary session hopes to address. (Further details are omitted here.)

* Original copy of materials is available on the official website. (www.unicef.org)
October 7th: Day 1

13:00-15:00
N1: UNESCO APCAD Meeting

Language: Korean, English
Theme: Sharing of APCAD Progress of the Year with APCAD Members
Organizers: UNESCO Asia-Pacific Coalition of Cities Against Discrimination (UNESCO APCAD), Gwangju Metropolitan City
Moderator: Sue Vize [Regional Adviser for Social and Human Sciences in Asia and the Pacific of UNESCO]
Opening: LEE Yong-sup [Korea]
Remarks: Mayor of Gwangju Metropolitan City
Facilitator: SHIN Gyungju [Korea]
Speakers: Benedetto Zacchiroli [President of European Coalition of Cities Against Racism (ECCAR)], Soekrisman [Indonesia] Board of Trustees member of Bitter Indonesia, YOO Hae-sook [Korea] Director of Incheon Metropolitan City Social Service Division, Alan Brown [Republic of South Africa] Research Professor of Chonnam National University Center for Regional Development

13:30-18:00
H1: Local Governments Ombudsman Workshop

Language: Korean, English
Theme: Establishing a cooperative system among local officials in charge of HR protection and strengthening their capabilities of consultation and investigation
Lecturer: Shams Asadi [Austria] Head of Human Rights Office of Vienna City, SHIN Mi-young [Korea] Head of Counselling Office, Life Academy

14:00-15:30
N2: Korean Human Rights Cities Council Workshop

Language: Korean
Theme: Human Rights Cities - How far have we come and How will we move forward?
Organizers: Korean Human Rights Cities Council
Moderator: LEE Dong-jin [Korea] Mayor of Seoul Metropolitan Government Dobong-gu Office

14:00-15:30
E1: Youth TALK

Language: English
Theme: Tackling the Climate Crisis in Building a Sustainable and Resilient Cities for the Future
Organizer: Raoul Wallenberg Institute, ASEAN Youth Forum

14:00-16:00
N3: Local Government Human Rights Commission Workshop

Language: Korean
Theme: The Role of Local Human Rights Commissions in Strengthening Local Governments Human Rights Education
Organizers: Gwangju Metropolitan City, Jeollabuk-do Provincial Office
Moderator: SEOL Donghun [Korea] Chairperson of Jeollabuk-do Human Rights Commission
Speaker: YOON Daekil [Korea] Human Rights Chairperson of Incheon Human Rights Commission

17:30-18:00
11:30-12:00
O1: Opening Ceremony

Language: Korean, English
Opening: Media Art, “Tree of Light” by JIN SIYON
Performance: LEE Yong-sup [Korea] Mayor of Gwangju Metropolitan City
Remarks: Mayor of Gwangju Metropolitan City
Congratulatory Remarks: Antônio Guterres [Secretary-General of the United Nations]
Remarks: KIM Yong-jib [Korea] Chairperson of Gwangju Metropolitan Council
Keynote Speech: Michelle Bachelet [UN High Commissioner for Human Rights]
Speech: Gabriela Ramos [Assistant Director-General of Social and Human Sciences at UNESCO]

18:00-19:30
12:00-13:30
O2: Roundtable

Language: Korean, English
Organizers: WHRFC Organizing Committee
Moderator: KIM Jongseop [Korea] Chair of WHRFC Planning Committee
### October 7th: Day 1

#### P1: Plenary Session 1

**Language**
- Korean, English, French, Spanish

**Theme**
- Human Rights Principles to “Build Forward Fairer”: From Local Policies to Collective Actions

**Organizers**
- UCLG-CISDP, UN Human Rights, Gwangju Metropolitan City

**Opening Remarks**
- Nada Al-Nashif [UN Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights]
- Emilia Salz [Spain] Secretary-General of UCLG

**Moderator**
- Bernardia Tjandra Dewi [Indonesia] Secretary-General of UCLG ASPAC

**Speakers**
- KIM Seung-su [Korea] Mayor of Jeonju City
- Linda Voortman [The Netherlands] Deputy Mayor of Utrecht City
- Pedro del Cura [Spain] Mayor of Vila da Pena, Madrid City
- Mounir Eloumi [Tunisia] Mayor of Sfax City
- Noraini Roslan [Malaysia] Mayor of Subang Jaya City

**Moderator**
- Amanda Flyt Martinez [Spain] Coordinator of UCLG-CISDP

**Speakers**
- Shams Asadi [Austria] Director of Human Rights Office, Vienna City
- Veronique Lamontagne [Canada] Director of International Relations Office, Montreal City
- Jaime Morales [Mexico] Human Rights Director of Mexico City
- Anabel Rodriguez [Spain] Director of Human Rights Office, Barcelona City
- Fernando Collizzioli [Argentina] Director of International Relations, Qalans City

#### S1: Violence against Women

**Language**
- Korean, English, French, Spanish, Arabic

**Theme**
- Realizing the Right to the City for All: Local Governments Fighting Violences against Women

**Organizers**
- UCLG-CISDP, Seine-Saint-Denis Council, Gwangju International Center

**Opening Remarks**
- Amanda Flyt Martinez [Spain] Coordinator of UCLG-CISDP

**Keynote Speech**
- Reem Alsalem [UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women]
- Stéphane Troussel [France] President of the Seine Saint Denis Department Council

**Moderator**
- Rodrigo Mesias [Spain] UCLG Women Policy Officer

**Discussants**
- Gissela Chaí [Ecuador] Councillor of Quito City Council
- Annie Chrystel Limbourg [Gabon] Deputy Mayor of Libreville
- Fabiana Goyeneche [Uruguay] Director of International Relations and Cooperation Government of Montevideo

**Speaker**
- Ernestine Ronal [France]

**Moderator**
- Magali Fracquet [France] Director of International Relations at Seine Saint Denis Departmental Council

**Discussants**
- Al Sadi Faya [Palestinian] Mayor of Jenin City
- Sitti Farouata Mhoudine [Comoros] Governor of Ngazidja

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### UNESCO APCAD Meeting

Sharing of APCAD Progress of the Year with APCAD Members

The Asia Pacific Coalition of Cities Against Discrimination (APCAD), a regional network under the International Coalition of Inclusive and Sustainable Cities (ICCAR), was relaunched at the 10th WHRCF in 2020 and the new Ten-Point Plan of Action endorsed. Gwangju City was confirmed as interim Chair and tasked with further development of the network and implementation of activities in partnership with UNESCO. Since October 2020 APCAD has focused on building membership and outreach. The actions of APCAD remain hampered by the pandemic, however, steps have been taken to start building APCAD activities through communication with members and projects to strengthen social inclusion in cities.

The occasion of the the 11th WHRCF will be used to present to members progress for the year. This includes the APCAD website, APCAD newsletter and City Policy Brief series. Gwangju International Center partnered with UNESCO to design a City Social Inclusion Marker System and outcomes of the expert consultation on this will be presented. Members will be up-dated on global activities through ICCAR.
Sharing of APCAD Progress of the Year with APCAD Members

Sue Vize
Regional Adviser for Social and Human Sciences in Asia and the Pacific of UNESCO

The Coalition of Cities against Discrimination in Asia and the Pacific (APCAD) was officially launched at the “Regional Conference of Cities for an Inclusive Urban Society” held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 3 to 4 August 2006, with the support of the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration, United Cities and Local Governments Asia-Pacific, and UNESCO. The long-term objective of APCAD is to provide local authorities with an operational program that will allow a more efficient implementation of policies for a greater social inclusion of their city dwellers in the full respect of their human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural or any other field of public life. In partnership with lead city Gwangju, APCAD will hold an annual meeting of its members on the occasion of the 11th World Human Rights Cities Forum. This meeting will provide updates on regional and global activities, share city practices on inclusion and agree on key priorities for the network for the coming year.

Sustainable, Inclusive Cities Development, New Hope of False Promise?

Soekirman
Board of Trustees member of BIItra Indonesia

The North Sumatra province, with Medan city being its capital, was determined as the third biggest city in Indonesia after Jakarta and Surabaya. The population of North Sumatra province is around 14,56 million inhabitants (2019), while Medan is occupied by 2,3 million inhabitants (2019). Medan urban population is projected to grow up to 2,966,000 inhabitants until the year 2034. Consequently, the city is facing numerous problems such as economic growth, social disharmony, lack of public leisure spaces, etc. Medan shares borders with Deli Serdang Regency on the east, south, and west, and straight with Malacca on the north, which makes the city’s location strategically good for the economy. Medan is a gateway to the western part of Indonesia, where Belawan port and Kuala Namu International Airport are located. Medan was dubbed as “Parijs van Soematra” by the Dutch due to the city’s resemblance to Paris. Medan, being a historical city, has a public property called Lapangan Merdeka (or Merdeka Park), which has existed since the Dutch colonial era in 1880. Many historical testimonials took place in Merdeka Park, also called “de Esplanade of Medan”, such as the place of the first pilot’s landing to Medan on November 22, 1924, and the venue of the first independent day ceremony of Indonesia of North Sumatra territory on October 6, 1945. In general, Medan city can’t be separated from Merdeka Park, and the existence of Merdeka Park needs to be conserved as Cultural Heritage.

Like other cities in Indonesia, Medan also fosters intensive development in almost all fields, such as social politics, economy, and culture. The local government puts efforts to achieve goals like the quality of life and welfare of the citizens, both through their vision and mission. To follow the dynamic development of international civilization, the international policy of cities development has also been adjusted, as stated in the Human Rights Council Resolution 39/7, and Inclusive development pattern. Despite everything, the local government offers cooperation between local government and local stakeholders for promotion and protection of human rights at the local level through local government programmes, including raising awareness on the Sustainable Development Goals. (Further details are omitted here.)
Incheon Welfare Standard: Policy that Engages all its citizens

YOO Hae-sook
Director of Incheon Metropolitan City Social Service Division

The Incheon Welfare Standard is a quintessential engagement policy of Incheon Metropolitan City, guaranteeing social security to all its citizens. It is a human rights policy that sets the standard for income, healthcare, education, housing, and care - all necessary for citizens to live with human decency.

The UN Charter and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights both state the conditions necessary for the establishment of human rights. The fundamental conditions for human rights vary, but clearly, a far-reaching and appropriate social security system is a key aspect of human rights. In that context, Incheon Welfare Standard is a public declaration and guarantee of a decent and humane life, by the Incheon City Government.

The purpose of the Incheon Welfare Standard is to create conditions for all citizens of Incheon Metropolitan City ensuring a minimal standard for quality of life. Selective welfare points to the cause of social risks as lack of personal diligence, sincerity, and effort. However, recent social risks require cannot be met only by individual responsibility. Rather, they require a socio-structural and institutional approach. The Incheon Welfare Standard professes the “right of citizens to live civilized lives according to universal standards,” with direct participation of citizens in the establishment of social rights.

The Incheon Welfare Standard was established after more than 70 meetings and discussions by a total of 211 individuals participating in public-private governance. The Incheon Welfare Standard is (1) based on the philosophy of institutional welfare, (2) sets the conditions and direction of humane life, and (3) expresses the will to publicly ensure the safe life of citizens. Furthermore, it (4) seeks to establish a welfare policy based on the urban and civic particularities and needs of Incheon, (5) is formed by consensus of civic participation, and (6) is established as a system reflexive to the rapidly changing welfare environment.

The Incheon Welfare Standard was created by citizens through the cooperation of public-private schools, a total of 211 people, including 91 promotion committees (related organization workers and experts, academic experts), 49 civic evaluation groups, 21 researchers, and 50 civil service support task forces, over a year of deliberation. The direction of the welfare standard was set by the promotion committee and informing the citizens and developed based on a study investigating the welfare status of Incheon citizens. In particular, the three main actors - researchers, promotion committees, and citizens - deliberated upon an agreement, with the 500-person Citizens’ Forum in December 2013 was a shining jewel of social consensus for the Incheon Welfare Standard.

APCAD Inclusive City Markers

Alan Brown
Research Professor of Chonnam National University Center for Regional Development

The APCAD Inclusive City Markers construct a system being developed for APCAD in collaboration with the Gwangju International Center and the Chonnam National University Center for Regional Development in Gwangju, Korea. The main objective of this project is to develop a quality marker system to be used as a practical toolbox for municipal policymakers, specifically in APCAD Coalition member cities and prospective member cities, to assess their implementation of human rights, social inclusion and non-discrimination commitments.

The system will additionally enable the cities to set long-term goals to guide their future actions for the promotion and improvement of social inclusion and anti-discrimination policies at local level, contributing to the fulfillment of universal human rights obligations. The establishment of benchmarks and standards for human rights, social inclusion and non-discrimination will not only provide recognition of the efforts cities have made, but support the further development of steps to strengthen and expand associated initiatives.

The marker system was developed by first conducting a desk review of the context as well as existing human rights, social inclusion and non-discrimination indicators and marker systems. Following this, a conceptual and methodological framework was established to identify the scope of the marker system and operationally feasible human rights indicators.

The marker system is structured in themes as follows: Spatial inclusion, Social inclusion, Cultural inclusion, Economic inclusion, and Political inclusion. The themes are based on a broad understanding of the notion of Social Inclusion of all residents while paying more attention to vulnerable groups. Within each theme are sub-themes, each of which has indicators reflecting Structural, Process and Outcome dimensions. The indicators have a human rights, inclusion and non-discrimination focus, and include both quantitative and qualitative data on the individual and municipal level.

The project is still in progress. As such, subsequent stages are extensive consultation with a panel of experts and municipal authorities; a test run with Gwangju City, and necessary adjustment; publication and dissemination of the marker system, companion guide and other related materials; and monitoring and assessment process.
Korean Human Rights Cities Council Workshop

Human Rights Cities
How far Have We Come and How Will We Move Forward?

On December 7, 2017, a total of 25 local governments gathered to form the Korean Human Rights Cities Association. Through this, joint projects based on mutual exchanges, such as establishing solidarity and discovering human rights policies suitable for local governments have been promoted. In 2020, due to the global spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, a working-level council meeting was held via video conference and a plan for human rights policy exchanges and mutual cooperation among member cities was discussed and opinions gathered to draw up a concrete plan. Starting with the first regular general assembly on April 27, 2021, a diverse range of activities have been carried out to protect and promote human rights, such as a press conference and delivery of donations to support Myanmar democracy movement. In 2021, the regular general assembly will be held as part of the 11th World Human Rights Cities Forum to discuss and realize human rights, involving civil servants, human rights activists, the general public, and academics. We hope that this meeting will serve as a platform for civil servants to gather together and share their experience with past human rights policy, explore the direction of future human rights policy and serve as an opportunity to promote the culture of human rights more broadly in the local community.

The theme of the session is ‘Human Rights Cities – Where are we and how will we move forward?’ Through this regular meeting, the Korean Human Rights Cities Association (hereinafter referred to as the ‘Association’) will share human rights policy case studies among local governments and provide an opportunity to thoroughly explore ways to build a culture of human rights in the local community for the future. We will expand our human rights policy network and look for ways to promote mutual development.

The Association shall deliberate on the following matters during the meeting:
1) We will share and systematically analyze all areas of human rights administrative, including human rights norms, human rights organizations and agencies, human rights policy, human rights education, human rights violation relief measures, and operation of human rights commissions, all of which constitute the projects that have been promoted in each region so far.

2) Through case study sharing and analysis, we will gauge the current status of human rights policy in the local community and seek out policy proposals that can be applied in each region as we move forward.

Youth Talk

Tackling the Climate Crisis in Building a Sustainable and Resilient Cities for the Future

In the next ten years, our world is racing towards achieving our global goals and commitment of leaving no one behind and putting the sustainability of our planet as the number one priority. However, the impact of climate change poses a challenge to State’s efforts to achieve Sustainable Development Goals. While everyone recognises the effects of climate change on everything and everyone, processes to develop policies to mitigate and adapt to climate change often exclude those who will bear the most and most extended impact— the youth.

In today’s world, rapid urbanisation and a large youth population are two dominant patterns, particularly in developing countries. While growing, cities have also become younger— many of the world nearly four billion people under the age of 30 live in urban areas, and according to UN-HABITAT, it is estimated that 60% of urban populations will be under the age of 18 by 2030. Climate crisis is one of the greatest challenges cities today must face and address.

Cities play a pivotal role in creating social inclusion, equal access, and opportunities for their inhabitants to mitigate climate change and prevent its negative impact on human rights. At the same time, however, exclusion and inequality are widespread in cities. When cities fail to take affirmative measures to prevent human rights impacts caused by climate change, local governments put the most vulnerable at even more significant risks. Youth are often being excluded in decision-making processes while being among the most susceptible to the effects of climate change. When given a chance, active, informed, and involved urban youth can respond better to the global challenges and offer their knowledge to address local impacts.

RWI recognises youth as solution contributors to climate change and seeks to collaborate with young people to amplify their voices. Cities and local governments must also open their doors and work together with youth to address the many challenges climate change have posed to cities. Young people could bring climate change mitigation and adaptation alternatives that promote inclusion and participation in policy formulation.
Local Government Human Rights Commission Workshop

The Role of Local Human Rights Commissions in Strengthening Local Governments Human Rights Education

Human rights education is a key element of local governments’ efforts to promote human rights, and, as of 2021, all local governments have included human rights education provisions in their ordinances. Diverse methods have been employed to further human rights education, but effectiveness has often fallen below expectations, and there have been many suggestions regarding how to increase the effectiveness of such programs. As such, we must renew awareness of the goals and necessity of human rights education, raise questions about whether the systems, cooperation measures and support provisions concerning practical human rights education are in place and functioning properly, and focus on the role and assessment of the National Human Rights Commission.

At the ‘network’ meeting of the 2021 World Human Rights Cities Forum, the Council of National Human Rights Commissions would like to shine the spotlight on the role of the human rights commissions in strengthening human rights education among human rights projects that are being implemented based on human rights ordinances. To further human rights education, the roles of the human rights commission in each region, as well as how such roles are manifested in the real world will be examined, desired roles explored and system improvement directions discussed.

We hope to strengthen the role played by local human rights commissions in human rights education to improve the human rights sensitivity of public officials as well as residents, and pursue qualitative changes in human rights awareness, while providing an opportunity for cooperation and communication to share new ideas.

The Role of Local Human Rights Commissions in Strengthening Human Rights Education at Local Governments

The National Human Rights Commission of Korea views human rights education as a fundamental and universal right of human beings and defines it as an array of educational efforts to enable people to know their rights, educate them on the behavioral framework and skills needed for respecting and protecting human rights, and instill respect for human rights in them.

All metropolitan governments and municipalities in Korea have a framework ordinance on human rights in place, and most of such ordinances have provisions on human rights education. Under these ordinances, human rights training is mandatory for civil servants but it is only a recommendation for the general public. However, it is offered to both groups. Some ordinances simply stipulate that human rights training for civil servants should take place once or twice a year while others mandate a specific number of hours for such training. Depending on the capabilities of local governments’ human rights unit, human rights education is conducted with a systematic program or it may take place when circumstances allow and make it necessary as is the case for many local governments. In some cases, the mandatory frequency of once or twice a year is not observed and local governments just rely on voluntary participation.

According to the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training, the five key objectives of human rights education are the promotion of human rights awareness, the development of a universal culture of human rights, the effective pursuit of human rights, an equal guarantee of human rights for all, and contribution to the prevention of human rights infringement. Human rights education is defined as an education on, by, and through human rights, and its ultimate goals include a universal guarantee of human rights, an unbiased frame of respect for human rights that applies even to issues that are limited to certain societies, and the establishment of a culture of human rights. (Further details are omitted here.)
Plenary Session 1

Human Rights Principles to “Build Forward Fairer”
From Local Policies to Collective Actions

While human rights principles have gained more recognition and interest among local governments since the pandemic, human rights cities are consolidating their role to guide policy innovation and collective action to fight inequalities, discriminations and build a new social contract with their inhabitants. Amidst the context of the COVID-19 crisis, local governments across the world have found in the human rights cities movement a source of inspiration, solidarity and legitimacy.

In some contexts, human rights policies put in place prior to the pandemic have allowed municipalities to better address the socioeconomic and political consequences of the crisis. In others, human rights have provided a catalyst for change or a meeting point between local governments and other local actors to make sure no one is left behind by this pandemic and the unprecedented global transformations that will follow.

Close to the crisis aftermath, local governments are facing more adverse conditions than in early 2020. While social expenditure is soaring for many, others meet decentralization trends and threats to local autonomy. Left alone in addressing the social emergency caused by the COVID-19 crisis, many also lack capacities to address the increasing local impacts of more structural, global crises: internal and international inequalities, international economic and financial system, climate change, the rise of populism and authoritarianism.

Facing this turning point, local leaders is looking at the twenty years old human rights cities movement to strengthen their local capacities while pushing for new collective initiatives based on human rights. In promoting daring campaigning initiatives, learning processes and new collective agendas, local governments are gaining a seat in the global human rights conversation. They are also at the forefront of human rights’ next generation like digital rights.

What is ‘The Most Humane City’?

