

인천의 꿈*
대한민국의 미래

ifez
Incheon Free Economic Zone

INCHEON FREE ECONOMIC ZONE

GLOBAL BUSINESS INNOVATION HUB

IFEZ

IFEZ JOURNAL [ENG]

2026. 05+06 VOL.129

ifez Journal

THE
SKY 184

ENG



SPOT
Cheongna Haneul Bridge Observatory

Vol. 129

2026
05 + 06

IFEZ JOURNAL
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ifez Journal

IFEZ BIMONTHLY MAGAZINE 2026. 05+06 Vol. 129

Publisher Incheon Free Economic Zone Authority **Publication Date** May 1, 2026 **Issue No.** Vol. 129
Periodical Registration No. 54-6280548-000013-07 **Department in Charge** Media & Culture Division
Planning · Design Westco Co., Ltd.



IFEZ JOURNAL
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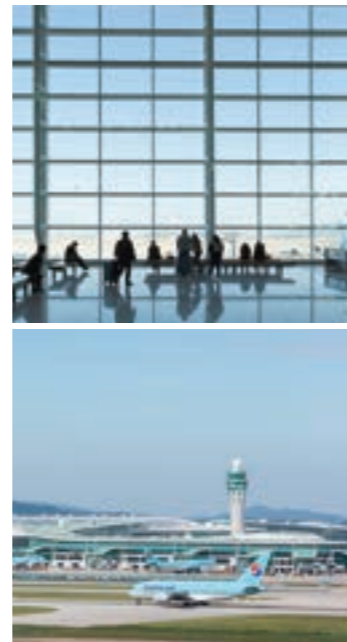
Cover story

The flow of logistics and tourism across IFEZ, as seen from the world's tallest observation deck atop Cheongna Haneul Bridge . IFEZ continues on its journey toward becoming a Global Top 10 City.

All Ways Lead **to IFEZ** IFEZ's Transport Network Connecting Korea to the World

IFEZ's competitive edge lies in its globally connected transportation network. Its integrated infrastructure—comprising airports, seaports, railways, and roads—supports not only tourism and logistics but also industry and investment, fueling urban growth. Building on this connectivity, we explored how IFEZ is engaging with the world and expanding, as well as its fundamental transportation network.





Incheon International Airport, the first place to welcome visitors arriving in South Korea by air

SKYLINE

Incheon International Airport : Gateway to the World

The Incheon Free Economic Zone Authority (IFEZA) was created to transform Songdo, Yeongjong, and Cheongna into a leading global center for business and logistics in Northeast Asia. The initial phase of this vision involved developing Incheon International Airport, which served as a symbolic milestone toward establishing the city as an internationally open hub.

In 2025, the airport achieved its highest passenger volume and flight operations since opening, solidifying its position as a global aviation hub. It has also significantly contributed to urban development. Yeongjong International City, where the airport is situated, has transformed into a versatile airport city that encompasses aviation, logistics, and tourism. Additionally, large-scale integrated resorts and MICE facilities have been constructed in the surrounding area, further enhancing both tourism and business opportunities.

The city is now progressing into high-value industries by clustering aircraft maintenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO), further solidifying its industrial base. Once characterized by tidal flats and agriculture, Yeongjong has evolved into a globally connected metropolis centered around Incheon International Airport. It is emerging as a crucial hub within a worldwide network that links people, logistics, industry, and tourism.

NOW!

- ✓ Development of an aviation MRO cluster underway in the Yeongjong Aviation General Industrial Complex
- ✓ Expansion of UPS express logistics hub (annual capacity: 190,000 tons)

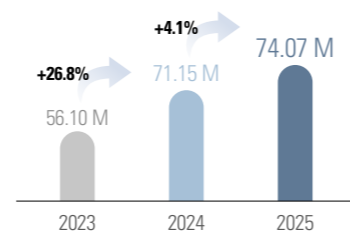
Passenger Traffic
74.07 million

Flight Operations
425,760

Air Cargo Volume
2.954,684 tons

* as of 2025

Incheon International Airport Passenger Growth Trend



LOGIC LINE

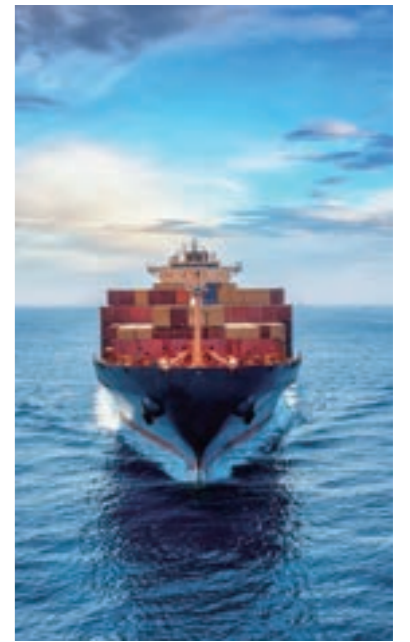
Incheon Port & New Port : A Maritime Hub for Logistics and Tourism

IFEZ has grown on the foundation of its global connectivity, with Incheon Port and Incheon New Port forming another key axis of this network. Incheon Port serves as a multipurpose port, combining logistics and tourism through its cruise and international passenger terminals, thereby expanding maritime connectivity. Meanwhile, Incheon New Port serves as a crucial logistics hub handling import and export cargo for the Seoul metropolitan area. With construction recently underway on the upper structures for Phase 1-2 container terminals, the development of a fully automated, AI-powered smart port is currently advancing. The port will adopt remote, unmanned automation systems, significantly enhancing efficiency and safety. Furthermore, a U-shaped yard configuration will streamline traffic flows, reduce congestion, and enable a more advanced port operation system.

