**Major Policies and Systems of Gwangju as a Human Rights City**

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1. **Preamble**

*From the City of Democratization to the City of Human Rights:*

The City of Gwangju is the political, economic, and cultural center of the south-western region of Republic of Korea with a population of 1.48 million. The region has played a significant role during critical moments of Korean history including the Donghak Peasant Revolution in 1894 -- the first grass-root uprising for freedom and equality in Korea, the March First Independence Movement of 1919, the Gwangju Student Independence Movement in 1929, and the April 19th Revolution in 1960 that toppled the civilian authoritarian government. The May 18th Democratization Movement, which took place in Gwangju in 1980, is considered the ‘avant-garde’ of the modern democratization movement in South Korea. The nine-day struggle of the May 18 Movement resulted in thousands of victims, but the spirit of the movement has become an important asset in promoting the values of human rights, justice, and democracy in Korea, other parts of Asia, and the rest of the world. The City of Gwangju seeks to be a human rights city while further strengthening its commitment to human rights derived from its own historical experiences and sharing its heritage with other cities around the world in diverse ways.

*Promoting Gwangju as a symbol of the Human Rights City:*

In 1998 the Gwangju Citizens' Solidarity declared the Asian Human Rights Charter in collaboration with the Asia Human Rights Commission. From 2000, the May 18 Memorial Foundation of Gwangju established the Gwangju Human Rights Prize to annually award prominent human rights activists and organizations in Asia that have made significant contributions towards the advancement of human rights and peace. In 2006, Gwangju hosted the Nobel Peace Prize Laureates Summit with the presence of former President KIM Dae-jung of South Korea and former President Mikhail Gorbachev of the Soviet Union among others. In 2011, the UNESCO Memory of the World Register listed the May 18 Archives as a World Human Rights Documentary Heritage Site. The archives include 858,900 pages in 4,271 volumes, 2,017 cuts in negative film, 1,733 photos, etc. In 2011, the City began to annually host the World Human Rights Cities Forum (WHRCF) with the help of participation from human rights cities, international organizations, and human rights experts to promote the roles of human rights cities as protectors of human rights.

**I. Human Rights Systems and Policies of Gwangju**

**1.1. Gwangju Human Rights Protection and Improvement Ordinance (2009)**

The City of Gwangju first enacted the *Democratization, Human Rights, and Peace City Promotion Ordinance* in 2009. The ordinance underwent revisions several times and eventually became the *Gwangju Human Rights Protection and Improvement Ordinance* in 2012. The ordinance clarifies Gwangju’s responsibilities to promote the human rights of citizens, including the establishment of a human rights improvement master plan, development and implementation of human rights indicators, establishment of a human rights educational system, and the establishment of the Human Rights Support Center. The agreement also outlines promises of support for organizations engaged in promoting human rights, the establishment of the *Gwangju Human Rights Charter*, strengthening of international cooperation, means for the operation of the Human Rights Improvement Citizen Committee, and implementation of human rights impact assessments. The ordinance was the first of its kind and set precedent for similar measures passed by the other 17 provincial governments of Korea.

**1.2. Establishment of the Human Rights Office (2010)**

With the launch of the fifth civilian administration in 2010, the City of Gwangju established the first *Human Rights Office* of Korea and in January 2013, a human rights ombudsman team was built in the Office. In April 2018, an additional officer with a specialization in Women's Human Rights Protection was appointed to join the team. In January 2019, the Human Rights Office was expanded into the larger *Democracy, Human Rights and Peace Bureau* with three divisions of 45 officials: Democracy and Human Rights (16), Promotion of May 18 (17), and inter-Korean Exchange and Cooperation (12) with the head of the bureau recruited from civil society.