To make Jeonju ‘the most humane city’, in 2016 we newly established a team dedicated to human rights and in 2018 hired human rights advocates to provide consultation and research on human rights violations and discrimination. In 2019, we re-structured the organization and promoted the human rights team to an affiliated agency, giving it the independence to secure and advance the human rights of the people of Jeonju. Putting effort into realizing the values of equality and human rights, not discrimination and hate, establishing human rights policies that include the voices and lives of those once marginalized, laying the foundation for relief programs to address human rights violations – these are the landmarks of Jeonju as we take steps towards becoming a human rights city.

Although Jeonju is not a wealthy city, it is a city with a clear philosophy. Our urban philosophy is that a country grows by cities that protect their unique identities, rather than by pursuing superficial growth centered around large cities. Our conviction is that the purpose of politics is to stand by the side of the most suffered and secure their rights. Jeonju is a city that does not give up in the face of adversity and holds the courage to trust its citizens and progress.

Imagination beyond limits, the courage to overcome fear, social solidarity that binds us all – these are the greatest powers that change cities and the world. They are what define the most humane city. A city that discusses and imagines with its citizens, a city that moves towards the broader world with the power of solidarity! Jeonju continues its journey to becoming the most humane city.

※ Original copy of material is available on the official website: (www.whrcf.org)
Human Rights as Cross-cutting Approach

Shams Asadi
Director of Human Rights Office, Vienna City

For the first time in human history, since 2007, more than half of the world’s population is living in cities. The cities are also becoming increasingly the scene of challenges of the 21st century.

The fight against poverty; sustainable development versus pressure on the environment; security; affordable housing; rural exodus and population migration - a lot of responsibility lies at the local level in the cities.

Let’s ask ourselves: what kind of future do we want to live in? Do we want to see challenges as opportunities or as a threat?

Do we want to live in a future that connects, or one that divides? Which cities, what kind of world do we want to create for the next generation?

Are we taking our responsibility seriously? Are we taking it seriously enough?

Violence against Women

Realizing the Right to the City for All
Local Governments Fighting Violence against Women

Realizing the Right to the City and building safer cities for all requires fighting violence and abuse against women and girls as these have a profound and lasting effect on society. According to the World Health Organization, overall, 35% of women worldwide have experienced either physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence or non-partner sexual violence. While there are many other forms of violence that women may be exposed to, this already represents a large proportion of the world’s women.

VAWG (Violence Against Women and Girls) is both a form of discrimination and a violation of human rights that remains far too prevalent and hidden. Identifying the nature, causes and consequences of these situations and developing adequate responses that can help women and girls to live better in both urban and rural territories is a collective responsibility which involves all levels of government.

Local governments from all over the world are increasingly adopting their own policies and approaches to prevent and address VAWG while focusing on advancing women’s rights. They are stepping up to claim a vision for cities in which people, especially women, can live without fear of abuse or violence. To achieve this vision, local governments focus on preventing these crimes, providing support and protection to victims, and producing accurate monitoring schemes of VAWG at the local level.

The COVID-19 pandemic has shone a light on the importance of implementing proximity-based policies addressing domestic violence. It also highlighted existing problems of accessing services easily and quickly, reminding why tackling violence against women and girls should be a top priority for local governments.
### October 8th: Day 2

#### 09:00-16:00

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<th>Theme</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>09:00-10:00</td>
<td>H2: Training for Korean Human Rights Education Teachers</td>
<td></td>
<td>Korean</td>
<td>Sharing Human Rights Education Practices and Discussing Ways to Cooperate</td>
<td>Korean Human Rights Education Teachers Network, Gwangju Metropolitan Office of Education, Gwangju International Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:00-13:00</td>
<td>S2: Indonesian Human Rights Cities Session</td>
<td></td>
<td>English</td>
<td>HRC in Indonesia: HRC as a Strategy and Practice to Promote Tolerance and Freedom of Religion and Beliefs across Indonesia</td>
<td>International NGO Forum on Indonesian Development (INFID), National Commission on Human Rights of Indonesia (Komnas HAM)</td>
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<tr>
<td>13:00-15:00</td>
<td>N4: Human Rights Activists Workshop</td>
<td></td>
<td>Korean</td>
<td>The Role of Human Rights Activists Against Discrimination Existing After the Herd Immunity</td>
<td>Human Rights Movement Plus, Gwangju Ingwonji Hwajlak, Jeju Peace Human Rights Institute &quot;WHAT&quot;</td>
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<td>T1: Refugees</td>
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<td>Korean</td>
<td>How to Improve Refugee Protection in East Asia Post-2021</td>
<td>Advocates for Public Interest Law (APIL)</td>
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<td>13:00-15:00</td>
<td>T2: Social Economy</td>
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<td>Roles of Social Economy When a Crisis Becomes the New Normal</td>
<td>Gwangju Support Center for Social Economy</td>
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<td>13:00-15:00</td>
<td>T3:RWI Handbook on Local Governments and Human Rights Event</td>
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<td>English</td>
<td>People-Centred Solution for an Inclusive City Resilience</td>
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#### 13:00-15:00

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October 8th: Day 2

16:00-18:00

P2: Plenary Session 2

Language: Korean, English, French
Organizers: Raoul Wallenberg Institute, UN Human Rights, Gwangju Metropolitan City
Moderator: Morten KJÆRUM (Denmark) Director of Raoul Wallenberg Institute
Speakers:
- Olivier De Schutter [Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights]
- Mamadou Lamine Keita [Senegal] Mayor of Bignona City
- Benjamin Magalong [The Philippines] Mayor of Baguio City
- Anne Kanana Mwenda [Kenya] Governor of Nairobi County
- SOH Chang-rok [Member of UN Human Rights Committee]
- Marie-Louise Rönnmark [Sweden] Mayor of Umeå City

16:00-18:00

T3: Peace and Human Rights

Language: Korean
Theme: Recognition of Victims of State Violence and Future Direction of Commemoration Projects for Memory Sharing - Focusing on Jeju 4.3
Organizers: Jeju Free International City Development Center
Moderator: CHOI Sungyoun [Korea] Professor Emeritus of Jeju National University Sociology Department
Speakers:
- LEE Jae-seung [Korea] Standing Commissioner of Truth and Reconciliation Commission Professor of Konkuk Law School
- YANG Keumsik [Korea] Director of Archives of Korea Democracy Foundation
Discussions:
- CHOI Gwanho [Korea] Assistant Professor of Jeju National University Sociology Education Department
- YEUM Miyeong [Korea] Professor of Jeju National University Sociology Education Department
- JUNG Hogy [Korea] Director of Memory Record Healing Cooperative

16:00-18:00

T4: UN SDGs and Human Rights

Language: Korean, English
Theme: Inclusive Response to Climate Crisis for Sustainable Development
Organizers: Gwangju Council for Sustainable Development, Korea Center for Sustainable Development, Local Sustainability Alliance of Korea, Korea Human Rights Policy Institute
Host: PARK Jeongin [Korea] Secretary-General of Local Sustainability Alliance of Korea
Greeting: YOO Myeonghwa [Korea] Chairperson of Committee of National Gender Equality Network
JUNG Yeongil [Korea] Chairperson of Gwangju Council for Sustainable Development
LEE Deokhui [Korea] Chairperson of Gwangju Council for Sustainable Development
Speaker: KIM Gyuung Rea [Korea] Policy Committee Member of Gwangju Council for Sustainable Development
Speech: KIM Wonjin [Korea] Student of Dongguk University
Case:
- Yassin Mazoute [Morocco] Director of Environmental Cooperative Attawfiqua Maroc - Global Social Economy Forum (GSEF)
- Choi Hanbyok [Korea] Secretary-General of Korean Disability Forum
- Zainal Arifin Fauad [Indonesia] International Coordination Committee Member of (La) Via Campesina
- Helga Riedl [Germany] Education Officer of Nuremberg City Human Rights Office
- Kevin Ossah [Togo] Director-General of OEDD (Organisation des Neues Engagés pour le Développement Durable)/Global Social Economy Forum (GSEF)
- Mahbub Haque [Bangladesh] Honorary Director of Bangladesh Center for Human Rights Development
- Igor Antonio Rivera Gonzalez [Mexico] Research Professor of Unidad Profesional Interdisciplinaria de Ingeniería y Ciencias Sociales y Administrativas/Global Social Economy Forum (GSEF)
October 8th: Day 2

19:00-20:00

S5: UNESCO Master Class Launching Panel

Language: English
Theme: Human Rights City Gwangju Series
Organizers: UNESCO, Gwangju International Center
Moderator: Linda Tinio-Le Douarin (Coordinator of ICCAR/UNESCO)
Opening Remarks: Angela Melo (Policies and Programmes Director of UNESCO)

Keynote Speech: Anna Maria Majluf (Head of Section a.i., Inclusion and Rights, Social and Human Sciences Sector and ICCAR/UNESCO)

Speakers:
- Evein Obulur (Coordinator of the European Coalition of Cities against Racism)
- Evelyne Heyer (France, Professor of Genetic Anthropology of Musée national d’Histoire naturelle)
- Jana Milosavljevic (Serbia, Gwangju International Center Coordinator)

21:00-22:30
P3: Plenary Session 3

Language: Korean, English
Theme: The Role of Human Rights Cities in Fighting Racism and Discrimination
Organizers: UNESCO, Gwangju Metropolitan City
Moderator: Gabriela Ramos (Assistant Director-General of Social and Human Sciences at UNESCO)

Speakers:
- Carolina Cosse (Uruguay, Mayor of Montevideo City)
- Ted Terry (USA, Commissioner of DeKalb County Board of Commission)
- Lianne Dalziel (New Zealand, Mayor of Christchurch City)
- Stefanie Jansen (Germany, Deputy Mayor of Heidelberg City)
- SHIN Gyongju (Korea, Senior Advisor for HR & International Affairs, Gwangju Metropolitan City)

22:30-24:00
S6: Special Session on Rights Economy

Language: English
Theme: Human Rights Impacts of Economic Models in Challenging Times
Organizers: Raoul Wallenberg Institute (RWI), UN Human Rights

Indonesian Human Rights Cities Session

HRC in Indonesia: HRC as a Strategy and Practice to Promote Tolerance and Freedom of Religion and Beliefs across Indonesia

Based on data released by Setara Institute, during Joko Widodo’s presidency (November 2014 - October 2019) there were 846 incidents of violation of freedom of religion or belief against minority groups, be it Muslim or other religious minorities. The 846 reported incidents involved a total of 1,060 violations, most of which were perpetrated by non-state actors (613 violations), and the rest by state actors (447 violations).

Under President Joko Widodo, the government of Indonesia has launched a policy promoting religious moderation and freedom of religion or belief in a decisive bid to safeguard the national identity and unity of a nation made up of diverse ethnic and religious groups. All levels of government, including districts and cities, are expected to support the national policy. It is therefore important to delve into the experiences and practices of districts and cities, and to understand the extent to which they have actively contributed towards fostering tolerance, religious freedom, and diversity in Indonesia.

Semarang Mayor, Hendrar Prihadi, for example, in May 2021 made the bold decision to promote inclusivity by ensuring protection for Indonesian Baptist Church (GBI) congregants and urging civil society groups to officially open the GBI in Tlogosari. The opening of the GBI Tlogosari marks the culmination of 23 years of struggling to establish the house of worship.

Wonosobo is another district that has set an exemplary milestone. A UCLG CISDP report (February 2021) brought attention to the efforts made by the district over the last 7 years. Since 2014, local authorities have worked with civil society to develop a human rights city strategy for Wonosobo that focuses on promoting diversity. Preventing intolerance has become a top priority of local authorities who seek to strengthen their social inclusion policy.

Within this context, the International NGO Forum on Indonesian Development (INFID) and Komnas HAM (National Commission on Human Rights) would like to showcase HRC good practices in regard to freedom of religion and belief, especially in times of the COVID-19 pandemic. The showcase will be supported by Setara Institute’s research findings on human rights cities in Indonesia, and the UCLG CISDP report on the progress made by human rights cities in Indonesia.
Human Rights Cities in Indonesia

Zelda Wulan Kartika
Charge D'affaires of Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in Seoul

Indonesia's constitution mandates all its individuals to promote and protect human rights. As a country with more than 300 ethnic groups, 700 local languages, as well as six different religions, Indonesia puts importance in tolerance and freedom in religion as the tool to strengthen sense of nationality of every Indonesian citizen.

The government has stepped up its efforts not only to address human rights issues but also to promote improvement of people's rights. Not only the Central Government, as part of democratic reform and decentralization program, local governments in many regions in Indonesia also come up with their initiatives and action plan.

While progress on those efforts bring confidence in advancing human rights, the COVID-19 pandemic has posed more challenges to people’s lives. It has shaken up people’s socio-economic life, including increasing trend on inequalities. On the other hand, the pandemic also forces human beings to rethink the way they want to build the future in far better, more resilient way.

While recovering from the pandemic will take a long run, this current situation brings a timely opportunity for cities and local governments to think beyond basic human rights advancement and how tolerance can lead to empower the community to work together in recovering from the pandemic and creating a resilient future.

The Community of Semarang City are very famous for the harmony between religious people. This makes the city of Semarang which is the capital of the province famous for its tolerance. The plurality of the people of Semarang City can be seen from the diversity of religions, cultures and ethnicities that exist in the City of Semarang. The existence of cultural and religious acculturation poses a risk of interaction between religious communities. The problems that arise as a result of this interaction need to be considered by the Semarang City Government so as not to cause divisions between religions. The role of religious leaders and community leaders is required to participate in solving this problem. To accommodate various interests related to inter-religious relations as well as inter-ethnic and inter-religious community leaders, the Semarang City Government facilitates interfaith forums to support work programs aimed at harmonization between religious communities. Apart from the efforts of the government and religious leaders, the community also has a key role to play in maintaining this harmony.
Wonosobo District Government’s Experiences in Developing Human Rights City to Strengthen Tolerance and Inclusivity in Wonosobo

Aldhiana Kusumawati
Member of Wonosobo Human Rights Desk, Indonesia

Wonosobo is known as one of the pioneer local governments in embracing the human rights city vision in Indonesia. This Regency is located in Central Java and has a population of 898,307 inhabitants, distributed into 15 sub-districts, 29 urban villages and 236 villages. Wonosobo represents a diverse territory, comprising both urban and rural areas, and has a poverty rate slightly superior to that of the national average.

In the term of religious life and belief, the Regency that partially consisted of highlands, has religion/belief diversity. Based on the BPS data in 2020, the majority of religions in Wonosobo Regency are Muslims with a total of 888,757 people. Adherents of other religions are Protestants as many as 5,321 people, Catholics is 5,420 people, Hindus is 168 people, Buddhists is 606 people and Kong Hu Cu by just 35 people only. Besides that, there are some cults in Wonosobo, such as: Minto Rogo, Aboge and others.

Wonosobo started a commitment to Human Rights City in 2013. We recognize that local government has a very important role to play in the implementation of human rights responsibilities. For more than 7 years, local government leaders and civil society stakeholders have worked together to develop Wonosobo’s human rights city strategy. As in other territories, preventing intolerance has been a key priority for the local authorities, but also reinforcing social inclusion policies.

The implementation process of Wonosobo human rights vision has been characterized by the active engagement of local leaders and public workers as well as the broad participation of civil society stakeholders and human rights defenders. The establishment of a Regional Human Rights Law and a Human Rights City desk kicked off the institutionalization process in 2016, and the process continued with prioritizing the human rights issue and establishing the Regional Human Rights Commission.

The Regional Human Rights Law 5/2016 established the process of the synchronization of policies with the principles of respecting, fulfilling, protecting and promoting human rights. It provided public participation in improvement of human rights program as well. The Human Rights City desk is tasked with promoting and coordinating human rights issues and collaboration with various communities, non-government organizations and other stakeholders. Wonosobo is the first human rights city with the Regional Human Rights Commission in 2018. This new institution gave more prominence to the human rights policy discussion at the legislative level. They are responsible for ensuring that policies in Wonosobo adhere to human rights principles. Similar to the local human rights campaigns of other human rights cities across the world, Wonosobo has a specific strategy for prioritizing the human rights issue. This would focus on women, children, people with disabilities, older people and the relationship with the environment. (Further details are omitted here.)

Leadership and Enthusiasm in Promoting Tolerance within Cities in Indonesia

Reflections on the SETARA Institute’s Tolerant Cities Index

Halili Hasan
Research Director of SETARA Institute for Democracy and Peace

Intolerance, even violence, especially based on religious sentiments, in Indonesia is continuously becoming a problem that needs comprehensive and precise handling. Instead, the issue triggers an increase in cross-identity tensions that threatens the governance of diversity and peaceful coexistence.

The SETARA Research Report on the 14th/2020 Condition of Freedom of Religion/Belief (FoRB) showed that various violations against FoRB, intolerance and discrimination, repeatedly occur, even amid the Covid-19 pandemic. SETARA noted that there were 180 incidents and 422 acts of violations during the research period. Besides, nowadays several acts of terrorism and the arrest of suspected terrorists, which threaten the peace in the diversity of society in Indonesia are witnessed as well.

However, reflecting the Tolerant City Index data released by the SETARA Institute, the cities in Indonesia generally show a better enthusiasm in promoting tolerance. The City Government has begun to carry out several breakthrough initiatives to improve the blurry portrait of intolerance, through initiatives and policy directions for cities that are conducive to the promotion of tolerance as well as through the participation of civil society in several cities.

Several cities which are traditionally known as having good tolerance circumstances, such as Salatiga, Sengkawang, Kupang, Bekasi, and others, are competing to improve policies and programs in the city so that tolerance conditions are better. On the other hand, Cities that have been publicly known for their poor tolerance trends, such as Bogor, Bandung, Makassar and so on, also show a similar passion to promote tolerance in their respective cities.

The movements in promoting tolerance in these cities are influenced by the leadership of local actors. Three categories of leadership stand out and affect the conditions of practice and promotion of tolerance in several cities, namely political leadership, bureaucratic leadership, and civil society leadership. Political leadership is generally shown by mayors and/or deputy mayors to lift indicators of tolerance at the city level, such as policies, development plans, social inclusion, and so on. In addition, several cities condition shows that bureaucratic leadership performs promising breakthroughs to assure that tolerance at the city level improves and does not stagnate when political leadership does not work well enough. In addition, civil society leaders at the local level also have significant leverage, particularly in ensuring social regulation and inclusion of all identities in the city.
HRC in Indonesia: HRC as a Strategy and Practice to Promote Tolerance and Freedom of Religion and Beliefs across Indonesia

Jaume Puigpinós
Coordination Assistant of UCLG-CSIPDHR

Over the last two decades, the human rights cities movement has brought together local governments and key stakeholders across the world in a remarkable process of innovation within global human rights practice. At a local level, the movement triggered the adoption of new policies seeking to better protect and promote human rights from a local perspective. This was based on enhanced cooperation schemes among local stakeholders, especially civil society and local government. At a global level, the human rights cities movement consolidated local governments’ role as an international actor, consolidated solidarity dynamics with a solid territorial rooting and allowed to expand human rights in different world regions.

The UCLG Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights (UCLG-CSIPDHR) has been a key stakeholder for the advancement of this movement since its origins, back in the early 2000s. Over the last decades, the Committee provided a permanent platform for local government networking on human rights issues, building also on the alliances built with other key stakeholders such as the right to the city movement and the UN human rights system. Building on this meaningful background and the active engagement of its member-local governments, the Committee combines an insight knowledge of local government practices in different world regions with a solid political narrative. In the coming years, the Committee will continue to advance this human rights roadmap within UCLG (the world organization of local governments) as well as in partnership with the human rights cities’ movement.

This roadmap is based on the renewal process of the Global Charter-Agenda for Human Rights in the City (ten years after its adoption by the UCLG World Council); the launch of a global campaign to promote the human rights cities movement; and the implementation of new learning and knowledge sharing activities on local human rights policies at a global scale.

Our participation in the WHRCF session “Human Rights Cities in Indonesia: Human Rights Cities as a strategy and practice to promote tolerance and freedom of religion and belief across Indonesia” has three main purposes:

The first one is to continue building bridges between the Indonesian human rights movement and global networking dynamics within the CSIPDHR, better understanding its latest advances, the challenges it faces and the ways it can support it. (Further details are omitted here.)

Act on Human Rights Policy
Discussion on the “Act on Human Rights Policy”

The Ministry of Justice promoted the enactment of the Act on Human Rights Policy to strengthen the government’s human rights policy implementation capacity by stipulating Korea’s human rights policy implementation framework and to more effectively protect and promote the human rights of the Korean nationals.

The Act on Human Rights Policy aims to strengthen both the statutory foundation and enforcement of human rights by stipulating the establishment, implementation, and promotion framework of the National Human Rights Plans of Action (NAP), and to ensure the predictability and procedural stability of the implementation of Korea’s national human rights policy. In addition, by distributing the roles and functions of local governments, the systematic implementation of local government human rights policies and revitalization of human rights administration will be promoted. Furthermore, it also stipulated that the implementation of human rights education by national institutions, local governments, schools, and public institutions should be made mandatory in order to enhance the public awareness of human rights.

