

<Final Report>

The 2nd UNESCO Training Course for Island and Coastal Biosphere Reserve Managers

Report by Sung-Jun Pang, Jeju Secretariat



■ Outline

- Date : 13th ~ 17th, October, 2014
- Venue : Jeju World Natural Heritage Center, Republic of Korea
- Organizers : UNESCO MAB, Jeju Special Self-Governing Province
- Convener : Jeju Secretariat of WNICBR
- Participants : 8 BR managers from 8 countries

Countries	BRs
United Kingdom	Brighton & Lewes Downs BR
Ecuador	Macizo del Cajas BR
China	Nanji Islands BR
Vietnam	Red River Delta BR
Indonesia	Siberut BR
Ireland	North Bull Island BR
Canada	Georgian Bay Littoral BR
St. Kitts & Nevis	St. Mary's BR

- About : Training course for Island and Coastal Biosphere Reserves Managers

What did we do?

The 2nd UNESCO Training Course for Island and Coastal Biosphere Reserves Managers was held during 13th ~ 17th, October, 2014 at Jeju World Natural Heritage Center. The training course was organized by UNESCO MAB, Jeju Special Self-Governing Province and convened by Jeju Secretariat of WNICBR.

This was the second time program for establishing Biosphere Reserve Network all over the world and strengthening information exchange under the recognition that basic education on

BR management is required, since the Network Secretariat was established in two regions, Jeju, Korea and Menorca, Spain.

The main purpose to select participants was for fully funding the ODA (Official Development Assistance) Countries and newly designated BR sites, but as some participants were unable to join the program, non-ODA countries such as Ireland and Canada had joined the program.

The participating countries and BRs were; Brighton & Lewes Downs BR, United Kingdom (new-designated); Macizo del Cajas BR, Ecuador; Nanji Islands BR, China; Red River Delta BR, Vietnam; Siberut BR, Indonesia; North Bull Island BR, Ireland; Georgian Bay Littoral BR, Canada; St. Mary's BR, St. Kitts & Nevis.

The Edu-program was progressed by lecture and presentation with discussion in the morning section and the field trip around the Jeju BR and other interesting places in the afternoon.

On the first day, all participants introduced themselves and their BRs as a greeting mention. They also said they are very pleased to attend this program and share information each other. After greeting time, there was a presentation on introducing the WNICBR Jeju Secretariat which will further produce an upgrade Network system to the participants.



◆ Lecture

The first lecture was delivered by Dr. Jeong Dai-Yeun (Director of Asia Climate Change Education Center) on “Beyond Sustainable Development towards Ecological Modernization”. He explained about the changing nature since the Industrial Revolution in the 18th century, the emergence process of sustainable development for conservation since the 1970s, and what we should overcome for achieving Ecological Modernization in the future.

The second lecture was delivered by Mr. Pang Sung-Jun (Team Manager of Jeju Secretariat of WNICBR) on “Introduction of Jeju BR & WNICBR”. In this lecture, he explained about the several activities that Jeju BR is implementing such as; utilization of Jeju BR Brand, promotion of the ecological village tourism, training the UNESCO school students on ecological experience. Moreover, he highlighted the necessity of establishing network among trainees and encouraged their active participation.

In the afternoon lecture, Prof. Yun Sun-Jin (Professor in Graduate School of Environmental Studies, Seoul National University) presented “Climate Change and Energy Transition”. In this lecture, she explained about the advent of an era of Climate Change, and analyzed the sources of GHG emissions, with necessity and method of the Energy Transition.

Prof. Cho Do-Soon (vice-chair of MAB Committee of Korea), the next lecturer, presented the theme titled “Biodiversity Conservation and Sacred Natural Sites”. From this presentation,

he emphasized the importance of conservation of both Natural and Cultural Heritage Sites with several succession cases in Korea.

On the next day, Prof Choi Gwang-Yong (Professor of Jeju National University) presented “Fingerprints of Climate Change and Their Impacts on World Natural Heritage Sites”. He explained about the scientific basis and the impacts of Climate Change, with vulnerability and adaption to Climate Change in World Natural Heritage Sites.

The last presentation was “Impact of Climate Change on Terrestrial Ecosystems in Jeju Island” by Dr. Kim Chan-Soo (Director of Warm-Temperate and Subtropical Forest Research Center, Korea Forest Research Institute). This lecture provided the participants with a motivation to figure out the way how to protect BR from the impact of Climate Change, especially, showing the effort to save the critical species, *Abies Koreana*, from the Climate Change. His lecture gave a great impression to the participants.



