

The Changwon Declaration

: Background and Achievements

RRC-EA Honorary Director, Prof. Gea-Jae Joo



Contents

- **Ramsar Regional Center - East Asia (History)**
- **Ramsar CD and CDN Meeting
: Strategies and Successful Cases**
- **CD related activities**

RRC-EA: Idea Formulation

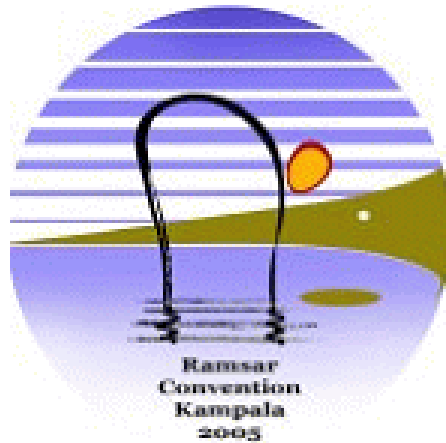
COP8 (Valencia Spain, 2002)

Resolution VIII.30

⇒ Importance of **regional initiatives**



COP9 (Kampala, 2005) re-emphasized Regional Initiatives



Ramsar Wetlands Center Korea '06~'09

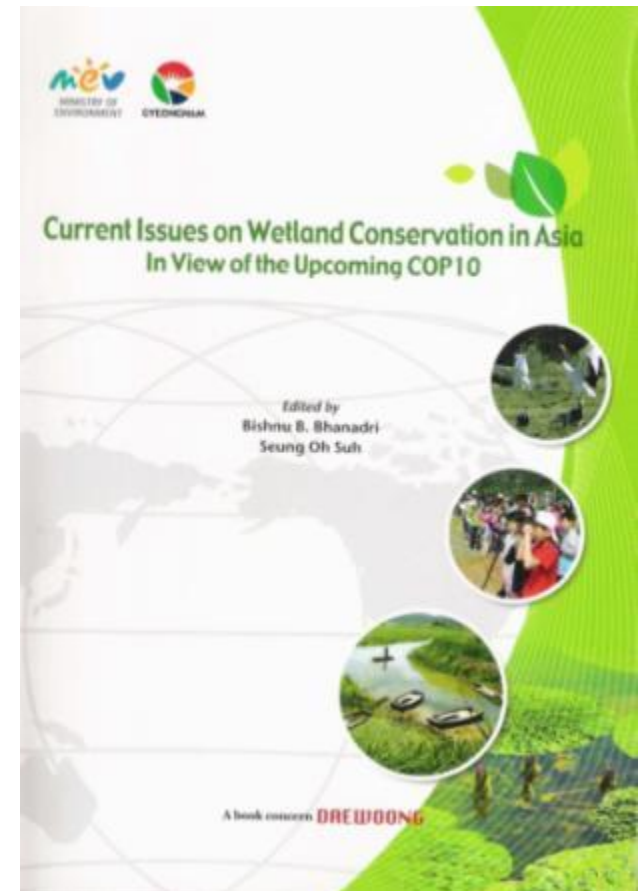
Research organization
(Changwon, Gyeongnam)

Established in 2006 (after COP9)
- 1 director and 3 staffs

Research
Public Awareness
Capacity building



**Wetland
Conservation**



Ramsar Wetlands Center Korea '06 ~ '09

'06

Int'l Symposium on Regional Wetlands Issues in Asia and the Preparation of the Ramsar COP10

'07

***“Gosainthan: A Sacred Wetland in Nepal”
(Symposium on the Himalayan Wetlands in Nepal)***

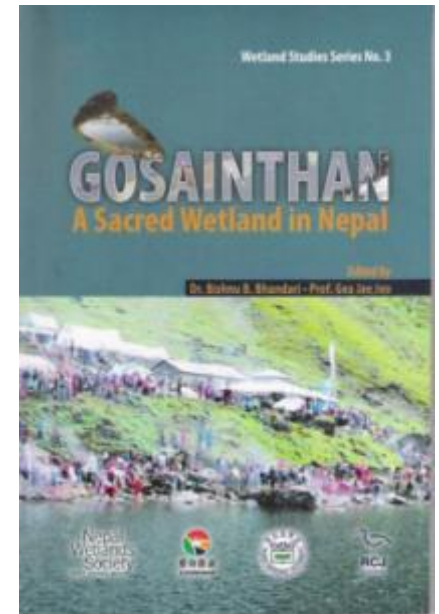
***Himalayan Mountain Wetlands
: Issues, Challenges and Opportunities***