Lastly, we look forward to the realization of human rights protection by stipulating the basic procedures for the implementation of international human rights treaties, which were previously carried out according to custom, and the reflection of recommendations from international human rights organizations in Korean human rights policy through continuous cooperation with the United Nations and the international human rights infrastructure. As legislation is in the process of being enacted, we aim to foster an opportunity for various stakeholders to share their opinions and discuss future plans together.
Proposal for a Framework Act on Human Rights Policy

KIM Soo A
Director of Human Rights Policy Division in Ministry of Justice, Korea

The importance of the National Action Plan for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (NAP) is growing, but it has been developed and implemented based on the Rules on the National Council on Human Rights Policy, a presidential directive that falls into the category of administrative rules. The Rules only stipulate basic procedures for devising an NAP, but it does not contain detailed matters such as content, planning for different years, and procedures for evaluating implementation results. Thus it is necessary to elevate the Rules to the status of law and make the law on human rights more concrete and systematic as with other similar laws in order to strengthen the law’s legal force and enforceability. Since 2013, Korea has been emphasizing the role of local governments in protecting and promoting human rights, in part by leading the adoption of a resolution on local government and human rights at the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC). The Ministry of Justice and the National Human Rights Commission have pushed for a Framework Act on Human Rights Policy to strengthen the government’s capacity to implement human rights policy by creating a system for developing NAPs and implementing human rights policy at all government levels.

The Framework Act consists of seven chapters. Chapter 1 contains the Act’s purpose and idea, as well as definitions, while Chapter 2 stipulates the establishment of a National Commission on Human Rights Policy, the appointment of human rights policy officers, the establishment of a human rights organization at local governments, and the cooperation between the government and the National Human Rights Commission to guarantee and promote human rights. Chapter 3 spells out more detailed procedures for developing and implementing NAPs, and Chapter 4 contains procedures for creating national reports in accordance with international human rights treaties and implementing recommendations from international human rights organizations. Chapter 5 describes the roles that the central and local governments and businesses should play in order to respect human rights, while Chapter 6 stipulates educational matters designed to raise the awareness about human rights.

Significance and Challenges:
Act on Human Rights Policy of Korea

HONG Sungsoo
Professor of SookMyung Women’s University

Of late, Korea prepared a draft bill for the Act on Human Rights Policy which is soon expected to undergo a necessary legislative process at the National Assembly before becoming a law. Against this backdrop, this paper sheds light on the significance and implications of the Act on Human Rights Policy, taking into consideration the history of the nation’s human rights policies.

First, the Act on Human Rights Policy will legalize the National Human Rights Plans of Action (NAPs). Since 2007, the country has been developing the plans of action for human rights, but there remain ongoing disputes over their establishment, implementation and monitoring processes, which have been largely regulated by the Presidential Decree on the National Human Rights Policy Council until now. Many argue that it is not a full-fledged act but a presidential decree with limitations, calling for legalization. The Act will provide the legal framework to promote national human rights policies such as developing the NAPs. It is noteworthy that the Act specifies the roles of the central and local governments, the National Human Rights Commission and the civil society. The Act also holds a great significance as it lays the legal foundation for the establishment of a human rights organization at the local government level.

Second, it will legitimize the implementation process of the international human rights laws and regulations within the country. As a member of the international community, Korea has so far developed a number of practices regarding the preparation of national reports and reflected recommendations of international human rights organizations. Unfortunately, it has only arbitrary put the process into practice, which has been the focus of incessant criticism from the civil society. The Act on Human Rights Policy, however, clearly describes the roles of relevant departments of the central and local governments, the National Human Rights Commission and the civil society.

Third, the Act will put the corporate responsibility to respect human rights into law. In line with several UN regulations for human rights for businesses, the National Human Rights Commission in Korea has made significant progress towards promoting respect for human rights in a business context. Despite such efforts, it lacked legal grounds in the country. As such, the introduction of the corporate responsibility to promote human rights is expected to bolster the efforts of the relevant departments.

Fourth, it will legalize the provision of human rights education. In the past, the education on human rights was delivered in accordance with related laws, ordinances and other regulations of local governments. The Act is the first national attempt to establish a formal legal basis for human rights education. (Further details are omitted here.)
Framework Act on Human Rights Policy

Elevating the status of the National Human Rights Policy Committee: Human rights policy has not been given a priority by the Korean government. The current Moon Jae-in administration had long made a pledge to enact the Framework Act on Human Rights Policy. Regrettably, however, a bill for the legislation of the Act was submitted only recently in the last year of the Moon administration jointly by the Ministry of Justice and the National Human Rights Commission of Korea. Though belated, the bill should be passed by the National Assembly. If the process of creating 4th National Action Plans for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights (hereinafter the “NAP”) starts in 2022 before the legislation of the Framework Act on Human Rights Policy, errors committed in the past NAP creation process are likely to be repeated. The biggest problem with the bill is that according to the proposed Act, the National Human Rights Policy Committee will be established under and supervised by the Ministry of Justice. The National Human Rights Policy Council was also run and overseen by the Ministry of Justice. Because the Council was a central administrative agency, the Ministry of Justice had sole responsibility for human rights policy matters, including the creation of the NAP. Other state bodies cooperated, but because of the governance structure they showed a passive attitude toward the creation and implementation of human rights policies. This resulted in lack of supervision and coordination in human rights policy-making across state bodies.

In order not to repeat the same mistake during deliberation on the bill, the status of the National Human Rights Policy Committee should be elevated by making the president or the prime minister the chairperson of the Committee.

Raising the status of the NAP: The NAP is literally a national master plan for human rights policy for the Republic of Korea. As such, the NAP should not be solely a plan of the executive. The National Assembly and the judiciary should also take part in the creation and implementation of the NAP. If it is not feasible, the legislature and the judiciary should instead create human rights policy action plans of their own.

Qualifications of members of the National Human Rights Policy Committee: With regards to the qualifications of members of the National Human Rights Policy Committee, the relevant provision specifies, “a person elected and appointed by the chairperson from among those who have abundant knowledge and experience in human rights policy”. Considering that unqualified candidates were appointed as commissioners of the National Human Rights Commission of Korea despite the existence of similar qualifications, it is necessary to add a proviso clause, “in compliance with international human rights norms” to the provision stating the qualifications of members of the Committee. (Further details are omitted here.)

Human Rights Activist Workshop

Residual Discrimination and the Role of Human Rights Activists Following the Formation of Herd Immunity

Once herd immunity is cultivated, will the problems brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic be resolved? After the Korean government announced that it would aim to achieve herd immunity by November of this year through a mass vaccination program, the focus has been shifting to whether the necessary quantities of vaccine can be secured and the vaccine’s potential side effects.

- People with reduced mobility will have samples taken during at-home visits.
- When the disabled are confirmed to be infected with COVID-19, special patients, including those in critical condition, can be accommodated at the National Rehabilitation Center located in Gangbuk-gu, Seoul, and can also be accommodated in municipal-government designated inpatient treatment beds and at infectious disease hospitals.

This is a response sent by the metropolitan city government of Gwangju to an organization promoting the rights of the disabled who demanded the city come up with response measures against the spread of the pandemic in 2021. Then, on the night of May 28, a severely handicapped person in Gwangju on respiratory support, who showed symptoms of a headache and aches and pains, was separated from their support assistant and was left alone in the emergency room for two hours. The reason for this was because the patient’s body temperature was 38 degrees. This overlaps with what happened to the disabled in Daegu who went into self-isolation alone without assistance last year. The COVID-19 pandemic continues, but the local government response remains lacking in many ways.

Will the problems exposed by the COVID-19 pandemic disappear before the hosting of the 11th World Human Rights Cities Forum, which is to be held a month before the expected arrival of herd immunity this coming November? No, they will not. Can vaccinations eliminate the discrimination revealed by the pandemic? Policy frameworks remain in place at hospitals and residential facilities centered on collective living, which are inevitably vulnerable to the pandemic’s spread. Pandemic prevention guidelines and pandemic-related information are mainly targeted at able-bodied Korean adults. Problems outside the scope of the COVID-19 vaccine remain a pressing problem in Korean society. (Further details are omitted here.)
Infectious Disease Response Manuals for People with Disabilities and Impact on Their Lives

JANG Ikseon
Director of Gwangju Muscular Dystrophy Association

The COVID-19 pandemic is causing great confusion and impact on the daily lives of people around the world across all aspects of lives including the economy, politics, society, welfare, and education. Discrimination against particular social groups has been further exacerbated in this pandemic-induced crisis. Human rights of people with disabilities have been put on the back burner under the name of safety and protection. This is certainly not the first infectious disease outbreak for South Korea. We had MERS and SARS outbreaks in the past. The problem is whenever the country faces a disaster, people with disabilities bear the brunt as response measures generally do not take into consideration their impact on disabled people. The government often comes up with a response manual for disabled people belatedly only after a call from the community of disabled people.

Does the response manual bring meaningful change to the reality people with disabilities face in daily lives? Does it offer effective guidelines to people with disabilities? Many people with disabilities said “No.” to these questions, stating that the harsh reality they face in daily lives has not changed at all. For example, the central government and the government of Gwangju Metropolitan City announced that disabled people with mobility impairments can receive PCR tests at home from visiting healthcare workers. In May 2021, I called the Nam-gu Public Health Center to inquire about the home PCR test, the representative kept telling me that there is no such thing as home PCR tests, and I need to visit the center in person to get tested because they are short-handed.

Through this article, I would like to share my own personal experience as a person with severe disabilities and point out limitations and deficiencies in each area of medical care including emergency rooms, hospitals, general care, mobility, and information access and make suggestions for improvements. People with disabilities are more vulnerable to COVID-19 due to many reasons such as underlying health problems, limited access to medical services and information. In fact, the fatality rate of disabled people infected with COVID-19 is six times higher than that of non-disabled people. Despite high vulnerability people with disabilities were excluded from priority groups for early vaccination. (Further details are omitted here.)

Local Governments’ Anti-pandemic Measures and Human Rights Movement’s Response

CHAE Min
Standing Activist of Solidarity for Peace & Human Rights

Issues regarding the Jeollabuk-do government’s administrative order mandating day laborers to receive PCR tests
In May, the Jeollabuk-do government issued an emergency administrative order that mandates day laborers, both Korean and foreign nationals, to receive PCR tests for COVID-19 at the time of hiring. The order was applicable to “persons who hire day laborers, Korean or foreign nationals, to run business in manufacturing, construction, agriculture, fishery, and livestock industries or owners of manpower dispatch service business”. The order was to be in force between May 17 and June 30, 2021. This meant almost all of day laborers in the Jeollabuk-do region had to take PCR tests.

Workplaces generally consist of workers of varying employment types or roles ranging from contract workers, regular workers, managers, owners as well as day laborers. Virus infects people indiscriminately regardless of race, nationality, or employment status. Nevertheless, the administrative order only targeted day laborers. Such approach is not only discriminatory against workers of a specific type of employment, but it is also unreasonable.

In addition, concerns from the local community mounted that the administrative order might result in stigmatizing day laborers as culprits for a surge in infections. While a rise in infections of COVID-19 may be caused by many factors, the administrative order may cause people to pass the buck on day laborers regarding the spread of the virus and a surge in infections. As such, civic groups from Jeollabuk-do took initiative to demand withdrawal of the administrative order. They held press conferences where they criticized the order, pointing out its issues, had consultation with officials of the Jeollabuk-do government, staged picket protests, and filed complaints with the National Human Rights Commission of Korea. While the Jeollabuk-do government, at first, maintained its position that there was no problem with the administrative order, it finally rescinded the order on June 10.

Need for social conditions that can keep people safe from infectious diseases, not measures that place the blame on people
Even after the incident of the Jeollabuk-do administrative order, discriminatory anti-pandemic measures that mandate PCR tests for specific groups have continued. As the COVID-19 pandemic is prolonged, it is very worrisome that the central and local governments continue to take epidemic control measures in a way that singles out certain social groups as problematic groups. When such measures are combined with the long-standing discriminatory social structure in our society, it can further aggravate social discrimination. To address this issue, the central and local governments need to find ways to create a society that is free from discrimination and safe from infectious diseases, rather than resorting to anti-pandemic measures that place the blame on a certain group of people. (Further details are omitted here.)
COVID-19, Public Criticism to Minority Groups and Response

B. Daniel Lim
Representative of Queer In Pusan

In 2020, COVID-19 hit the world hard and Korea was no exception. While Korea was in the spotlight with its anti-pandemic measures, often referred to as “K-Quarantine”, such issues as the government’s lack of awareness of human rights and privacy infringement manifested in the process of controlling the virus were neglected and overshadowed by K-Quarantine.

These issues flared up in May of 2020 when Korea saw a surge in infections related to nightclubs and bars in Itaewon. The surge was in fact caused by a slack in quarantine that occurred in the midst of a decline in the number of confirmed cases and a change in the social distancing scheme. But media saw it differently. Yellow journalism was rampant in media, filled with provocative articles referring to the clubs as “Itaewon gay clubs”, and revealing personal information of confirmed patients. This aggravated the widespread hatred toward sexual minorities in Korean society and resulted in severe human rights violations and evasion of PCR tests. The damage was already done, yet the government belatedly put forward a new direction of K-Quarantine in the pursuit of a balance between human rights protection and epidemic control.

With the government indifferent to human rights, the existing epidemic response system was not easily applicable to social and sexual minorities. This posed a great risk of a spike in the spread of the virus. This gap in the response system hurt everyone in society eventually. Humanity experienced a series of infectious disease outbreaks in history. Despite past experience we still have many issues regarding how we respond to outbreaks and tend to put the blame on certain social groups without any solid grounds. We had similar issues during the MERS outbreak in 2015, and the H1N1 flu outbreak in 2009. It was no different with the HIV infections a long ago. This presentation sheds light on the activities “Queer Action Against COVID-19” has been carrying out in line with human rights protection such as governance-related activities, media response and messages for LGBTQI people in Korea. It also reviews the persistent patterns of hatred in relation to infectious diseases.

Deaf LGBT People: Dual Identities of Deaf People and of Sexual Minorities

Taehwan
Standing Activist of Korean Deaf LGBT Preparatory Committee

In the deaf community, deaf sexual minorities become the target of hatred or are often treated as if they were invisible. In the reality of the Korean deaf community, deaf people are forced to take on a unified identity as deaf people and to suppress all the other identities they may identify themselves with. When expressing their sexual orientation in the Korean sign language, the core of the Korean deaf community culture, deaf sexual minorities face a contradictory situation where they need to use signs conveying hatred toward LGBT people. Within the existing Korean sign language system, it is almost impossible for deaf LGBT people to explore and communicate their experience and identity in a positive light. It is also hard to completely avoid the use of such derogatory signs against LGBTI people when translating the content and information of LGBTI human rights movements that have been carried out in Korean society into the Korean sign language.

In order to resolve the problem of deaf sexual minorities being forced to use self-deprecating signs, “Korea Deaf LGBT”, a soon-to-be-established organization, announced in last June a new set of unbiased signs under the name of “Deaf LGBT People X Korean Sign Language: A Language of Respect and Affirmation, A Breakaway from Prejudice and Hatred (www.deafqueerkor.org)”. They identified problematic signs that imply hatred against sexual minorities in the Korean sign language and created neutral signs that will replace those selected signs. This goes beyond the act of simply replacing signs. It is the first step taken by LGBT human rights activists to find ways to eradicate hatred against LGBT people within the deaf community and to help deaf LGBT people boost their self-esteem.

How are deaf sexual minorities faring in Korean society? While creating the new signs “Deaf LGBT People X Korean Sign Language” we met with many activists from social minority groups who have been carrying out human rights movements in Korean society. Although civil society movements for human rights in Korea have expanded to include various fields, it is still hard to find a place for deaf LGBT people. Even if a deaf person intends to learn the results of human rights movements written or spoken in the Korean language through translation into the Korean sign language, the absence of signs related to human rights creates a situation where the signs used by the sign language translator come across as meaningless gestures or reproduction of hatred to deaf people. (Further details are omitted here.)
Refugees
How to Improve Refugee Protection in East Asia Post-2021

In East Asia, Korea, Japan, and Hong Kong are the only places where the government officially operates a refugee screening system and conducts screening of refugees. At the same time, however, the refugee recognition rates of all three countries are very low in light of international human rights standards. Instead, as each government attempts to adjust existing refugee processing systems into more constrictive ones, the quality of refugee processing systems as they exist on paper are evaluated as severely lacking. As a result, many challenges remain due to the frequent rejection and deportation of refugees.

Accordingly, as the Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network (APRRN) seeks diverse solutions based on the human rights of refugees, we have undertaken comparative studies of issues in each country’s court decisions (1st court decisions, final court decisions) regarding “Procedure for Recognition of Refugee Status”, which are known to be inadequate compared to international human rights standards. By sharing the outcomes through this session, we hope to identify the gap between international human rights norms and the standards actually in place on the ground in the three countries, and through this, come up with institutional tasks for future improvement as well as reflect them in the front-line refugee policies of the Ministry of Justice.

The Challenges of Justifying Refugee Status as Seen in the Cases of Rejection in Korea’s Refugee Status Determination

JUN Sooyeon
Lawyer of APIU (Advocates for Public Interest Law)

There are five requirements for recognizing refugee status in accordance with the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the Republic of Korea’s Refugee Act. In refugee status determination, two key requirements are “fear of persecution” and the “well-founded fear.” This presentation examines cases of refugee litigation that took place in courts and the Korea Immigration Service to review how “fear of persecution” is interpreted and proved, how the credibility of statements is assessed, and whether country of origin information (COI) is used and considered properly in reviewing and determining refugee status.

Regarding the burden of proof with respect to refugee status requirements, the Refugee Act stipulates that the refugee applicant and the refugee officer in charge share the burden of proving the presence of persecution. In most refugee status determinations, however, the applicant effectively bears the sole responsibility to submit all direct and indirect evidence that backs up their reasons for seeking refugee status, which has a negative impact on the results of refugee status review.

When evaluating the possibility of the applicant being persecuted, both the applicant’s specific circumstances and the political, social, and religious contexts that have caused the persecution should be taken into account as a whole. In actual refugee status determinations, however, the unique political situation of the applicant’s country of origin is often ignored and the refugee status application is rejected simply because the applicant has no experience of being persecuted directly.

Given that it is difficult to submit direct evidence that proves persecution in refugee cases, Korea’s Supreme Court has ruled that if the applicant’s statements are credible, the presence of persecution should be deemed to have been proved. In some cases, however, refugee status was denied or rejected if no direct evidence of persecution was submitted despite the fact that statements regarding the presence of persecution were consistent and credible. (Further details are omitted here.)

※ Original copy of materials is available on the official website. (www.whrcf.org)
Critical Analysis of the Japanese Practice on Establishing Facts in Refugee Status Determination Procedure

Mitsuru Namba
Secretary-General of Japan Lawyers Network for Refugees

This presentation discusses the current situation in Japan with regard to proving facts related to refugee status from a critical perspective. In doing so, I will look at Japan’s refugee status determination (RSD) practice and the administrative interpretations therein from the Ministry of Justice. I will also assess interpretations from Japanese courts and their judgments in RSD cases. In examining trends, eight lower court cases from August 2015 to October 2019 in which refugee status was at issue were selected and included for the sake of this study. This presentation first examines the issues of burden of proof and the standard of proof regarding refugee status in Japan, and then, in referring to the aforementioned eight court cases, looks at issues surrounding the credibility assessment of statements, and issues related to country of origin information.

Measuring Quality: Refugee Status Determination in Hong Kong

Isaac Laban Shaffer
Head of Legal Services of Justice Centre HK

Hong Kong is a party to a number of international instruments that impose non-refoulement obligations. However, the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees (“Refugee Convention”) has never been extended to Hong Kong. Despite this fact, and due to a serious of judicial decisions, Hong Kong introduced the Unified Screening Mechanism ("USM"), to process claims for international protection, includes those as relating to the relevant criteria as within the Refugee Convention. This was perhaps the first of its kind: a government-led refugee status determination system based on the Refugee Convention but operating in a non-signatory territory.

However, since it began operation in 2014, the recognition rate within the USM remains at below 1%, almost the lowest in the industrialised world. It is particularly telling that this rate reflects a significant and almost overnight precipitous drop upon transition from the previous UNHCR-led process.

To evaluate the extent to which quality of decision-making may be a significant factor in relation to this low recognition rate, Justice Centre Hong Kong analysed a sample of nine First Instance Decisions from the Hong Kong Immigration Department, following initial application/s made for international protection. All relevant claimants were seeking non-refoulement protection from Somalia with the Decisions dated from the period 2016 to 2019. Although these Decisions were selected due to the nationality of the Claimants, the quality of Decision-making and the methodological approach adopted by Decision-makers was observed to be representative of comparable Decisions during the relevant period.

Following a detailed analysis, the overall standard of Decision-making observed was found to be poor on all criteria evaluated. As repeated throughout were key errors including both mistakes in the application of basic legal concepts such as: the assessment of evidence; the legal analysis of prospective risk; the evaluation of credibility; and, in the evaluation of factual/evidential matters, most notably the evaluation of Country of Origin Information.
Social Economy

Roles of Social Economy When a Crisis Becomes the New Normal

In the era when a crisis becomes the new normal, we must respond to the new paradigm of disasters that occur on an everyday basis due to the unpredictability of new calamities such as the resurgence of COVID-19, emergence of new infectious disease pandemics, and climate change.

