

# The Analysis on Environmental Best Practice of Korean Liveable City

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## ABSTRACT

This paper addresses liveable city and sustainable urban planning in Korea. Since 21<sup>st</sup> century, Korean urban planning system has been changed rapidly from physical project to social and policy planning. It becomes to focus on citizen's needs, environment and balanced development nationwide. As a result of this paradigm shift, liveable city policy has been designed in 2005. The real purpose of liveable city in Korea is to construct sustainable city in the sense of industry, environment and quality of life. Therefore, liveable city in Korea is based on the concept of environmental health of city. Many cities are following this concept and strategy since 2005. So, this paper is trying to introduce the concept of liveable city in Korea and best planning of liveable city project in environmental city type.

**KEYWORDS:** Liveable City, Environmental City Planning, New Urbanism, Community Building

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The urban planning is becoming more sensitive to citizen's needs and desire in their city life and environment-friendly design in recent years. This paper will provide review and synopsis of the 'Livable City Model Project' in Korea through its best practice in environmental city planning. Livable City Model Project (LCMP) has been one of the core strategic projects of Korean Ministry of Construct and Transportation ever since 2005.

Livable city in Korea means the sustainable city which harmonize working place with living place and playing place. Korea has very quickly built an industrial society through compact growth by about 30 years from 1960s. In this economic process, Korean cities became a base of economic production rather than living place. Almost major city became quadruple or quintuple in size, population, building and automobile. Nevertheless, Korean cities are still experiencing high density, congestion, air pollution, urban sprawl and insufficiency of road and green space until present times.

So, Korean government started nationally 'balanced development policy' in late 2004. The policy has tried to distribute population, facilities, industry and especially central governmental organization to local area, instead of concentration of these factors in Seoul Metropolitan Area. As a part of this policy, Korean Liveable City Model Project has been commenced by central government in 2006. Therefore, the ultimate purpose of LCMP is forming sustainable city in Korea through citizen participation, environment-friendly development and decentralization of Seoul Metropolitan Area. Hence, this paper will summarize the concept of Korean liveable city, its best practice in environment area and its meaning on Korean urban planning system.

## 2. REVIEW ON BEST PLANNINGS OF LIVABLE CITY

### 2.1 Cheongju City

Cheongju City is the largest city in Chungbuk Province. Cheongju City has made its slogan as "Clean and Green Cheongju with sustainable vision" to set up a goal for dealing with climate change. This city introduced a new environmental development concept, "Eco-culture" to the citizens with this model project. Under this concept, the city designed three strategic goals to make the concept come true effectively. Three strategic goals are ① building spatial structure for energy-saving, ② making ecological network in urban areas, and ③ promoting ecologically sound way of life for low carbon.

And, to accomplish these goals, they've planned several projects and have been focusing on some projects among them. Here are 4 special projects; ① making weekend car-free eco-cultural street, ② making green buffer zone around industrial complex, ③ addressing park and ride system outside the city, and ④ building an eco-community taking the lead in carbon diet programs.

Cheongju city and central government now expect some drastic changes in urban environment, alleviations of transportation problems and emissions of carbon dioxide. Plus, these urban strategies are more likely to have good effects on energy saving, urban landscape development, green job creation (about 1,000), bike use ratio (4.1%, 2008 → 5.7%, 2014), CO<sub>2</sub> reduction (0.63kg CO<sub>2</sub> per capita/day), CO<sub>2</sub> absorption (36.9t CO<sub>2</sub>/ha/year).



Figure 1. Master Plan of Cheongju City : Eco-Culture City Model Project

### 2.2 Gwangsan-Gu Sinchang-Dong

Sinchang-Dong, one part of Gwangsan-Gu, is a place for Livable Community Model Project newly being developed. Gwangsan-Gu is one of self-ruled precinct within Gwangju Metropolitan City. This Gu is rapidly being developed in Gwangju Metropolitan Area. The population is increasing drastically in recent year. And many of new residents are now expected to move into this area resulting in lots of urban problems in inner city such as congestion, lack of open space and cultural facilities etc.

The residents in Sinchang-Dong, Gwangsan-Gu, set up new plan and tried to make progress concerning ecological and cultural aspects of their community to enhance quality of life. They built up a community slogan, "Communication between humans and nature" along with residents and officials cooperatively. And Gwangsa-Gu Office and the community has already developed lots of hardware

projects like riverfront demobilization plan, an eco-cultural village project, pedestrian-friendly street project and low carbon park for children's education etc. As software projects, they also designed carbon-bank, clean-day, knowing the origin of community and other diverse programs. Residents and Gwangsan-Gu Office are very confident in these projects expecting environmental improvement effects, regional identity improvement and participatory community development.



Figure 2. Master Plan of Shinchang-Dong Community Model Project

### 3. CRITICAL FACTORS FOR BEST PLANNING

#### 3.1 Paradigm of Advanced Urban Policy

Most of best planning in environmental model projects is leading and progressive in urban policy. Of course, those planning are based on their urban environment and circumstance. And their planning concepts are very well juxtapose contemporary planning paradigm such as climate change(Gwacheon City), green growth(Cheongju City), urban regeneration(Gumsan County), heritage conservation and utilization(Daegu Jung-Gu) and waterfront development(Incheon Bupyeong-Gu).

#### 3.2 Active and Steady Public-Private Governance

Many successful planning in environmental model projects are cooperative planning. Winning Cities in model project competition have kept their mutual learning relationship with citizen, resident, NGO and public office for many years. And they have many experiences in setting up community planning in city wide area. In fact, they have trust in each other and have social capital.



Figure 3 Master plan for hike network

#### 3.3 Close relationship with local Univ.

Most model projects are initiated by the community residents. However, they closely have cooperated with local university and experts such as professor, architect and designer. They have held urban school for residents periodically and have made resident participation program such as flea market,

environment film festival and environmental education programs. In these courses, they have made creative planning idea and invent development plan of originality.

3.4 Urban policy focused on resident's needs

While the most of existing urban development plans are physical planning such as road construction, model projects is not solely on physical plan. Those contain software program such as community festival, education program and nursing community. Those plans are based on resident's needs. The community residents of present time in Korea want to enhance quality of life, improve their community environment and make their community liveable.



Figure 4. Community meeting for setting up plan

4. CONCLUDING REMARKS

This paper reviewed Korean Livable City Policy and summarized the concept some best plans of Livable City Model Project. Also, it analyzed the cases of model project; Livable City Model Project (Cheongju City) and Livable Community Model Project (Gwangsan-Gu). This study could be a preceding research for setting up Korean style livable city. As the environment and the culture of Asian cities including Korean cities are fairly different from European and American cities, the meaning of 'livable city' inevitably differ from that of western country.

Nevertheless, the concept of livable city contains community planning, quality of life and citizen participation. Livable city policy has changed the concept and the system of urban planning gradually and continually in Korea. Now, many people including resident, NGO and student in Korea are interested in livable city, and some projects such as urban regeneration are trying to adopt the concept and the methodology of livable city and citizen participation. After implementation of Livable City Policy in 2005, Korean planning system incrementally has transformed from old urban planning regime into livable city regime little by little. The following table shows the reorientation of urban planning system since livable city policy in Korea.

Existing Urban Planning	Items	Livable City Policy
Physical approach	Orientation	Holistic approach
Functional viewpoint	Viewpoint	Viewpoint of quality of life
Public Officer, Expert	Planning initiative	Citizen, resident, NGO
	Planning process	Bottom up
Administrative area	Planning unit	Extent of living area
Result-centered	Manner	Process-oriented

Table 1: Concept of Existing Urban Planning and Livable City Policy

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