A Change of Conception Makes Suncheon One of the World’s Most Desirable Place to Live

The city creates and maintains a difference to generate future value.

The change came when we looked at nature as it is, rather than from a viewpoint.

A green ecological city where nature thrives;

Suncheon’s choice is to become an ecological capital of South Korea rather than a secondary industry manufacturing base.
Why Is Suncheon Special?

The assuredness of walking on bare earth; this is the authenticity of life that today we must recover. Suncheon, the Ecological Capital of Korea! In the midst of this, Suncheon Bay solidly preserves one of the top five coastal wetlands in the world. Registered with the RAMSAR Convention, it contains Korea’s first wetlands designated as a scenic spot.

It consists of 22.4㎢ of marsh lands and 5.6㎢ of reeded wetlands, as well as the 235 species of migratory birds and 220 plant species inhabiting them. This is Suncheon Bay, a garden bestowed to us from heaven.
Suncheon’s Efforts to Be Nature-Friendly

Decking placed in the fields of reeds allows people to experience the wetlands directly.
282 telegraph poles were taken down to form an inland swamp to provide shelter for migratory birds, and environmentally polluting facilities and restaurants in the port were removed.

The results were surprising.

To preserve Suncheon Bay means to improve its ability to survive. The number of hooded cranes, Korea’s natural monument, increased more than ten-fold in ten years, and three million tourists visit annually, establishing its status as Korea’s top ecological tourist attraction.

However, this number of visitors threatens the preservation of Suncheon Bay, so Suncheon-si has a different problem to address.
The Solution is the International Garden Exposition Suncheon Bay Korea 2013

- **Title**: The International Garden Exposition Suncheon Bay Korea 2013
- **Theme**: Garden of the Earth
- **Period**: Apr. 20. ~ Oct. 20. 2013
- **Venue**: Around Suncheon Bay
- **Area**: 1,112,000㎡

What is a Garden Expo?
Over the last 150 years, international garden expos have been recognized throughout Europe and other developed countries in the creation of forward-looking green cities. We will use our expo as a means to demonstrate how future cities could be.

Suncheon restricts the expansion of the downtown area in the direction of the bay to ensure its preservation and form an ecological axis between them. In this way Suncheon will be reborn as a world-class level ecological city, which is why we’re holding the International Garden Exposition Suncheon Bay Korea 2013.
World Garden

The World Garden is an opportunity to enjoy the diverse and unique gardening cultures of ten countries: Holland, China, France, Japan, Germany, Pakistan, Spain, Italy, and the U.K. and U.S. It will offer the same pleasure as traveling overseas.
Themed Garden
The themed garden will be developed in about 70 sections by artists and corporations selected by a public contest. The corporate image or artist’s unique character will be expressed through the gardens.

Medicinal Herb Center
A medicinal herb cultivation garden of 160,000 m² will provide an opportunity to enjoy medicinal herbs. It is a space for hands-on experience healing for the various ailments of modern living.

Children’s Play Garden
It offers children the opportunity to run freely through a garden dotted with well-known and beloved characters.

Performance Stage
You can enjoy the beauty of Korean tradition with events throughout the Expo period with the backdrop of Dongcheon river.
International Wetlands Center

From the road the International Wetlands Center resembles a hill, but the building actually contains three floors with a total area of 105,000 m². The Center focuses on “living ecology” and informs through an unfolding story about the birth and development of the wetlands and their coexistence with people by looking at crabs, mud flats, mudskippers and reeds.
Arboretum

The Korean Garden, Garden Tree Experience Center, Rhododendron Center, and Namdo Forest will provide diverse information and interest about forests and gardens.

The Korean Garden, nestling among a natural Korean landscape and sentiment, will be divided into three sections for viewing: the Royal Garden, Scholar’s Garden, and Wish Garden, bearing the wishes of historical mothers. It is a garden that manifests and represents Korea.
Connecting the Expo Site and Suncheon Bay with Environmentally-Friendly Transportation

**Driverless PRT Track**

The nation’s first Personal Rapid Transit (PRT) system is an environmentally-friendly and uniquely enjoyable way to convey up to six people in each pod from the Garden Expo site to Suncheon Bay.

**Dream Bridge**

Installation artist Gang Ik-Joong, who startled the world with his Korean Pavilion design in the Shanghai Expo, designed the Dream Bridge for this Expo. The recycled-container Dream Bridge will be a landmark of the Expo with the exhibition of 160,000 works of art on the theme of dreams drawn by children around the world.

**Suncheon Lake**

Charles Jencks, a world-famous architect-turned garden designer, created a space, (The Garden Of Cosmic Speculation), on a 396,694 m² site in Scotland, and designed the beautiful Suncheon Lake, which will shine on the site of the International Garden Exposition in Suncheon Bay.
Meticulous Preparations for a Successful Expo Are Underway

The creation of the Expo site started in March 2011 and will be completed by the close of 2012. From 2013, a simulation in accordance with operational planning will be conducted.