Discussions will focus on case studies and roles of cooperation in the social economy in the era when a crisis becomes the new normal.
- Exploring the properties of the social economy that shines amidst a crisis.
- Specific preparation (or responses) regarding measures and other actions to protect the ecosystem of social and economic organizations in a crisis situation.
- Structural preparation of crisis-related shock absorbers inherent in the social economy.
- Examining the active role of the social economy in building a social safety net by expanding internal “solidarity and cooperation” within the social economy into “solidarity and cooperation” with the wider world.

Roles of Social Economy
When a Crisis Becomes the New Normal

A stronger social economy is essential if we want to create a fairer and greener society. This was clear before the pandemic but is even more important now.

Social enterprises stepped up to help people and communities in Wales during the pandemic. They adapted their services and found new ways to assist their members, customers and communities.

In Wales there was a consistent rate of growth in the number and size of social enterprises from 2016 through to 2019, before levelling off when the pandemic was having a big impact on the global economy.

COVID-19 had a significant impact on the sector in Wales, with 63% forced to pause trading, 69% reporting a lower-than-expected turnover, and 36% citing a risk to their reserves. Our data appears to suggest a greater adverse impact on the social business sector than the economy as a whole.

The importance of specific financial and business support for social enterprises was made clear by the pandemic. The Welsh Government’s response, which ensured social enterprises and the wider third sector were able to access emergency funding, was crucial. Without this support the sector would have been much more significantly hit.

Social enterprise models are ideally suited to helping the world respond to the significant challenges it faces because of the way they consider their social, environmental and cultural impacts alongside their economic ones.

To continue to grow the social economy, it is essential that countries put in place an effective infrastructure that includes expert business advice, appropriate finance as well as a supportive policy environment.

Social enterprises are resilient and step up to answer societal challenges – they will do so again in the future, and we must support them to maximise their impact.

※ Original copy of materials is available on the official website. (www.wnecf.org)
The Role of a Social Economy in Ensuring Safety and Transition in the Age of Climate Crisis

LEE Yujin
Deputy Director of Institute of Green Transition

The climate crisis is looming large as the biggest threat facing humanity. Are we preparing ourselves well to navigate through the crisis together? Since disadvantaged social groups suffer disproportionately from the adverse effects of the climate crisis, measures to protect those most vulnerable and to quickly recover from the impacts of climate shocks are essential. Then what is the best approach that can be taken by local governments, local communities, and autonomous resident organizations in building social infrastructure to strengthen climate resilience?

While experiencing the COVID-19 pandemic and a series of climate disasters, a question arises, “What would be the best economic system that will help us get through difficult times?” At a time of high unemployment and frequent disasters, an alternative economy that prioritizes the livelihood of citizens is called for. Alternative economies aim to overcome the environmental crisis and inequality caused by capitalism and should work differently from the current economic system in terms of actors, location, purposes, and mode of operation of economic activities. Achieving the goal of carbon neutrality by 2050 requires scaling down the economy to the minimum levels of production and consumption. Since it also requires the reduction of movement of goods and people, production and consumption should be done at the regional level as much as possible. Stronger border controls due to infectious diseases and stricter regulations on greenhouse gas emissions in the transport sector, if they occur, will inevitably result in a decline of an export-led economy. This will shift an economic focus to domestic markets, and how goods and services are produced on domestic soil should require serious attention. In that regard, the following questions need to be asked. Are the goods or services valuable enough to justify the use of limited resources for production? Do the production and consumption methods help reduce greenhouse gas emissions? Does the economic system help local communities strengthen climate resilience? Alternative economies that satisfy all these requirements will naturally converge to a community-based social economy where only those goods and services essential to the lives of citizens are produced at the local level in a way to strengthen the resilience of local communities. (Further details are omitted here.)

The Race to Resilience Campaign Powered by a Social Economy

KiM Taeho
Planning Director of Net Zero R&D Bureau of International Climate & Environment Center

We are currently faced with three different crises and three types of disasters. The three crises are the climate crisis that is becoming the biggest threat to humanity and the natural ecosystem, the inequality crisis that is spreading and deepening throughout society, and the job crisis caused by the fourth industrial revolution and COVID-19. Influencing one another, these three crises are manifesting in the form of unsustainability in environmental, social and economic aspects and are raising uncertainties to the levels beyond our prediction. These crises are jeopardizing our lives and humanity in general, combined with natural disasters such as typhoons, droughts and heatwaves that are perceivable and becoming commonplace, social disasters such as fine dust particles, and disasters related to infectious diseases such as COVID-19. The main culprit of these crises and disasters is the pursuit of endless material growth powered by fossil fuel. The energy transition can be a game-changer in achieving the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions pursued as a direct solution to climate change, resulting from excessive productivity. Digitalization in energy transition can catalyze energy transition by reducing energy demand and boosting efficiency. However, there is one more requirement: finding an answer to the question of how to strengthen resilience against disasters that are becoming all too commonplace. More specifically, this is about enabling local communities to build infrastructure to become more resilient against crises and disasters and more adaptive to climate change. In particular, the risks and impacts of climate change may vary depending on housing type, income level, and local residents' response capacity even within the same region, which calls for the consideration of social vulnerabilities in climate change response through the engagement and cooperation with stakeholders such as communities and local residents. To improve the climate adaptation capacity of a region and avoid climate change risks, the most important requirements will be the participation of local stakeholders, horizontal and voluntary cooperation among the government, market and civil society. A social economy can play a pivotal role in climate crisis response with its emphasis on linkages with the pertinent region and pursuit of both economic and social values based on the spirit of solidarity and cooperation. (Further details are omitted here.)
RWI Handbook on Local Governments and Human Rights Event

People-Centred Solution for an Inclusive City Resilience

Climate change and Covid-19 poses the greatest challenge to our cities and those living in vulnerable conditions. As such, there is a need for a new approach—a change. A human rights-based-approach (HRBA) would help cities pave a new way for a more resilient city and address structural discrimination, inequality, and exclusion where people—all of them—are in the centre of policy consideration and at the discussion table. But how to do it?

Flowing off from its series of research since 2019, RWI develop Localizing human rights in the context of SDGs: a handbook for cities in 2021 together with its university partners in Bandung and East Lampung-Indonesia, and Nagpur-India. With this handbook, RWI aims to demystify the concept of human rights city and provide a practical guide for local governments to operationalize national human rights commitments at the local level with the active participation of stakeholders towards achieving the SDGs. The handbook, for example, offers guidance to mainstream human rights principles into policies and actions towards the achievement of SDGs agenda based on specific contexts such as local needs and challenges through participatory processes.

At its core, the Localizing human rights in the context of SDGs: a handbook for cities highlights the importance of embedding HRBA into local governance. RWI is an active contributor to the global human rights city network and the World Human Rights City Forum in Gwangju, South Korea.

Plenary Session 2

Rebuilding Trust: A New Social Contract Based on Human Rights and Equality

The 11th World Human Rights Cities Forum 2021 is organized against the backdrop of a global pandemic that apart from the tragedy of millions of lost lives is causing ripple effects on economies and devastating increases in poverty levels. The health crisis has also revealed with full clarity the cruel effects of inequality both within and between countries. Among these effects, exposure has for instance been multiplied in cramped housing and communities, where access to clean water falter, and among those whose daily bread could not be earned in the safety of private homes, distanced from high-risk areas. As another grim reminder of systemic inequality, we witnessed how life or death became a matter of resources where access to oxygen and hospitals are provided based on free market principles rather than as a human right and common good.

As the UN Secretary General stressed in the Nelson Mandela lecture 2020 where the “New Social Contract” term was coined, these inequalities are not new but have roots going back to historic injustices and inequality that still are built into the very structure of societies and national and global institutions. His call for a new global deal and a new social contract addressing these rips in the fabric of society was framed not merely as an ambition but as a prerequisite for a peaceful, sustainable future.

So, what does this New Social Contract mean, how can broken trust be mended, and how do we start, concretely and locally, to move in the needed direction?

The idea of a social contract assumes that political legitimacy comes from the consent of people to be led by and loyal to their leaders based on agreed principles of governance, without which there is no right to exercise power. Where global and national (and local) institutions have failed to live up to the principles of this agreement, legitimacy wanes. The New Social Contract would aim to reset the foundations of national and global governance by recognizing the equal human rights of all as founding principles, addressing inequalities that erode these rights, and then seeking to ensure that governance proceeds in line with agreed principles.

The plenary session will introduce reasons why, and how, human rights can and must become a core pillar of this new deal. It will do so both broadly and from the perspectives of local government leaders, setting the stage for deeper reflections in the sessions that will follow in the days of the forum.
Rebuilding Trust: A New Social Contract Based on Human Rights and Equality

Olivier De Schutter
Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights

Cities and local governments have a crucial role to play in the implementation of economic and social rights – the rights to housing, to food, to health or to education. In most countries, it is at municipal level, and with municipal budgets, that social housing projects can develop; that land zoning ordinances are adopted, allowing improved linkages between cities and their rural hinterland; that hospitals and health care centres are established; and that schools are set up and teachers paid. Moreover, it is often at the local level that social protection is delivered to the local population. Municipal policies in these areas would be further strengthened if grounded in the normative framework of human rights, and if benefits to be provided are defined as legal entitlements, that beneficiaries can claim before independent bodies. First, this would transform the relationship between service providers and users, improving accountability. This would reduce the risks of discrimination and corruption in the delivery of goods and services essential to lead a decent life. It would also reduce the rates of non-take-up of benefits, which often stem from the fear — or the shame — of users, who do not want to be stigmatised as depending on public charity. Second, this would ensure that the services provided are adequate, in other terms, of acceptable quality; the risk otherwise is, as once noted by Richard Titmuss, that “services for the poor are poor services”. Third, this would encourage establishing various forms of participation by the public (or the end users) in the design, implementation and evaluation of the services, since local collectivities are much better equipped to ensure direct participation than would be possible at higher levels of governance. For all these reasons, cities should lead the objective of achieving the full realisation of economic and social rights, and they have a major contribution to make to the fight against poverty and social exclusion.

Rebuilding Trust: A New Social Contract Based on Human Rights and Equality

SOH Chang-rok
Member of UN Human Rights Committee

What lessons about human rights can we take away from this pandemic? This will not be the last time humanity will be challenged by a large-scale disaster, so there needs to be a discussion about this. Let us look at three challenging aspects of the pandemic.

First, the pandemic rocked the existing international order which is organized around the nation-state. The UN’s human rights held the nation-state responsible for respecting, protecting and fulfilling human rights. Although the UN monitors the human rights status of nations, it is very difficult for the international community to influence a nation-state’s due to principles of sovereignty and non-intervention.

Vaccine nationalism, or the practice of advanced nations preempting vaccine supplies, may be taken for granted in a nation-state-centered system, but vaccine nationalism is clearly not an effective way to counter global pandemics. Unless vaccinations are rolled out at a global scale, no individual can be completely free from this pandemic.

Second, the pandemic rapidly precipitated the digital age. This digital transformation has a significant impact on the definition and interpretation of human rights. Advances and utilization of digital technologies can contribute significantly to the promotion of human rights, but it can just as well lead to human rights violations and large-scale victimhood that are difficult to reverse. For disease prevention, personal information was mined and shared without sufficient consideration, ignoring the right to privacy over tracking and tracing of suspected carriers. We have not yet reviewed how these will echo into future human rights issues. A thorough human rights approach is clearly necessary before it is too late.

Third, pandemics pose a significant challenge to humanity’s sense of solidarity.

The French Revolution is often cited as the precursor to human rights and democracy in the West as we currently know, for their promotion of basic rights such as freedom, equality, and fraternity. Article 1 and Article 29 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights include the spirit of brotherhood and the individual’s responsibility to communities. However, as discourse on human rights expanded, the focus shifted toward individual rights. As institutions evolved with a focus only on individuals rights and not enough on fraternity, the importance of solidarity and friendship became overlooked. (Further details are omitted here.)
Peace and Human Rights

Recognition of Victims of State Violence and Future Direction of Commemoration Projects for Memory Sharing – Focusing on Jeju 4·3

In the modern history of the Republic of Korea, there have been many instances of human rights violations due to state violence. Representative events include the Jeju April 3 Incident, the Gwangju Democratization Movement in Gwangju, and the Yeosu Incident that took place in Yeosu and Suncheon. In the process of indiscriminate victimization of countless citizens as a result of state violence, the most basic human rights and values of peace were also destroyed.

Accordingly, at the Peace and Human Rights session, we pledge to restore the human rights that have been violated in Korea’s modern and contemporary history and to reestablish peace. There is no left-right partisan divide when it comes to suffering incurred under state violence; everyone is indeed a victim. To pass down the memory of these incidents, the future direction of ‘commemorative facilities’ and ‘commemorative culture’ as ‘memory delivery media’ will be discussed with a focus on the Jeju April 3 incident.

Recognition and Exclusion of Victims

I intend to examine the various situations related to the recognition of victims and seek an integrated solution. Since the sociopolitical recognition structure functions strongly in the process of giving recognition to victims, some victims experience a long delay in receiving recognition or are altogether excluded from receiving recognition for unjustifiable reasons. Since the Second Truth and Reconciliation Commission was launched in the Republic of Korea, various victims have requested recognition through investigations into events in which they had been involved. However, there were many cases in which the final recovery had not been carried out despite the truth-finding investigations conducted by other national organizations. I have tentatively categorized victims into four types: political victims, economic victims, social victims, and ideological victims.

Political victims become visible earlier than other victim types as they are a standard type recognized in the process of investigating past events. Political victims refer to those who have been persecuted while protesting against authoritarian dictatorships or have been persecuted for partaking in the activities of political parties or social groups. Since the orientation of these victims is very well aligned with the core values of political order, such as the rule of law and democracy, they become the first to receive compensation. Some of the examples of political victims include the victims prescribed by the Act on the Restoration of Honor and Compensation to Persons Involved in Democratization Movements (Democratization Movement Compensation Act) or the Act on the Compensation to Persons Involved in the May 18 Democratization Movement.

Economic victims are those excluded from the list of victims of democratization movements because their involvement in the movements is assessed to have been for economic, rather than political, interests. Because the Democratization Movement Compensation Deliberation Committee approached the “democratization movement” with the same standards as a political protest, some movements were classified as democratization movements whereas others were classified as struggles for economic interests. Since the Democratization Movement Compensation Act was intended to grant honor to certain types of activists, it limited the scope of relief for those who were harmed by the illegal exercise of state power. (Further details are omitted here.)

* Original copy of materials is available on the official website. (www.whrf.org)
Direction of the Jeju 4·3 Commemoration Project

YANG Keumsik
Director of Archives of Korea Democracy Foundation

The content of the amendment to the 4·3 Special Act, passed on February 26, 2021, shows where we stand in the resolution of history issues. The amendment included several long-awaited provisions and is assessed as bringing us one step closer to a complete resolution of the Jeju April 3 incident (hereinafter referred to as Jeju 4·3). Nevertheless, we are still far away from achieving the goal of the 4·3 Movement, which is setting Korea’s modern history straight. Instead of having a narrow focus on the people of Jeju, the 4·3 Movement has taken a broader path of playing a symbolic role in the democratization of South Korea, along with other democratization movements, such as the May 18 Democratic Uprising.

Three years ago, the Memorial Committee for the 70th Anniversary of Jeju 4·3 and massacre adopted a slogan, “Bringing Justice to 4·3 and History.” The process of uncovering the truth about Jeju 4·3 requires moving away from the practice of framing Jeju 4·3 as tragic massacres caused by state violence and institutionalizing the related movement in that limited context. It calls for a new approach that takes a greater amount of effort and meticulous movement. The commemoration of a historical event is not only an attempt to keep a fading event in our memory but also a highly complex political act entailing intense conflicts. The power dynamics among the main parties leading a commemoration project have a great impact on the process of defining the project meaning. In this context, the current status of the main actors of the commemoration project will have an impact on “bringing justice” to Jeju 4·3. Hence, securing necessary capabilities is an important pillar in this process.

The 4·3 Movement (or the 4·3 Justice Movement), therefore, should focus on achieving universality in the broader context of the social development of South Korea as a nation and of human history. That is, the movement should go beyond its regional focus and the massacre-victim framing and lead the way in the advancement of democracy and unification of the nation as well as the promotion of human rights and peace for humanity. The movement needs to establish linkages with domestic and global issues regarding human rights, peace and democracy, as well as the unification of the Korean Peninsula and continue to respond to these sensitive issues. In this process, efforts are required to connect the spirit of Jeju 4·3 with contemporary issues in our society. One of the ways is for the movement to take an initiative in creating and managing a “history memory network.” Through the network, the 4·3 Movement can become more influential in the process of defining historical memories and passing them down to the next generations. It can also expand its base in the production of various materials including textbooks, commemorative materials and educational projects. (Further details are omitted here.)

UN SDGs and Human Rights

Inclusive Response to Climate Crisis for Sustainable Development

The United Nations 17 sustainable development goals (SDGs) are directly and indirectly related to human rights, and their process and results reflect the main principles of human rights: universality, indivisibility, and interdependence. The SDGs also explicitly state international human rights standards, such as the right to development, human rights education, and guiding principles on business and human rights.

During the special session at last year’s forum, we discussed human rights approaches to localization of the SDGs based on the 2019 local SDGs, and proposed furthering the discussions, to examine how activists striving to implement SDGs at the local level reflect human rights values with relevant evaluation and practices. Meanwhile, with global society’s growing interest in the COVID-19 pandemic, the climate crisis, and the various policies and solutions being proposed, it is necessary to think about whether we are responding to the climate crisis in terms of human rights, which are the basis of the UN SDGs.

During the session, we expect to diagnose the current status of the country and region on "sustainable development and climate crisis response with no one left behind"; examine overseas responses to the climate crisis in different fields such as gender equality, disability, children and youth, farmers and fishermen, workers, and climate refugees; recognize the problem of climate crisis and the necessity to respond based on human rights; and find out how to respond in a sustainable way. Also, we aim to examine how climate crisis responses in each field are interrelated in terms of the SDGs implement process and discuss the ways to integrate one another and facilitate the interaction.

In this regard, we will look into Gwangju and overseas cases, discuss the concrete ways to link human rights governance with SDGs governance, and seek ways to reflect the discussion in policy and social structure.
Linking SDGs Governance with Human Rights Governance Focusing on South Korean Cases

KIM Gyoung-re
Policy Committee Member of Gwangju Council for Sustainable Development

The current global climate crisis combined with the COVID-19 pandemic are demanding, more than ever, inclusive sustainable development and human rights protection that leaves no one behind. In particular, the COVID-19 pandemic reminds us that many catastrophes and disasters such as infectious diseases, climate crisis, and ecological destruction are often man-made than the work of fate. Minority groups including people living in poverty, women, people with disability, children and youth, the elderly, immigrants and sexual minorities have suffered more negative effects of disaster. This leads to a worsening of discrimination and inequality, which is the cause and the consequence of social bipolarization and disparity.

Since "The Limits to Growth" a report for the Club of Rome (a global forecast on human resource, and environmental issues), was published in 1972, the global climate crisis and the destruction of the ecosystem have surfaced as global issues. They called for a reflection of the limitations of the current social system centered around capitalist economic growth and a design of a futuristic society that revolves around people and the environment instead of material growth. Since the late modern period in human history, respect for human rights and the institutionalization of human rights protection have been the guiding principles of society and efforts have been made to extend human rights into the areas of political citizenship and economic, social and cultural rights. Despite such efforts, the issue of human rights still remains within the narrow boundary of liberal citizenship based on private ownership and the issues of inequality, discrimination, and polarization remain unresolved, as a result. Moreover, there have been declarations that efforts to solve environmental, economic and social problems in an integrated way by taking human rights (the right to life) into considerations are essential to achieve sustainability. When the declarations are put into practice, however, the black and white thinking kicks in: nature (environment) and culture (society, economy and politics) cannot go hand in hand. This approach results in a situation where human rights are not adequately considered in addressing environmental issues and vice versa.

This presentation looks at how a holistic approach toward the resolution of environmental, economic and social issues hinged upon human rights (the right to life) has been carried out in South Korea, with a review of some domestic examples. This will provide a forum for discourse on how the implementation of the SDGs and the practice for human rights promotion are being linked or should be linked. It will also initiate a process of identifying the characteristics of the practical cases where human rights are linked to environment-related SDGs and of seeking new human rights indicators related to the environment.

The aftermath of disasters has a direct impact on education. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many students have been prevented from even going to school. Although the world has responded with last resort policy measures involving contactless online education, the educational limitations of the current responses are being revealed in a multitude of settings.

As in all other fields of society, the field of education was left unprepared for disasters. We were warned about the climate crisis before, and a shift in education was subsequently advocated, but it was not directly tangible until the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic.

This realization has come late. It may be late, but the present moment is the point in time when we must once again think about education to prepare for disasters. In the face of the enormous catastrophe facing humanity in the form of the climate crisis, we hope to discuss what kind of transformation education should consider and how to approach an educational paradigm that prioritizes coexistence with the ecological environment.

