Portrait of a Sister City: Suncheon, Republic of Korea

Official flag of the Republic of Korea

is where you live
learn
play
work
dream
explore

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What is a Sister City?

The concept of the Sister City was established in the 1950s and formally recognized in 1967 when the relationships became a part of Sister Cities International (SCI). The mission statement of SCI is to “promote peace through mutual respect, understanding and cooperation — one individual, one community at a time.”

To celebrate this relationship with each of our five global neighbors, we have introduced the “Portrait of a Sister City” photography exhibit series. We will be exploring the ways that different communities live, learn, play, work, dream and explore. Welcome to the beautiful city of Suncheon, in the Republic of Korea!
Get to know Suncheon, your sister city in the Republic of Korea!

Suncheon’s city emblem represents many concepts:

A depiction of a traditional Korean tiled roof represents the rich traditions and history of the region. The shape also introduces the idea of Suncheon as a city looking toward the future.

The three yellow notches represent Suncheon’s focus on education, industry and tourism while the four brown notches honor local culture, arts, transportation and tradition.

The outer circle is in the shape of a rising sun and marks the sense of unity within Suncheon.

The S-shape stands for the resilient spirit of the city. It also symbolizes the tidelands in nearby Suncheon Bay, an important resource for Suncheon for their tourism and local ecology.
Suncheon’s plants and animals:

Just as each of the United States has a state bird, tree and flower, so does the city of Suncheon. The hooded crane, the persimmon tree and the royal azalea represent Suncheon.

The Hooded Crane

Persimmons

Royal Azaleas
The City of Columbia invited Mayor Roh Kwan-Kyu and six officials from Suncheon to visit Columbia on November 9-10, 2010. Mayor Bob McDavid accompanied the Sister City delegation as they met with representatives from the public and private sectors. The group discussed economic development, education and health care, as well as cultural exchange opportunities. These visits are key to maintaining the Sister City relationship between Columbia and Suncheon.
Many communities, one vision for the future

A joint proclamation ceremony took place on November 10, 2010 which reaffirmed the Sister City relationship, first established on October 18, 1991. Mayor Roh invited Mike Hood and staff from Parks and Recreation to submit the conceptual design for an “American garden” to be installed during the 2013 Suncheon Bay International Garden Exposition. A group from Columbia, to be led by Mayor McDavid, hopes to visit Suncheon in late 2011.
In the city of Suncheon, residents embrace modern ways of living along with their traditional culture. Further away from the city center sits an old fortress village whose residents still respect the old ways of living in houses with thatched roofs or clay tiles. In the city, many residents dwell in high-rise apartments decorated with modern furniture.
A view of beautiful Nagan, the fortress village on the outskirts of Suncheon.
A traditional family home in quaint Nagan.
Three generations of Suncheonis live in this traditional home. In this picture, they’re having a formal tea.
This picture shows a partial skyline of Suncheon, where many people live in high-rise apartment buildings.
Here we see an example of a modern, “Western”-style living room in a Suncheon apartment.
Community is where you...

Suncheoni children learn in classrooms that look much like an American classroom. They take field trips to Suncheon Bay to observe the wildlife in the marshes. Students at the city’s universities study in groups on quadrangles, like ours at the University of Missouri, or in one of the many libraries that can be found in the city of Suncheon.
Students study together on the grounds of a university in Suncheon.
Many young Suncheonis learn to play in bands and orchestras.
Children in an elementary school have an art lesson.
Students do schoolwork in a modern Suncheoni classroom.
Children pick out books from a library’s bookmobile that travels to small towns and villages.
Suncheon is an energetic, nature-loving city. The people of Suncheon consider the outdoors to be a very entertaining place. In addition to parks, there are many opportunities to relax with friends and family at outdoor workout facilities, golf courses, and biking or pedestrian trails. There are also many open-air markets, libraries and shopping malls.
This is one of Suncheon’s many public outdoor workout facilities with a pedestrian and bike path.
An example of a playground outside a school in Suncheon.
Play

Recess: everyone’s favorite subject!
Children playing games during recess.
Another playground at a Suncheon school.
Community is where you...

There are diverse job opportunities in the city of Suncheon. Suncheon is known for the beautiful produce grown on local farms. Farmers work in orchards to harvest native persimmons, plums, peaches and strawberries. Workers in the field cultivate rice and other staple crops. Bread, sweets and other foods are made in factories in the city. Suncheon is also work in business offices, city government and other industries.
Employees work in an office in Suncheon.
Employees work in an office in Suncheon.
Farmers working in the fields.
A woman works in a factory.
Workers bake breads for restaurants and grocery stores.
Suncheon is rapidly becoming the ecological capital of Korea. In the spring of 2013, an exposition of gardens will be unveiled to the world. It will focus on wetlands protection in Suncheon Bay (the 8th largest wetland in the world), medicinal herb gardens, parks that showcase different trees and gardens from around the world. The expo is set to create 11,000 jobs, improve lodging in the city and promote green transportation such as a personal rapid transit system connecting the expo site with Suncheon Bay.

For more information on the 2013 garden exposition, please visit: http://2013expo.or.kr/web/eng_page_2010/
Suncheon has been planning an international garden exposition for several years. This is a rendering of the area which will be transformed for the 2013 exposition.
Rendering of the main garden area for the exposition.
Dream

A view of one of the proposed theme gardens.
This is a rendering of the traditional Korean garden, to be unveiled during the exposition.
This is another example of a theme garden for the exposition.
Community is where you...

Just a short bus ride away from the center of Suncheon is Suncheon Bay. Beds of reeds provide a home for Hooded Cranes and other birds. The mud flats provide an excellent habitat for creatures such as the Blue-spotted Mudskipper, clams, small octopus and crabs. Near the bay, one can explore the nearby mountains, rivers, marshes and fields.
Children take a field trip to Suncheon Bay.
Explore

Children on a field trip have fun discovering the plants and animals of Suncheon Bay.
Explore

A view of the stunning marshlands of Suncheon Bay.
Explore

The Hooded Crane, a protected species, lives in Suncheon Bay.
The Blue-spotted Mudskipper can be found in the mud flats of Suncheon Bay.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>Korean</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Welcome!</td>
<td>Hwan-yŏng-ham-ni-da.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I’d like to visit Korea one day.</td>
<td>Ón-jen-ga-nŭn han-gu-ge ka-goshi-pŏ-yo.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Where are you from?</td>
<td>Ő-di-sŏ o-shiŏ-ssŏ-yo?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>See you later!</td>
<td>Na-jung-e bwae-yo!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enjoy! (for meals)</td>
<td>Ma-ni dŭ-se-yo!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One, Two, Three!</td>
<td>Il, i, sam! / ha-na, tul, set!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good Luck!</td>
<td>haeng un eul bib ni da!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To learn more Korean words and phrases, please visit: [http://www.linguanaut.com/english_korean.htm](http://www.linguanaut.com/english_korean.htm)