The case study of The Social Economy based on Lifelong Learning in the City of Gwangmyeong, Korea
The Republic of Korea

"It is a movement for improving one’s quality of life and the entire city's competitiveness; furthermore, it is a movement for building a learning community in which anyone can enjoy what they want to learn anytime and anywhere."

56% of the entire cities of South Korea 129 cities entitled “lifelong learning city”
Declared as a lifelong learning city for the first time in South Korea.

Seoul

The City of Gwangmyeong

Gwangmyeong City Lifelong Learning Center

- 1 lifelong learning center
- 18 community centers
- 15 cultural and social welfare organizations
- 37 schools
- 9 citizen associations
- Other related organizations

A neighboring city of Seoul (the capital city)
Toward the **Best** lifelong learning city

**From the First** lifelong learning city in South Korea

- **1999**: Declared as a lifelong learning city for the first time in South Korea
- **2001**: Appointed as a lifelong learning city
- **2002**: “Gwangmyeong City Lifelong Learning Center” was opened
- **2005**: Won the grand prize in the area of lifelong learning conducted by the primary local government
- **2011**: Legislated the Act for promoting lifelong learning in Gwangmyeong
- **2012**: Formed a consultative group working for a lifelong learning network in Gwangmyeong
- **2013**: Supported for building lifelong learning communities in the developing countries
A lifelong learning city
Where Learning is one’s right and everyday life,
Gwangmyeong!
A lifelong learning city,

Learning is one’s right and everyday life,

Gwangmeyong!

Construct a system admitting the result of lifelong learning

- support for mapping out one’s second life by providing degree seeking courses in an alternative way

- provide opportunities to improve basic learning skills through adult literacy education
A lifelong learning city, 🎵
Learning is one’s right and everyday life,
Gwangmeyong!

Support lifelong learning initiated by citizens

• Create an environment that anyone can learn anywhere and anytime through making the whole city as a learning center
• provide citizens opportunities to work not only as participants but also as initiators; it will eventually foster learning ability and citizen power
A lifelong learning city, ♬
Learning is one’s right and everyday life,

Gwangmeyong!

Work for making lifelong learning cities in the worldwide

- support for building lifelong learning communities in the developing countries
- pass on methods of strengthening literacy education, study groups and abilities of community leaders

- start test operation of international lifelong learning network
A lifelong learning city, ♬

Learning is one’s right and everyday life,

**Gwangmeyong!**

**Build a lifelong learning network**

- constitute a consultative group in 5 regions with local lifelong learning organizations
- lay for the foundation stone of true local governance by local leaders’ whole solidarity and practical participation
The Work of Connection of Local Resources

Job creation by turning out local instructors in their 40s and 50s

Expand learning opportunities for socially disadvantaged class by social enterprises

Consolidate the competitive power of small enterprises by the social Network Service
A change of people by learning,
  A change of life by the change of people,
  And a change of local societies by the change of life

Beyond acquiring personal knowledge and refinement,
aim for living with neighbors harmoniously;
furthermore, make a sustainable local community

The formation of local learning communities while forming a connection and meeting people by learning

Solve issues in local communities initiative from the perspective of lifelong learning
Self-realization

OECD
The Spirit of Lifelong Learning

Social Unification

Economic Growth

The connection between alternative movements and learning

The revitalization of local economy
It was proposed as an alternative of diverse social issues like inequality, the gap between the rich and the poor, etc. in the result of the development of the capitalistic market economy.