We also plan to look at overseas case studies that involve experimentation with the ecological transformation of education, look for ways to apply these outcomes domestically, as well as discuss concerns at the level of the Gwangju community.
Climate Crisis Education in Finland

RYU Seonjeong
Director of Korea–Finland Education Research Center

Finland is internationally recognized as one of the leading countries regarding its efforts to prepare for and address the global climate crisis. In 1990, Finland had already introduced the Carbon Tax and had consistently maintained this policy without steering away during the past three decades. Given that parts of Finland’s territory are located in the Arctic Circle as that of other Northern European countries, Finland had directly witnessed the melting of the glacier due to global warming and realized early on the severity and seriousness of climate change. Against this background, Finland had developed relevant ecology and environment education from within its fundamental curriculum of public education.

Currently, the world, including Korea, is experiencing dramatic climate change before and during the Covid 19 pandemic era. In order to prepare against the calamities arising from abnormal climate changes, the need to devise a more pro-active and realistic solutions which is not just a homework for a handful of countries. It has become an urgent and pressing concern for all inhabitants of Earth. Therefore, it is meaningful to review and deeply dive the precedents Finland had implemented to prepare for the climate crisis as it started to ponder on these matters before we have and now stands in the leading group. In particular, I would like to focus on the programs and initiatives that were carried out within Finland’s educational sector.

Firstly, it is necessary to review the core values of ecological and social education that was introduced in the 2016 National Education Curriculum in Finland. In the realm of human welfare, there exists hierarchy among ecological, social, and economic factors and by understanding the relationship amongst such a hierarchy, it allows us to acknowledge what framework has been created for human activity.

Secondly, based on the core values mentioned above, we will study the courses, programs and classes that were introduced into Finland’s primary, middle and high school classrooms to prepare for the climate crisis. Based on project-based learning (PBL) methodology various subjects were combined under one theme for multidisciplinary learning and students were given the opportunity to think in multi-faceted perspectives regarding climate crisis. Individual units of schools partnered with not only governmental agencies but also universities, private companies, NGO and others to engage in climate crisis education. In addition, we will look into the reason behind emphasizing integration of art courses such as music and art with climate crisis education.

Thirdly, we will closely look into the reasons why Finland’s climate crisis education could continue to take root and grow further voluntarily by students, teachers, and the community.

Transition to Ecological Education in the Age of Unsustainability

LEE Jaeyoung
Professor of Kongju National University Environmental Education Department

The IPCC 1.5°C Report in 2018 warned that we may pass the point of no return in 2030 in the worst-case scenario and the IPCC’s sixth report in August 2021 warned again that we may be too late already. At a time when the climate crisis and environmental disasters undermine the present sustainability, the current generation may end up betraying future generations if discussions about national educational curricula revolve around future uncertainty. I would like to make four suggestions for a transition to ecological education in response to the climate crisis as follows:

First, the Constitution or the Framework Act on Education should be amended as soon as possible in a way that ensures the right of all citizens and future generations to environmental education. Currently, France is in the process of amending Article 1 of its constitution to include a provision that defines the protection of the environment and biological diversity and the fight against the climate crisis as a mandate of the government and the reason for its existence.

Second, efforts should be made to mitigate or overcome the perspective that places excessive emphasis on national identity, curricula, and knowledge, and the educational system should be based on values that prioritize decent and sustainable lifestyles in an age of climate crisis and environmental disasters.

Third, national universities should be integrated into a single system to address socioeconomic polarization and ensure a balanced development of different regions, department composition and faculty selection should be tailored to fit local needs (sustainability), and students should be exempt from tuition fees if they go to a national university of their hometown.

Finally, we should abolish all legal provisions that stipulate a certain number of hours or instances for courses, including cross-curricular classes, which schools must observe to ensure educational autonomy and strengthen the autonomy of localities and schools. (Further details are omitted here.)
Gwangju’s Efforts in Education in Preparation for the Age of Disasters

Gwangju Metropolitan Office of Education’s Master Plan for Climate Change and Ecosystem Education

CHOI Jongsoon
School Inspector of Gwangju Metropolitan Office of Education

In 2020, the average temperature in South Korea was 13.2°C, which was 0.7°C higher than the average year. It was the warmest winter ever, and the central region experienced the longest rainy season of 54 days during the summer. Abnormal weather conditions have been reported all around the world due to rapid climate change, even as daily life continues amidst the spread of COVID-19. It is predicted that a rise of 1.5°C or more in the average global temperature would pose a fatal risk to human life. Therefore it is necessary to achieve global carbon neutrality by 2050 and to reduce carbon emissions to less than half of its current level by 2030.

Disasters caused by such rapid climate change are widening the economic and production gaps between developed and developing countries, and are causing more suffering to the socially disadvantaged groups, such as the poor, the elderly, physical laborers, and migrants. Now is the time to recognize the climate crisis as a social disaster caused by human activities, rather than simply considering it a natural disaster.

In September 2020, the Gwangju Metropolitan Office of Education created the Climate and Environment Cooperation Team and established a master plan for climate, environment, and ecology education. Now, environmental education should go beyond simply teaching a scientific understanding of natural phenomena and be comprehensively integrated with the issues of democracy, human rights, poverty, peace, and multiculturalism. Moreover, for the efforts to address climate change to expand from individual practice to social practice, it is necessary to start from towns and regions. Accordingly, the Gwangju Metropolitan Office of Education is endeavoring to help its citizens grow into eco-citizens who cultivate their lives and live in harmony with others by strengthening its climate, environment, and ecology education, fostering practice-oriented eco-citizens, practicing carbon-neutral energy transition, and reinforcing the cooperative system for addressing the climate crisis.

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International Human Rights Policy Session

Human Rights, Corruption and Trust in a New Social Contract

Following up on the session at last year’s WHRCF, the Raoul Wallenberg Institute and the Embassy of Sweden in the Republic of Korea will again put corruptions’ impacts on human rights on the table. This year, we connect the discussion to the need for renewed trust and dialogue between citizens and States, human rights duty bearers and rights-holders, on the road toward recovery and resilience.

Part of the factors that led the UN Secretary General to call for a “New Social Contract” was the lack of public trust in institutions, from local to international levels of governance. In the session we will look at what role corruption has played in this lack of trust, and the extent to which the impact of corruption on human rights has been a factor. We will also link the discussion to setbacks or progress of local democracy, as well as to the dialogue and interaction between local and federal governments. Strong democracies typically have lower levels of corruption, and corruption tends to decline when democratic institutions and rights-holders work together to hold officials accountable.

In the report “The Nexus between anti-corruption and human rights”, RWI argues that corruption is a human rights issue. It explains how corruption tends to lead to failure of States to meet their human rights obligations and to people not being able to enjoy their rights. It also points to corruption leading to the erosion of the social contract where trust is lost as a consequence both of its impacts on human rights and public services, and of what corruption communicates about priorities of public officials. The “Drive for Democracy” is a key focus area for the Swedish Government. As part of this drive, Sweden co-organises “Democracy Talks” with partners all over the world. Sweden also supports human rights bodies and stakeholders at international to local level in the framework of its international cooperation.

The session will be interactive and aims to deepen the understanding of the connections between human rights, democracy, transparency, and trust, and learn from experiences from local government representatives.
UNESCO Master Class Launching Panel

Human Rights City Gwangju Series

Launched by UNESCO in November 2019 as a global “training for trainers” initiative, the Master Class Series on Racism and Discriminations aims to shed light on the growing significance of racial prejudice and the spread of racial discrimination and intolerance, and raise the visibility on its consequences. The ultimate goal is to empower the young participants to become agents of change and trainers in their own schools and communities.

The Master Classes serve as dialogue spaces and peer learning forums among the young participants, the experts and resource persons, and the invited personalities, in order to openly discuss the taboos that corrode the social and moral fiber in societies.

Using a human rights-based approach, the courses address various topics related to inclusion and non-discrimination, such as racial discrimination, gender-based discrimination, rights of indigenous peoples, discrimination against persons with disabilities, inter alia. Depending on the regional and local contexts, the programme content and the curriculum of each Master Class are designed by UNESCO in collaboration with local partners and stakeholders.

Each edition of the Master Class series culminates with the adoption of the young participants’ commitments in designing and pursuing their own local activities. In collaboration with the member cities of the International Coalition of Inclusive and Sustainable Cities - ICCAR, editions in all regions are being planned and conducted.

The UNESCO Master Class Launching Panel therefore aims to introduce and discuss the future collaboration between Gwangju International Center, the organizer of the World Human Rights Cities Forum, and UNESCO on conducting a long-term project centered around the Human Rights City Gwangju Series of the UNESCO Master Class Series on Racism and Discriminations.

Plenary Session 3

The Role of Human Rights Cities in Fighting Racism and Discrimination

Racism and discrimination have long torn apart our societies, disrupting peace and endangering the lives and livelihoods of countless individuals. The fight against these social ills has always been urgent and the stakes incredibly high. COVID-19 has exacerbated and exposed the systemic and structural frameworks of racism and discrimination across the globe. This is clear in the disproportionate burden the pandemic has placed on minority communities and vulnerable populations. Not only have poor health outcomes been higher in these communities, but the socioeconomic impacts have also been harder and longer lasting.

From the dim context of the pandemic, policy-based and action-oriented solutions have been implemented by a wide array of actors. An impressive number of inclusive, powerful responses to combating hate such as the Black Lives Matter movement, I am not a Virus, Stop Asian Hate, among others, have emerged and created a lasting echo to remind the world of the dangers of racial violence and injustice. Actions from civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to support marginalized communities who are struggling with the effects of the pandemic have created an impact, demonstrating their capacity and effectiveness to provide mutual aid and solidarity efforts. Many governments, both national and local, have taken steps in establishing and enhancing their social policies to curb racism and discrimination, and have deployed emergency responses to protect their populations in the midst of the crisis.

Cities, who are at the forefront of addressing multidimensional challenges in the context of COVID-19, act as global actors in fighting racism and discrimination, putting forward inclusive policies, sharing best practices, and engaging in partnerships with a view to shift attitudes and change mindsets towards an anti-racist and anti-discriminatory culture. For example, UNESCO’s International Coalition of Inclusive and Sustainable Cities – ICCAR has sought leverage the power of cities in engaging a whole-of-community approach in tackling the social dimension of the COVID-19 crisis. (Further details are omitted here.)

※ Original copy of materials is available on the official website (www.wحق.org)
The Role of Human Rights Cities in Fighting Racism and Discrimination

Racism and discrimination are a structural element of the culture of privilege that still persists and is reproduced in our countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, deeply affecting the rights of people from highly vulnerable groups such as migrant populations, women, girls, children and adolescents, the LGTBI population, among others. The recognition, visibility and guarantee of the rights of these populations are fundamental issues for social justice, equality, democracy and the sustainable development of our communities, understanding that only in an inclusive society will human beings be able to give their full potential. In this context, local governments have a key and strategic role. Key because they are the ones who are closest to citizens. They are the entry and exit door for an immediate response to people’s needs. They know, work and interpret the needs of the people. But they also play a strategic role, through the strong impact they are having on global agendas, installing the idea of the importance and transformative power of local actions. The COVID-19 pandemic has created human rights and social inclusion challenges around the world. And local governments have been at the forefront. They were the ones who made the citizen demands visible and warned about the worsening of inequalities. While 2020 has put social agendas to the test, they have also been reinvigorated by new approaches and policies put in place by local governments. This includes access to care, food or housing, as well as the promotion of the right to equality and non-discrimination. Montevideo, as a leading city in the defense of human rights, has generated innovative solutions for the city, which it has replicated in numerous cities in the region and the world, in order to help mitigate the effects of the pandemic and share solutions responding to a common problem. Networks such as the Latin American and Caribbean Coalition of Cities against Racism, Discrimination and Xenophobia and Mercociudades, have been dissemination platforms for these actions, also contributing to sensitize Latin American public opinion on the values of solidarity and respect for human rights and to social and cultural differences.
The Role of Human Rights Cities in Fighting Racism and Discrimination

Lianne Dalziel  
Mayor of Christchurch City, New Zealand

For more than a decade Otago, Christchurch has confronted a range of challenges - from the devastating earthquakes of 2010/2011, through floods and fires, to the atrocity of the terrorist attack on the city’s mosques on March 15, 2019, – before Covid-19 hit the world.

Christchurch Mayor, Lianne Dalziel, welcomes the opportunity to consider the impact of Covid-19 through the lens of racism and discrimination. It has been a particular focus of attention since the mosque attacks exposed the reality of the lived experience of prejudice and where it can end.

As a nation that was colonised by the British in the 19th century, we cannot ignore the impacts of systemic racism and structural discrimination either. This is something we need to address as a nation. Institutional discrimination has left Māori and Pasifika far more exposed to the health and socio-economic impacts of the pandemic, and yet campaigns to resolve this inequity have led to negative commentary on social media.

After the shootings, there have been a number of community-led initiatives which have focused on building resilience and community responsiveness. The Christchurch Invitation is a local initiative that came from the heart of the Muslim community and invites people to spread peace, share food, reconnect, and reflect. The call to reflect reminds us that in this busy world and with algorithms calling people to dark places on the internet, it is important we take the time to think about what matters.

Gwangju as a Human Rights City to Fight Discrimination

SHIN Gyongju  
Senior Advisor for HR & International Affairs, Gwangju Metropolitan City

There is no disagreement in that the Gwangju Uprising is an epoch making event in the Modern Korean history of democratization. One of the major differences of the Gwangju Uprising from other tragic events of the world is the continuous efforts of the Gwangju citizens not only to find the truth of the Uprising but also to realize the Spirit of the Uprising toward democracy and human rights with the support of people in and outside Korea.


Gwangju also began to establish a comprehensive structure and projects as a human rights city including a human rights office with the largest number of staff in 2010. It has been a leading city in Korea for the promotion and protection of human rights including Fight against Racism and Discrimination. In this process, the Gwangju heritage has played a key role in promoting it as a human rights city and protecting the people in disadvantages regardless of changes of political leadership for more than 20 years in the past.

Gwangju Human Rights Charter (2013) specifically states the need of “supporting the disadvantaged”. One of the interesting system is the human rights impact assessment system from 2017, which requires an assessment on the possibility of discrimination by new city ordinances and regulations against the socially marginalized people. During the current Covid-19 pandemic, the Korean government quickly mobilized its national resources to provide free corona test and treatment regardless of their nationality. Gwangju played a leading role in providing the free corona test for the non-documented immigrants without the need of an identification card for the first time in Korea. Now the government provide both vaccination and treatment free of charge to the non-documented immigrants.

People in this region surrounding Gwangju have been the most favorable in Korea to the disadvantaged including refugees and immigrants. Such trend hopefully need to be continuously promoted and expanded locally and globally to make the inclusive society sustainable through global citizen education, which has been promoted by UNESCO.
Special Session on Rights Economy

Human Rights Impacts of Economic Models in Challenging Times

In this session we will go deeper into questions of economic models and structures as factors in current “times of challenge” and concrete attempts to operationalize a New Social Contract. As stated in the concept note for this year’s Forum: “…the ways forward depend strongly on the protection of human rights and public services in the face of multiple challenges. Local and regional governments are at the frontline to respond to these challenges.”

In the city of Buenaventura, Colombia, a civic strike was carried out over 20 days in May-June 2017, where it is possible the majority of the 500,000 inhabitants took to the streets. Buenaventura is the main Colombian port, where the largest volume of cargo in the country is concentrated. At the root of the protests were violations of economic, social and cultural rights (ESCR), such as the lack of drinking water and sanitation, the limited availability of quality and functioning public hospitals, and the precarious working conditions of the port’s workers.

UN OHCHR assisted the State and the organizers of the civic strike to reach a solution that was expected to significantly improve the human rights situation in Buenaventura. The agreements included providing access to drinking water, developing an adequate sanitation system, among other important ESCR commitments. The Buenaventura agreement is an innovation when compared to other agreements that have been historically reached in Colombia to end other protests, since it includes specific deadlines, budgetary commitments, and the creation of a supervisory mechanism to ensure compliance with the agreement.

Using the example of Buenaventura, the session will discuss the necessity of rebuilding public trust within societies where marginalization and injustice are dangerously eroding cohesion and stability, as a key element of a “New Social Contract.” Human rights framework offers powerful tools to rebuild the credibility of institutions to ensure that they are accountable, participatory, inclusive, and provide pathways for everyone to claim their rights. The session will introduce the work that OHCHR is initiating under its Surge Initiative in collaboration with the Raoul Wallenberg Institute to help monitor the implementation of the Buenaventura agreement through analyses of economic and fiscal policies from a human rights perspective, including analysis of public budget at local and central levels.

We will also relate the discussion to the roles and responsibilities of private sector in the context of tensions that arose between trade-driven acceleration of economy in the port city of Buenaventura and continued deprivation of predominantly Afro-Colombian population in the city.
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<td>The Right to Food and Farmers’ Rights in an Era of Disasters</td>
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<td>KF-UNDROP, Nongbon-Public Interest Litigation for the Peasants, PCAFPR-FORUM on UNDROP, KWPA-Gwangju and Jeonnam, KPA-Gwangju and Jeonnam</td>
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<td>Moderator</td>
<td>YOON Byeongseon [Korea] Professor of Konkuk University</td>
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<td>Host</td>
<td>Jung Hyeonchan [Korea] Chairperson of PCAFPR</td>
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<td>Kim Jeongyeol [Korea]</td>
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<td>Chairperson of PCAFPR-FORUM on UNDROP</td>
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<td>Speaker</td>
<td>Michael Fakhri [Special Rapporteur on Right to Food of United Nations]</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Discussants</td>
<td>SONG Wonkyu [Korea] Deputy Director of Research Institute of Agriculture and Peasant Policy</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Cho Gilye [Korea] Representative of Vegan Climate Action Network</td>
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<td>OH Mi-En [Korea] Director of Rural Women Policy Team of Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs</td>
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<td>PARK Kyongcheol [Korea] Senior Researcher of Chungnam Institution</td>
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<td>KIM Wonsug [Korea] Secretary-General of Korea Women Peasant Association</td>
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<td>Rights of the Elderly in Times of Crisis</td>
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<td>Organizer</td>
<td>Gwangju Information &amp; Referral Service Center for the Aged</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Moderator</td>
<td>YANG Chulho [Korea] President of Gwangju Information &amp; Referral Service Center for the Aged</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Speakers</td>
<td>Pablo Aguilar González [Mexico] President and Chairperson of CJUR International Association of Urbanistic Jurisprudence</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Donnabel Panes [The Philippines] City Epidemiologist and Medical Officer IV of City Government of Baguio</td>
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<td>JOO Jin-Gul [Korea] Associate Professor of Dongshin University</td>
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<td>CHOI Ryong [Korea] Professor of Department of Health and Public Administration of Dongshin University</td>
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<td>Discussant</td>
<td>CHON Jinhee [Korea] Director of Ulsan Metropolitan City Human rights Center</td>
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<td>The COVID-19 Pandemic and the Rights of Persons with Disabilities</td>
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<td>Gwangju Human Rights Center for People with Disabilities, Gwangju Solidarity Against Disability Discrimination</td>
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<td>Moderator</td>
<td>KANG Min Hui [Korea] Associate Professor of Honam University</td>
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<td>Speakers</td>
<td>Dragana Ciric Milovanovic [Serbia] Director of European Programmes of Disability Rights International</td>
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<td>CHOI Seoyeong [Korea] Director of Welfare for the Disabled Division of Gwangju Metropolitan City</td>
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<td>BYUN Jaewon [Korea] Policy Director of Solidarity Against Disability Discrimination</td>
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<td>Discussants</td>
<td>CHOI Hanbyol [Korea] Secretary-General of Korean Disability Forum</td>
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<td>JEON Geunbok [Korea] Policy director of Daegu Solidarity Against Disability Discrimination</td>
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<td>KIM Sungyoun [Korea] Director-General of Disability Discrimination Acts Solidarity in Korea</td>
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<td>Moderator</td>
<td>KANG Min Hui [Korea] Associate Professor of Honam University</td>
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<td>Dragana Ciric Milovanovic [Serbia] Director of European Programmes of Disability Rights International</td>
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<td>BYUN Jaewon [Korea] Policy Director of Solidarity Against Disability Discrimination</td>
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### October 9th: Day 3

#### HS: BLC Closing Event

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<td>Theme Sharing Feedbacks from Participants and Conducting Evaluation</td>
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<td>Gwangju International Center</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Moderator Helena Olsson [Sweden] Senior Programme Officer of Raoul Wallenberg Institute</td>
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<td>Congratulatory Remarks Jason Squire [Australia] Director of Regional Asia Office in Jakarta of Raoul Wallenberg Institute</td>
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<td>Bernadja Tjandrawidji [Indonesia] Secretary-General of UCLG ASPAC</td>
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<td>SHIN Gyonggu [Korea] Senior Advisor for Human Rights International Affairs of Gwangju Metropolitan City</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participants</td>
<td>Joyce Sy [The Philippines] Planning Officer II of Makati City</td>
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<td>Maolen Karla Boholano [The Philippines] Project Evaluation Officer IV of Calamba</td>
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<td>Soleli Erika Manzano [The Philippines] Program Officer of Special Projects Program, Project and Policy Department of Quezon City</td>
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<td>Flordelis Jubay [The Philippines] City Planning and Development Officer of Island Garden City of Samal</td>
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<td>Maria Beth Salda Manlapaz [The Philippines] Planning Officer IV of Malabon City</td>
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<td>Jo Honey A.do [The Philippines] Clerk I City Planning &amp; Development of Tagum City</td>
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<td>Luz Laureta-Balisong [The Philippines] Attorney of Baguio City</td>
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<td>April Jane Rosario [The Philippines] Planning Officer II of Island Garden City of Samal</td>
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<td>Merewyn Sadjail [The Philippines] Project Development Officer II of City Planning &amp; Development Office of Isabela City</td>
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<td>Nurul Hidayah Binti Zawawi [Malaysia] Town Planner of Kuala Lumpur</td>
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<td>Katriona Ortiz [The Philippines] Social Welfare Officer III of Masbate City</td>
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#### N5: UNESCO Expert Meeting: APCAD Inclusive City Markers