**1.3. Human Rights City's Basic Plan and Annual Action Plan (2011)**

The City of Gwangju created the first *Basic Plan for a Human Rights City* (2012 - 2016)', a road map based on the *Human Rights City Gwangju* in October 2011. The basic plan presented a human rights charter, human rights ordinance, human rights office, and human rights indicators in order to improve citizens' human rights and to promote human rights solidarity among local governments. With the completion of the first basic plan, the city then established the Second Basic Plan (2018 - 2022) in November 2017. The second basic plan was established after conducting a comprehensive survey on the human rights situation of the city, holding expert meetings on socially disadvantaged people, administering consultations with service units, and overseeing a review of the Citizen Committee of Human Rights Promotion. The annual action plan of the basic plan consists of 123 policy tasks in six areas, including i) promotion of human rights for social minorities, ii) human rights system and human rights administration, iii) formation of a human rights community culture, iv) establishment of a human rights cooperation system, v) strengthening the status of Gwangju as a human rights city, and vi) implementation of the Gwangju Human Rights Charter. The progress on such measures is to be monitored by relevant organizations.

**1.4. Gwangju Human Rights Charter (2012)**

The Gwangju Human Rights Charter was declared by citizen representatives on the 47th Gwangju Citizens’ Day, May 21, 2012. The Charter includes human rights principals that citizens recommended to respect in order to best embody a Human Rights City. It was established after conducting more than 40 meetings with about 30 institutions and organizations, who all participated in afore-mentioned meetings for over a year so as to best incorporate the diverse needs of civil society activists, academics, human rights experts, public officials, refugees, women, laborers, and others.

The Charter is the first city-level human rights charter in Asia and the third in the world in realizing the value of human rights to be pursued by urban communities. Concurrently, it showcases various models for how to best realize human rights at a local government level. We believe that Gwangju has motivated other cities in Korea such as Seoul and Busan to institutionalize their human rights systems by means of charters or ordinances, and consequently contributing to the spread of human rights values.

The Charter presented the guidelines of human rights institutions, effectively establishing a new model for main-streaming human rights within local government administrations. Accordingly, various policies of Gwangju City have been drafted and implemented based on the Charter. Additionally, since 2013, in order to familiarize citizens with the Charter, the City hosts an annual Human Rights Promotion Contest accompanied by exhibitions of human rights related slogans and posters among others. In addition, Gwangju publishes the Gwangju Human Rights Charter Guidebook, Gwangju Human Rights Charter Table Calendar and Poster Calendar, and Gwangju Human Rights Charter Comics so that the contents of the Charter become rooted in civic consciousness and a part of local human rights culture. The contents of the Charter are also introduced to citizens through other publications such as the 'Gwangju Human Rights Charter Commentary', 'Gwangju Human Rights Charter Calendar', and 'Gwangju Human Rights Charter for Children'.

**1.5. Human Rights Indicators (2012)**

In 2012, the City of Gwangju developed the *Human Rights Indicators* to objectively assess the human rights situation of the City and to establish more coherent human rights policies based on those assessments. The Indicators take into account both universal aspects of human rights and local characteristics of the City. Gwangju went to great lengths to improve the objectivity and usefulness of the Indicators. Such efforts included the appointment of advisory experts, hosting of public hearings, meetings of administrative directors, advisory sessions with the National Human Rights Commission of Korea, as well as consultations from the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. These steps led to a formulation of 100 indicators under five areas with 18 adjoining implementation tasks. There are 50 indicators currently being pursued while the other 50 have been accomplished successfully (Tables 1 & 2).

Table 1: A Selection of Human Rights Indicators

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Areas | Indicator | Contents |
| 1. Participation &  Communication | 6 | Protection of privacy, Participation in administration  Participation in human rights education |
| 2. Guaranteeing  a Happy Life | 11 | Ratio of part-time workers, Unpaid wages  Jobs in social enterprise, School violence  Health checkup for vulnerable groups |
| 3. Inclusive City | 16 | Poverty rate, Job opportunities for females  Caring and nurturing, Support to poor children  Employment of the disabled |
| 4. Comfort and  Safety | 9 | Urban park area per capita, Public sports facilities  Support to those with mobility handicaps |
| 5. Culture and  Creativity | 8 | - Youth facilities installment, Public libraries access and use  - International human rights exchange |