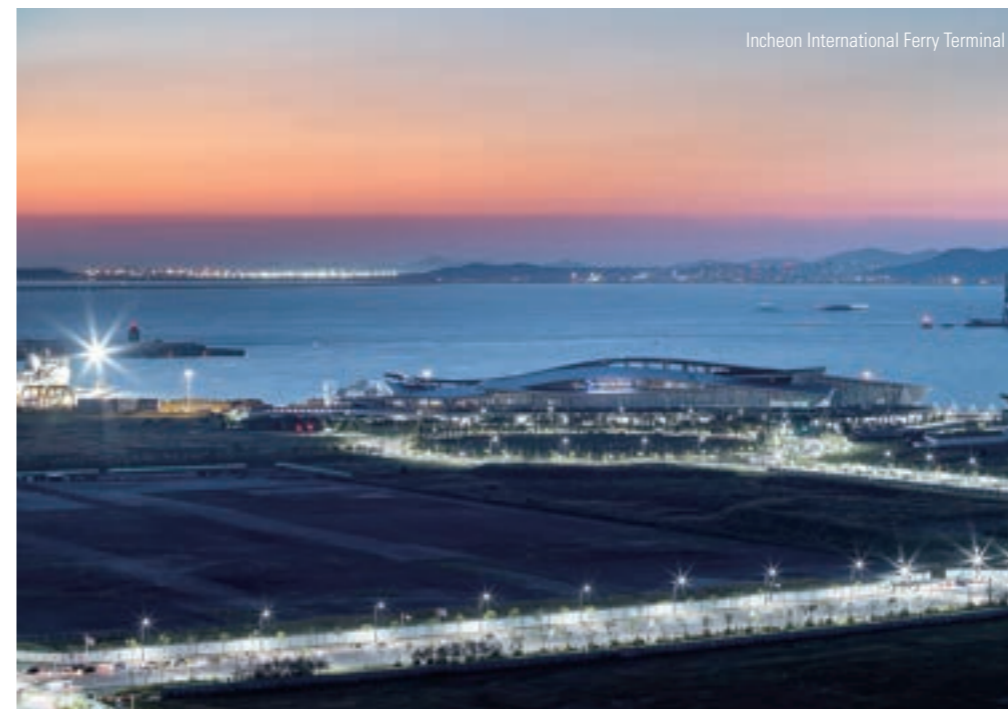
This integrated maritime infrastructure—where tourism and logistics converge—serves as a crucial gateway connecting IFEZ to the global economy.

NOW!

- ✓ Expected record of more than 120 cruise calls this year (a more than fourfold increase from last year)
- ✓ Approximately 50 logistics companies have been attracted to the port hinterland, while port cargo throughput reached 676,000 TEU in 2025.

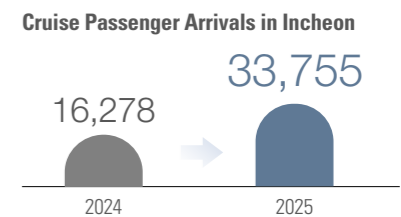


Incheon New Port, being developed into a next-generation smart port with AI-based full automation



Incheon International Ferry Terminal

Total Cargo Throughput at Incheon Port
3.44 Million TEU



Incheon New Port Development Overview

Total Project Cost

KRW 2,646.9 Billion

Number of Berths
6

Handling Capacity
3.54 Million TEU
* 1 TEU = One 20-foot container



BRIDGE LINE

Road Network Connecting the City : Yeongjong Grand Bridge, Incheon Bridge, and Cheongna Haneul Bridge

1. Yeongjong Grand Bridge
2. Cheongna Haneul Bridge Marathon
3. Incheon Bridge



Yeongjong Grand Bridge / Gateway to Incheon International Airport

4.42 km

Incheon Bridge / Direct connection between Songdo and the airport

21.38 km

Cheongna Haneul Bridge / Connecting Cheongna and Yeongjong

4.68 km



NOW!

- ✓ Average daily traffic of 34,700 vehicles since the Cheongna Haneul Bridge opened
- ✓ Opening of the world's tallest bridge observatory (184 m), including sky deck and edge walk

IFEZ is strengthening its urban competitiveness through the Yeongjong Grand Bridge, the Incheon Bridge, which seamlessly connects the airport and seaports, and the Cheongna Haneul Bridge, which opened in January 2026.

Yeongjong Grand Bridge greatly enhanced access to the airport by connecting Incheon International Airport to the mainland. Incheon Bridge further improved connectivity by directly linking Songdo International City with Yeongjong, decreasing travel time and boosting logistics efficiency.

The construction of the Cheongna Haneul Bridge has created a comprehensive transportation corridor linking Songdo, Yeongjong, and Cheongna. This network is poised to serve as a key gateway for exporting regional goods and content to international markets through the airport.

Together, these bridges create a highly connected road network that enables seamless movement of people and goods, linking industry and tourism. The road infrastructure now functions as a vital backbone, naturally integrated into the entire IFEZ region.

RAILWAY

Expanding Nationwide : GTX-B, KTX Incheon Service, and the Second Incheon Urban Rail Network Construction Plan

IFEZ is further boosting its transportation capabilities by expanding its railway network across the country. Major projects, such as the GTX-B line, KTX Incheon service, and the Second Incheon Urban Rail Network Construction Plan, aim to enhance connectivity beyond the capital region, improving both accessibility and scalability.

The GTX-B line, a high-speed urban railway linking Songdo with central Seoul and Namyangju, is currently in full-scale construction. It will be essential in creating a rapid east-west transportation corridor across the capital region.

The KTX Incheon service, planned to launch in December 2026, will offer direct connections to major cities across Korea, eliminating the need to pass through Seoul and greatly enhancing transportation independence.

The Second Incheon Urban Rail Network Construction Plan received final approval from the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, and Transport in 2026 and is now moving into the implementation phase. This initiative will improve connectivity within the city and the surrounding regions, supporting the development of a comprehensive metropolitan transportation system.

NOW!

- ✓ GTX-B line confirmed to establish a base in Songdo International City
- ✓ KTX Incheon Service infrastructure progress at 84.5%, with opening targeted for December 2026
- ✓ Second Incheon Urban Rail Network Construction Plan (2026–2035), entering the project implementation phase



GTX-B

Total length: 82.8 km

Approx. 50 minutes



KTX Incheon Service

New track: 3.19 km

Approx. 2 hr. 10 min

Approx. 2 hr. 30 min



* Scheduled to open: December 2026, with connection to the Gyeongbu High-Speed Railway

Second Incheon Urban Rail Network

Total length 123.9 km



Tourism Vitality Flowing Through the Veins of the City

- ISSUE 1 First public unveiling of Cheongna Haneul Bridge Observatory and Edge Walk, a skyward path flung wide for all
- ISSUE 2 Reopening of "Dining Song" at Gyeongwonjae by Walkerhill after Remodeling



ISSUE 1

Cheongna Haneul Bridge Observatory "The Sky 184," a Globally Recognized Maritime Landmark, Opens

The Incheon Free Economic Zone Authority (IFEZA) is strengthening its global tourism appeal by unveiling the world's tallest observatory on a sea-crossing bridge at Cheongna Haneul Bridge. Opened in May, "The Sky 184," situated at the bridge's main tower, reaches a height of 184.2 meters and has been officially recognized by Guinness World Records as the tallest observatory on a sea-crossing bridge, highlighting its exceptional infrastructural achievement. More than just a viewing platform, it provides a vibrant, multi-sensory experience. The "Edge Walk," inaugurated in Korea for the first time, offers an exhilarating experience of walking high above the ground. Meanwhile, the marine pedestrian deck overlooking the sunset of the West Sea offers visitors moments of tranquility and relaxation. Notably, large-scale media art installations and an ocean-view cinema within the lower section of the main tower blend technology and art to foster immersive cultural encounters. Cheongna Haneul Bridge is transforming from a mere infrastructure element into a worldwide tourism destination that embodies the future potential of IFEZ.