Int'l Symposium

- Himalaya Initiatives
 - Rice paddy, East Asian Wetland Forum
 - Ramsar STRP Inter - sessional Workshop on
“Healthy Wetlands, Healthy People”
-

'08

Participated in the Int'l symposium
(Vietnam, Thailand and Seoul)



Ramsar Wetlands Center Korea '06~'09

Int'l Symposium ('06)



RRC-East Asia and Himalaya Initiative Meeting (July '07)



East Asia Wetland Forum and Rice Paddy (Oct. '07)



Symposia for COP10 on the Ramsar Convention

Oct. '07: Changnyeong, Korea



Nov. '07: Changwon, Korea

Ramsar STRP Intersectoral Workshop on "Healthy Wetlands, Healthy People"
11-14 November, Changwon, Gyeongsangnam-do



Jan '08: Thailand



Asian Wetlands: Conservation and International Collaboration (MOE and UNDP/GEF)

2007

Study on Establishment of RRC-EA

Sponsored by Gyeongnam Province

Prof. Gea Jae Joo, Dr. Bishnu B. Bhandari (Pusan Nat'l Univ.)

RRC East Asia: Rationale

International Symposium on Regional Asian Wetland Issues
and the Preparation of the COP10 (MOE and GN in 2006)

Changnyeong Statement

(130 participants from 9 countries)



Expression of the necessity of Ramsar Regional Center

***“In order to improve and strengthen the capacity of
stakeholders in the wise use and conservation of wetland***

s,

there is a need to establish

a North-east Asian Ramsar Regional Center in Korea.”