Social economy puts the value of people first, not maximizing profit like the market economy does. It also places value on cooperation, not competition, and it puts public interests ahead of personal gains. In other words, social economy is an alternative economic activity for those living together with cooperation and solidarity based on trust in local communities.
Social Enterprise

Definition

- Enterprises and organizations which pursue social purposes (offering jobs and public service) for elevating the quality of life for socially disadvantaged class and local residents

Feature

- 2007. 01. Legislation of the Act on the Support of Social Enterprise
- An intermediate form of non-profit organizations and profit organizations
- The system of preparative social enterprises
- The source of income: a government subsidy, donation, and sales profit

Present Condition

- 1,124 in South Korea (2014.08. Present)
- Gwangmyeong
  - Social enterprise 3
  - Preparative social enterprise 10

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Cooperative

Definition

- An enterprise which belongs to everyone and is run democratically
- A table economic community
  where people can work for a long time,
  creating new jobs and contributing to local societies

Feature

- 2012. 12. Legislate the Act on the Cooperative
- If more than 5 people get gathered,
  they can establish freely
  (except in the field of finance and insurance)
  (=reporting system)
- The cooperative day (the first Saturday of July)

Present Condition

- 5,607 in South Korea (2014.08 Present)
- 23 cooperative associations in activity in Gwangmyeong
Local Business

Definition

- Business activity based on village community
- Solve local issues by residents’ spontaneous participation and cooperative network
- Business as a unit of village fulfilling local community/s value and philosophy

Feature

- 2011 the Korean Government’s work for promoting local business
- Local business exercising local resources (regional specialties, traditional markets, culture, etc.)
- Local business using eco-friendly green energy (garbage, waste, solar heat, etc.)
- Local business adopting a welfare system for stable livelihood (the socially disadvantaged class and multicultural families)

Present Condition

- 9 local businesses in activity in Gwangmyeong (2014. 08 Present)
The biggest dream you can have through music

Gwangmyeong Symphony Orchestra

- The only private orchestra that consists of all permanent members in South Korea, “with the public”
  - **Textbook Concert**: Visit a school and conduct a concert which performs classical music dealt with in textbooks with explanation
  - **Brunch Concert**: Twice a month. From 10 a.m. to 12 a.m.
  - **Regularly Scheduled Concert**
  - **Familiarity and Freshness**: traditional music-orchestra crossover
  - **Village Concert**: Road shows on marketplaces, villages, apartments, etc.
The biggest dream you can have through music

Gwangmyeong Symphony Orchestra

Specialized business “Family Orchestra“

• A Korea model of El Sistema (a free musical education program for lower-income children)
• A solution for disconnected conversation among family members → the restoration of the family community
  • connect with neighbors by participating members → form a good-natured community

“Journey” to how they have been promoting their business

• They could continue their business due to all members’ active involvement
  “All members perform together through some of the members do not need to participate”
• After training their performance skills voluntarily for the first 6 to 7 years, they concentrate on outside activities in the present

Operation of funds

• The Government’s financing competitions, culture and art subsidy, profits from charged concerts, and donation from citizens
Perhaps we try to aim at building a community named “we” through music, rather than let people be exposed to music.

Gwangmyeong Symphony Orchestra

The biggest dream you can have through music

“The future “ we draw

Family orchestra spreads to the entire regions, and eventually hundreds of people perform together

- Annual sales 1,100,000,000Won (approximately $1,057,000)
- Annual number of the audience 6,500
- Annual number of the performance about 100
- Supporters 98
- Permanent members 45
- the number of employees 3
Dukkeobi-Sandul School – Cooperative

People who change our lives while perceiving the value of forests

2001 ~ 2006

Mothers’ meetings

Study group focusing on the ecological environment

2007

Register as a nonprofit organization (Dukkeobi-Sandul School)

2013 ~ Present

Cooperative

The “Start” of Dukkeobi-Saundul School

Mothers’ meetings got started from a doubt of the upright education for their children who suffered from public schools and private educational institutes

“The Major Business” of Dukkeobi-Sandul School

- **Funny Forest / A Tale of Forest**: for kindergarten kids - visit and experience forests
- **Happy Forest on Saturdays**: for primary school children - plant, cultivate and harvest crops. Also, join cooking class
- **Training for producing forest guides**: for adults - training course
People who change our lives while perceiving the value of forests

Dukkeobi-Sandul School – Cooperative

“Dream "we draw newly"

• Forest kindergarten:
  - a kindergarten operating 5 times a week in the morning. It is an expanded form of “tale of forest”
  - “Tale of Forest after School” operating 2 times a week in the afternoon

A “journey” for 10 years which was short but long on the other hand

• It has been continued thanks to the power of people
  With the heart that “if I were weakened, other people would be in more trouble”
  With the heart that “wants to have broad shoulders for each other and everyone”
We dream of a society that people are in harmony and live together, like the nature and animals living in the forest. We hope Dukkeobi-Sandul School could be the place like that.

