

World NGO Conference on Wetlands

“NGOs for Healthy and Sustainable Wetlands”

(Second and Revised Announcement)

Changnyeong and Suncheon, Republic of Korea
25 - 27 October 2008

Organized by the Korea NGO Network for Ramsar COP10

Invitation

We are very pleased to invite you to participate in the World NGO Conference on Wetlands to be held in Changnyeong and Suncheon, the Republic of Korea from 25 – 27 October 2008, immediately prior to the 10th Conference of the Contracting Parties of the Ramsar Convention.

The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands came into existence in 1971, to provide a framework for national actions and international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources. The Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP) is the policy-making organ of the Convention, where government representatives from each of the Contracting Parties meet every 3 years to discuss and decide important matters related to wetlands.

The World NGO Conference on Wetlands is organized by the Korea NGO Network for Ramsar COP10 (KNNRC10) in collaboration with the Japan NGO Network for Ramsar COP10 (JNNRC10). It will be an opportunity for NGOs around the world to examine issues related to the conservation and wise use of wetlands and to come up with policy proposals which reflect the perspectives of NGOs. It will also provide an important opportunity for NGOs to discuss how to strengthen our own networks around the world.

In this regard, we would like to kindly invite your organization to be represented at the World NGO Conference on Wetlands and to share your views on the conservation and wise use of wetlands, as well as possible ways to build stronger NGO networks.

Please find the attached provisional agenda and other relevant information on the Conference. In order to ensure timely arrangements, it is highly appreciated if you could return the attached registration form by e-mail to Mr. Ma Yong-un, International Contact Point, KNNRC10 <koreawetlands@gmail.com> and copy to <ecoguide@hanmail.net> by 27 September 2008.

With best regards,

Kim Deok-seong, Kim Jae-seung, Baek Yong-hae, Seo Ju-dal, Lee In-sik, Lee Jeong-ju, and Lee Pyeong-ju
Co-Representatives
Korea NGO Network for Ramsar COP10

Information for Participants

Time and Venues

Please be aware that there have been changes to the dates of the World NGO Conference on Wetlands and it will be held in two separate places in the Republic of Korea from 25 – 27 October 2008.

The venue for the Meeting on CEPA (Communication, Education and Public Awareness) on 25 October is in Changnyeong and the other Meeting on Wetland Conservation on 26-27 is in Suncheon, Republic of Korea.

Objectives of the World NGO Conference on Wetlands

- i. To share information on Ramsar Convention such as conservation and wise use of wetlands, etc., aiming for an exchange of world NGOs, citizens, researchers, politicians, administrative personnel, etc., engaged in wetland issues,
- ii. To examine issues on wetlands and to work out policy proposal with ‘NGO Views’ as a key word.
- iii. To adopt an NGO statement on wetlands at the World Wetland NGO Conference to be presented by a Korean NGO representative at the plenary of the Ramsar COP10, so that it would be reflected to discussions and resolutions of the COP.
- iv. To discuss and endorse the establishment of an International Wetland NGO Committee (provisional name) at the conference.

Provisional Agenda

Date	Time	Agenda
Friday Oct. 24 th	17:00-19:00	Reception Dinner (in Changnyeong)
	19:00-22:00	Exchange Program among Participants
CEPA Meeting (in Changnyeong)		
Saturday Oct. 25 th	09:00-10:00	Registration
	10:00-10:30	Opening Ceremony
	10:30-10:45	Keynote Speech 1: CEPA and Ramsar Convention
	10:45-11:00	Keynote Speech 2: CEPA Activities in Korea
	11:00-11:10	Break
	11:10-12:30	Session 1: Wetlands Training Programs
	12:30-13:30	Lunch Break
	13:30-14:50	Session 2: CEPA Programs at Wetland Centers
	14:50-15:00	Break
	15:00-16:20	Session 3: CEPA Programs at Rice Paddies
	16:20-16:30	Break
	16:30-17:50	Session 4: Discussion and Adoption of NGO Statements on CEPA
	18:00-19:00	Dinner
19:00-21:30	Transport from Changnyeong to Suncheon	

