

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF Educating Cities ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE DES Villes Educatrices ASOCIACION INTERNACIONAL DE Ciudades Educadoras

# International Association of Educating Cities(IAEC) Asia-Pacific Network

## December 2021

#### International Association of Educating Cities(IAEC) Asia-Pacific Network

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# **Opening of the 16th IAEC International Congress 2022 in Andong**

Andong, the host of the upcoming Congress, will hold the event at Andong International Convention Center in Ilwon, Dosan-myeon in the second half of 2022. It is a 4-day event on October 25~28, 2022 and includes the Congress participated by all member cities, Executive Committee meeting, thematic workshops, promotional booths of educating cities, world heritage city tours, and other events organized by the host city. Andong, which was designated as the very first lifelong learning city of Daegu-Gyeongbuk in 2003, will now gain a greater momentum in its existing global learning city projects thanks to the local government's success in the bid to host this international conference.

Under the official theme of "Shaping the Future of Education: Innovation, Tradition and Inclusion" and the sub-topic of humanistic-social-aesthetic values, Andong will make this the most Korean Congress that can also be identified by people across the world by harmonizing Andong's regional characteristics embodying Eastern Confucian and spiritual culture with European spirit of humanism. During the Congress, Andong will also promote the city's excellence in cultural heritage to the world as part of its endeavor to include Hahoe Byeolsingut Talnori (Hahoe Mask Dance Drama) in the list of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, followed by registration of Hahoe Village, Bongjeongsa Temple, and Dosan/Byeongsan Seowon as UNESCO World Heritage and Confucian Printing Woodblocks as UNESCO Memory of the World.

2021

Around 2,000 people from in and outside Korea are expected to visit the Congress in 2022, which will not only add vitality to the overall local economy in accommodation, F&B, tourism, and other convention-related industries, but also promote Three Major Cultural Areas Project, which is the national strategic project, raise awareness of Andong as Korea's tourism hub and UNESCO World Heritage Site, and give confidence that even a small city with a population of just 160,000 can make its imagination come true.

Andong Mayor Kwon Young-sae expressed his commitment, saying that "Until now, knowledge was power, but from now, imagination is power. We have made possible what everyone thought was impossible through a year of thorough preparation. Now, in the remaining 1 years until the Congress, we will thoroughly prepare for the event through a dedicated task force, strongly promote the International Congress of Educating Cities Andong 2022, and raise awareness of Andong as the capital of Korea's culture around the world."

## The 10th IAEC Regional Network Meeting 2021 in Andong



The 10th IAEC Asia-Pacific Regional Network Meeting was held in Andong Grand Hotel on October 6~7. The meeting, held under the theme of "Directions of Lifelong Learning in the Post-COVID-19 Era" included various sessions including keynote speeches, thematic lectures, mayors' roundtable discussion, presentations of education projects in different cities, and MOU signing ceremony among others. In particular, there were discussions on ways to reinvigorate lifelong learning projects that have diminished in the wake of COVID-19 and participants wished for the success of the 16th IAEC International Congress to be held in Andong next year.

The meeting hosted by Changwon, IAEC,

and organized by Andong City Government was joined by 23 Korean member cities of IAEC Asia-Pacific Regional Network as well as international cities including Okayama, Japan and Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Due to the social distancing guideline for COVID-19, the number of offline participants was restricted to less than 50 people. Members from outside Korea or Korean members who could not join in person took part in online virtual format via Zoom and real-time simultaneous interpretation was provided.

On the first day of the meeting, there was an MOU signing ceremony by Andong City Government, Korean Association of Lifelong Learning Cities, National Institute for Lifelong Education, and Korean National Commission for UNSECO for successful hosting of the 16th International Congress of Educating Cities.