Table 2: Procedure of Human Rights Indicator Assessment

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Indicator targets & implementation plan |  | - Establishing target indicators based on the results of the previous years as well as advice of the central government and previous assessments  – Establishing plans in detail |
| **↓** |  |  |
| Indicator achievement investigation |  | – Quantitative indicator: Data collection  – Qualitative indicator: Questionnaire collection |
| **↓** |  |  |
| Assessment |  | – Self assessment in indicator groups |
| **↓** |  |  |
| Assessment report |  | – Assessment report to the human rights promotion citizen committee |
| **↓** |  |  |
| Complementation & development |  | – Implementation of the assessment results and complementation |
| **↓** |  |  |
| Collection of results |  | – Collection of indicator implementation results |

**1.6. Introduction of Human Rights Ombudsman (2013)**

The City of Gwangju established the Human Rights Ombudsman system in April 2013. The institution focuses on relieving citizens experiencing human rights violations or discriminations in the administrative process. It consists of one standing ombudsman and six experts in various human rights areas designated as non-standing human rights ombudsmen. The ombudsmen, who are appointed by the mayor, perform multiple functions including investigation of human rights violations to make recommendations so that administrative actions can be taken to resolve the issues of human rights violations. So far, the Ombudsman office has provided 346 counseling sessions and registered 78 human rights violation cases in 2018. Some of the significant measures the office has undertaken include recommending appropriate measures for resolving human rights violations that involved the installation of CCTV in psychiatric facilities, denial of applications for water supply; limiting the rights of public officials to organize labor unions, physical violence to hospitalized patients, limited access of the citizens to the city hall, and privacy infringement of various citizens at the request of police.

**1.7. Human Rights Impact Assessment (2017)**

The Human Rights Impact Assessment System was initiated by the “Human Rights Protection and Promotion Ordinance” in July 2017. It provides the tools to conduct an effective human rights impact assessment on all new ordinances and regulations of the city when newly established or revised. The impact assessment made it possible for 49 out of 107 ordinances and regulations to be revised. Guidelines for the Assessment of Human Rights Impact on Public Buildings were established in March 2018, and an Impact Assessment Team began to operate to promote human rights-friendly public buildings. In addition, 22 of 44 polling stations were renovated for easy access. We are going to conduct human rights impact assessments on public events with the purpose of establishing event guidelines.

**1.8. Implementation of the Corporate Human Rights Management System (2012)**

In 2012, Gwangju established the Human Rights Management Promotion Council in partnership with the Gwangju Chamber of Commerce and Industry, following the UN Guiding Principles on Human Rights (UNGPs) adopted by the UN Human Rights Council in June 2011. The Council has continued to offer training programs and workshops for corporate managers accompanied by public relations activities on human rights management.

In September 2018, the city also established the 'Public Corporate Human Rights Management Task Force', which is comprised of managers and laborers from City Hall and other public enterprises under the jurisdiction of the City. The Task Force conducted three training sessions on 'corporate and human rights management' in order to promote the corporate culture of human rights management for public enterprises. In 2019, the City is planning to further expand human rights management to its 15 municipal enterprises by adding the item of human rights management into its management evaluation procedures.

**II. Collaboration with Local Stake-holders for the Promotion of Human Rights**

**2.1. Human Rights Improvement Citizen Committee Since 2009**

The City of Gwangju has diverse forms of human rights governance to stimulate citizen participation in promoting Gwangju as a Human Rights City. One of the examples of good governance is the Human Rights Improvement Citizen Committee, co-chaired by the mayor and a prominent member of the civil society. The committee was prescribed in the Human Rights Ordinance in 2009 and has been in operation ever since. The committee consists of 20 members on two-year terms who, at the recommendation of city council, either represent civil society and human rights organizations, are human rights activists, or are human rights experts. The Committee has sub-committee meetings and workshops in addition to four regular meetings each year in order to evaluate policies and provide advice to City Hall on the Human Rights Improvement Master Plan as well as the Implementation of Human Rights City Development Plan, among others.

