

Portrait of a Sister City: Suncheon, Republic of Korea

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 our global neighbors, we have introduced the "Portrait of a Sister City" photography exhibit series. In each exhibit, we will discover the ways different communities live, learn, play, work, dream and explore. We welcome you to the beautiful city of Suncheon, in the Republic of Korea!

Suncheon's mascots

This image of a boy and girl, dressed in traditional clothing, represents culture, education, and the children of today who will become the future leaders of Suncheon.



Expanding the Suncheon partnership

The City of Columbia welcomed Mayor Roh Kwan-Kyu and six Suncheon officials to Columbia November 9-10, 2010. Mayor Bob McDavid accompanied the Sister City delegates 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 November 10, 2010, to reaffirm the Sister City relationship first established October 18, 1991. Mayor Roh invited the City's Parks and Recreation Department 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.



2013 International Garden Exposition plan for an American-style garden

Symbols of Suncheon

Suncheon's unique 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.



Learn to speak Korean!

Welcome!

Hwan-yŏng-ham-ni-da.

Where are you from?

Ŏ-di-sŏ o-shiŏ-ssŏ-yo?

Enjoy! (for meals)

Ma-ni dŭ-se-yo!

Good luck.

Haeng un eul bib ni da.

I'd like to visit Korea one day.

Ŏn-jen-ga-nŭn han-gu-ge ka-go shi-p'ŏ-yo.

See you later!

Na-jung-e bwae-yo!

One, Two, Three

Il, i, sam / ha-na, tul, set

To learn more Korean words and phrases, go to: http://www.linguanaut.com/english_korean.htm



Suncheon's flora & fauna

Royal azaleas, persimmons, and the hooded crane represent Suncheon's signature flower, tree and bird.