Incheon residents receive a 50% discount on admission to the upper observatory and the Edge Walk.



Watch IFEZ-The Sky 184 Video

A Global Tourism Hub in Harmony with Citizens

The Cheongna Haneul Bridge is anticipated to become a major hub, drawing international visitors to IFEZ by connecting with programs like Incheon International Airport transit tours, Incheon City Tours, and the 300-ri Bicycle Path. Motivated by a dedication to community service, we have greatly reduced the barriers to experiencing local culture by providing Incheon residents with a 50% discount on the Observatory and Edge Walk. The lower parts of the bridge are accessible to the public free of charge, enabling residents to incorporate the space into their daily routines. Incheon announced, "Cheongna Haneul Bridge is a source of pride for the city and a vital gateway to the world," emphasizing that "we remain committed to maintaining the highest standards of safety and convenience so that both residents and tourists can enjoy it confidently, helping the bridge establish itself further as a global landmark."





ISSUE 2

**Gyeongwonjae by Walkerhill,
Korea's Only Five-Star
Traditional Hanok Hotel**



Gyeongwonjae, established in 2015, is Korea's sole five-star traditional hanok hotel, consistently serving as a premier long-stay destination rooted in heritage and sophisticated elegance. Benefiting from its close proximity to Incheon International Airport, it offers both domestic and international guests unique lodging experiences complemented by authentic cultural activities.

The Incheon Free Economic Zone Authority (IFEZA) signed an agreement on May 1, 2025, appointing Daeil International Hospitality Group, a specialized hotel management company, to operate Gyeongwonjae. Subsequently, the property was rebranded as "Gyeongwonjae by Walkerhill." Daeil International Hospitality Group has been responsible for overseeing all operations and maintaining service quality under a contract that extends until April 2030.

Gyeongwonjae continues to deepen its ties with the local community. Last year, it increased engagement through citizen participation programs, and this year, it organized events like the "First Birthday Fair" at Dining Song, fostering shared experiences for both residents and visitors. These efforts are likely to enhance the connection between the space and the public.



Dining Song at Gyeongwonjae, where tradition and modern aesthetics are harmoniously blended

**"Dining Song" Reopens After
Remodeling, Blending Tradition with a
Contemporary Sensibility**

Gyeongwonjae by Walkerhill has completed renovations on its premium restaurant, "Dining Song," and has officially reopened. The redesign incorporates the soft textures of hanji, Korean paper, and the graceful curves of traditional hanok architecture in a modern aesthetic, capturing the essence of Korean beauty for both hotel guests and visitors to IFEZ.

The remodel greatly enlarged the private dining spaces, now featuring full-height windows that overlook the peaceful hanok scenery, making it an ideal venue for family gatherings and business meetings. The restaurant also serves premium Korean course menus such as "Sanyacho Geumban" and "Baekhwaban," which highlight seasonal wild greens and showcase refined Korean culinary artistry.

A Gyeongwonjae representative stated, "By reopening with a fusion of tradition and modern convenience, we strive to deliver exceptional service and position ourselves as a premier hanok landmark both in Incheon and internationally."

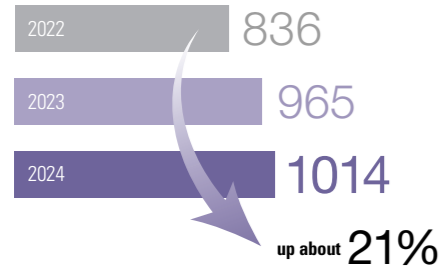
IFEZ GLOBAL CORE

Key MICE Performance Indicators at Songdo ConvensiA

As a symbolic venue representing the MICE industry in IFEZ, Songdo ConvensiA's performance data underscores the sector's consistent growth. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, performance has steadily improved, with 2025 indicating the most successful results thus far.

Number of Events Held at Songdo ConvensiA

* Unit: cases



Revenue at Songdo ConvensiA

* Unit: KRW 100 million



Second. The MICE Industry Revitalizing the Global Business Economy

IFEZ persists in its ambitious pursuit of establishing itself as a global business hub. What drives this impressive expansion? The second major contributor is the MICE industry, which energizes IFEZ's international business economy. This piece highlights the significance of the MICE sector by showcasing major events hosted in IFEZ and analyzing its growth through performance data.



The IFEZ MICE Industry Drives Growth Toward a Global Business Hub with Record-Breaking Performance

The MICE industry—covering meetings, incentives, conventions, and exhibitions—is a high value-added service sector. The Incheon Free Economic Zone Authority (IFEZA) has consistently invested in and supported this industry. These efforts reached new heights with record-breaking performances at Songdo ConvensiA, which hosted major MICE events in 2025.

Key events comprised the 2025 APEC Senior Officials' Meeting and the 2025 IFEZ Global ESG-AX Forum. Additionally, major strategic exhibitions such as the World Korean Business Convention and HYROX Incheon were proactively organized. These events transcend single occasions, creating lasting economic benefits through corporate networking and market expansion.

The 2025 IFEZ Global ESG-AX Forum notably fostered international collaboration by partnering with organizations such as the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) and the Green Climate Fund (GCF). It also produced tangible results, including the signing of a memorandum of understanding for joint international research under the Horizon Europe program.

Through these efforts, the MICE industry continues to play a central role in expanding IFEZ's global reach and driving sustainable economic growth.

Continued Growth in 2026 : Maximizing Synergy Between Economy and Tourism Through MICE

The MICE industry in IFEZ continues to grow steadily through 2026. In July, Songdo ConvensiA will host RoboCup 2026, the world's largest AI robotics competition, which is expected to attract approximately 15,000 visitors. Incheon intends to utilize this event to boost land sales at Incheon Robot Land and attract promising domestic and international robotics companies.

The 18th World Federation of Direct Selling Associations (WFDSA) World Congress will take place at Inspire Resort in Yeongjong. Organized by WFDSA, the event will convene global CEOs, policymakers, and academic leaders to explore major trends shaping the global economy. This event will serve as a catalyst for regional tourism initiatives in partnership with the Incheon Tourism Organization, aiming to elevate Incheon's unique tourism brand to an international audience.

From developing international economic corridors to reinvigorating regional tourism, the MICE industry has become a vital force propelling IFEZ's global business economy.



2025 Key Performance Highlights

Total number of events

1,033

International conferences

196 up 263% year-on-year

Utilization rate

59% Stable operation threshold: 60%

Production inducement effect

Approx. KRW 581.2 billion

Employment inducement effect

6,237 people

Songdo ConvensiA

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Songdo ConvensiA

IFEZ Activities Leading Innovation-Driven Growth

IFEZ is striving to become a top-tier global city through diverse efforts to attract investment. Below are the main activities through which IFEZ continues to drive innovation and growth.