**2.2. Human Rights Policy Joint Meeting Since 2012**

The City of Gwangju also holds Human Rights Policy Joint Meetings in collaboration with the private and public sectors. These gatherings are attended by human rights activists, academics, and officials from the Human Rights Office. The proceedings pay attention to monitoring human rights conditions of the city as well as identifying ideas and policies to address immediate human rights issues at the administrative level. The 69 meetings in the past seven years convincingly show the group is actively functioning as a model for the human rights governance system.

**2.3. Human Rights Roundtable Since 2011**

The City holds a Human Rights Roundtable with human rights experts and scholars to share current research trends from around the world with a focus on human rights. The Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda, for example, are topics discussed by the Roundtable. The meetings are held once a month and are open to the general public. These sessions are organized on an alternating basis by either City Hall, the Board of Education, the Gwangju Office of the Korea Human Rights Commission, the Gwangju Human Rights Council, or the Public Interest Law Center of Chonnam National University. There have been 66 meetings held in the past eight years.

**2.4. Human Rights Education**

The City of Gwangju strongly considers human rights education as a starting point towards establishing a Human Rights City. Education enables citizens to understand that embodying values of human rights is what the city ultimately strives for and that education can serve as an effective tool for implementing human rights.

In 2013, 250,422 citizens (16.8% of the total population) took part in human rights education programs in all rank and files: students from preschoolers to university students, public officials, socially vulnerable groups, employees in social service facilities among others. More citizens participated in the education in 2017: 275,079 out of 1,485,000 or 18.5% as shown in Table 3.

Table 3: Human Rights Education Participants

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Types of Education (Targets) | Participants |
| Public Officials | Wednesday Human Rights Classes, Classes in the Metropolitan Officials Training Institute, Classes for executives/fire fighters/local district officials, Cyber Classes and Human Rights events, etc. | 9,518 |
| Children and Youth | Visiting Human Rights Classes for Children & Youth, Labor Human Rights Classes for Out-of-School Youth, Model UN Human Rights Council, etc. | 203,323 |
| Ordinary Citizens | Classes for city bus workers, apartment residents’ associations, HR culture communities and sports workers, etc. | 20,880 |
| Vulnerable Groups | Multicultural families, temporary workers, social service agents, etc. | 696 |
| Human Rights Instructor Training | Youth Human Rights education instructor courses, strengthening Human Rights education activist capabilities | 44 |
| Social Welfare Workers | Classes for nursery school teachers, the elderly, the handicapped, social welfare facility workers, local children's center workers, etc. | 40,618 |

**2.5. Collaboration with Human Rights Organizations Since 2012**

The City of Gwangju is operating collaboration projects with Human Rights Organizations to create human rights communities based on citizen participation. With the support of the city and expert groups, the project is designed to strengthen human rights capacity among private sector organizations and, ultimately, to spread a human rights culture within civic society.

The project has been conducting about a dozen programs each year of which include the creation of a Documentary on Korean Comfort Women, publication of an Everyday Human Rights Handbook for Migrants, establishment of the Manual on Legal support for Migrants and Legal Human Rights, analyzing Human Rights Violations by Local Laws and Regulations, conducting Human Rights Surveys and capacity building programs for HR activists. The amount of the budget supporting the programs has stayed the same for the last three years: US$90,000.

**2.6. Human Rights Neighborhood Project since 2013**

From 2013, Gwangju has been carrying out the Human Rights Neighborhood Project to promote human rights awareness and problem-solving spirit among citizens within their living space, the neighborhood. The project is aimed at creating a human rights culture and improving the human rights environment at the neighborhood level.