RRC East Asia: Vision

The vision of the center is

***“Wise and sustainable use of wetlands
and their resources in East Asia”***



RRC-EA: Governing Body

RRC-EA Steering Committee

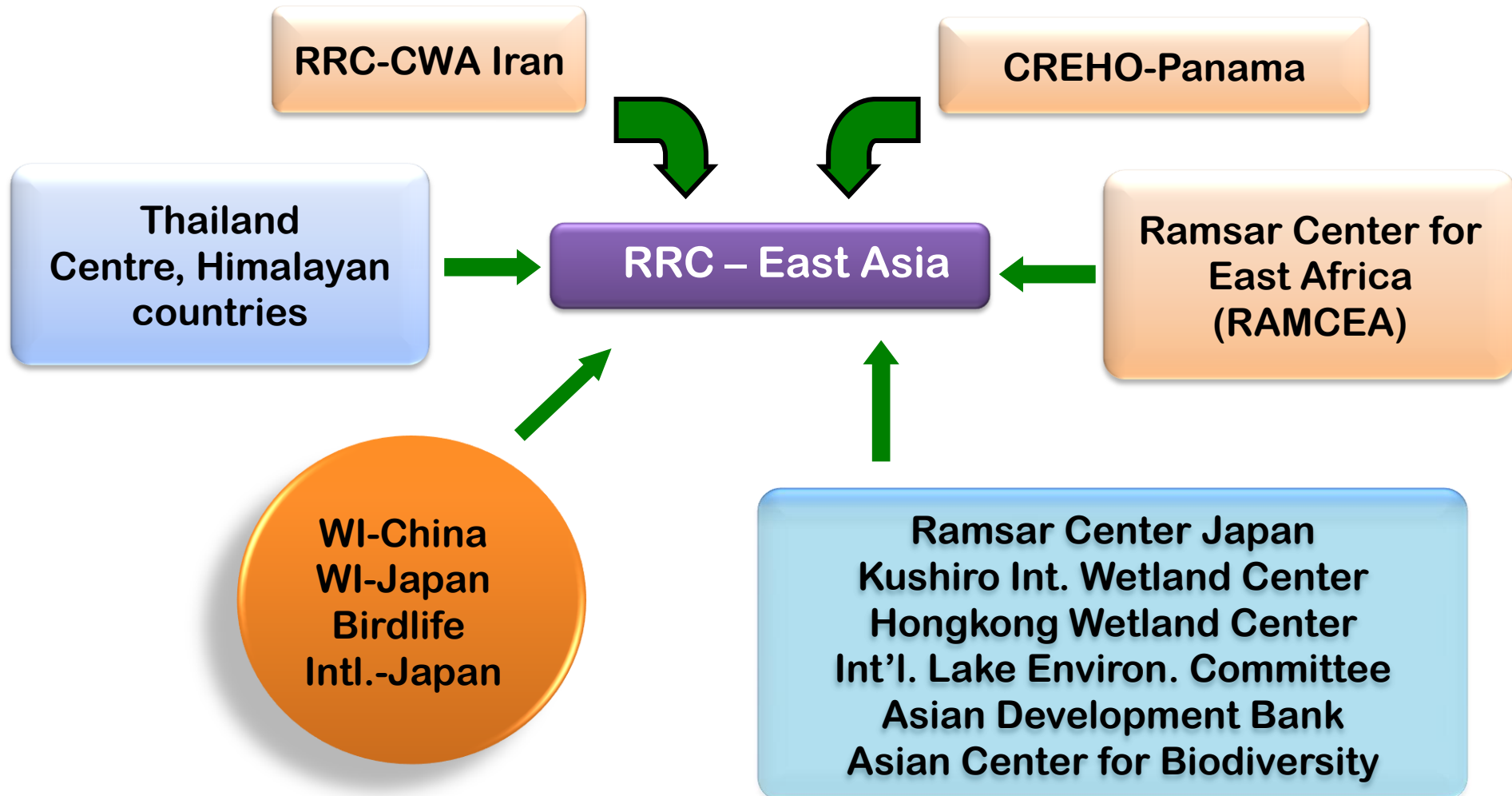
8 members

- Republic of Korea
- China
- Japan
- Ramsar Convention Secretariat (Senior Advisor - Asia/Oceania)
- 2 Representatives - Cambodia and Indonesia
(Contracting Parties in Southeast Asia - 1 SC member, 1 rotation)
- Gyeongnam
- Director of RRC-EA

Participating Countries



RRC-EA: Partners



Role of **RRC-EA**

- 1. Active participation in the regional initiatives**
- 2. Sub-regional and Regional activities**
- 3. Financial contribution for wetland conservation activities in Asian countries**
- 4. Synergy with other conventions**
- 5. International Cooperation with IOP's & NGO's**
- 6. Networking efforts**