1

Incheon Startup Park Helps K-Startups Scale Up Toward Unicorn Status

Incheon Startup Park has established itself as a hub where early-stage startups can verify technologies and bring their ideas to market. One such company is MOIDA, a resident at Incheon Startup Park I. CEO Choi Jinmyeong, with two decades of experience in managing fitness centers, developed "Allbody," a tailored fitness solution that integrates AI motion-recognition technology with IoT devices. After pilot testing with apartment residents, the company confirmed both the reliability of its technology and its market potential. Recently, it was recognized as an innovative product by the Public Procurement Service, opening the door to the public sector market. The company is now expanding into Japan, Europe, and the Americas.

Building on last year's achievements, the Incheon Free Economic Zone Authority (IFEZA) aims to strengthen the transition from demonstration to market entry in 2026. To achieve this, IFEZA plans to expand Incheon Startup Park III to attract and support more high-performing companies. The authority intends to revise the relevant ordinance in the first half of the year, increasing eligibility from startups founded within seven years to those founded within ten years, thus lowering the entry barrier for early-stage companies. Approximately 20 companies are expected to be newly selected across two rounds—one in the first half and another in the second half of the year.

The AI demonstration program, TRYOUT, will be officially launched. It will involve ten public institutions, including Incheon Urban Corporation and Incheon Port Authority, as well as fourteen private companies such as

Celltrion, Kia, Kakao Mobility, and SK ecoplant. A total of 47 startups will be selected to participate, with an average demonstration funding of KRW 30 million and up to KRW 50 million per company.

Incheon Startup Park will also aim to lead a global AI project. Using the European Union's International Urban and Regional Cooperation (IURC) program, it plans to create an international joint demonstration model for AI-based urban safety data in cooperation with cities like Barcelona, Hamburg, Osaka, and Kaohsiung. The project will unfold in phases: starting with an international agreement in November, followed by joint pilot planning in 2027, and establishing a global AI demonstration hub in 2028. This initiative is designed to help startups progress from testing and demonstration to attracting investment, expanding into new markets, and reaching a global audience.



2

2026 K-Bio Lab Hub Pilot Project Begins, Laying the Groundwork for a Stronger Startup Ecosystem

IFEZA has signed an MOU with the Incheon Center for Creative Economy & Innovation to officially launch the "2026 K-Bio Lab Hub Pilot Project." This initiative precedes the main project, scheduled for completion in 2028, and support programs for a total of 50 member companies will be expanded.

The project aims to enhance business competitiveness by supporting early-stage startups and facilitating open innovation collaborations with anchor companies in Songdo. It also seeks to improve expertise through changes in the operational structure. A 1,072m² facility has been established at Yonsei University International Campus, equipped with laboratory and office spaces, currently hosting eight startups in the new drug development sector. The K-Bio Lab Hub is expected to serve as a key component of the Songdo bio cluster ecosystem and develop into a more organized and specialized support organization.



3

Solar Energy Support Expanded for Homes in Songdo, Yeongjong, and Cheongna to Save Energy and Promote Carbon Neutrality

IFEZA announced plans to implement a subsidy program to support renewable energy installations in private homes across Songdo, Yeongjong, and Cheongna. Approximately 62 households will benefit from installations of solar, solar thermal, and geothermal systems. Subsidies will be available up to KRW 1.2 million for a 3kW solar power system, KRW 840,000 for a 6m² solar thermal system, and KRW 3.01 million for geothermal systems of 17.5kW.

Applications will be accepted from April 14 to December 4, or until the budget is exhausted, whichever comes first. After the solar installations are completed, they are projected to produce 238MW of electricity annually and lower monthly household electricity costs by approximately KRW 90,000 to KRW 110,000. IFEZA anticipates that the program will strengthen citizen energy self-reliance and further promote the adoption of renewable energy in the region.



4

RC Track Completed at Songdo Moonlight Park, Expanding Leisure and Tourism Infrastructure

Incheon has finalized an RC sports track at Songdo Moonlight Park and held an opening ceremony. It is Korea's first RC car track managed by a public institution and was constructed as an on-road circuit conforming to International Federation of Model Auto Racing (IFMAR) standards.

The site covers approximately 20,000m² and features main, auxiliary, and children's tracks, along with spectator stands and driver platforms. It is designed to serve both public recreational use and international competitions. After a pilot run and the launch of an online reservation system, the track is slated to open officially in June or July. Developed as part of a citizen-initiated pledge, the project aims to enhance leisure infrastructure. Incheon also intends to activate Moonlight Park as a versatile leisure hub to attract visitors and stimulate regional interest.



5

Connected Car Certification Center Opens in Cheongna, Strengthening the Future Mobility Industry Base

IFEZA has established a Connected Car Certification and Evaluation Center at Cheongna Robot Land, actively working to develop the future mobility ecosystem. Of the 12 required equipment types for wireless communication safety performance and conformity certification and evaluation, nine have already been secured. The center spans a 2,512m² site with one basement level and three above-ground floors, totaling 4,774m², and offers comprehensive support for wireless communication performance testing and certification.

The project, with a total budget of KRW 14.8 billion, aims to assist small and mid-sized companies in reducing costs and time by enabling domestic wireless communication performance verification and certification. Beginning with the establishment of this center, IFEZA intends to support companies in strengthening technological competitiveness and enhancing their capacity to enter global markets.



6

'Sweet Home Guide' Service Launched to Help Foreign Residents Purchase Housing

IFEZA has launched the "Sweet Home Guide," a land transaction permit consultation service aimed at enhancing convenience for foreigners buying homes in Songdo International City and fostering stable settlement conditions. Since proof of financing and other supporting documents became mandatory in February 2026, there has been increased demand for specialized administrative guidance.

In response, IFEZA will offer tailored assistance throughout the entire process, including personalized pre-consultations, support with document preparation, and guidance on post-purchase responsibilities. By examining financing options and clarifying mandatory requirements, the service aims to reduce speculative demand and promote transparency in transactions. IFEZA anticipates that this approach will improve settlement conditions for foreign residents and foster a more stable real estate market. Additionally, it is expected to ease the challenges faced by prospective foreign buyers in navigating complex administrative procedures.



7

Cheongna Lake Park and Canalway to Be Upgraded into Waterfront Cultural and Nightscape Attractions

IFEZA said it will redevelop Cheongna Lake Park and Canalway into integrated waterfront spaces. A total of KRW 2.1 billion will be invested in phases to create waterfront relaxation areas, experiential and cultural facilities, and nighttime landscape lighting.

At Cheongna Lake Park, a canal-style waterway and leisure facilities will be installed, featuring a curtain fountain and cooling fog to enhance comfort. At Canalway, an experiential waterfront cultural space will be developed, along with a waterside experience area and rest facilities around Changhae Culture Park. Additionally, nighttime landscape lighting improvements will be undertaken near Jeongseojin Park in the Canalway section. These projects are expected to be completed in May and June, respectively, reinforcing the area's role as a daytime relaxation spot and a nighttime scenic destination. IFEZA aims to promote the use of urban waterfront areas and connect this growth to increased local commerce and tourism.