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>17:00-18:30</td>
<td>Languages English</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Theme Reviewing the Research and Options for the Development of APCAD Inclusive City Markers</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Organizers UNESCO Asia-Pacific Coalition of Cities Against Discrimination (UNESCO APCAD), Gwangju International Center, Chonnam National University Center for Regional Development</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Moderator SHIN Gyonggu [Korea] Director of Gwangju International Center</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Discussants Hans Sakkers [The Netherlands] International Strategy Advisor of City of Utrecht</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Windi Arini [Indonesia] Programme Officer of Raoul Wallenberg Institute</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Frederique Hanotier [Belgium] Director of Human Rights Cities Network</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Gibran Rakabuming [Indonesia] Mayor of Surakarta City</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Safia Yonis [UN Habitat Associate Programme Officer]</td>
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<td>Laxman Perera [Human Settlement Officer of UN Habitat]</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Hemanthi Goonesekera [Chief Executive Officer of Sri Lankan Local Govt. Authorities]</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Tam Hoang [Sustainable Urbanization Specialist of UN Habitat Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific]</td>
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<td>Peter Woods [Australia] Former President of the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA)</td>
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#### E2: A Dialogue Session on Youth Engagement

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<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>16:00-17:30</td>
<td>Languages English</td>
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<td>Theme Youth as Changemakers</td>
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<td>Organizers UNESCO, Gwangju International Center</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Speaker Linda Tinio-Le Douarin [Coordinator of UNESCO]</td>
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#### S7: Right to the City

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>18:00-20:00</td>
<td>Languages English</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Theme Exploring the Right to the City from the Perspectives of the Asia Region How to Face Climate Change and Covid 19</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Organizers Global Platform for the Right to the City (GPR2C), UCLG-CISDP, Kota Kita Foundation, Hualirou Commission, Social Equity and Participation Center China, Gwangju International Center</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Moderators Nelson Saule Jáurezi [Brazil] Coordinator of the Support Team of GPR2C</td>
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<td>Henrique Frota [Brazil] Coordinator of the Support Team of GPR2C</td>
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<td>Speakers Eva Garcia Chueca [Spain] Senior Research Fellow of Barcelona Centre for International Affairs</td>
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<td>Álvaro Puertas Robina [Spain] Consultant of Global Platform Right to the City</td>
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<td>Ming Zhang [China] Social Equity and Participation Center, China</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Su Yun Woo [Singapore] Researcher at Social Equity and Participation Center, China</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Maria Fides Bagasao [The Philippines] Co-Founder of Hualirou Commission</td>
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<td>Alan Brown [South Africa] Research Professor of Chonnam National University Center for Regional Development</td>
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<td>SHIN Gyonggu [Korea] Director of Gwangju International Center</td>
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<td>Ahmad Rifai [Indonesia] Co-Founder of Kota Kita Foundation</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Fildzah Husna Amalina [Indonesia] Communications Officer of Kota Kita Foundation</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Amanda Fley Martinez [Spain] Coordinator of UCLG-CISDP</td>
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Right to Food
The Right to Food and Farmers’ Rights in an Era of Disasters

The COVID-19 pandemic and the climate crisis are critical disasters that are interconnected and threaten humanity today. Although the United Nations Food Systems Summit is scheduled to be held in the fall of 2021 against the backdrop of a global food crisis of an unprecedented scale brought on by disasters and directly affecting the natural world and human life, there are doubts about whether a farmer and citizen-led solution will be developed by securing the right to food and farmers’ rights. In Korea, where the grain self-sufficiency rate is only 22%, securing the rights of farmers for the stable production of food is a basic prerequisite for securing citizens’ right to food, especially for the food-vulnerable class.

Through this session, we hope to examine food and agriculture from the perspective of global food rights and farmers’ rights, and that based on this, the right to food and the rights of farmers will be discussed more closely under the broader subject of human rights.

BLC Projects Presentation Session
Knowledge to Practice: Sharing Session with BLC Participants

As part of the BLC programme, participants are developing an action plan on how they will transfer their new knowledge and networks into their daily programme and responsibility in their region. Duration for this course project is July-September 2021. Based on assessment by co-organisers, five (5) promising projects are selected and will be shared in a side-event at the 11th World Human Rights City Forum.

This event is co-hosted by RWI, UCLG ASPAC and City of Gwangju as the co-organisers of the BLC.

This sharing session aim to increase knowledge of local government across Asia Pacific on localising human rights and SDGs and encourage further discussion and collaboration among local governments on rights-based recovery and resilience. Highlighting the promising projects this activity aim to:
- Present the five (5) promising projects which focus on localising human rights and SDGs for inclusive recovery and resilience.
- Discuss key takeaways and recommendations from the project implementation period.
**Project 1**  
- Makati City, The Philippines

Joyce Syl  
Planning Officer II of Makati City, The Philippines

Makati City is drafting its Public Service Continuity Plan (PSCP) which details how the City Government of Makati will ensure it can continue to perform its essential functions during a wide range of emergencies including localized acts of nature, accidents, and technological or attack-related emergencies. The Makati PSCP is thus, a good start to mainstream the human rights perspective, ensuring that persons in situations of potential vulnerability are included and that the whole of community approach is observed in the plan.

This course project aim to ensure that human rights lens is considered in drafting Makati City's PSCP plan.

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**Project 2**  
- Calamba City, The Philippines

Maolen Karla Boholano  
Project Evaluation Officer IV of City of Calamba, The Philippines

This course project aims to integrate human rights principles and a human rights-based approach into the City of Calamba's Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Plan (DRRMP). The DRRMP put children, persons with disabilities, and senior citizens as priority groups. However, it lacks specific measures or programs, projects and activities (PPAs) targeting these particular groups on the prevention and rehabilitation phase. In the response phase, it requires a clearer mechanism to allow these groups to be evacuated first. Further, there are no recommendations on the proposed evacuation centre on the specific needs of these groups. However, in the management of evacuation centres, there are suggested activities for children’s safety and continuous education, but there are none for PWDs and senior citizens.

This course project is focused on persons with disabilities. If anchored on the principle that no one is left behind, the DRRM Plan of the city will be more responsive to the needs of the persons with disabilities who are more vulnerable to disasters than other groups.

The result of this course project would be the Enhanced Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Plan of the City of Calamba. The human rights-based approach in the formulation of the plan will add value in the relevance and responsiveness to the needs of persons with disabilities.
Project 3  
- Quezon City, The Philippines

Soleil Erika Manzano
Program Officer of Special Projects Programs, Project and Policy Department of Quezon City, The Philippines

This course project aims to develop a prototype SDG voluntary local review (VLR) tool tailored for Philippine local governments, specifically cities. A unique feature will include a human rights lens to probe if the entire review process employed a human rights-based approach. This course project will focus on one specific goal that the pilot city/ies are prioritizing.

A first in the history of the League of Cities, the development and piloting of this tool is an excellent opportunity to further engage local governments and stakeholders in achieving the goals, increase their awareness in their essential role in contributing to the national government’s work in achieving the SDGs. Further, this tool will create a critical mass of local governments that will exchange ideas and replicable good practices that will fit any context.

After pilot testing the review tool in the pilot city/ies, feedback will be gathered, and the tool will be further updated to include the lessons and insights gathered from the activity. These will be packaged as case studies and published into the League’s various communication channels such as newsletters, official Facebook pages, and other social media platforms. This will allow other cities and other local governments in the Philippines and the Asia-Pacific to easily access their stories which can become an inspiration for replication.

In the long term, the prototype tool can become the reference tool of cities in conducting VLRs independently. The experiences of Philippine cities in the VLRs will be gathered and documented and will be included in the League’s database. More importantly, this course project will catalyze the League’s SDG and human rights portfolio strengthening in the League’s agenda, which can be further promoted in the upcoming 2022 administration. The creation of the SDG and human rights portfolios will be a first in the history of the League.

Project 4  
- Island Garden City of Samal, The Philippines

Flordelis Jubay
City Planning and Development Officer of Island Garden City of Samal, The Philippines

During the pandemic, the Island Garden City of Samal experienced economic setbacks resulting from lockdowns and control of people’s movements, particularly in doing business. In its entirety, these affected the socio-economic conditions of the people who are now beneficiaries of related interventions. In effect, given these circumstances, there is a need to lay down the groundwork for the City’s socio-economic recovery. As such, this endeavour will focus on the local government’s Covid-19 responses spelt out through related policies, the citizens’ feedback based on their experiences, and determining if mechanisms are in place or adequate to promote the Citizens right to equal access to government interventions. Likewise, emerging Human Rights Perspectives resulting from this project will be considered the bottom line of the Recovery Plan.

This course project focuses on the Local Government Covid-19 Recovery Plan in the Light of the Citizens Right to Equal Access for Interventions as relevant under the current circumstances. The following results are expected from the project:

- Accounted for policies with provisions objectively analysed to determine their implementability given the organisational and financial capacity of the local government.

- Actual status of the policies implementation processes based on the feedbacks of the citizens generated through the Focus Group Discussion (FGD) process establishing thereof whether mechanisms as are in place or adequate to promote the Citizens right to equal access for government interventions.

- Generated human rights perspectives refer to concepts that will be integrated into the concerns that will be worked on during the formulation of the Recovery Plan.
COVID-19 Pandemic had shaken the world in previous year. Almost all countries were not ready on handling the said pandemic. In the Philippines, all cities were required to have their respective COVID 19 Rehabilitation and Recovery Plan. With the view of enhancing City of Malabon’s COVID 19 Rehabilitation and Recovery Plan, this course project aim to improve the plan by using human rights lens in all 5 pillars identified in the plan namely inclusive public health care system; resilient and balanced local economy; sustainable and responsive social services; trustworthy and agile public institutions; and enhanced community involvement and cooperation.

The main objective of this course project is to produce an enhanced version of Malabon Rehabilitation and Recovery Plan.
A New Legal Urban Paradigm to Guarantee the Human Rights of Elderly in Cities

Pablo Aguilar Gonzalez
President and Chairperson of CJUR International Association of Urbanistic Jurisprudence

“A new legal urban paradigm to guarantee the human rights of elderly in cities”.

We are living a moment of urban crisis paradigm with a dangerous menace for the elderly people in cities:

The vision of a “compact, dense, vertical, safe, economically vibrant city” etc. as the characteristics of an efficient and “best” city to guarantee the elderly, people, human rights has collapsed because of COVID-19. The rights of the elderly are not part of the pillars of urban planning and urban legislation.

The traditional vision of urban planning is based on property, value capture, real state, land development, massive transport, mobility, services, and infrastructure, not in human rights, and of course not in the rights of the elderly.

This paradigm has collapsed with the COVID 19 crisis originated by the menace of the right to health, security, and the right to life itself.

Precisely, the 95% of explosive virus spread in cities and metropolitan areas was facilitated because of the spatial configuration of our “compact, dense, vertical and dynamic” cities, and the elderly was not only a forgotten group but also a sector that was directly impacted by violating their human rights with the following combination: the urban planning with no vision of guaranteeing their rights and a mortal virus spreading in all public and private spaces.

So, we need to make some reflections about this in the session.

Protecting and Shielding the Elderly

Donnabel Panes
City Epidemiologist and Medical Officer IV of City Government of Baguio, The Philippines

In response to the COVID 19 pandemic, WHO has developed this guidance on how best to support vulnerable populations to prevent, prepare for and respond to possible community transmission of COVID-19. Vulnerable groups, including the elderly, have a higher risk of infection due to poorer baseline health status and fewer opportunities to seek care. They may have higher exposure to infection due to transient or crowded living conditions and face barriers to accessing sanitation. They also may be less likely to be reached with contextually appropriate and actionable information in local languages about protective measures and less able to carry them out. They may have less capacity for response to infection due to limited access to health and essential services, as well as unfavorable living conditions. People in such vulnerable groups may not be able to complain of symptoms or have atypical symptoms or may not be able to communicate their needs for care.

The Covid19 Pandemic has surfaced a lot of weaknesses and inadequacies across all nations. No country was spared. The fact that the elderly are the most vulnerable population being affected by Covid 19, it came as a surprise to people in governance (when we are used to dealing with infectious disease and vaccine preventable diseases among children).

The weaknesses and inadequacies range from health service provision, information system, and health human resource. Thus, there is a need to address these gaps to meet the demands of the crisis. The city of Baguio under the leadership of Mayor Benjamin B. Magalong has been recognized by various sectors both locally and internationally. Its Covid19 response are cross cutting and granular. Part of it is protecting and shielding the elderly through provision of services and an information system responsive to the needs of the elderly, and has aided various decision makers to come up with strategies and solutions through systems thinking to address their needs and demands.

Health services provision among elderlies will entail essential package for Covid19 management from prevention, detection, testing, contact tracing, isolation and quarantine an end to end approach in service delivery.

In addition, an information system to disaggregate data by age group, line listing and mapping where they are, and creating a support bubble for the elderly, developed by the city has improved service delivery and increase demand for Covid 19 Vaccination. The City Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit has been updating the media on a day to day basis through the public information office regarding the status of cases highlighting the elderlies. Through this, it creates awareness on people the vulnerability of the elderly, thus there’s a shared responsibility of protecting and shielding of the elderly.
Elder Rights in a State of Disaster: “Social Solidarity for the Rights of the Elderly”

CHOI Ryoung
Professor of Dongshin University Health and Public Administration Department

Currently in 2021, with the COVID-19 pandemic that began in 2019 still raging across the world, it is time to think about the meaning of “disaster” as well as solidarity and publicness of relationships, health and life, public health and medical care, and public health and welfare, with the elder rights at the center of all those issues.

With the outbreak of COVID-19, we have become aware of the severity and gravity of disasters caused by an infectious disease that we had long forgotten. Compared to SARS, swine flu, and MERS outbreaks that we have experienced, COVID-19 has been continuing for a much longer period since the first cases were reported. What is particularly notable is that deaths from COVID-19 are concentrated in the elderly population aged 60 or older. As of September 7, 2021, the 60-to-69 age group accounted for 13.78% of South Korea’s COVID-19 fatalities; the 70-to-79 age group, 27.47%; and the 80-or-older age group, 51.16%.

As the epidemic is prolonged with a higher fatality rate for the elderly over 60 years of age compared to younger age groups, ethical issues that had not been discussed in the past have begun to emerge.

According to the Constitution of the Republic of Korea, “The freedoms and rights of citizens may be restricted by law only when necessary for national security, the maintenance of law and order, or public welfare. Even when such restriction is imposed, no essential aspect of the freedom or right shall be violated.” Traditionally, the isolation of patients with infectious diseases has been considered an issue, in which the entire society’s right to health competes with individual freedom, to prevent harm to public health. Individuals’ freedom is at times restricted in the form of quarantine under the “harm principle”, but the essential aspects of their freedoms and rights must not be violated.

Therefore, it is necessary to examine whether our society is losing solidarity and public interest in the elderly in this disaster caused by COVID-19, whether the elderly’s basic rights, such as rights to healthcare and welfare, health and guaranteed income, and access to medical care, are being violated, and whether the elderly have been subjected to any physical or mental harm or received any damage to economic activities due to diminishing social life. Discrimination against a specific group for reasons of the majority’s safety or society’s economic revitalization or growth cannot be justified, as there are rights that belong to us simply for being human and should not be infringed on by anyone. That is what human rights are. (Further details are omitted here.)

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Disability

The COVID-19 Pandemic and the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

In the 2021 World Human Rights Cities Forum’s Disability Session, the main details of the “Rights of Persons with Disabilities and COVID-19”, announced by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights last year, and its implementation status in major countries will be shared. In addition, we will look at the responses and circumstances of organizations that promote the rights of persons with disabilities in each country.

Through this, we review the international principles for guaranteeing the human rights of persons with disabilities suggested during pandemics such as the current COVID-19 outbreak, and specific activities needed to realize them.

In addition, we will examine the real problems faced by the persons with disabilities in Korea during infectious disease epidemics from MERS to COVID-19. From Cheongdo’s Daenam Hospital to Sinaewon, issues regarding cluster infections in facilities for the persons with disabilities and regional support for the persons with disabilities, as exposed in the Daegu area, and future tasks for Gwangju City and each local government will be identified.

Based on the above discussion, the 2021 World Human Rights Cities Forum’s Disability Session will look closely at whether there are any issues to be remedied or supplemented in Gwangju City’s COVID-19-related support plans for the persons with disabilities. Through this, we aim to derive actionable tasks such as measures to support the persons with disabilities within Gwangju City and the development of response manuals.

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*Original copy of materials is available on the official website: [www.whrcf.org](http://www.whrcf.org)
The Current State and Direction of Post–COVID Support for the Disabled in Gwangju

CHOI Seonyeong
Director of Welfare for the Disabled Division of Gwangju Metropolitan City

The Gwangju Metropolitan Government (GMG) has been offering welfare services by creating a comprehensive policy plan for the disabled (2019-2020) to ensure that more than 70,000 people with disabilities in Gwangju all lead a safe, happy, independent, and equitable life.

The COVID-19 pandemic that swept the world also affected the entire Korea last year, and this brought to light the importance of and need for support of the disabled among local governments.

In response to the spread of the pandemic, the GMG worked with municipality offices and other organizations to strengthen the support necessary for families with disabled members. It also strived to minimize user inconveniences by reducing the number of people housed in institutions and breaking programs into smaller components in line with the government guidelines on response at social welfare facilities and the manual on response to infectious diseases for people with disabilities (April 2021), which comply with social distancing policy.

The GMG also designated a special week for the disabled during which its employees visited local disabled people, groups, and institutions to listen to their voices and incorporate them into customized policy measures.

After the tragic news about the death of a woman and her disabled child, the GMG opened a care center for people with severe developmental disabilities in the Gwangju area to strike the right balance between the protection of the disabled and their independence and to create a system that helps families with disabled members return to a normal life.

To address the potential periodic spread of infectious diseases, the GMG will develop plans to support those who are vulnerable to infections or have been relatively underserved by taking into account the unique circumstances of the disabled in this pandemic situation (a higher infection rate compared to people without disabilities and the complex nature of losses suffered by the disabled). It will also develop a system for cooperation among departments related to infectious diseases, devise a plan to prevent cluster infections at institutions and support them, and create and disseminate disaster response manuals for people with different types of disabilities.

The Risks and Alternatives of Institutionalization-oriented Policy as seen in COVID–19 Cluster Infection Cases at Institutions

BYUN Jaewon
Policy Director of Solidarity Against Disability Discrimination

Two years have passed since COVID-19 began spreading widely in Korea. The pandemic has clearly exposed the weakest links of our society and it has caused a series of social tragedies. The most serious out of such events were COVID-19 infections among the disabled. In particular, institutionalized people with disabilities placed under a group-based care system were extremely vulnerable to COVID-19.

More than 100 disabled patients were infected at Daenam Hospital in Cheongdo where Korea’s first COVID-19 death was reported. The problem didn’t stop there. Following the infections that happened at Daenam Hospital in February 2020, a series of cluster infections occurred in the same month at institutions located in Gyeongsangbuk-do Province such as Kukraeng Maelin Yecheon and Milalgongdongche in Chilgok. In March, more infections took place at other institutions, including the Seongbo Rehabilitation Center and Second Miju Hospital in Daegu.

With respect to the trend of COVID-19 cluster infections, the disabled community points out the issue lies in the fact that disability institutions with inherent vulnerabilities stick to institutionalization-oriented policy. Against this backdrop, I’d like to use this session to talk about the risks and alternatives of institutionalization-oriented policy as seen in COVID-19 cluster infection cases at different institutions.

Focusing on the first reported emergency deinstitutionalization in Seoul that took place at the Shinwon Rehabilitation Center in December 2020, I will explore how to manage emergency deinstitutionalization and what preparations Korean society should make for the future course of action to ensure quick implementation in this post-COVID era when we cannot expect the pandemic to end anytime soon.