1. Active participation in the regional initiatives:

East Asia Australian Flyway Partnership

Himalayan Initiative

Trans-boundary wetland issues

Wetland and disaster prevention

Agriculture and Wetlands

2. Activities of RRC-East Asia

Training program for wetland managers

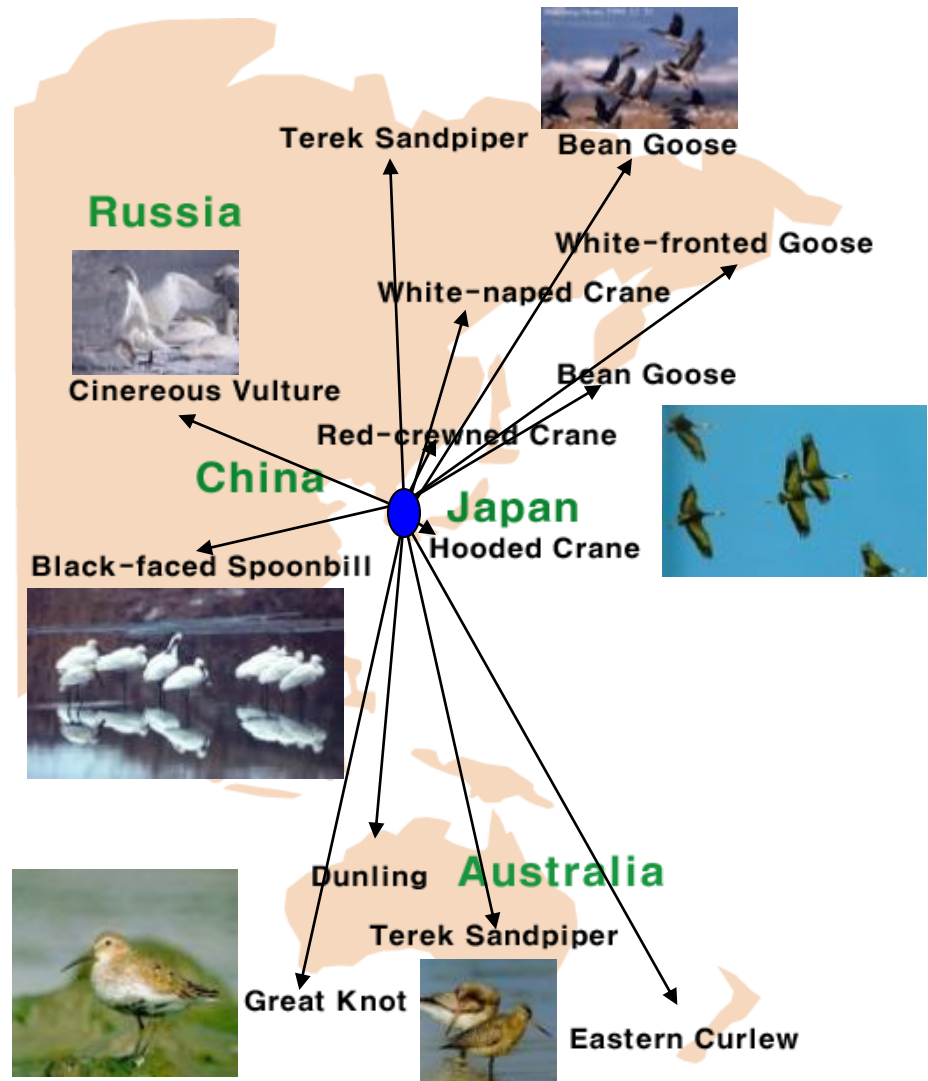
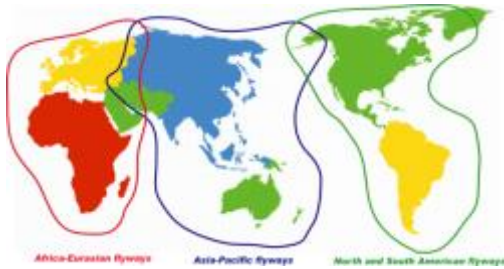
Ramsar NFPs

Research on rice paddy ecosystems

Networking

Financial Support for various wetland conservation activities

East Asia - Australasian Flyway Partnership



East Asian-Australian Flyway

3. Financial contribution for wetland conservation activities in Asian countries:

A. National inventory, Restoration project, CEPA, Drafting RIS for Ramsar Site Designation



B. Small Scale Financial Support (Wetland Fund) and Establishment of *Gyeongnam Ramsar Environment Foundation* (early 2008) 2008: 10 million U\$, by 2012, 30-40 million U\$

- 1) Domestic: Networking of visitor centers
- 2) Regional: Training
- 3) Ramsar: CEPA and Knowledge – Information transfer



C. Expansion of **KOICA** foreign support program for wetlands

4. Synergy with other conventions

- A. Network of regional experts on global environmental conventions, especially on CBD, CMS, CITES, IUCN and MAB
- B. Governmental support for the networking of expert groups



5. International cooperation with IOPs

- A. Facilitation of **Korean office establishment for IOPs** (IUCN: focal point in MOE)
- B. Frequent interaction with IOPs, especially on Asian wetland issues



Changwon Declaration

- **10th COP**
- **New Issues**
- **Innovative approach**
- **“Healthy Wetlands and Healthy People” related issues**
- **Wide circulation**
- **User friendly declaration**

Important Issues

- **Climate and wetlands**
- **Livelihood and wetlands**
- **Health and wetlands**
- **Land use, Land use change, biodiversity**
- **Planning and decision making**

All will be accomplished through the

- **Management of knowledge, IT and finance**



The “Changwon Declaration” on human wellbeing and wetlands



Different

Not “just another Declaration”

Why ?