8

Toll Waiver for Cheongna Haneul Bridge Expanded to All Incheon Residents

The toll exemption for Cheongna Haneul Bridge will be extended to include all Incheon residents. From April 6, vehicles registered to residents in Incheon will be completely toll-free. Eligible users are required to pre-register their Hi-Pass card and vehicle details starting March 30.

IFEZA has integrated the program with the shared administrative information system to enable automatic verification of residency and real-time updates of discount eligibility, reducing inconvenience for residents moving out of the city. Cheongna Haneul Bridge serves as a vital transportation link between Cheongna and Yeongjong. Stretching 4.68 km with six lanes, it has supported an average of about 34,000 vehicles daily since its opening as of March 5. Previously, toll discounts were limited to residents of specific areas. IFEZA stated that the expanded exemption aims to lower transportation costs for Incheon residents and enhance connectivity between districts.



9

Incheon Startup Park Fund II Established with KRW 50 Billion to Begin Full-Scale Investment

The Incheon Free Economic Zone Authority (IFEZA) has established a KRW 50 billion fund to support promising SMEs and startups, primarily centered on Incheon Startup Park. The Incheon Startup Park Fund II, initially allocated at KRW 30 billion, was increased to KRW 50 billion through a public-private partnership. IFEZA contributed via Incheon Technopark, with private venture capital firms acting as general partners. The fund will prioritize artificial intelligence (AI) and will broaden its investments into related sectors such as mobility and robotics. Funding will be allocated through the "Capstone 2026 AI Innovation Fund."

Eligible companies are those with headquarters, research centers, or manufacturing facilities located in IFEZ, primarily within the region's four key industries. Firms up to seven years old are eligible, with extended eligibility of up to ten years for emerging industries. The fund will also be connected to the demonstration project (TRYOUT) at Incheon Startup Park, establishing a comprehensive investment cycle that links discovery, investment, and growth support. IFEZA aims to enhance stage-specific support for startups and foster a more integrated investment ecosystem beyond mere financial aid.



10

Main Agreement Signed for Therme Incheon Project, Accelerating Golden Harbor as a Wellness Tourism Hub

IFEZA announced the signing of the primary agreement with global wellness leader Therme Group for the "Therme Korea Incheon" project, signaling its commitment to advancing the Golden Harbor development. The initiative involves creating a multi-purpose wellness resort on a 99,041m² site in Songdo Golden Harbor, with construction slated to begin in 2027 and the grand opening planned for 2031.

The development will introduce extensive tourism infrastructure at the Golden Harbor site, featuring an indoor dome spa, a water park, and cultural facilities with mixed-use purposes. It is projected to generate approximately KRW 2.8 trillion in economic benefits and create about 3,000 jobs. This facility aims to establish Songdo as a global tourism hub where marine tourism and wellness industries intersect, while also enhancing Incheon's overall brand competitiveness.



11

Incheon Steps Up Efforts to Attract International Schools and Build a Global Education Environment

Incheon is intensifying its efforts to develop a robust international education environment and attract renowned global schools. As part of this initiative, Mayor Yoo Jeong-bok visited the UK campuses of Wycombe Abbey and Rugby School on February 24.

During the visit, Mayor Yoo met with officials from Wycombe Abbey, the preferred partner for the international school project in Yeongjong Midan City, and signed an MOU to ensure compliance with Korean regulations and define the roles of relevant institutions in establishing the campus. Wycombe Abbey, with almost 130 years of history, is working towards opening an international school in Midan City. Currently in preliminary negotiations, a business agreement is expected in the first half of this year, with an opening planned for the second half of 2028.

Incheon is exploring the potential establishment of a Songdo campus in partnership with Rugby School, a longstanding institution with a 450-year history, as part of its broader efforts to enhance global education infrastructure. These initiatives aim to improve living conditions for international residents and boost the city's competitiveness on the global stage.





Interview No. 13
Meet Global Companies in IFEZ <Daebong LS>

INTRODUCING GLOBAL COMPANIES IN IFEZ

Daebong LS, a vital contributor to the expansion of K-beauty, has recently inaugurated a new headquarters in Songdo's bio industry cluster. The facility consolidates the entire process—from raw material development through manufacturing and clinical testing—into a unified system.

Shin Yong-suk, Cooperation Special Adviser at the Incheon Free Economic Zone Authority (IFEZA), who is actively expanding international collaboration alongside Incheon's local heritage and culture, met with Park Jino, CEO of Daebong LS.

Their discussion included the company's history, the current landscape of green biotechnology, and the future prospects of clean beauty and K-beauty.



Shin Yong-suk
Special Adviser for
International Cooperation
Incheon Free Economic Zone
Authority (IFEZA)



Park Jino
CEO, Daebong LS



Shin Yong-suk The interior structure of your building is quite unique. What are the two steel sculptures in the indoor garden on the fourth floor?

Park Jino These are actually old reactors and electrolysis equipment from the early days of our company in the 1980s. Instead of discarding them, we chose to preserve them as a visual history. A professor from Sookmyung Women's University suggested turning them into artworks, and an installation artist transformed them into steel sculptures.

Shin Yong-suk How was Daebong LS founded in the 1980s?

Park Jino My father, Chairman Park Jong-ho, graduated from the College of Pharmacy at Seoul National University and built his career at leading pharmaceutical research institutes. Drawing on his drug development experience, he expanded the business through Bibong Fine Chemical, starting with raw materials for hair perm solutions and later localizing active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) and amino acids.

Over time, the company diversified into cosmetic ingredients, pharmaceuticals, eco-friendly biomaterials, OEM/ODM production, and human testing services, ultimately evolving into the Daebong Group.

Shin Yong-suk I understand you graduated from Yonsei University College of Medicine. That seems like an ideal background for the cosmetics industry. Did you pursue medicine with the intention of continuing the family business?

Park Jino I initially enrolled in medical school with the goal of becoming a research-focused doctor rather than a practicing clinician. However, as I progressed in my studies, I discovered that the reality differed from my expectations. During the 1997 Asian Financial Crisis, my father faced serious challenges, prompting me to join the company.

Since then, I have focused on developing Daebong LS into a research-driven company focused on sustainable natural materials.



Installation artwork reinterpreting early reactors and electrolysis equipment from the founding years of Daebong LS.

Shin Yong-suk The structure of your new Songdo headquarters seems to reflect that decision. Could you share its key features with us?