### Addressing inequality through strong actions after COVID-19

Marina Canals, General Secretary of IAEC, expressed concerns via Zoom that "The global crisis caused by COVID-19 is exacerbating accessibility to education, deepening educational inequalities, and creating new problems," adding that "Efforts of transitioning toward digital learning are encouraging, but this cannot replace face-to-face learning. Learning means more than simply going to school and learning in classrooms. It also includes wellness of individuals and local community, social gatherings, sharing of public spaces, cultural life, and participation

## UNESCO keywords for educational recovery : inclusion, fairness, equity



In this meeting, Professor Lee Hee-soo of Chung Ang University made a keynote speech under the title of "Networking Strategy for Urban and Educational Recovery in the Post-COVID Era." President Ha Geum-suk of Gyeongbuk Women's Policy Development Institute presented under the title of "Digital Literacy, Leading the Future of Lifelong Education." There were also presentations on the direction of lifelong learning in the post-COVID era by Okayama of Japan, Buenos Aires of Argentina, as well as Jincheon County, Gunsan, and Gumi of Korea. Professor Jeong Woo-tak, former President of UNESCO Asia-Pacific Center of Education for International Understanding, served as the moderator during a roundtable discussion by lifelong learning city mayors, where they discussed proposals by different cities to achieve demographic and generational educational equity.

There was also a panel discussion session with Professor Kim Nam-seon of Youth SAtudies at Daegu University as the moderator and Lim Hyunggyu (specialist at the National Institute for Lifelong Education), Hong Bokang (team leader of the Korean National Commission for UNESCO), Kim Yu-mi (Secretary-General of the Korean Association of Lifelong Learning Cities) and Jin Jae-kyung (team leader of lifelong education at Andong City Government) as panelists. Professor Lee Hee-soo said in his keynote speech that "Now, we are talking about "living with COVID" instead of "eradicating COVID." UNESCO designated inclusion, fairness, and equity as the keywords for educational recovery in the wake of COVID-19." He added that "It is important to identify households that may not be able to send their children to school so that financial support could be provided, to provide appropriate learning programs for students to catch up with what they have missed in academic performance, and to ensure that schools can offer appropriate health and nutritional support." Professor Lee also made a proposal for becoming a better educating city after COVID-19, saying that "Andong, a city characterized by a Korean idiom of ho-hak-nak-seup, meaning love for learning and joy of study, can show the way of co-existence for learning cities. The foundation of lifelong learning education and learning cities is love for learning, or hohak. Love for learning and joy of study that build upon the traditional spirit of seonbi (scholars of the Goryeo and Joseon period) are what make Andong what it is today."

In her thematic presentation under the title of "Digital Literacy, Leading the Future of Lifelong Education," President Ha Geum-suk of Gyeongbuk Women's Policy Development Institute emphasized the importance of digital literacy that enables the use of digital technology and Internet to find, evaluate, share, and create content in the future society of post-COVID. President Ha said that "We must respond to the various demands for lifelong education through collaboration among local governments and local educational institutes so that we can respond to future changes in society, such as the 4th Industrial Revolution, that require new ways of knowledge acquisition." and added, "There should also be more lifelong education courses provided on local autonomy such as residential autonomy, village education, and residential participation."



in educational and social decision-making." She also warned that "COVID-19 has made us stronger. We now have to take strong actions to fix the inequalities. Otherwise, the negative impact of this crisis will stay for a long time even after the alleviation of this pandemic."

Andong Mayor Kwon Young-sae also said that "COVID-19 has changed so many things around the world. The way of life cannot go back to what it was pre-COVID even after the end of this pandemic," adding that "Lifelong learning is also changing from face-to-face group education to contactless personal education based on online education platforms. However, such changes result in educational inequalities for the vulnerable groups that are not familiar with or lack access to online technologies." In this context, he emphasized that "Local governments must do all it can to resolve the disparities in lifelong education opportunities as lifelong education plays a significant role in building citizens' capacity for the city's sustainable development."

After its designation as the first lifelong learning city in Daegu, Gyeongbuk, Andong joined the International Association of Educating Cities in 2010 and the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities in 2019 in order to learn from educating cities around the world about best practices in lifelong learning policies and services through international activities of educating cities' networks. In October last year, Andong won its bid to become the host of the International Congress of Educating Cities, also dubbed the World Education Olympics. The 3-day Congress to be held in Andong International Convention Center in Dosan-myeon, Andong from October 26, 2022 is expected to serve as an excellent opportunity to introduce Korea's best practices and policies in lifelong learning and educating cities to cities around the world. It is also expected to add vigor to lifelong education projects in Korea and propel Korea's lifelong education to the next level.