*Directed primarily to **audiences beyond the Ramsar Convention itself**, and to opportunities for action*

*Offers positive, **practical action steps***

***Defines the ways** in which the Declaration’s impact will be assured*

Five priority areas

Water and wetlands

Improve water governance

Treat wetlands as our “*natural water infrastructure*”, integral to water resource management at the scale of river basin

Close the “water gap” (Demand and Supply)

- Use available water more efficiently
- Stop wetlands from becoming degraded or lost
- Restore wetlands already degraded
- Wisely manage and protect wetlands

Five priority areas

Climate Change and Wetlands

Protection from human disturbance

Protect wetlands from human disturbance
for addressing climate change

Restoration and Maintenance of hydrological Cycle

Restore and maintain hydrological cycle for addressing

- Climate Change
- Flood Mitigation
- Water Supply
- Food Provision
- Biodiversity Conservation



Five priority areas

Peoples' livelihoods and wetlands

Integration of wetland benefits into the livelihoods

Actions

- To invest in the maintenance of wetland services,
- To make the linkages between livelihood and wetland understood



Uganda (local product)



China (Mangrove)



Korea, Junam (fish)

Five priority areas

Peoples' health and wetlands

Impact assessment on human health and wetlands

Actions

- Need to realize, Need to co-manage



Land use change, biodiversity and wetlands

Actions

- Need to possess in-depth knowledge,
- Need to derive actions addressing the causes for loss to reverse losses in biodiversity



('09. Apr.)



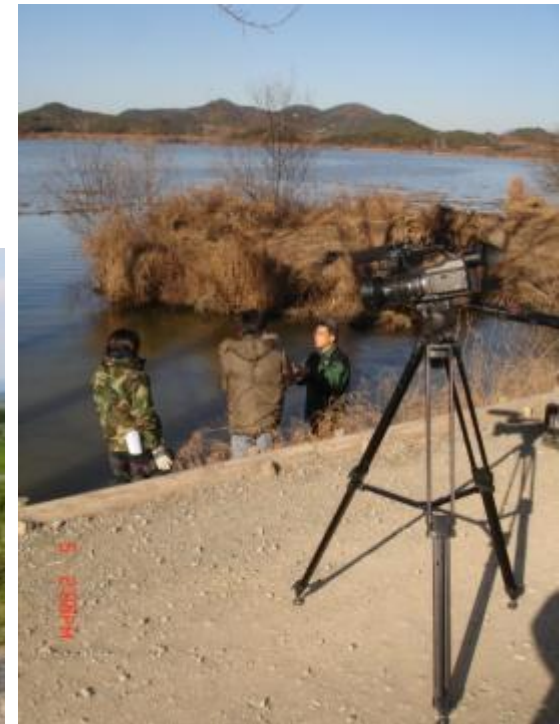
('11. June)



'08 (2) -> '13 (26)

Methods of implementation

- Training and education
- Symposiums / Networking
- Wetland fund grants
- Books / pamphlets
- Publicity



Methods of implementation

Training and education

Develop training programs that facilitate

- wetland wise use
 - **Wetland managers training program :**
Bangladesh, Thailand, Cambodia

Develop workshops that promote

- wetland wise, sustainable use
 - **Wetland Managers Workshop**
Philippines



Methods of implementation

Symposium

- To promote wetland wise use practices
- To develop educational practices towards wise use and conservation
 - CEPA Workshop (20) people
 - Small but High Impact book at large int'l meeting

Methods of implementation

Wetland fund grants

- Financially assist in aiding wise use & conservation of wetlands
- Develop programs promoting the Changwon Declaration
- Numbers of grants
 - 2009: 2
 - 2010: 3
 - 2011: 4
 - 2012: 4
 - 2013: 4

Methods of implementation

Books/pamphlets

- Publish and prepare documents for dissemination
- Produce pamphlets, books, guides related to the wise use of wetlands, best practice
(2010, CBD in Nagoya, Japan & 2011 Wuxi China)



English



Chinese



Examples of activities after COP 10: Enhancing biodiversity in rice paddies as wetland systems

Road to the COP 10 Res. 31, COP11 Res. 15

- 2002 COP8: **Res. VIII-34** : Agriculture, wetland water resources.
- 2005 COP9: Kabukurinuma -> Ramsar Site (Japan)
Side event : Asian rice paddy
- 2006. 4, 11, 2007, 10 Korea, Japan joint survey and symposium
- 2007. 10: East Asian Wetland Forum and Importance of Rice Paddy,
Changwon
- 2008 COP10, Res. 31
- 2011~2012, Takeshima(Japan), Singapore, Sangju (Korea)
- 2012 COP11, Res. 15