Park Jino The new headquarters in Songdo is a comprehensive hub that integrates the full process—from cosmetic ingredient development to manufacturing and clinical testing—into a streamlined, one-stop system. This framework fosters collaboration with international companies and boosts R&D productivity. It also enables us to create an integrated production environment that encompasses not only cosmetics but also OTC products and medical devices.

Shin Yong-suk What do you think has driven the global rise of K-beauty?

Park Jino Korean consumers are highly discerning—perhaps even more so than Japanese consumers—and expect a broad variety of options. To satisfy these demands, we have established a highly advanced and diverse value chain beginning with the raw materials. In addition to swift product development, a crucial factor is the company's capacity to promote convergence technologies by broadening R&D efforts into related sectors, including products akin to cosmetics. In addition, K-beauty has benefited from the global popularity of Korean culture, including K-pop and K-dramas.



The new headquarters in Songdo is a comprehensive hub that integrates the full process—from cosmetic ingredient development to manufacturing and clinical testing—into a streamlined, one-stop system.

Shin Yong-suk What will be key to sustaining K-beauty's growth?

Park Jino The strength of K-beauty's competitiveness fundamentally resides in its clean beauty approach and sustainable bio technologies rooted in advanced material science and research and development. Daebong LS specializes in creating functional materials derived from natural ingredients to satisfy the changing preferences of consumers. Moving forward, the K-beauty industry needs to go beyond mere product rivalry and focus on developing scientifically validated and safe materials.

Shin Yong-suk What types of raw materials are used in green bio technologies supporting K-beauty?

Park Jino We process over 50 types of natural and organic raw materials. For instance, yuzu from Goheung, Jeollanam-do, was once discarded after processing the seeds. Now, we extract oil from those seeds to develop beneficial products.



PARK JINO continues to lead Daebong LS's growth as a research-driven company focused on sustainable natural materials.

We incorporate camellia and cypress from Jeju, along with mugwort and ginseng from Ganghwa. Through fermentation and eco-friendly catalysts, we enhance these ingredients' effectiveness, resulting in safe and highly potent products. This approach ensures that green bio will continue to propel the evolution of K-beauty.

Shin Yong-suk How would you assess the global standing of Korea's cosmetics industry?

Park Jino Korea is the third-largest exporter of cosmetics worldwide. During my recent business trip to Europe, I distinctly sensed the increasing admiration for Korea and its emerging prominence on the global stage. As the collaboration between K-fashion and K-beauty grows stronger, I believe Korea's cosmetics industry will elevate its global influence even more.

Shin Yong-suk K-beauty significantly contributes to shaping the national image. As Songdo enters a new era, I hope Daebong LS will emerge as a global leader in the cosmetics sector, driven by the philosophy that "benefiting others ultimately benefits oneself." Thank you for dedicating your time to this interview.



Industry Basic pharmaceutical materials manufacturing
Products/Business Manufacturing and wholesale of pharmaceutical ingredients and cosmetic ingredients
Address 101 Songdomirae-ro, Yeonsu-gu, Incheon, Republic of Korea



Visit
 Daebong LS Official Website

THE KEY PLAYERS

OF IFEZ

Urban Design Office

Setting the Standard for Urban Landscape Design

A city's character is not determined by a single structure. Instead, it is crafted through the interplay of streets, landscapes, illumination, and viewpoints—an ever-changing impression shaped by the daily experiences of its inhabitants.

The Urban Design Office integrates varied spaces into a seamless whole and enhances the city's identity through subtle yet consistent standards. We had the opportunity to meet the team shaping IFEZ's landscape.

Written by Hwang Ye-zi, Photographs by Lee Deok-jae



The "Control Tower" of Urban Landscape: The Urban Design Office

The Urban Design Office is responsible for guiding both individual architectural projects and the broader landscape quality and city image of the Incheon Free Economic Zone (IFEZ).

Recognizing urban design as a key driver of competitiveness, the division sets and consistently enforces standards to boost the city's long-term value and identity. It creates urban design policies and guidelines to guide

landscape management and conducts design reviews to ensure development projects are aligned with the overall urban context.

Furthermore, the division advocates for public space enhancement initiatives that residents can engage with in their everyday lives.

Through the integration of policy formulation, review, and implementation, it runs an all-encompassing system overseeing the entire process from planning stages to execution.

This methodology ensures the gradual development of uniform standards throughout the city.

Urban design extends beyond legal and technical assessments. It demands a holistic approach that considers the city's overall flow and context, rather than just individual spaces.



Media board installed at Startup Park



Planning media content that expands urban experiences and brings new vitality to city spaces

Landscape Review : Completing the Flow of the City

The Urban Design Office's role is most evident in its landscape review process, which extends beyond basic design assessment to serve as a tool for coordinating the city's overall image and context.

Instead of concentrating solely on the appearance or structure of individual buildings, the division emphasizes the overall impact of each development on the city. It considers numerous elements such as streetscapes, skylines, view corridors, and

pedestrian spaces, prioritizing adherence to landscape guidelines and harmony with nearby areas.

Balancing development efficiency with public value continues to be a major challenge. Developers often focus on economic viability and project deadlines, while the public sector must weigh long-term urban benefits and public interest. Through the landscape review process, the Urban Design Office mediates these differences and, when necessary, conducts re-reviews to develop better alternatives. This process extends beyond approval

procedures, transforming into a collaborative effort between the public and private sectors to shape the city's future and identify optimal solutions.

As these standards accumulate, the landscape is increasingly recognized as a core urban value and a public asset, serving as a benchmark for improving the quality of real spaces.

Expanding Urban Design from Space to Experience

The Urban Design Office is shaping not only how spaces are used but also how citizens experience the city through its landscape policies. This approach is exemplified by projects like the Startup Park media board and the "Oasis Area" initiative. The media board at Startup Park integrates media art with public content, fostering a more vibrant urban aesthetic and illustrating how landscape can transcend mere visuals to become immersive experiences.

The "Oasis Area" project aims to enhance green infrastructure throughout key locations in Songdo, Yeongjong, and Cheongna, providing residents with access to nature citywide. Dispersed parks are interconnected by tree-lined "Loops," while garden pathways called "Links" form a dense network that facilitates walking, relaxation, and scenic views across the urban landscape.

This long-term approach extends beyond merely visual comfort to include physical activity, striving to develop a people-focused landscape that integrates seamlessly throughout the city. As these efforts grow, residents can more vividly experience the richness and value of urban spaces in their everyday lives.



The Value of a City, Completed in Everyday Life

The Urban Design Office aims not only to create a visually attractive city but also to foster a city where pride naturally becomes part of everyday life.

A city is more than just a collection of structures; it is a dynamic space where memories and experiences are constantly created by those who live and pass through it. Activities like strolling through a park to admire architectural details or observing landscaped greenery and the sea from within a building are naturally intertwined.

Ultimately, urban design aims to help citizens recognize the importance of their environment and foster a sense of pride in their city. The initiatives led by the Urban Design Office are not only altering the city's visual landscape but also positively impacting the daily lives of its residents.