In line with the slogan “Breaking out of Isolation into an Inclusive Space” and the theme of WHRCF’s Disability Session that deals with the human rights of the disabled in the pandemic context, my presentation aims to help promote the human rights of persons with disabilities through coexistence and solidarity and raise the collective awareness about the need for alliance through deinstitutionalization policy that is strongly advocated by organizations such as the UN CRPD.
A Dialogue Session on Youth Engagement
Youth as Changemakers

History has never before been witness to the upliftment of youth voices as it has been in our present society. Over the recent years, the powerful messages advocated by Malala Yousafzai, Greta Thunberg and the young activists of the March for Our Lives movement, among many others, have left resounding echoes in the international community’s consciousness, and filling the void of what otherwise used to be the space for adults. The strong messages brought to fore by these young women and men have been widely referred to in public opinion, paving the way to creating youth spaces and making its way into the debates in the public sphere. This dialogue session on youth engagement will tackle the evolution of youth as changemakers in the global scene. It will delve into how at the individual and community levels, young women and men of today could make positive social change.

UNESCO Expert Meeting: APCAD Inclusive City Markers
Reviewing the Research and Options for the Development of APCAD Inclusive City Markers

APCAD in partnership with Gwangju International Center is developing a concept to establish a Social Inclusion / Human Rights Marker System. This System will enable cities to understand their strengths and weaknesses in relation to human rights and social inclusion, pursue improved policies and practices and receive recognition for the achievements that have been made. The System will be based on existing guidelines and commitments such as the APCAD 10 Point Plan, the Gwangju Guiding Principles for Human Rights Cities and the Sustainable Development Goals.

This expert meeting will be an opportunity to bring together city and human rights experts to review the research and options for development of the Marker System to help shape the final proposal put to APCAD Members for consideration.
APCAD Inclusive City Markers

Project Participants
Alan Brown, CHOI Jin, KIM Sohee, Jana Milosavljevic, Thi Nghi Phuong Nong, SHIN Gyonggu

The APCAD Inclusive City Markers construct a system being developed for APCAD in collaboration with the Gwangju International Center and the Chonnam National University Center for Regional Development in Gwangju, Korea. The main objective of this project is to develop a quality marker system to be used as a practical toolbox for municipal policymakers, specifically in APCAD Coalition member cities and prospective member cities, to assess their implementation of human rights, social inclusion and non-discrimination commitments. The system will additionally enable the cities to set long-term goals to guide their future actions for the promotion and improvement of social inclusion and anti-discrimination policies at local level, contributing to the fulfillment of universal human rights obligations. The establishment of benchmarks and standards for human rights, social inclusion and non-discrimination will not only provide recognition of the efforts cities have made, but support the further development of steps to strengthen and expand associated initiatives.

The marker system was developed by first conducting a desk review of the context as well as existing human rights, social inclusion and non-discrimination indicators and marker systems. Following this, a conceptual and methodological framework was established to identify the scope of the marker system and operationally feasible human rights indicators.

The marker system is structured in themes as follows: Spatial inclusion, Social inclusion, Cultural inclusion, Economic inclusion, and Political inclusion. The themes are based on a broad understanding of the notion of Social Inclusion of all residents while paying more attention to vulnerable groups. Within each theme are sub-themes, each of which has indicators reflecting Structural, Process and Outcome dimensions. The indicators have a human rights, inclusion and non-discrimination focus, and include both quantitative and qualitative data on the individual and municipal level.

The project is still in progress. As such, subsequent stages are extensive consultation with a panel of experts and municipal authorities; a test run with Gwangju City, and necessary adjustment; publication and dissemination of the marker system, companion guide and other related materials; and monitoring and assessment process.

II. Original copy of materials is available on the official website: (www.whrcf.org)
The Impact of COVID-19 on the Right to the City: Post-Pandemic Perspectives to Build Back Better and Fairer Cities and Human Settlements

Eva Garcia Chueca
Senior Research Fellow of Barcelona Centre for International Affairs

This paper argues that the COVID-19 pandemic has shown the failures of the current economic and urban models in many fields. A number of unresolved problems suddenly emerged in a simultaneous manner: gross inequalities, poor access to adequate housing, homelessness, urban economies incapable of ensuring livelihoods for all, poor public healthcare systems, lack of digital skills or tools, insufficient basic urban infrastructures, and so on. The evidence of these structural failures opens up a window of opportunity to change the hegemonic patterns of city-making. A paradigm shift is needed to build back our cities and human settlements better in post-pandemic times. The Right to the City sheds light on how to move towards this paradigm shift by encouraging us to rethink cities and human settlements, building on the principles of solidary, inclusivity, social justice, equity, democracy and sustainability.

Bottom-up conceptualizations of the Right to the City invite us to understand cities as commons that belong to all inhabitants (present and future, permanent and temporary). In particular, understanding of the Right to the City entails ensuring that all dwellers—with no discrimination based on any condition or feature of identity—have the right to access, produce, use, occupy, govern and enjoy safe cities and human settlements, and all their resources, services, facilities and opportunities.

Against this framework, this thematic paper aims to be useful to a variety of stakeholders (civil society, governmental institutions, the private sector, academia, etc.) in their efforts to build back better cities and human settlements in post-pandemic times by using the Right to the City as a guide for change. To this end, the paper first provides the international legal and political ground on which such change can be underpinned, as well as offering a succinct diagnosis of how the pandemic has impacted cities and human settlements. On the basis of such a diagnosis, several fields of action are offered to guide the policies of national and local governments. Finally, the paper points out the main elements that make up an enabling framework for the realization of the Right to the City.

The Relevance of the Right to the City to Face Climate Change, Global Warming and Environmental Justice

Álvaro Puertas Robina
Consultant of the Global Platform for the Right to the City (GPR2C)

This paper proposes the Right to the City, understood as ‘the right of all inhabitants, present and future, permanent and temporary, to inhabit, use, occupy, produce, govern and enjoy just, inclusive, safe and sustainable cities, villages and human settlements, defined as commons essential to a full and decent life’, as one of the reference frameworks to guide equitable climate action and to jointly create practical agendas to mitigate climate change, adapt to its impacts, and guarantee the restitution of rights lost in the past while preserving those rights for future generations. The paper also reflects on ambitious but failed former agendas for preserving the environment, guaranteeing human rights and development. It also explains how the human rights-based Right to the City principles are aligned with sustainability values and permeate the current Paris Agreement, Agenda 2030 and the New Urban Agenda. The document also describes how to create enabling environments for local action, the role of local governments and a selection of good practices and initiatives that successfully incorporate Right to the City principles into climate action. The paper ends with general recommendations and several annexes including a glossary from several sources.

*Original copy of materials is available on the official website: [www.wmhf.org]*
Right to Education in China through the Lens of Migrant Children’s Education in Chengdu

Su Yun Woo & Ming Zhuang

While China has enjoyed phenomenal economic success since the 1980s with rapid urbanization, it often comes at a price of perpetuating inequality, a predicament most acutely experienced by the migrant workers in the city. The Right to the City agenda as a clamon for social justice has not been addressed comprehensively in China. In this report, we focused on a specific aspect of the Right to the City agenda, inclusive citizenship, by shedding light on how the differentiated citizenship encountered by the Chinese migrant workers plays out in the challenges and issues their children face in gaining equal access to the right of education. A qualitative case study of migrant children’s education in Chengdu was undertaken where interviews were conducted with migrant workers and social organizations to lend agency for the usually marginalized individuals to articulate their opinions. Beyond the specific locality, an overview of the national policies relating to migrant children’s education is presented, as well as highlighting how the Chinese experience can be understood within the broader context of the right to the city and to tease out interesting and in-depth insights into the factors impacting migrant children’s access to education in the cities. From examining the single case of migrant children’s education in Chengdu, it is apparent that a collaborative/flexible state-society interaction model where the R2C agenda is emerging in China. This research has uncovered such a nascent model of cooperation where there is a dynamic development of policies, grassroots actions and reactions from the migrant workers themselves, that work in tandem to shape the outcome of allowing migrant children to claim their right to education in the Chinese cities. Importantly, this model of state compliant activism can still yield beneficial outcomes for the marginalized social groups and help them to exercise their right to the city as part of the fulfillment of inclusive citizenship, albeit in a more moderated and modest co-operative way in China.

Why Organized Grassroots Stakeholders Matter: Exploring Right to City Perspective of Asia Region – How to Face Climate Change and Pandemic

Maria Fides Bagasao
Co-Founder of Huainou Commission

Basic principles of Right to City are founded on People’s Participation, Democracy and Resistance to Exclusion, claim to space for meaningful life and work. Climate Change and the Pandemic continue the inequality and exclusion among gender, economic status. These times provide opportunity to reverse condition that can basic principles of right to city can be rebuilt and strengthened. The times of climate change and pandemic provide powerful reflection for a change how urgent to take care of one another, interconnection between humans, families, communities, locally and across the nations.

This article highlights why organized grassroots stakeholders matter in facing Climate Change and Pandemic is equally a powerful platform to reverse inequality, exclusion and power relations in decision making in Asian region.

The Asia Pacific region is home to the fastest-growing cities in the world, and they are responsible for 75% of the region’s carbon emissions. The IPCC noted that the poorest groups in the poorest countries have the least ability to cope with climate change. Women, more than half of the world’s population/Despite disadvantaged position in the communities as a result of ingrained structural inequalities and cultural norms grassroots women are constantly developing strategies and devising smart solutions that address multiple vulnerabilities as well as empower them. (14th Conference on Community Based Adaptation to Climate Change)

The COVID-19 pandemic is harming health, social and economic well-being worldwide, with women at the centre. First and foremost, women are leading the health response: women make up almost 70% of the health care workforce, exposing them to a greater risk of infection. At the same time, women are also shoudering much of the burden at home, given school and child care facility closures and longstanding gender inequalities in unpaid work. Women also face high risks of job and income loss, and face increased risks of violence, exploitation, abuse or harassment during times of crisis and quarantine. (OECD 2020) Priorities in building resilience must highlight the needs, interests, priorities of women, majority of organized grassroots coalitions. (Further details are omitted here.)
Right to the City Gwangju: Migrant’s Service Access

Alan Brown
Research Professor of Chonnam National University Center for Regional Development

The report investigated the right to the city through the lens of public service access of migrants in a self-declared Human Rights City, Gwangju. The achievements and limitations of Gwangju in ensuring public service access for migrants were assessed through in-depth semi-structured interview undertaken with migrants from diverse countries, jobs, and with different visa statuses. The report was situated in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, which serves as a shock which could expose shortcomings in public service provision for migrants. Finally, the report provided recommendations for what actions should be taken by the Gwangju and Korean governments to enhance the right to the city of migrants. The report uncovered the following implications. First, migrants experienced a high level of service access irrespective of their visa status. Second, migrants reported high levels of satisfaction with health care and administrative services. Third, main barriers to service access were lack of information and linguistic difficulties. Fourth, to overcome linguistic barriers, responsibility should be shared by both providers and beneficiaries. Fifth, different levels of services were offered based on visa status, resulting in service gaps. Sixth, both state and non-state organizations played a crucial role in ensuring service accessibility.

Based on the above implications, the following recommendations were made:
First, the information gap between government and migrants needs to be closed. Second, to ensure migrants are able to navigate the systems when accessing services, there should be brochures available at all government offices and health care providers giving step-by-step instructions on how to use them. Third, Korean language programs should be made more accessible to migrants. Fourth, the Gwangju government could more actively collaborate with migrant community groups or migrant-support NGOs to become a bridge between themselves and migrants. Fifth, the National Health Insurance system should be expanded to include unregistered migrants, who are unreasonably shouldered with higher healthcare costs despite being the most vulnerable while paying taxes when they are paid. Sixth, public welfare provision should be reassessed to ensure that it doesn’t favor only certain groups of migrants. Seventh, to reduce discrimination, all public officials and health care workers who deal with migrants should receive training on how to deal with them. Eighth, immigration reforms to give migrants the option of continued residence in Korea should be instituted.
05. Side Events
Human Rights Artworks Exhibition

**Date**
October 7th (Thur.) - 29th (Fri.)

**Venue**
Kimdaejung Convention Center 2F
Gallery ‘Hwahe’

**Contents**
Human Rights Artworks Exhibition (writing, painting, photography, etc.) to raise awareness of human rights and to expand the human rights culture

**Organizers**
Gwangju Metropolitan City,
Gwangju International Center

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Youth Talk

**Date**
October 7th (Thur.) 14:00-15:30

**Theme**
Tackling the Climate Crisis in Building a Sustainable and Resilient Cities for the Future

**Contents**
RWI recognizes youth as solution contributors to climate change and seeks to collaborate with young people to amplify their voices. This event provides space that connects youth and local governments to identify possible collective solutions for sustainable and resilient cities.

**Organizers**
Raoul Wallenberg Institute (RWI),
ASEAN Youth Fourm

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A Dialogue Session on Youth Engagement

**Date**
October 9th (Sat.) 16:00-17:30

**Theme**
Youth as Changemakers

**Participants**
All young adults

**Lecturer**
Linda Tinio-Le Douarin
( Coordinator of UNESCO)

**Contents**
History has never before been witness to the upliftment of youth voices as it has been in our present society. This dialogue session on youth engagement will tackle the evolution of youth as changemakers in the global scene. It will delve into how at the individual and community levels, young women and men of today could make positive social change.

**Language**
Korean, English

**Organizers**
UNESCO, Gwangju International Center

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Human Rights Dark Tour

**Date**
October 9th (Sat.) 16:00-17:30

**Participants**
Korean Human Rights Education Teachers

**Contents**
Remembering the sacrifice of Gwangju citizens who protested for democracy against the state violence and sharing the “Gwangju Spirit” which made Gwangju a human rights city

**Organizer**
Gwangju International Center
BLC Human Rights Policy Tour

**Date**
October 5th (Mon.) 15:00-16:00

**Participants**
BLC Program Participants

**Contents**
Virtually visiting the historical sites of May 18 Democratization Movement with the local government officials from the Asia-Pacific region participating in the Blended Learning Course on Local Government and Human Rights (BLC), and having an interactive Q&A session with Gwangju city officials on Gwangju human rights policies and good practices.

**Language**
Korean, English

**Organizers**
Gwangju Metropolitan City, Raoul Wallenberg Institute, UCLG ASPAC

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Indonesia Human Rights Policy Tour

**Date**
October 1st (Fri.) 15:30-17:30

**Participants**
INFID, Komnas HAM, Semarang Local Governments and Civil Societies

**Contents**
Experiencing Gwangju May 18 Democratization Movement virtually by linking May 18 historical sites of 1980 with the present of Gwangju. The participants will also have an interaction with several officials in charge of May 18 commemoration and human rights policy.

**Language**
Korean, Indonesian

**Organizers**
INFID, Komnas HAM, Gwangju International Center

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06. Information

01. ZOOM Q&A
02. Interpretation
03. Social Media
04. Guidebook (Event App)
05. Recordings
01. ZOOM Q&A

- Click Q&A in the menu below
- Type your question and click [Send]
- Check the question
- Click [Like] to vote up other questions

02. Interpretation

Simultaneous Interpretation
- Languages: Korean, English (French, Spanish, Indonesian, or Arabic for some sessions)
- Select a language through the language setting in Zoom

03. Social Media

You can find more information about WHRCF on our social media below.
Facebook: @whrcf
Twitter: @GwangjuWHRCF
Instagram: @whrcf
YouTube: World Human Rights Cities Forum

04. Guidebook (Event App)

- Open Google Play Store or Apple App Store, and download "Guidebook"
- Search for "World Human Rights Cities Forum"
- Download and Install
- Tap [My Guide] and access WHRCF Guidebook

How to Use
- Manage My Schedule: Tap [Program Schedule], add a session you wish to join and check your schedule on [My Schedule]
- Download Materials: Tap [Speaker & Abstract], select a speaker and download materials
- Check Event Information: Tap [Notice] and check the latest notices in real-time
- Participate in Online Conference: Tap [Program Schedule], select a session you wish to join and enter the live streaming
- Participant Networking: Sign up and sign in required
- Tap [Networking], select a user you wish to talk and send your message

05. Watch Recordings

How to watch Recordings
1. Visit the WHRCF website or scan the QR code.
2. Select the session you would like to watch again.
3. Fill out the registration form.
4. The recording of the session will be played.

* Interpretation is unavailable with recordings.

Join us to spread WHRCF by using the hashtags below.
#whrcf #whrcf2021 #cities4Rights #StandUp4HumanRights
07. Partners
Gwangju Metropolitan City, the cradle of the ‘Gwangju Spirit’, is walking on a new path that no other city has ever taken before. Gwangju dreams of becoming a mentally just and materially prosperous city. With the uniqueness of the ‘Gwangju Spirit’, we dream of a special city and a new urban ecosystem solely existing in Gwangju.

Nowadays, the changes and innovations in Gwangju are transforming Gwangju greatly into a global city. Moving beyond the Asian cultural hub, we are advancing as a global human rights city, where a city offering a decent human life, coexists as a global city holding hands with the rest of the global village a global city with a global village. That is "Just and Prosperous Gwangju, Special Future City Gwangju".

UNESCO is the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. It seeks to build peace through international cooperation in Education, the Sciences and Culture. UNESCO's programmes contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals defined in Agenda 2030, adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2015. The Organization has 195 Members and 11 Associate Members. UNESCO develops educational tools to help people live as global citizens free of hate and intolerance, and works so that each child and citizen has access to quality education. By promoting cultural heritage and the equal dignity of all cultures, UNESCO strengthens bonds among nations. It also fosters scientific programmes and policies as platforms for development and cooperation. UNESCO stands up for freedom of expression as a fundamental right and a key condition for democracy and development. Serving as a laboratory of ideas, UNESCO helps countries adopt international standards and manages programmes that foster the free flow of ideas and knowledge sharing.

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) is the leading UN entity on human rights. We represent the world's commitment to the protection and promotion of all human rights and freedoms set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and International human rights law. Through our Offices in Geneva and New York and more than 90 country presences, we work to assist states, including regional and local governments, in fulfilling their human rights obligations in collaboration with a wide range of international, regional, national and local partners.

The Gwangju metropolitan office of education strives to implement "A classroom with questions, a happy school". All faculty and education officials carry out to realize "the education city Gwangju, where we learn and share" through the school culture with the public interest, communicate and participate, acknowledge and autonomously, and win-win cooperation.

In support of the joint response to global issues (poverty, gender equality, climate change, human rights, etc.), KOICA has carried out multilateral development cooperation projects primarily in countries lacking in or excluded from aid and areas with ongoing conflicts, utilizing the expertise and networks of the international organizations to supplement existing two-party bilateral aid. The aim is to establish strategic partnerships with international organizations to create synergy.

The Gwangju International Center (GIC) is a non-profit organization for Korean and international residents, aiming to facilitate mutual understanding and communication between each other's cultures, while providing personal and cultural exchange programs and services customized to meet international residents' needs.

The UCLG Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights (UCLG-CSIDHR) is an international platform bringing together local and regional government representatives from across the world to debate, share and advance collective initiatives on social inclusion, participatory democracy and human rights. As a thematic committee of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), the CSIDHR aspires to articulate the common voice of the world organization of local and regional governments on key issues encompassing this vast thematic agenda, with a view to realize the right to the city in worldwide cities and urban territories. The Committee fosters local government collective thinking and action on pressing human rights issues at the local level (such as housing, women rights or the social inclusion of migrants) through political debates, advocacy campaigns and learning initiatives. To this end, the Committee works in close cooperation with the rest of the UCLG network, as well as civil society and academia partners, the UN human rights system and other city networks.

The Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law (RWI) combines evidence-based human rights education and research with direct engagement with partners and stakeholders to bring about human rights change for all. Our mission is to contribute to a wider understanding of, and respect for, human rights and international humanitarian law. Inclusive societies, including in the framework of human rights cities initiatives and local level human rights, has been one of the Institute’s focus areas 2017-2021. RWI is a research and academic institute with offices, programmes, and convening power covering 40 countries. The Institute is named after Raoul Wallenberg, the Swedish diplomat who saved tens of thousands of Jews and other people at risk in Hungary at the end of World War II.
As the general department of national legal administration, the Ministry of Justice establishes legal order, advocates human rights, and creates a society safe from crime by providing legal services, implementing a culture that respects law and order, establishing an integrated social human rights protection system, supporting the creative economy, promoting legal policies for the happiness of the people, and promoting policies for its non-Korean residents. The Ministry of Justice has been continuously striving to implement “legal administration in which all citizens coexist in harmony and help people’s livelihoods,” a fair and just society, and a society in which everyone’s human rights are respected.

The Gwangju Tourism Organization is a tourism-leading organization creating the future value of Gwangju by promoting the tourism industry and making the leap to becoming an international tourism city. It aims to establish the unique and attractive tourism value of Gwangju so that everyone can be eager to live and frequently visit the city.

At Amorepacific, We Make A MORE Beautiful World. This is what we do. Under this mission, we pursued continuous innovation based on Insight into nature and research on science and technology. We believe that beauty is completed by ‘being true’ to the unique and extraordinary characteristics of individuals, and therefore, Amorepacific shapes a future where we all discover our own innate beauty and pursue fulfilling lives.

The Kwangju Bank is the representative bank in Gwangju-Jeonnam that has been accompanied by residents for 51 years since its establishment. The bank has faithfully fulfilled its role as a channel for financing in the region by prioritizing local management and cooperation. As a result, the Kwangju Bank ranked first in the ‘Brand Power of Korea (K-BPI)’ regional bank sector for 4 consecutive years, attracting 1 safe deposit box in Gwangju City and 2 safe deposit boxes in Jeollanam-do. It has retained 2 safe deposit boxes in Suncheon city for the first time in 6 years, and is Gwangju Global Motors (GGM)’s third-largest shareholder. Rather than only pursuing profit, the Kwangju bank will continue its path of growth through companionship, mutual understanding, and trust with the local community, and as such it will keep moving forward for 100 years in the future as a bank that is loved and trusted by its clients.