# Major policies of each IAEC member city in 2021

### Gangseo District, Seoul Metropolitan City

Gangseo District organized a variety of contactless lifelong education programs in light of COVID-19. The district offered existing programs, including Adult Literacy, Democratic Civic Education, Humanities Academy, Academy for Parents, and Knowledge Vitamin Course, in contactless format while also posting real-time lectures for online interactions as well as recorded videos that can be played repetitively to provide high-quality education in a diversity of formats. In particular, new programs developed in line with the trends of these times such as media creator training and online Al humanities course were met with positive reactions and great popularity.

In 2022, the district plans to introduce courses dedicated to new technologies of the 4th Industrial Revolution such as coding and AR, hold sessions to share

outcomes of metaverse, and conduct outsourced research to build a mid to long-term development plan in order to lay a sustainable foundation for lifelong education that proactively responds to future changes in society.



### Nam District, Gwangju Metropolitan City

## Sharing of ontact (combination of online and contactless) achievements and reinforcing contactless learning

Nam District, Gwangju Metropolitan City boosted the morale of learners and spread lifelong learning culture by sharing on- and offline achievements at the 7th Nam District Lifelong Learning Festival On&Off. The district also worked to narrow the education divide by offering contactless learning services using online platforms (YouTube Live, Zoom, etc.).

## Expanding education to help residents heal and overcome Corona Blue and organizing specialized programs

Various cultural and art courses were offered to help residents heal and overcome Corona Blue. To expand the beneficiaries of learning, Lifelong Learning Program on Way Home from Work · Weekends was introduced and was well-received by working people. Currently, Nam District runs a lifelong university called Neul (always) Learning Center, which provides quality learning content on various subjects including the 4th Industrial Revolution, drones, and climate change.

**Creating jobs through lifelong learning and supporting job placement** Nam District provides citizens with opportunities to develop job skills, get employment, and start their own businesses through certification support and job placement activities. The district also recruits and manages a group of lifelong activists as part of job placement support. In addition, job  $\cdot$  learning  $\cdot$  sharing programs are being offered and expanded for the socially vulnerable.



#### Pohang city

To mark the International Day of the Educating City in November, the 5th Pohang Abacus Competition for Seniors was held and participated by elderly citizens who completed the course at Senior Community Center College in My Neighborhood Program that started in June.

There were approximately 200 people at the event, including around 100 elderly players and another 100 lifelong education guides (volunteers) as personnel to facilitate the event. The fast finger movements of the elderly participants made it almost difficult to believe that they have practiced the skill for only three months.

In its preparation for the era of centenarians, Pohang will continue to expand abacus education for elderly citizens and continue to host the Abacus Competition for Seniors to prevent dementia and ensure happiness through lifelong education.



## Gwangju Metropolitan City Institute for Lifelong Education

Based on a business agreement signed with Gwangju Regional Headquarters, Human Resources Development Service of Korea in September, Gwangju Institute for Lifelong Education introduced Online Course for Improvement of Foreign Workers' Living Environment. The course was designed in light of the emerging needs to educate foreign workers on personal hygiene and disease control measures due to the rise of COVID-19 infections as well as the continuous demand to improve their lifestyle habits. The course was offered in online format that is accessible anywhere and anytime. It is expected to reduce the unnecessary cost in workplaces incurred on recycling and environment management of dormitories for foreign workers while addressing complaints for improved living environment. The course is currently provided with Korean subtitles for re-entrants with a plan to make multilanguage subtitles (Vietnamese, Cambodian, Indonesian) available for foreign workers as well. The course can be accessed on the free online education platform, Gwangju Sisajeon (https://sisa.or.kr/).



## **Geochang County**

In 2021, Geochang County worked to create a sustainable online education environment under the slogan of "Greater Lifelong Learning City where Anything is Possible." Infrastructure for online education (1 studio) was established and professional instructors were trained through online capacity-building education via Zoom.

As part of lifelong education for local residents, writing class (30 sessions) and special lecture series on humanities (20 sessions) were provided online. Geochang Academy offered programs in both face-to-face and contactless formats to prevent the spread of COVID-19. As part of an effort to narrow the education divide among students, the county also hosted the National Havruta Online Debate Competition participated by about 100 elementary school students nationwide. In addition, for students who are unable to travel abroad, Online Global Camp was organized with Zoom classes by high-profile lecturers from the Ivy League schools of the United States, which was well-received by both parents and students.