The Urban Design Office discussing the future of IFEZ's city landscape



MINI INTERVIEW

Urban design is [] to us



[An Equation]

Urban design is not simply an artistic process that produces aesthetic outcomes. It is a precise calculation that integrates numerous variables to maximize a city's value.

Balancing conflicting factors like "development efficiency" and "public quality" requires deriving an optimal solution through landscape reviews and policy frameworks. This process is akin to solving a complex equation.

The result of this equation is a "beautiful and livable city" to be handed down to future generations.

Lee Min-su,
Head of Division



[Creating Memories]

People tend to remember a place's atmosphere and experiences rather than specific buildings. Urban design creates the environment that shapes these memories.

In newly developing cities like IFEZ, it is important to establish a distinct identity through consistent landscapes and spatial continuity. The role of urban design is to ensure that citizens retain positive memories of the city.

Lee Hee-suk,
Officer



[Joy in Everyday Life]

Managing urban landscapes is about shaping the impressions that citizens encounter every day in streets and spaces.

As IFEZ develops concurrently, it is essential to craft a unique city identity while preserving harmony. Our team persistently collaborates to enhance IFEZ's character, aiming to infuse everyday moments of joy into the lives of its residents.

Kim Hyun-jung,
Officer

Insight in site, IFEZ

IFEZ acts as a gateway linking Korea to the world and as a hub of global innovation. From United Nations (UN) agencies and international organizations to the Incheon Global Campus (IGC) and the Global Center, leading institutions and organizations across various sectors are based here. Below are the latest updates from key organizations and institutions that are driving change and growth within IFEZ.



[Celltrion] Celltrion Launches Seven Energy-Saving Initiatives

Celltrion has implemented seven energy-saving measures in response to increasing global oil prices and the government's energy stabilization policy. This comprehensive initiative aims to enhance corporate social responsibility and advance carbon-neutral management across the company.

The plan focuses on reducing electricity and fuel consumption in daily operations. The company has implemented a voluntary vehicle rotation system to limit fuel use, with exemptions for pregnant employees, individuals with disabilities, and eco-friendly vehicles.

Within workplaces, Celltrion has implemented partial lighting shutdowns during daytime hours and keeps indoor temperatures at 26°C or higher in summer and 18°C or lower in winter. Smart plugs have been installed to reduce standby power consumption, and employees are instructed to turn off electronic devices before leaving.

The company is upgrading its production facilities with environmentally friendly infrastructure. The cleanroom lighting is being replaced with energy-efficient LED systems, and solar panels installed at a new drug product (DP) plant are anticipated to provide renewable energy beginning in the second half of the year.

Celltrion is advancing a paperless office by implementing electronic approval systems and promoting stair use to support a low-carbon workplace culture. A company spokesperson affirmed that Celltrion will persist in its social responsibility efforts by enhancing energy efficiency and adopting renewable energy sources.



Industry Basic pharmaceutical materials manufacturing
Products/Business Research, development, and manufacturing of pharmaceuticals (Remsima, Truxima, Herzuma)
Address 23 Academy-ro, Yeonsu-gu, Incheon, Republic of Korea



[Korea Polar Research Institute] First Direct Observation of Antarctic Deep-Sea Hydrothermal System

The Korea Polar Research Institute has achieved the first-ever direct observation and sampling of a deep-sea hydrothermal system along the Antarctic mid-ocean ridge using an unmanned submersible.

Mid-ocean ridges are extensive underwater mountain ranges formed by magma ascending from beneath the Earth's crust. The hydrothermal systems found in these areas, resulting from interactions between magma and seawater, are regarded as significant scientific and economic resources due to their abundant unknown life forms and mineral deposits.

In November 2025, a research team led by Dr. Park Sung-hyun embarked on an expedition aboard the icebreaking research vessel Araon. They investigated the underwater mountain called Nalgae, situated approximately 1,200 kilometers from Korea's Jang Bogo Station at a depth of 1,300 meters.

Using an unmanned submersible, the team documented extensive, valuable hydrothermal mineral deposits on the seafloor, confirming the area's resource potential.

The expedition successfully collected 12 deep-sea organisms, such as cnidarians and sponges, using a robotic arm and suction system. The research team intends to analyze the samples to identify potential new species and to gain deeper insights into the mechanisms of extreme hydrothermal ecosystems.

A senior researcher highlighted that utilizing advanced robotics for direct observation of hydrothermal environments along the Antarctic ridge constitutes a major global breakthrough and signifies a pivotal advancement in obtaining precise data beyond the capabilities of traditional ship-based exploration.



Supervising Authority Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries
Industry Research and development in physics, chemistry, and biology
Address 26 Songdomirae-ro, Yeonsu-gu, Incheon, Republic of Korea



[Incheon Global Campus] IGC Announces "2030 Vision" for Global Innovation

The Incheon Global Campus (IGC) held its "IGC 2030 Vision Declaration Ceremony" on April 2, outlining a new strategic direction for Korea's next 100 years.

The event represented the culmination of internal task forces and workshops dedicated to sharpening the campus's long-term vision. It also signified the beginning of IGC's growth as a global hub for education, research, and industry-academia collaboration.

The vision holds particular importance as it marks the inaugural joint outcome resulting from collaboration among the Incheon Free Economic Zone Authority (IFEZA), five foreign universities on campus, and the foundation.

Approximately 500 participants attended the event, including the mayor of Incheon, the city council speaker, officials from the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy, IFEZA representatives, university presidents, and students.

The ceremony started with a symbolic unveiling of the vision plaque, then featured a CEO presentation detailing future strategies and a collaborative implementation agreement among the involved universities. A synchronized banner performance, where all attendees revealed the vision slogan together, emphasized the campus community's collective commitment.

IGC has defined its new mission to foster global talent and promote the convergence of knowledge and industry, aiming to shape Korea's future over the next 100 years. By 2030, it aspires to be a leading international K-platform that integrates education, research, and industry collaboration.



Organization Incheon Global Campus Foundation
Address 119 Songdomunhwa-ro, Yeonsu-gu, Incheon, Republic of Korea



ifez — NATURE Trip

An Ecological Journey
with Fresh Nature in IFEZ

As spring blossoms fade and vibrant greenery fills the landscape, May and June transform IFEZ into a dynamic learning environment.

The theme of this journey is nature. From vast tidal flats to ecological forests and a national biodiversity institute, this trip invites you to experience and learn from nature with all your senses.

1

World Peace Forest

Located in Unseo-dong on Yeongjong Island, the World Peace Forest is a natural ecological park established in 2009 through the joint efforts of citizens and corporations.

Here, forests, wetlands, and the tidal flats of the West Sea form a single ecosystem, creating a peaceful space where humans and wildlife coexist.