Activities : Rice Paddy

CEPA



Information Sharing



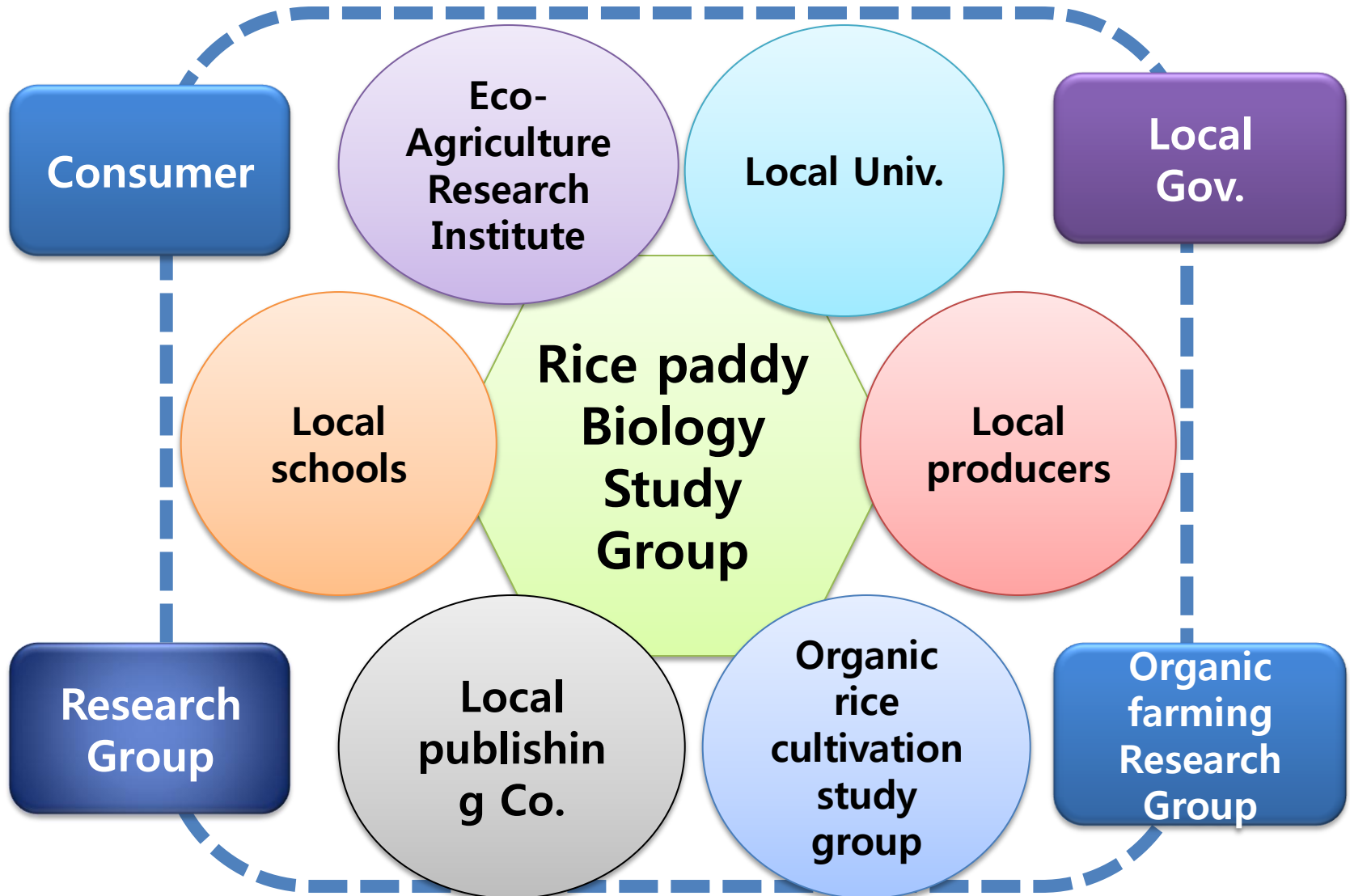
Local activities : Rice paddy

Bonghwa



Hongseong





Rice Paddy Int'l symposia

Sangju

Aug 2011



Sept 2012



A white egret with a long, straight orange beak is walking through shallow, rippling water. The bird is captured in profile, facing right, with its long legs partially submerged. The background is a soft-focus view of the water and distant shoreline.

**Muchas Gracias !
Thank You Very Much !
Merci Beaucoup !**

Gamsa hapnida