## Gumi city

#### <sup>「</sup>Dandi Village School!」, from ontact learning to local-tact learning

#### \*\* Dandi: dialect of Gyeongsang-do Province for 'properly' and 'firmly'

Gumi runs small-scale village schools in each local economy to help middle-aged learners address the loss of learning opportunities and decrease in benefits of learning caused by expansion in contactless classes as a result of COVID-19. The schools provide education on abacus to prevent dementia, literacy and writing, traditional dance, art psychology, crafts, and tea ceremony among others. The classes of 15 or less consist of Gumi citizens aged 40 or older. A The village (place) for village school was designated, A the council designed major (common) courses and curricula tailored to learners, A learners were systematically managed by designated learning manager of the village school, and A learning clubs were formed in each village school.



## Saha District, Busan Metropolitan City

Saha District, Busan Metropolitan City proposed various methods of participation for learners to help them adapt to the contactless educational environment. Regular adult learners familiar with online tools used Zoom to take courses, while middle-aged and older learners used Band Live. The district also provided citizens with sufficient time to familiarize themselves in the transition from offline on-site education to online contactless learning environment. At the beginning of every course, a mandatory 1:1 session was offered with a dedicated mentor on how to use the contactless learning platform. This was found to be particularly helpful for middle-aged to older learners who are not used to virtual lectures.



### **Jincheon County**

**The 11th Saenggeo Jincheon Lifelong Learning Festival (on/offline format)** From October 1 (Fri) to October 3 (Sun), Jincheon County hosted the 11th Saenggeo Jincheon Lifelong Learning Festival under the theme of "Turning ON Co-existence, Sharing, and Empathy with ONE Touch!." Due to quarantine measures for COVID-19, offline events were held with a minimum number of participants. Instead, YouTube channel of Jincheon County Institute of Lifelong Learning and Zoom were used to live stream the content, including Lifelong Learning Festival's declaration ceremony, videos of learning clubs, institutes, and organizations (about 30 videos), and workshop of lifelong learning stakeholders in Chungcheongbuk-do Province. In addition, adult literacy learners' poems and paintings were exhibited in three libraries of Jincheon County.

#### **Online programs in response to COVID-19**

Online courses (around 1,500 courses) were offered on Government e-Learning Platform in collaboration with the National Human Resources Development Institute. Citizens can access various courses including ▲Contactless Ventriloquism for Healing, ▲Series of Classes for a Difference, ▲I can be a YouTube Creator, too, ▲Training Course for Harmful Environment Hunters, ▲Training Course for Sophisticated Communication Experts, ▲Training Course for Human Rights Education Instructors, etc.

## Lifelong learning project for the marginalized (Grandpas over Flowers Again)

Jincheon County has been providing a lifelong education environment for elderly men living alone to boost their passion for life and ensure they can lead a healthy life in their elderly years. This year, between April and October, various programs were offered for capacity-building, including psychological therapy for depression and education with their lifetime favorite movie producer, counselor, and cooking teacher.



## Andong city

#### Happy Andong's Lifelong Learning Festival in My Own Room

Andong's Lifelong Learning Festival was held virtually online via Zoom on September 11~12. The festival provided various learning activities to relieve the sense of psychological depression felt by citizens due to limited social activities amidst COVID-19 as well as to promote lifelong learning projects of Andong. Four learning kits including ▲making macarons, ▲making an FM radio, ▲making a condenser airplane, and ▲making a topiary frame were distributed in a drive-thru format at a designated place by the Nakdonggang River to a total of 650 people who submitted a prior application. Over the course of 2 days, citizens were able to interact via Zoom thanks to a studio set up in Andong Lifelong Learning Institute.



#### Dream Pottery Exhibition for adults with development disabilities

To mark and promote the International Day of the Educating City to citizens, Andong Lifelong Learning Institute hosted an exhibition on November 15~19 of potteries made by adults with development disabilities staying at home. On display were around 100 pieces made by participants of Craftwork Experience with Fine Motor Activity for People with Development Disabilities Staying at Home, a program organized by Andong. Participants of the program said that they were happy and proud to see their works on exhibition and that this gave them a great sense of confidence. Andong will continue to strive toward creating a lifelong learning city that does not marginalize anyone by organizing programs customized to various marginalized groups in the community.