In spring, violets and Corydalis bloom quietly at your feet, while animals such as water deer and raccoon dogs leave traces of their daily lives. Nearby, sandpipers, herons, and egrets glide gracefully across the reservoir, completing the picturesque landscape.

The gentle sounds of birds and the rustling wind through the trees evoke a sense of calm and serenity.

Location 31-35 Sindosibuk-ro, Jung-gu, Incheon



+ Yeongjong Trail Course 1 (Healthy Centennial Path)

Walking along Yeongjong Trail Course 1, which passes through the World Peace Forest and the reservoir park, is another way to experience the island's ecology.

The route runs from the West Sea to the foothills of Baengnyeonsan Mountain. In spring, cherry blossoms line the path, and in summer, lotus flowers create a tranquil atmosphere.

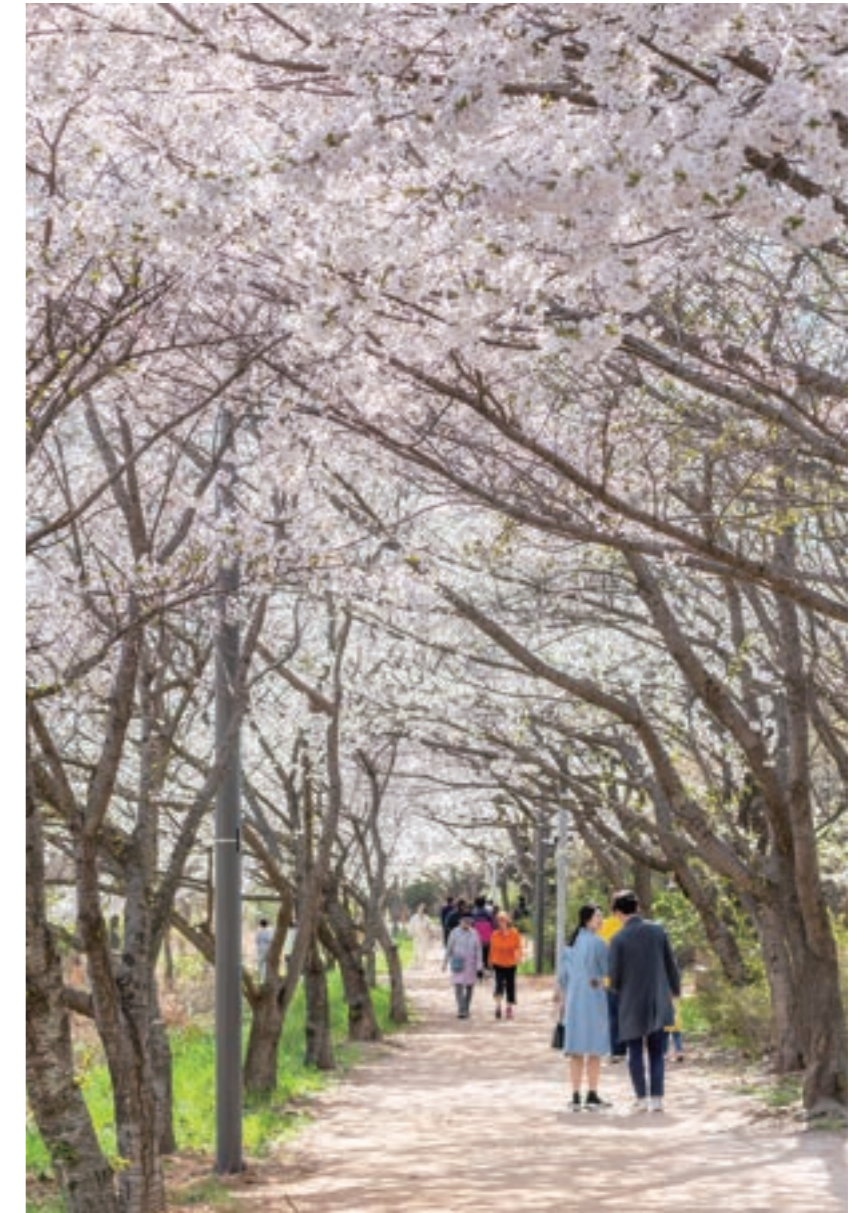
Difficulty Easy

Duration Approx. 1 hour 20 minutes

Distance 5.6 km



Find Yeongjong
Trail Course 1



2

National Institute of Biological Resources

As Korea’s largest institution dedicated to biological resources, this facility systematically displays specimens and living examples of native species. At the entrance, visitors are welcomed by large-scale animal specimens that vividly showcase the marvel of life. Inside, the “Gotjawal Ecological Hall,” inspired by Jeju’s ancient forests, presents a lush, immersive green space filled with humidity and natural scents.

Visitors can explore 4 billion years of biodiversity history and observe nature directly in the outdoor garden. The experience extends beyond mere observation, providing insights into the significance of ecosystems and inspiring efforts to preserve a healthy planet for future generations.

Address 42, Hwangyeong-ro, Seo-gu, Incheon
Inquiries +82-32-590-7000

+ Cheongna Park Forest Experience Program

This program is held at Noeul Park, located within Cheongna Park, where participants can engage in practical ecological activities. Participants have the opportunity to see, touch, and explore soil, trees, and insects—things seldom experienced in city settings—during guided sessions led by expert interpreters.

Registration Online via website or on-site (first come, first served)

Hours(Individual)
 (Session 1) 10:00–11:30
 (Session 2) 13:30–15:00
 (Session 3) 16:00–17:00

Inquiry +82-32-456-2741



Apply for the Forest Experience



Visit Masian Tidal Flat Experience Center Website



+ Masian Tidal Flat Experience Center

Since 2014, the Masian Tidal Flat Experience Center has been operated by the local fishing village cooperative, offering guided programs that allow visitors to safely explore the distinctive texture of tidal mud, which differs from regular soil.

Participants have the opportunity to gather various marine life such as clams, whelks, and turban shells. Additionally, tidal flat carts and shuttle services are provided for enhanced convenience.

Admission

Adults KRW 10,000 / Elementary students KRW 5,000 / Children KRW 3,000

Rental

Hand hoe KRW 1,000 / Boots KRW 2,000

* On-site payment for individuals / Group reservations available

3

Masian Beach

Masian Beach, along the West Sea—one of the world’s five largest tidal flats—becomes a vast ecological classroom when the tide recedes.

The instant you walk onto the vast mudflat in sturdy boots, the gentle feel of the soft earth beneath awakens your senses. Exploring the mud for shellfish creates a hands-on learning experience for children and provides adults with an opportunity to reconnect with childhood memories.

As a premier ecological field study site within IFEZ, the tidal flats of Yeongjong provide an exceptional opportunity to observe the intimate relationship between humans and nature.

Location 107-8 Masiran-ro, Jung-gu, Incheon