The Human Rights Neighborhoods which are selected through public application process receive funding from the Gwangju Metropolitan City government and independently conduct human rights education, human rights map drawing, village human rights surveys, improvement of vulnerable facilities, human rights trips, human rights camps, and human rights festivals. Activists from each Human Rights Neighborhood hold monthly meetings to share progress made as well to discuss any pending issues. These neighborhoods also administer end-of-the-year presentations as well as publish Human Rights Neighborhood Guidebooks. The Human Rights Neighborhood project started with 5 neighborhoods in 2013 and in 2018 the project was expanded to include 15 neighborhoods, with more neighborhoods expected to participate in the future (Table 4).

Table 4: Human Rights Neighborhood Participation

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Year | Neighborhoods | Support ($) |
| 2013 | 3 | 50,000 |
| 2014 | 6 | 100,000 |
| 2015 | 8 | 126,000 |
| 2016 | 12 | 108,000 |
| 2017 | 13 | 120,000 |
| 2018 | 15 | 120,000 |

**2.7. Hosting of the World Human Rights Cities Forum Since 2011**

Gwangju has hosted the World Human Rights Cities Forum (WHRCF) every year since 2011 making it one of the longest human rights forums hosted by a local government. The forum provides opportunities for human rights cities and activists around the world to get together and share their experiences and expertise in promoting human rights in their own cities. The forum is also a good opportunity for Gwangju to share its own experiences with other cities while learning from them at the same time. In the past eight years, the forum has been expanded both in quality and quantity. WHRCF 2018 was hosted in collaboration with the Korea Human Rights Commission and Gwangju Board of Education, organized by Gwangju International Center, UCLG CISDP, OHCHR, and RWI. The 2018 forum also attracted the largest number of participants from Korea and outside Korea as shown in Table 5. There were 38 participating organizations in WHRCF 2018: seven international including OHCHR, UCLG-CISDPDH, and RWI; 10 national including National Human Rights Commission, KOICA, and UNESCO; and 22 local including Gwangju Metropolitan City, Gwangju Metropolitan Board of Education, and Chonnam National University. The WHRCF has grown to be a representative international event of the city, a model of good governance, and an effective device of the globalization of the city (Table 5).

Table 5: Growth of the World Human Rights Cities Forum

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Year | No. of Participants | Speakers | | Korean | International | |
| 2011 | 500 | 144 | 37 | | | 107 |
| 2012 | 500 | 118 | 52 | | | 66 |
| 2013 | 600 | 245 | 123 | | | 122 |
| 2014 | 700 | 110 | 52 | | | 58 |
| 2015 | 1,000 | 143 | 91 | | | 52 |
| 2016 | 1,000 | 137 | 106 | | | 31 |
| 2017 | 1,300\* | 132 | 67 | | | 65 |
| 2018 | 1,800\* | 164 | 77 | | | 87 |

\*47 cities from 31 countries in 2017 and 57 cities from 44 countries in 2018

**III. Raising the Awareness about, and Contribute to, the SDG 2030 and NUA**

**3.1. Establishing an agenda to implement UN SDGs**

Leaders from 179 states met at the UN Conference on Environment and Development held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 1992 and adopted Agenda 21 for the purpose of protecting the global environment. The UN recommended local government-level implementation of the motto "Think globally, plan regionally, and act locally" and establishment of action plans to engage local environments via cooperation among citizens, businesses, and administrative bodies. To adhere to this recommendation, Gwangju established the Green Gwangju 21 Committee in October 1995 according to the spirit and principles outlined in the Agenda 21. For the following two years, NGOs, businesses, experts, and city officials gathered at the committee to devise a Gwangju Agenda and evaluation indicators (First Agenda). The table below was created by experiences gathered through implementation and assessment of the Agenda by 5-year increments since its first establishment in 1997. Now the body has evolved into an effective system for incorporating various opinions and discussions from local communities and is currently creating successful results across many sustainable development fields including the City Forest Project, Water Recycling, and Neighborhood Community Building (Table 6).

