

The new construction of the Lifelong Learning Center for the exclusive use by adults with developmental disorder in Gunsan City

- The delight of the lifelong learning that is learned together with the underprivileged

Gunsan, Republic of Korea is an international trade port city of Northeast Asia. The population of 273,853 people resides in the area of 681.15km². It is the central place of the modern history and culture of Korea. And it is a very unique city in which the past, the present, and the future coexist, where a land reclamation project has been being carried out that makes a harbor and an industrial complex on the site of 409km² by reclaiming the land from the sea with the world's longest seawall of which the length is 33.9km.

With the city administration goals of 'the child friendly city' and 'the self-supporting type, lifelong learning city that all people grows together', Gunsan City has been aggressively pushing ahead with the participation-type, outreach lifelong education project which reflects people's opinions.

Gunsan City has the big interest in the lifelong education for the alienated class, as well. Especially, regarding the people with developmental disorder, for the adaptation to the society, the continuous education is needed. And, although they have the distinct characteristic which the basic living capability regresses when the education is cut off, the actual circumstance is that there are no lifelong education facilities for the exclusive use for the adults with a developmental disorder who graduated from the special schools in Korea.

In Gunsan, 1,274 adults with developmental disorder reside. And, for the improvement of the quality of life through their continuous lifelong education, the project has been pushing ahead in earnest, including establishing the project plans in 2011, the beginning of the design of the construction in 2014, etc. On June 22, 2018, at last, the Lifelong Learning Center for the exclusive use by the adults with developmental disorder was newly constructed and opened for the very first time in the Republic of Korea.

The building consists of the Lifelong Learning Center for the exclusive use by the adults with developmental disorder and the gymnasium for the disabled in the site area of 9,660m² and the total floor area of 4,679m². Especially, the Lifelong

Learning Center for the exclusive use by the adults with developmental disorder equips with a total of 11 rooms, including the ordinary classrooms, the special classrooms, the nurse's office, a restaurant, and others. Gunsan City created new team which is exclusively responsible for the direct operation as well.

Gunsan is planning to continuously carry out developing lifelong learning infrastructure and the education programs for the satisfaction of the desire for the lifelong learning on the part of the citizens and for the improvement of their lives. And, it will expand even more the citizens-participatory administration by enhancing a sense of ownership of the citizens through this.