Wetland Conservation Meeting (in Suncheon)		
Sunday Oct. 26 th	09:00-09:15	Opening Ceremony
	09:15-09:45	Keynote Speech 1: Roles of NGOs in Wetland Conservation and Ramsar Convention
	09:45-10:15	Keynote Speech 2: Wetlands in Korea
	10:30-12:00	Session 1: NGO's View Point; Wise Use of Rice Paddy
	12:00-13:00	Lunch Break
	13:00-16:00	Session 2: NGO's View Point; Wise Use and Non-Wise Use of Wetlands (presentations of cases and issues on conservation of specific wetlands)
	16:00-16:20	Break
	16:20-18:20	Session 3 : NGO's View Point; Wise Use and Non-Wise Use of Wetlands (focused on wetland related policy, laws and regulations of each country and implementation of Ramsar Convention)
	18:30-20:30	Reception Dinner
Monday Oct. 27 th	09:30-10:30	Session 4: International Wetland NGO Committee
	10:30-11:30	Session 5: Discussion and Adoption of NGO Statements including CEPA
	11:30-11:45	Closing
	12:00-13:30	Lunch
	13:30-16:00	Field Trip to the Suncheon Bay Ramsar Site
	16:00-18:30	Transport to Changnyeong

Who should attend?

Everyone is welcome! National and International NGOs, community-based organizations, grassroots support groups and any organization whose work involves wetland conservation, wise use of wetlands, or people depending upon wetlands should attend.

Funding Support for International Participants

Up to 150 international participants can get support for accommodation, meals and local transportation from the nearest airport to the Conference Venues in Changnyeong and/or Suncheon.

- Accommodation (up to 5 nights from 24 to 28 October)
- Three meals per day (during the NGO Conference from 24 to 27 October)
- Local transportation from nearest airport to the venue of NGO Conference
- Local transportation from Changnyeong to Suncheon on the evening of 25 October and from Suncheon to Changnyeong on the afternoon of 27 October
- Local transportation for the fieldtrip to the Suncheon Bay Ramsar Site

Costs for air travel can be supported for a limited number of participants from non-OECD countries and those who want to make presentations at the NGO Conference will be given priority to support their air travel.

- Airfare for economy class (only for a limited number of participants who submit the Registration Forms before 27 September)
(The Organizers of the Conference will inform applicants whether they will receive funding assistance for air travel or not by 2 October.)

Visa Requirement

Participants who need a visa to enter into the Republic of Korea should pre-register for the Ramsar COP10 (<http://ramsar.org/cop10/registration>), and ask the Korean government to help you get a visa (<http://english.ramsar2008.go.kr/03/03.jsp>).

How to Get to Venues of the NGO Conference

Most of the international participants will enter Korea via Incheon International Airport or Gimhae International Airport.

Those who arrive at the Incheon International Airport will have to go to Gimpo Airport in Seoul which is about 45 km away. Please take a limousine bus or a train (Airport Railroad Express; AREX) from the Incheon International Airport to Gimpo Airport (<http://www.airport.kr/airport/traffic/bus/busView.iiia?seq=387&flag=E> or http://www.airport.kr/iiacms/pageWork.iiia?_scode=C1204070000). Both will take about 30-40 minutes.

From Gimpo Airport, please take a domestic flight to Gimhae International Airport (if you want to join the Conference from 25 October in Changnyeong) or to Yeosu Airport (if you want to join the Conference from 26 October in Suncheon) which will take about 50 minutes.

Staff from the organizers will receive all of the participants on the 1st floor of Gimhae International Airport and Yeosu Airport to assist participants with transportation. Local transportation will be ready to take you to the Conference venue or your accommodation. Participants are strongly advised to look for staff holding an “NGO Conference” sign board upon arrival at the airport. It will take about an hour to go to Changnyeong from Gimhae International Airport and 20 minutes to go to Suncheon from Yeosu Airport.

Call for Papers and Presentations

If you would like to make a presentation at the NGO Conference, please fill in the Registration Form and return it to Mr. Ma Yong-un, International Contact Point, KNNRC10 <koreawetlands@gmail.com> and copy to <ecoguide@hanmail.net> by 27 September 2008.