◆ Presentation & Discussion on Each BR

After the lectures, there was a presentation and discussion on the participants’ BRs. 8 BRs were introduced from 8 countries (mentioned above) focusing on the advantages and features of their BRs.

It provided the other participants with a valuable information as well.



◆ Field Trip

Field trip was done especially in the Jeju BR sites such as Gyo-Rae Gotjawal Forest and Cheonjiyeon Waterfalls. The participants had an opportunity to know the features of Jeju BR sites and noticed what activities are being implemented by the Jeju residents for conservation. Also, having a chance to look around the Smart Grid Center, which represents low carbon green technologies and visiting Climate Change Exhibition Hall were a useful experience to realize how Jeju promotes to achieve the conservation of nature.

Visiting Morning-Smile Farm which has a relationship with Jeju BR in terms of branded industry was also a wonderful experience for the participants. It provided the participants with a great motivation and ideas.

Finally, Yongmeori Coast and Seongsan Ilchulbong (Sunrise Peak) sightseeing was an experience to feel and think about the Ecotourism in Jeju.



What have we learned?

This Edu-program was a great opportunity not only for the participants, but also for UNESCO and WNICBR Jeju Secretariat to know each other and deal with the best way to establish further network system. Moreover, the first successful training course last year, gave us a great experience to implement an efficient program this time. As a result, we prospect to have a better Edu-program next year.

◆ Lecture

Through the lectures, we introduced our WNICBR Jeju Secretariat and provided the participants with information, that there were many efforts to make up this network system. We also mentioned what we should do for the further network relationship.

Through this introduction, the participants acquired a wide range of information on Jeju BR and also Korea BRs for responding to Climate Change and conserving with sustainable development, which lead themselves to a high motivation and useful ideas they can apply to their own BRs.

◆ Presentation & Discussion on Each BR

During the presentation and discussion on each BR, they introduced their advances and efforts to increase network relationship among others. Especially, for the newly-designated Brighton & Lewes Downs BR, United Kingdom, we strongly believe that it had a great opportunity to exchange information and promoted the BR site to others.

◆ Field Trip

As the participants had rare chance to face with other BRs in other countries, this field trip to Jeju BR was a perfect chance and experience to feel and learn. Moreover, for Jeju BR, it was a great opportunity to introduce the scenery to the worldwide BRs.

Especially, Gotjawal and Jeju Stone Park were a terrific place showing the Jeju BR's unique feature, and the participants shared various comments to build up ideas.

As Jeju BR is focused on Climate Change research, introducing the participants about low-carbon green technologies such as Smart Grid, and plan for preparing the waterlogging

damage by the sea level rising, helped them to know about Jeju BR's situation and compare to the situation of their BRs.

Morning-Smile Farm is a place where Jeju BR is proceeding as a branded industry. The Farm becomes an excellent model of sustainable development as it operates farm management, farm experience program, product manufacture in Jeju BR site. Especially, it improves the Jeju BR image as it commercializes the products in premium level, and provides them to department store and general hospitals. Many of the participants discussed a lot on the ideas they can apply to their BR.

Cheonjiyeon Waterfalls, Yongmeori Coast, and Seongsan Ilchulbong (Sunrise Peak) were the field where the participants could experience the ecotourism in Jeju which is important for sustainable development and conservation.



For Further plan?

Following the last training course, this 2nd training course provided great opportunities to all participants to share information and to establish network relationship with better understanding of network secretariat.

However, there were several suggestions from the participant in the final evaluation meeting;

- Provide more information of the examples on Jeju BR than general training contents.
- Reduce field trip time and replace it with group discussion time among BR participants to provide more opportunity in exchanging their useful information.
- Mediate the discussion by moderator selection.
- Exchange information on supporting principle and fund from the government.
- Publish and provide picture album of the biodiversity in Jeju BR.

We will accept these suggestions and apply them to improve the program next year.

We strongly believe that all of the participants will improve their management capacity for their own BR fields. This training course experience will bring further network relationship with Jeju and Menorca Secretariat.

Finally, hopefully, more BR managers participate in Edu-program next year for the development of the worldwide network.