Dukkeobi-Sandul School – Cooperative

People who change our lives while perceiving the value of forests

- annual sales 96,000,000 Won (approximately $92,000)
- investment money 30,000,000 Won (approximately $28,000)
- children participating in the programs 3,000
- members of the association 10
Meetings of Urban Farmers
Gwangmyeong Distributing Agency of the Vegetable Garden

2000s
A community for returning to farming

2009
Establish an ordinance to support citizens’ farming for the first time in South Korea

2011
Set up a cooperative association and start a nonprofit organization

Present
Proceed learning and profit business

Work for Urban Farmers

• Operate membership of the vegetable garden from 2011. 100 regular members
• The vegetable gardens using packing cases and supply for a business of seedlings
• Hold an urban farming festival
• Teaching business
  - urban agricultural school and agricultural school for children (the 12th, 400 graduates)
  - management of work-study programs and the eco-friendly weekend farm
Meetings of Urban Farmers

Gwangmyeong Distributing Agency of the Vegetable Garden

Urban farmers’ practice learning

- Urban Farmers: graduates from urban agricultural school
- after graduation form a small group named “the Ants and Grasshopper”

Another dream of urban farmers

- To buy an estate (approximately 6,600m²) by splitting the bill, and supply crops after raising them
- To aim for changing the garden into a social enterprise
Meetings of Urban Farmers

Gwangmyeong Distributing Agency of the Vegetable Garden

“The future” urban farmers draw

We dream of a world where there are vegetable gardens in the city and farmers live there.

Also, we dream of a world where local environment-friendly agricultural products would be consumed in the same region, and a world where the local products have competitiveness against large supermarkets.

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Our ultimate goal is to make a local food system that all local agricultural products could be consumed in the same region.
Village School

Leading the growth of the village through self-reliance and cooperation

A Korean Version of “worker’s Collective”

- Operate this organization for workers in the way of self-reliance and cooperation.
  Focus on neglected social issues, and plan the growth of a local community through solving the problem by themselves.
- The workers who work in all spheres of the local community. Take an interest in every sphere of our life.
Leading the growth of the village through self-reliance and cooperation

Village School

The history of Village School

- The 1st business: “Cheng-ee and Peng-ee”
  - Olchengee(tadpole) kindergarten, Dalpengee(snail) afterschool class

- The 2nd business: Needlework

- The 3rd business: the mothers’ table (teaching about food)

- The main business: taking a walk around the village
  - an activity to look around the village under a specific theme, learning from the elders and exploring our villages

We want to set up a specialized school using local resources, as “Taking a walk around the village” has done. Children who have an interest in cooking could learn how to cook at a local restaurant, and some who want to learn about hairdressing could learn at a local beauty salon.
Sustainable local community

Local society
- Learning community and self-governing in learning
- Cooperative co-existence aiming for co-evolution

Lifelong learning
- Form a learning community by daily learning
- Aim for a life living together by paying attention to local issues and practice activities

Social economy
- Community activities formed by residents’ voluntary will
- Aim for a community centered on human beings and lives

Reference: Gang, Dae-jong (2011). Social enterprises and the department of lifelong learning/
Jeong, Gyeong-soon (2014). The liaison between social economy and lifelong learning
Henceforth Task

- Transition from lifetime planning education to lifetime field education
- Serious discussion in depth from an aspect of lifelong learning
- Study for a phenomenon which spreads in a practice field from a comprehensive perspective
- Connection and synthesis with social agenda which newly emerge
- Social economy which is apart from orthodox
- A need to legislate a law of social economy which generalizes each law
Let education be a movement of life;
like flowers bloom in the spring,
like the wind blows,
like crops grow noiselessly.
Let a change drop in our daily life.

Thank You