

Ramsar Regional Center – East Asia: Open for business

On July 21st this year, Anada Tiega, Lew Young, the Governor of Gyeongsangnam Province, and Gyeongsangnamdo Ramsar Environmental Foundation (GREF) presided over the grand opening of the Ramsar Regional Center – East Asia (RRC-EA). The ceremony began with a welcoming message from the Director General of the Ministry of the Environment, which was followed by an address from the Governor of Gyeongsangnam Province, and finally the Secretary General of Ramsar Anada Tiega gave a presentation. After the welcoming speech and the presentations were finished, awards were given to supporters of the RRC-EA and also to the local eco-guides for their support of the process of making Changwon an environmentally supportive city.



Following the award presentation, everyone moved to the RRC-EA offices where the official plaque was unveiled by the Secretary General of Ramsar, the Provincial Governor (Kim, Tae-Ho), the Chairman of the Standing Committee (Kim, Chan-Woo), The Head of GREF (Park, Jin-Hae) and the Honorary Director of the RRC-EA (Dr. Joo, Gea-Jae). After this, the guests went to lunch where the Secretary General and Lew Young received hand-painted

fans from a wetland artisan located near Upo wetland; a Ramsar site.

On the day prior to the inauguration, Secretary General Tiega met the mayor of Changwon City and a group of city officers to discuss the future role of the host city in the promotion of Ramsar activities and the RRC-EA.

The center located in Changwon City, is composed of a staff of three (Dr Woo, Sung-Hoon, Mr. Suh, SeungOh, and Mr. Maurice Lineman) who will work in conjunction with the RRC-EA Honorary Director to facilitate the functioning of the RRC-EA Center.



Governor of Gyeongsangnam Province, Mr. Kim, Tae-Ho



Chairman of the Ramsar Standing Committee, Mr. Kim, Chan-Woo and the Ramsar Secretary-General, Mr. Anada Tiega at the opening of the RRC-East Asia



Participants at the lunch to celebrate the opening of the RRC-East Asia