Trees have been prepared for the Expo site by Namu Eunhaeng (Tree Bank). Transplantation has been performed by pruning the roots of trees in municipal forests around the province to take root early on.

The landscaping plan of the Expo site will be based on creating functional parks that absorb carbon and produce fresh air to the greatest extent possible, and provide habitats for various plant species. The plan is designed to incorporate the meanings and themes of various edible and medicinal plants, white cedar, aromas, and herbs.
As a result of Suncheon’s cultural and environmental efforts, it has been selected as one of the ten most desirable places to live for two consecutive years. It received the President’s Prize in the first lively city evaluation, and the silver prize in the LivCom Awards, accredited by the United Nations Environment Program, of the most desirable cities to live in around world, indicating that the value of Suncheon has been recognized not only domestically but also on a global level.

Suncheon will now move forward as a world-level ecological city with its Garden Expo.

A City of Mountains, Water, Earth, and Warm-Hearted People

Suncheon, land of vitality and embraced by nature!

Suncheon Bay, one of the world’s top five coastal wetlands, preserves nature’s intrinsic unspoilt beauty and is a harmonious habitat for many types of organisms which live at the bottom of the sea and endangered species including hooded cranes, a bird that is protected around the world.

It is a city with a unique beauty as an ecological and environmental capital of Korea, with three million visitors annually and selected by foreigners as a place to return to.

From a distance, it may look slow. However, it flows with more vitality than anywhere else. A treasure of the ecosystem, it provides a habitat for over 235 bird and 120 plants species. Try Yeong-san observation point and see for yourself. You will be awed by the beauty of a scene 8000 years in the making unfolding before your eyes.

As you stroll between the reeds, you will unconsciously take in the sound of them rustling in a peaceful breeze. Indulge your body and mind for a moment in an environment free of people. Be pleasantly surprised as your spirits lift and tiredness from daily life slides away.

All this is offered by Suncheon Bay, a garden bestowed to us from heaven.
Embracing Thousands of Years of Dignity

Of the thousands of tourist sites in Korea, 23 have been awarded three stars by the French travel book ‘Michelin Green Guide,’ accredited by top authorities. In Gwangju and around Jeonnam, only Suncheon Bay, Songgwangsa (Songgwang Temple), Seonamsa (Seonam Temple), and Seungseongyo (Seungseon Bridge) in Suncheon-si are recommended as must-see destinations in Korea. The concepts of beauty held by people all around the world may be recognized in Suncheon.

Nakan-Eupseong

Nakan-Eupseong earth ramparts were built in the early Joseon period; however, it has been said that they were rebuilt in stone in the middle of the Joseon Kingdom. The inner wall encompasses 135,966 m² and the outer 87,510, with a total area of 223,107 m² preserved as a folk village, and currently 108 households (over 300 people) still reside within the castle wall. In particular, it presents the features of daily Korean life in the Joseon Period, but it is also well-known as a shooting location for historical dramas. You can enjoy the authentic tastes of tradition and the food of the southern provinces at the spring (May) and autumn (October) festivals.

Songgwangsa

Songgwangsa with its heritage of traditional Korean Buddhism, is one of the Three Jewel Temples of Korea along with Hapcheon Haeinsa and Yangsan Tongdosa. Founded at the end of the Shilla Period by Zen Master Hadim, it has been home to 16 leading monks of the nation, including Jinul and Jingak. Currently the temple is an international monastery where monks from all over the world study Korean Buddhism. It is a wooden structure that proudly preserves a total of 33 cultural treasures including 21 national cultural treasures, Songgwangsa is also known as ‘the temple with the beautiful scene’ and attracts many visitors for this reason.

Seonamsa

Seonamsa is located on the renowned Mount Jogye, Honam. It is one of the most famous Korean-style temples incorporating many of their characteristic features in its thousand-year history; it preserves seven treasures including Seungseongyo, a three-story stone pagoda and the inner temple sanctuary as well as eight local cultural assets including a gilt bronze incense burner and Iljumun Gate.

Visitors at any time will feel the beauty of antiquity, far removed from the material world, on the trail to Seonamsa. It is the temple with the largest number of trees and flowers in Korea, and boasts exceptional beauty with red plum blossom in February and azaleas and royal azaleas blossoming in the gaps between the stones.
You Are Invited to the World Festival of the Suncheon Bay Garden Expo 2013 where you can experience ecology and culture as well.

Tranquil and clean Suncheon, resembling nature, is now busy preparing for a world-class festival in 2013. It is even more special as the first global garden expo to be held in Korea will be in Suncheon Bay, Garden of the Earth. It’s rare to encounter an expo that continues to add value as time goes by.

We invite you to this special event, the International Garden Exposition Suncheon Bay Korea 2013.