Table 6: Agenda 21 (A/A = Agenda/Areas)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Phase | A/A | Systems | Major Areas |
| Agenda I  (1997~2001) | 33/5 | -Basic Directions  -Action Principles  -Implementation Guidelines (for citizens/businesses/ administration) | -Environment-saving Citizen's Life (14)  -Gwangju where people live in harmony with nature (6)  -Gwangju with Clean Environment (5)  -Improving Sustainable Economic and Social Systems (6)  -Promoting Foreign/Domestic Environmental Cooperation (2) |
| Agenda II  (2002~2006) | 29/8 | -Basic Directions  -Action Principles  -Indicators  -Implementation Tasks | -Ecology & Green Areas (4)  -Water & River (4)  -Atmosphere & Energy (3)  -Wastes & Consumer Life (3)  -Traffic & Urban Planning (4)  -Culture & Welfare (4)  -Education & Public Relations (4)  -Solidarity & Cooperation (3) |
| Agenda III  (2007~2011) | 36/3 | -Action Goals  -Implementation Tasks | -Governance-style implementation projects (12)  -Goals and Indicators (12)  -Presented yearly goals (12) |
| Agenda IV  (2012~2016) | 12/3 | -Implementation  -Goals and Indicators  -Yearly goals Presented | -Environment & Ecology (4)  -Green Economy & Society (7)  -Green Education (1) |

Table 7: Gwangju SDGs 5th Agenda for Implementing UN SDGs (2017~2021)

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Areas | Agendas | Tasks | Indicators | UN SDGs |
| Environment | 1 Water-friendly City with Fresh Water | 3 | 3 | 6 Clean Water and Sanitation  14 Life Below Water |
| 2 Urban Forest in Harmony with Surrounding Hills | 4 | 5 | 15 Life on Land |
| 3 Cool City with Pleasant Breeze | 4 | 2 | 13 Climate Action  15 Life on Land |
| 4 A City Safe from Hazardous Chemicals | 4 | 2 | 3 Good Health and Well-Being |
| 5 Resource Recycling in Everyday Life | 4 | 3 | 12 Responsible Consumption and Production |
| Economy | 6 Sustainable Green Economy | 4 | 2 | 12 Responsible Consumption and Production  9 Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure |
| 7 City of Energy Conversion | 4 | 3 | 7 Affordable and Clean Energy |
| 8 Urban Farming with Citizens | 4 | 3 | 2 Zero Hunger  12 Responsible Consumption and Production |
| 9 Social Economy with Citizens | 4 | 5 | 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth  9 Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure |
| Society | 10 Self-Supporting Welfare Community | 3 | 3 | 1 No Poverty  7 Affordable and Clean Energy  13 Climate Action |
| 11 Gwangju Community of Sharing | 6 | 4 | 16 Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions |
| 12 Equal Community Respecting Diversity | 3 | 6 | 5 Gender Equality  10 Reduced Inequalities |
| 13 Green Health Saving Environment and Human | 3 | 2 | 3 Good Health and Well-Being |
| Urban  Regeneration | 14 Human-Oriented Traffic Environment Caring for Pedestrians | 5 | 3 | 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities |
| 15 Neighborhood Community in Harmony with Neighbors | 2 | 2 | 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities |
| 16 Human-Oriented Living Environment Based on Communities | 3 | 3 | 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities |
| SDG | 17 Sustainable Development Education Strengthening Citizens' Abilities | 3 | 7 | 4 Quality Education  17 Partnerships for the Goals |

After the adoption of the UN SDGs in September 2015, diverse implementation guidelines such as The Paris Agreement, The Ten-Year Framework of Programs on Sustainable Consumption and Production, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, and the UN Habitat New Urban Agenda were established.

At the national level, the scope of sustainable development was expanded to meet the UN SDGs and aggressive improvements were made in relatively less developed fields such as recycled energy and gender equality, etc. The 3rd National Sustainable Development Basic Plan (2016-2020) was set to incorporate new demands for social change.

The City of Gwangju has also declared The Sustainable Development Vision in October 2015 and independently established the Gwangju Sustainable Development Action Plan (2016~2020) in December the same year. Also, Gwangju changed the name of Green Gwangju 21 Committee into the Gwangju Metropolitan City Sustainable Development Committee in January 2016 to establish the 5th Agenda of Citizen Action Plan (2017~2021) in February 2017, after a year-long discussion among NGO activists, businessmen, city officials, and experts for the sake of implementing UN SDGs (Table 7).