The Nonghyup-Public Interest Litigation for the Peasants is a non-profit public interest law organization that works to thrive rural areas, farmers, and agriculture.

Advocates for Public Interest Law (APIL) is a non-governmental, non-profit public interest lawyers’ organization that was established in 2011. APIL seeks to defend the human rights of refugees, victims of human trafficking, stateless persons, immigrants who have been detained for prolonged periods and victims of human rights violations committed by Korean corporations abroad. APIL does this through litigation, legislative advocacy, awareness raising, legal education, and cooperation domestically and internationally with other human rights organizations.

The Gwangju Council for Sustainable Development was established in 1997 to implement Local Agenda 21, which was recommended by the Rio Declaration, and Agenda 21, which was adopted at the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. It has been creating the Gwangju Agenda every five years and promoting sustainable development by cooperating with civil societies, businesses, experts, and administration since its foundation. The council is implementing SDGs 2030, adopted in 2015, as a central point of the community, and is also building solidarity and cooperation to create an inclusive, happy city for every citizen.

The Gwangju Support Center for Social Economy is a public-private governance institution that was launched in August 2016 based on the Gwangju Metropolitan City Social Economy Activity Support Ordinance (2013.08.03.) to implement the circulation of the regional economy through the creation of social economy ecosystem and revitalization in Gwangju. The center carries forward various projects to revitalize the social economy, such as market development of social economy organizations, support for education and public relations, analysis and research on social economy trends, the discovery of new models, and linking with local community resources. In addition, it is striving to expand social values through collaboration among social economy enterprises, the formation of the financial markets, and the accumulation of social capital.

Gwangju Ingweonji Hwoljik is an organization that works to create a society where human rights are guaranteed. It is a gathering of human rights defenders who want to make Gwangju a city of human rights and peace based on the belief that the spirit of May 18 is human rights and peace.

The Gwangju Human Rights Center for People with Disabilities is a non-profit organization established to contribute to the promotion of welfare and human rights for the disabled through various projects related to education, investigation, research, and policy improvement, and also with joint activities with related organizations. The center aims to create a future by asking questions that have not yet been asked and to pursue human rights as a right to refuse and to create a society where everyone stands together.

The Gwangju Center for Independent Living was established in 2005 to implement living like a human being of the severely disabled through support for their independent living. It aims to "disabled who live happily in the community through customized individual independence support" and strives to realize it. Ever since the tragic accident in Oido Station in 2001, the disability rights movement has focused on the mobility right of the disabled. Solidarity Against Disability Discrimination was founded in 2005 to promote the general quality of people’s lives with disability including mobility, education, secondary assistant, and advocate the disability rights movement primarily in Gwangju.
National Partners

Based on the potential of Gwangju city and Jeonnam province, the Gwangju Jeonnam Research Institute develops policies to create a prosperous and livable region and presents a vision for the future. For the past 30 years since its inception in 1991, the Institute has researched and systematically addressed current issues in various fields such as economy/industry, city regional planning, culture/tourism, administration/finance, human rights/welfare, environment/ecology, and agriculture and fisheries to enhance regional competitiveness in Gwangju and Jeollanam-do. The Gwangju Jeonnam Research Institute will do its best in policy research for regional development and the happiness of citizens by providing insights through systematic analysis of impacts and challenges such as the convergence of technology and the spread of a new normal due to COVID-19.

Local Government Human Rights Commission

The Local Government Human Rights Commission is a consultative body of the human rights committees of 17 cities and provinces across the country based on human rights ordinances of metropolitan cities and provinces. It has promoted sustainable development through organic communication and cooperation with domestic and overseas human rights groups, the National Human Rights Commission, human rights-related ministries, and the United Nations Human Rights Organization since its launch in December 2016.

Local Sustainability Alliance of Korea is a UN ECOSOC Special Consultative Status organization, a network organization of governance organizations promoting regional sustainable development. As SDGs’ slogan, ‘Leave No One Behind’, the Local Sustainability Alliance of Korea is taking a lead in setting and achieving 17 goals of SDGs in order to realize a sustainable society where everyone can enjoy a pleasant life.

The CNU Public Interests and Human Rights Law Center implements the educational ideology of CNU’s law school of “Training world-class just lawyers who pioneered a field of expertise” and conducts research, education, and related projects to achieve its specialized education goals of “training world-class public rights defenders.” It has established its status as an authoritative research institute specializing in the public interest and human rights, and it conducts education and research on public interest human rights. Based on the historical legacy of May 18, CNU is actively carrying out activities to support and exchange human rights activities in the public interest by utilizing research achievements in the fields of democracy, human rights, and peace.

The Chonnam National University Center for Regional Development (CRD) aims to contribute to regional studies with interdisciplinary research, including economics, sociology, urban planning, environmental studies, transportation sciences, etc. Our mission is to develop and implement research agendas that promote the center as a leading research hub in regional studies. We aim to suggest practical models for sustainable regional development in the greater Gwangju area, Korea through comprehensive research in a variety of fields, including economy, culture, education, environment, and urban planning.

Jeju Free International City Development Center (JDC) was established in May 2002 under the Special Act: On the Establishment of Jeju Special Self-Governing Province and the Development of Free International City. As a public institution affiliated to South Korean Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, and Transport, JDC functions as a bridge between Jeju and the central government, carrying out projects in the field of tourism, education, healthcare, advanced technology, and etc., in order to establish Jeju-free international city aims and to strengthen the basis of development for future Jeju. Recently, JDC has undertaken various collaborations with Jeju 4·13 Peace Foundation, Korean Council for Reconciliation and Cooperation, and International Peace Foundation as a contribution to promoting values of peace, ‘reconciliation and coexistence’ and ‘human rights’ based on Jeju 4·13 Uprising and Massacre.

As a private research institute specializing in human rights, the Jeju Peace Human Rights Institute “WHAT” aims to reaffirm the human rights values of the Jeju community and to contribute to the completion of peace and human rights in Jeju through human rights policy proposals and promotion activities. It strives to create a humane life by uniting freely and sharing life stories with those interested in peace and human rights.

The Korean Association for Public Diplomacy promotes the academic and theoretical development of public diplomacy, and serves as a platform for exchange, cooperation and joint research between domestic and foreign scholars, experts, and practitioners, to become the center of international politics and diplomacy. As a middle power country, Korea is expected to play an integral role in the establishment of public diplomacy. The Association was founded to serve as an intellectual driving force to fulfill this role.

Gwangju Information & Referral Service Center for the Aged

The purpose of the entity is to provide the elderly with useful information (economy, society, psychology, health, law, family matters, housing, etc.) and to offer them quality services, institutions, and facilities for their comfortable and peaceful life.

The Korean Human Rights Council is a human rights consultative body of local administrative agencies established under Article 152 of the Local Autonomy Act. It was established in December 2017 for solidarity and cooperation among 25 local governments to further strengthen the human rights guarantee system for residents and further expand the human rights administration base at the local government level.

The Korean Center for Sustainable Development (KCSD) is a non-governmental organization since 2006 to promote the SDGs including UN SDGs focusing on participatory governance and government-civil society partnerships from local to global. Its main responsibilities are 1) policy development and research for advocacy, 2) education, and 3) a network of civil society from local to international. For example, KCSD has led the advocacy to establish the Basic Law of Sustainable Development including the institutionalization of the Multi-stakeholder Engagement Mechanism, to publish research reports and public books like SDGs in Life, and to contribute to creating a space for civil society to network and cooperate from national to international through hosting a secretariat of the Korean SDGs Network and as a focal point of Northeast Asia sub-regional constituency of the AP-RCEM (Asia Pacific Regional Civil Society Engagement Mechanism).

The May 18 Memorial Foundation was established to inherit and develop the spirit of democracy of the May 19 Democratization Movement and the sacrifices from overseas patriots and Gwangju citizens, and with May 18 damage compensation. Its primary activities are international solidarity projects (Gwangju Human Rights Award, Gwangju Asia Forum, International Human Rights Issue), education projects (Teachers Training, May school, Textbook production), archival research projects (Collecting Materials, Truth investigation, Academic research), and cultural projects (Prize award, Literature Award, The Gwangju 5-18 road).
National Partners

The May 18 Democratic Uprising Archives was established in 2015 to preserve the historical records of the May 18 Democratization Movement, and to continue collecting, displaying, and researching them. The records of the May 18 Democratic Movement have been listed as UNESCO World Heritage Sites since 2011. The Archives is striving to heal the pain of the history of democracy in Korea, finding the truth, making a database of records, and promoting international exchange activities for the rationalisation and globalization of the May 18 Democratization Movement. It is striving to become a place of communication and harmony that connects ‘past and present’ and ‘present and future’.

The May 18 Democratization Movement Truth Commission is a national organiza- tion in charge of investigating the truth of the Gwangju massacre formed in December 2018, following the special law enacted in March 2018. It is participated in by nine members, 60 investigators, and 40 support personnel, and more than 10 billion won is executed every year. 165 civilians died, 80 were missing, 1,600 were detained, and 3,280 were injured during the 10-day democratization Movement from May 18 to 27, 1980. In addition to this, 100 persons died from aftereffects. The May 18 Democratization Movement Truth Commission is conducting a comprehensive investigation into the May 18 Democratization Movement including identification of the person in charge of the firing order, helicopter shooting, death, whereabouts, and North Korean military penetration. The commission should be able to issue a national report to the public after four years of investigation activities.

International Partners

The Global Platform for the Right to the City (GPR2C) is an open, flexible, diverse network of civil society and local government organizations committed to political action and social change through the promotion, defense and fulfillment of the Right to the City at all levels, paying special attention to people and communities affected by exclusion and marginalization. The Global Platform is the key knowledge management hub on local government issues in the Asia Pacific region. The Asia Pacific region is the biggest of the Regional Sections in UCLG with linkages to more than 7,000 local governments. It represents over 3.76 billion people – making up more than half of the world’s population – and incorporates economically fast-developing countries such as China, India, and Indonesia.

Civil Society Development Association (ARGO)

ARGO Civil Society Development Association is a multisided civil society development organization (CSO) that provides services to public organizations and communities in Kazakhstan. ARGO registered in 2004, uniting CSO resource centers from throughout Kazakhstan. Each member also has its own NGO network, thus, official ARGO members have access to more than 80% of NGOs in Kazakhstan. For the past 10 years, ARGO has been developing civil society in Kazakhstan, and expanded into Central Asia, post-Soviet states and recently into South Asia.

ASEAN Youth Forum

The ASEAN Youth Forum (AYF) is a movement that represents and fights for the young people in ASEAN to voice out their concerns and strategies for ways to achieve a better ASEAN. AYF has been a platform of the youth in the ASEAN to raise their voice and claim for their rights for a sustainable, inclusive, people-centered, and youth-driven regional community. The network aims to institutionalise and establish its national chapters to focus the engagement on important and timely local issues affecting the youth, and consolidate policy proposal and agenda to put forward to the relevant ASEAN offices.

The Asia Democracy Network (ADN) is active in more than 40 countries in Asia. Our core values are to promote and practice the principles of democracy through the development of inclusive governance, advancement of human rights, equality and inclusivity, prevention of discrimination, human security, promotion of free, fair and meaningful elections, democracy education, and press freedom and responsibility.

A groundbreaking regional network, the Asia Development Alliance (ADA), empowers civil society and is a catalyst for social change. It brings together 30 national CSO platforms representing over 10,000 organisations from South, South East, North East and Central Asia.

The Coalition of Cities against Discrimination in Asia and the Pacific (APCAD) is one of the constituent regional coalitions of the International Coalition of Inclusive and Sustainable Cities (ICCAR), launched by UNESCO in March 2004 to establish a network of cities interested in sharing experiences in order to improve their policies to fight racism, discrimination, xenophobia and exclusion. The long term objective of APCAD is to provide local authorities with an operational programme that will allow a more efficient implementation of policies for a greater social inclusion of their city dwellers in the full respect of their human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural or any other field of public life. Through a series of consultations, a Ten-Point Commitment relevant to Asia and the Pacific has been elaborated, composed of 10 commitments covering different areas of competence of local authorities such as education, culture, housing and employment.
The International Coalition of Inclusive and Sustainable Cities – ICCAR, was launched by UNESCO in March 2004 following the call made for a common front in the global fight against racial discrimination during the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance that took place in Durban, South Africa in 2001. Since its inception, and its revitalization in 2014, ICCAR has grown to become an active global front against racism and discrimination with over 500 members across the globe. ICCAR has become a reference as a unique city-level platform in the UN system and in the international community that undertakes a wide range of initiatives – ranging from policymaking, capacity-building to awareness-raising activities. It advocates for global solidarity and collaboration to promote inclusive urban development free from all forms of discrimination. Building on the adoption of the New Urban Agenda during Habitat III, ICCAR has established a common voice for cities striving to fight against societal ills that result from social transformations including rapid urbanization, human mobility, and rising inequalities.

The INFD (International NGO Forum on Indonesian Development) is a non-government organization that has played a pivotal role in shaping Indonesia’s democratization process since 1985. There are three main programs run by the secretariat INFD, namely: Inequality, Post 2015 Development Agenda or Sustainable Development Goals, and Human Rights and Democracy. We are raising public awareness about the values of Human Rights, democracy, equality, social justice and peace through public education. Together with 88 members dispersed across Indonesia, the INFD initiates policy studies, monitoring and advocacy.

The Indonesian National Commission on Human Rights (commonly abbreviated as Komnas HAM) was established in 1999 under Law No. 39 of 1999. Komnas HAM is an independent institution on the same level as other state institutions, with the functions of conducting research and study, education and public awareness, monitoring and investigation, and human rights mediation. In addition to the authority granted by Law No. 39 of 1999, Komnas HAM is authorized to conduct investigations into gross human rights violations under the provisions of Law No. 26 of 2000 and Law No. 40 of 2008 on the Elimination of Racial and Ethnic Discrimination for the purpose of supervising any type of effort to eliminate racial and ethnic discrimination. According to complaint data in 2020, Komnas HAM received 2,639 human rights cases with various issues in Indonesia.

The Embassy of Sweden in Seoul represents Sweden and the Swedish Government in the Republic of Korea. Its mission is to promote Swedish interests and to strengthen the exchange between our two countries. Sweden and Korea share a long history of cooperation since 1959. We work closely together with Swedish and Korean partners in diverse areas ranging from political cooperation to trade promotion and cultural exchange.

Participation Center is a non-government, not-for-profit organization in China with the mission to mitigate social inequality through citizen engagement and social accountability. In particular, their focus areas of concern involve urban planning, right to education for migrant children, as well as tax and inequality. In addition to conducting research into these critical topics to bring these issues to light, the center also adopts a variety of innovative methods and tools such as participatory budgeting (on social media), social franchise models for early childhood education and education oriented activities. By emphasizing on a participatory approach, social equity and participation center seeks to enhance community governance that empowers the citizens through offering them more agency and opportunities to be engaged in their local communities.

APSD is a regional (Asia) network and platform of international – regional civil society organizations (CSOs) in Asia engaged in the effective implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development known as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Asia and beyond through collaboration and coordination among various initiatives and programs by member and partner organizations. APSD is a regional partner of the Action for Sustainable Development (A4SD) which is a global CSO umbrella network engaged in advocacy and campaign on SDGs and related issues.

Yayasan Kota Kita, or Our City Foundation, is an Indonesian non-profit organization helping people make thoughtful and inclusive decisions about the development of their cities – by facilitating citizen participation and collective action. We aim to empower a generation of people by promoting democratic and participatory approaches to improve urban areas.

The Polis Institute – Institute for Studies, Training and Advice on Social Policies – was created in 1987 by a group of civil society institutions, leaders of popular movements and organizations to promote local development in the construction of more just, sustainable and democratic cities. Through research, training and technical assistance, the Institute seeks to strengthen the action of civil society in order to prepare them for intervention in the public debate, in the political and cultural processes of society and always placing the agenda of the Right to the City as a central point in their proposal of public policies. Polis’ main areas of work are right to the city, right to housing and food and nutrition security, culture, sustainable solid waste management. Since 2014 the Polis Institute has been a member of the Global Platform for the Right to the City as an organization that provides support that provides guidance and technical assistance with Habitat International Coalition to the Platform.
The Seine-Saint-Denis was the first department to put in place a specific Observatory dedicated to address violence against women, back in 2012. Focusing on both prevention and protection, the Observatory is a pioneer institution in all France, and has been replicated across the country. Seine-Saint-Denis also counts with a sound decentralized cooperation policy fostering relations and solidarity with other territories across the world. The “Via le monde” Centre is a specific service offered by this policy, aimed at fostering global citizenship and solidarity values within the territory.

Huarou Commission is a member-led grassroots women organization leading a transformative agenda for inclusive resilience and gender justice in and across 45 countries, with nearly one million women from rural, urban, and indigenous communities. Our member groups are networks, cooperatives, federations of self-help groups, and women-led community-based organisations - all working on diverse, locally appropriate solutions driven by a common vision centered on the empowerment and leadership of women from under-resourced communities. Applying an organized approach that nurtures and scales grassroots women’s public leadership roles and capacities to frame and address key development challenges through local knowledge and good practices, the movement builds relationships with other like-minded organizations and fosters coalitions with strategic allies to champion transformative, gender just development policies and decision-making process that will redistribute economic, social and political opportunities to grassroots women’s community groups so they can lead the design of inclusive, holistic local development for all.

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<th>HR Translation Volunteers</th>
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**Secretariat**

| KIM Taehyeong | Director |
| HAN Younglee  |          |
| KO Jeehyun    |          |
| SON Saerom    |          |
| PARK Hyo-ewn  | Coordinators |
| KIM Sohee     |          |
| Oukhar Akhmetzhanova | |
| Jana Milosavljevic | |
| BAE Yeong    | Interns |
| PARK Sangcheol |        |
| KANG Geum-ah  |         |

**HR Supporters HURO**

| COO Kyo Hoo | GUK Dawon |
| KIM Gyuri   | KIM Eunseo |
| SONG Yun Hwa | SOON SoYoung |
| SIM AHyeon  | WANG Yuseon |
| YOO Junhun  | LEE Hawon |
| JEONG Heesun | JEONG Heejeong |
| CHOI Gaehyun | TAK Yechan |

**Assistant Staff**

| KIM Do Yeon | KIM Sooyong |
| KIM Jisoo   | KIM Hyewon  |
| PARK Seo-in  | PARK Hoonpyo |
| CHOI Yoonhee | CHOI Hyangwon |
| CHOI Yoonhee | CHOI Hyangwon |
| HWANG Ha-jin |          |
2030
AMORE
Beautiful Promise

Move Forward Together with Customers and Society
Coexist Responsibly with Nature

With the global climate crisis, intensifying waste problem, and increasing consumer demand for responsible brand activities, we are now entering a new era in which the environment, market, and society are rapidly changing. With deep empathy towards the world, Amorepacific promises sustainability management goals in which all employees will participate to create a better tomorrow.

To fulfill our vocation to make both people and the world beautiful, Amorepacific will promote a sustainable life for customers through brand activities based on a clear sense of purpose and create a society that grows inclusively with various stakeholders. We will also actively participate in responding to the climate crisis, a common task before humanity, and improving resource circulation.
Move Forward Together with Customers and Society

Amorepacific will continue purpose-driven brand activities that promote sustainable consumption and contribute to a stronger society in ways that enhance our customers’ lifestyles.

1. Instill the values of environmental and social friendliness into 100% of our new products and pursue endeavors that encourage sustainable living.

2. Promote diversity and inclusion across all our global workplaces and beyond, while seeking harmonious growth with all our stakeholders.

Coexist Responsibly with Nature

Amorepacific will continue to address the climate crisis together with others and seek to coexist in harmony with the natural world around us.

3. Achieve carbon neutrality and zero-waste-to-landfill across our production sites worldwide.

4. Reduce the use of plastics in product packaging and create 100% reusable, recyclable or compostable plastic packaging materials.

5. Invest KRW 10 billion into biodiversity conservation efforts and increase the use of RSPO-certified palm oil to 90% or more by 2023.

2030 A MORE Beautiful Promise

1. Instill the values of environmental and social friendliness into 100% of our new products and pursuit endeavors that encourage sustainable living.

2. Promote diversity and inclusion across all our global workplaces and beyond, while seeking harmonious growth with all our stakeholders.

3. Achieve carbon neutrality and zero-waste-to-landfill across our production sites worldwide.

4. Reduce the use of plastics in product packaging and create 100% reusable, recyclable or compostable plastic packaging materials.

5. Invest KRW 10 billion into biodiversity conservation efforts and increase the use of RSPO-certified palm oil to 90% or more by 2023.
WORLD HUMAN RIGHTS CITIES FORUM

SAVE THE DATE

The 12th World Human Rights Cities Forum
10 (Mon.) - 13 (Thur.) Oct. 2022