#### Daegu Gyeongbuk Working-level Meeting for Lifelong Learning City

Andong held Daegu Gyeongbuk Working-level Meeting for Lifelong Learning City at Seongseonhyeon Hanok Cultural Experience Center on November 25~26. This was the first meeting to establish the foundation for communication, exchanges, and cooperative network among 16 lifelong learning cities in Daegu, Gyeongsangbuk-do Province and lifelong learning institutions. It was participated by around 30 workinglevel members of lifelong learning cities in Daegu, Gyeongsangbuk-do Province, who discussed capacity-building for international conferences in preparation of the successful 16th International Congress of Educating Cities to be held in Andong next year. During the meeting, there were discussions on A official inauguration ceremony of Daegu Gyeongbuk Working-level Council for Lifelong Learning City, Apresentation on previous international events by a speaker from Yeonsu District, Incheon that hosted ICLC, Aspecial lecture on preparation and hosting of international events by an expert on MICE, and  $\triangle$  ways to actively engage citizens in the IAEC International Congress in Andong.



### Gyeongju city

#### Building digital capacity and smart learning city in the era of living with COVID-19

Gyeongju created a smart learning environment in this era of the 4th Industrial Revolution and living with COVID-19 by providing a variety of user-centered information on lifelong learning and establishing its management system using digital technology. The city introduced 『Digital Literacy Capacity-Building Education』 to foster professional human resources, enhance citizens' real-life skills in digital technology, and narrow the digital divide in the city. A total of 188 citizens completed the program and organized two clubs to further enhance their digital skills. In addition, a contest was held to present best practices in digital skill improvement as well as a session to share outcomes as an opportunity to reflect upon the program.



#### Establishing Smart Lifelong Learning Center

- 'runs a learning-studio' as a space dedicated to a variety of online lectures in contactless format
- 'installed a smart platform multi-vision' for using digital technology and providing various learning information
- 'installed 20 digital information displays (DID)' in each room by establishing a course information display system
- éstablished a tuition exemption service' using Administrative Information Sharing System
- éstablished an electronic attendance management system' using smartphones for efficient management of learning

## Dangjin city

#### Creating an online lifelong learning platform

Dangjin equipped classrooms within its Lifelong Learning Center with tools for virtual interactions including computers, virtual cameras, microphones, and Zoom licenses in order to create an enabling environment for real-time online classes. This allowed the city to successfully stream content live from Dangjin Academy and forums on YouTube. Furthermore, the city provided about 600 courses to citizens by establishing and expanding its e-learning platform (Danghakmol) in response to the increasing demand for contactless education.

#### Dangjin Lifelong Learning Forum for the Disabled

On November 26, Dangjin hosted Lifelong Learning Forum for the Disabled at Dangjin Sports Complex Training Center to share outcomes from lifelong learning projects for the disabled in 2021 and to discuss ideas for better policies. The forum was joined by around 50 citizens on the site and also by a virtual audience through live streaming on Dangjin City Government's YouTube channel. It began with a keynote speech by Dr. Lee Jeong-mi (Daegu Gyeongbuk Development Institute) followed by a session sharing the current status of Dangjin's lifelong learning for the disabled and related policies with citizens. In addition, there was a dynamic discussion among experts from different domains to explore the new directions and solutions for lifelong learning in the era of living with COVID-19.



## **Gunsan city**

#### Cultural Cafés in My Neighborhood

Gunsan has a project called Cultural Cafes in My Neighborhood to boost the local economy and create jobs. The project was first introduced in September 2018 and is currently ongoing. Through the project, residents can take part in learning programs at neighboring commercial facilities (restaurants, cafes, bakeries, etc.) as well as non-commercial facilities (senior community centers, resident community centers in apartment complexes, etc.). It is open to all Gunsan citizens and a group of 5 or more people can request for education to be arranged on the site of their request by instructors and managers affiliated with the city government. A total of 3,555 courses were provided over the past 4 years with the total participants amounting to 26,973 people. Thanks to this project, citizens can take courses in various venues without time constraints. The number of instructors in Cultural Cafes in my Neighborhood increased by 82% (1,173 in 2018 ⇒ 2,134 in 2021) and revenues of stores rose by 73%, contributing to stronger local economy for small businesses as well.