**3.2. Gwangju Human Rights City Agenda 2030**

During the 2018 World Human Rights Cities forum (Oct. 18~21), both Korean and international human rights activists and experts gathered to discuss the draft of the Gwangju Human Rights Cities Agenda 2030. The Agenda will integrate the UN SDGs, UN Habitat New Urban Agenda (NUA) as well as the peace-building, sustaining peace, and migration agendas of United Nations General Assembly into one systematical task. More specifically, it will be an integrated implementation agenda which divides the characteristics of human rights cities into seven categories connecting each of them with existing norms, regulations, international human rights agendas, institutions, UN SDGs, and peace and migration issues related to human rights cities. In 2019, there will be more research and discussions with WHRCF partners as well as local and international human rights experts to establish the Gwangju Human Rights Cities Agenda 2030 before officially adopting the Agenda during the World Human Rights Cities Forum 2020.

The draft characterizes a Human Rights City into seven categories: a peaceful, safe and resilient city; a just, transparent and accountable city; an inclusive, equitable and sharing city; a smart, digital and innovative city; a green, sustainable and eco city; a cultural diversity and learning city; and a global, responsible, and unified city. The draft will include the following components in defining Human Cities: i) human rights norms and standards with long-term vision of a human rights city based on human rights charters and human rights ordinances; ii) institutions and procedures such as a human right commission, an ombudsman, a human rights department; iii) policies and programs such as human rights indicators, action plans, education, and training; and iv) human rights projects and activities among others.

**IV. Ways for the City to be Connected with the UN Human Rights System**

**4.1. The Human Rights Committee and the World Human Rights Cities Forum**

The City of Gwangju has been hosting the World Human Rights Cities Forum (WHRCF) to publicize the importance of the human rights around the world in collaboration with the OHCHR and other organizations such as the National Commission for UNESCO, UNESCO APCEIU, and UCLG CISDP. Each of the versions has been supported by the presence of one or two OHCHR officer(s) and by the presence of the OHCHR Deputy High Commissioner in 2012 and 2018. The WHRCF contributed in developing and publicizing the concept of the *human rights city* as was specifically mentioned in A/HRC/27/59: "The concept was launched in 1997 by the People’s Movement for Human Rights Education, a non-profit international service organization. It was further developed, particularly as a normative concept, by the World Human Rights Cities Forum that takes place annually in the city of Gwangju (Republic of Korea)"

**4.2. Implementations of the UN Agendas**

The City of Gwangju has been actively engaged in implementing the provisions within agreements such as the UN’s SDGs and NUA by specifically establishing Gwangju SDGs based on the UN SDGs through relevant implementing organizations. The city established the Gwangju Human Rights Roundtable and the Gwangju Metropolitan City Sustainable Development Committee to create the 5th Agenda of Citizen Action Plan (2017~2021) with the involvement of NGO activists, businessmen, city officials, and experts for the sake of implementing the UN SDGs as mentioned previously.

**4.3 Proposal of the International HR Education Center (IHREC)**

The City of Gwangju has been promoting the human rights protection in diverse ways with the belief that the propagation of the idea of human rights can be facilitated in Gwangju through its system and rich experiences as a human rights city. It is also planning to implement the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training adopted by the General Assembly in Resolution 66/137 in 2011. One of the ways of implementation is to establish an International Human Rights Education Center (IHREC), which fit well in Gwangju since it is promoting a "City of Happy Citizens" alongside human rights protection and democracy-centered policies with human rights education and training. The Center can make the most of the Gwangju’s historical experiences and systematic human rights programs in crafting curriculums for any prospective trainees of democracy and human rights. Establishing the Institute here with its concrete programs will surely greatly enhance the collaboration of human rights cities in the Asia-Pacific region while also providing support to the different needs of the individual cities.