## Education on ontact platform use for lifelong learning instructors

In order to provide quality online classes for citizens amidst the spread of COVID-19, Gunsan educated the city's lifelong leaning instructors on how to use



ontact (combination of online and contactless) platforms. Six professional teachers were invited to provide group practical training to promote their understanding and usage of various applications. It was participated by 81 instructors in 2020 and 488 instructors in 2021.

## Changwon city



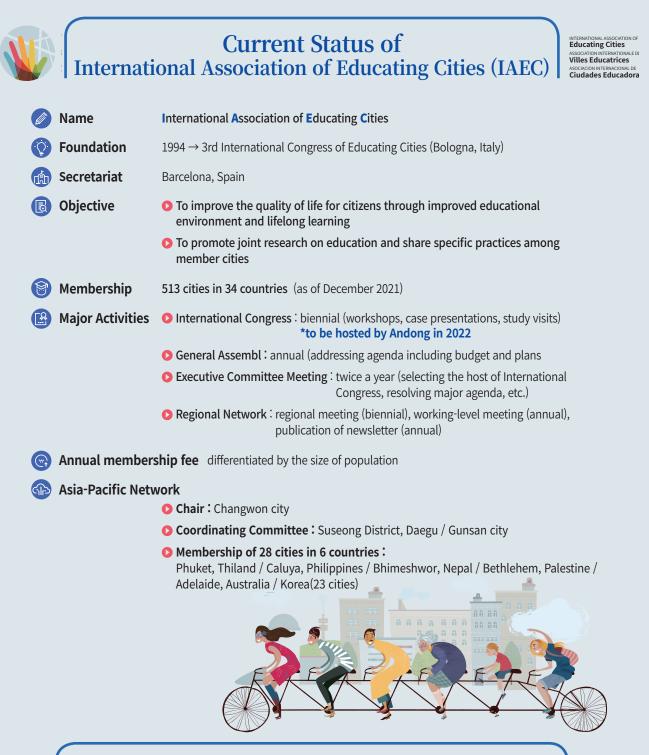
#### Changwon Academy for happiness and lifelong learning opportunities of citizens

Since 2008, Changwon has been running Changwon Academy that invites high-profile figures for highquality lectures to give citizens happiness and opportunities of lifelong learning. In 2021, a total of 12 academy sessions (4 in the first half of the year, 8 in the second half of the year) were offered. During the On-Off Changwon Academy organized in the first half of the year, prior applications were received from a minimum number of people for offline participation and the content was also streamed in real-time on YouTube so that Changwon citizens could access the academy anytime and anywhere. Google Korea's manager Cho Yong-min, Professor Han Myeong-ki of History at Myongjin University were some of the invited speakers who spoke on the direction of life in the post-COVID era to a great reaction from citizens. In the second half of the year, Contactless Live Changwon Academy was organized to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Citizens could access various participatory lectures in real-time using Zoom or YouTube channel. Virtual trips (Hong Kong, Paris, Vienna) were offered for citizens who are unable to travel abroad due to the prolonged COVID-19 in addition to at-home yoga and art psychology classes, which all had a high level of engagement from citizens.



Changwon-i Piumi Online English Debate Competition

On November 16, Changwon hosted the 4th Changwon-i Piumi Online English Debate Competition 2021 to foster global talents and motivate students to study English. Each team consisted of 2~3 students from middle schools in Changwon and 8 teams took part in the final debate. There were 8 different topics including Amaking COVID-19 vaccination mandatory, ▲living with COVID-19, and ▲turning textbooks into e-books, and each topic was debated for 20 minutes. There were dynamic debates on each and every topic by all participants and the final winner was Candidus Team.



## **Event Schedule for** International Association of Educating Cities (IAEC) in 2022

In Feb 2022	In Mar 2022	On Oct 25~28, 2022	On Nov 30, 2022
IAEC Executive Committee meeting	IAEC General Assembly	16th IAEC International Congress	International Day of the Educating City
Online (tentative)	Online (tentative)	Andong	Each member city