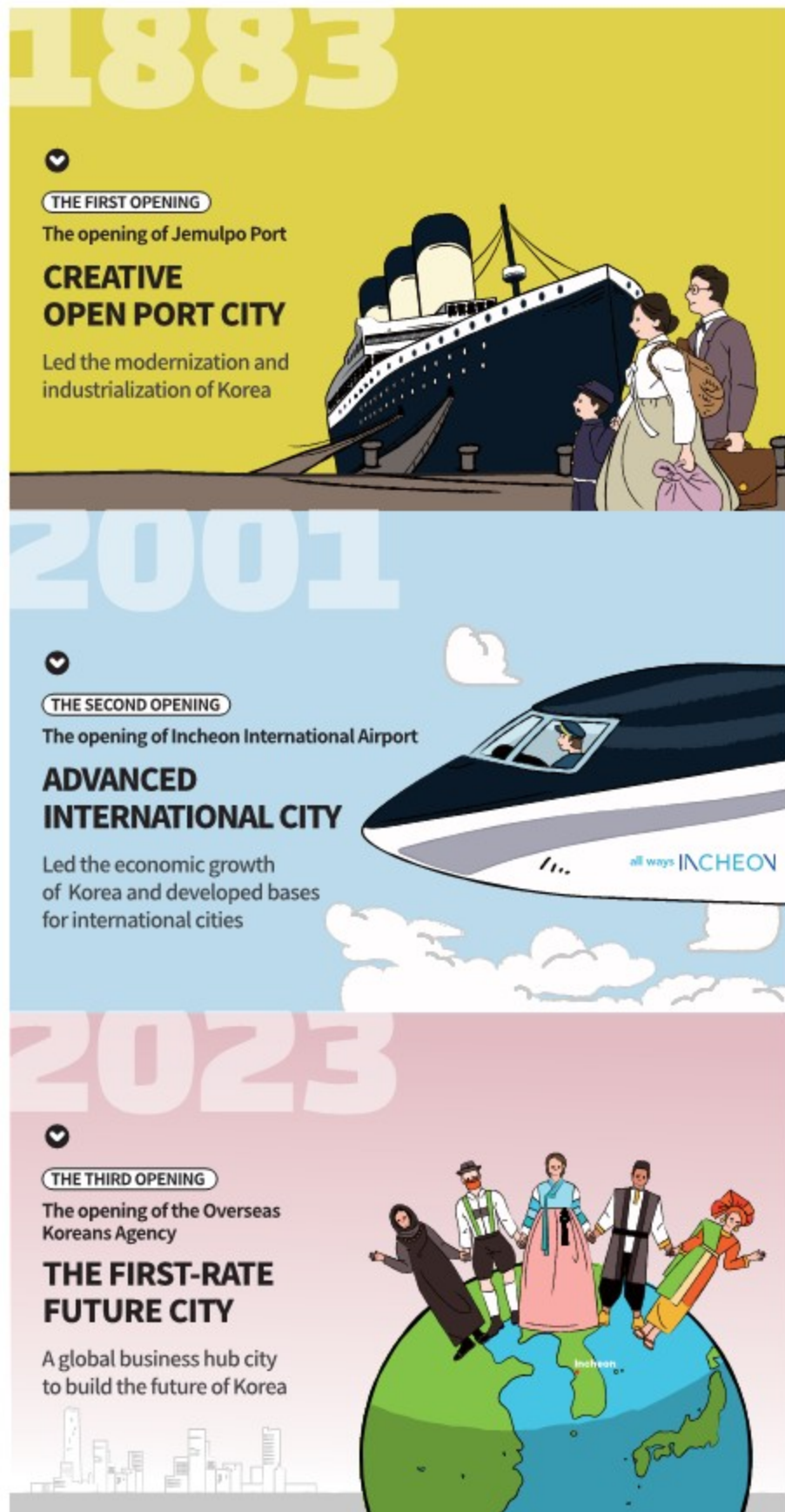


INCHEON

Unlocking
Korea's past,
present,
and future.



INCHEON NOW

All About Incheon

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Lively, dreamy, happy city

08 COVER STORY 2
Happy moments in Incheon

10 FIGURES
What do numbers say

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A new era of K-Pop

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America's 1st Korean lieutenant governor



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The Great Incheon Period Begins

Incheong, Becoming World's Top 10 Cities.
Incheon's imagination becomes reality.

INCHEON NOW

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Marking the Beginning

Incheon took the first step toward modernization and industrialization by accepting new cultures through the opening of its port in 1883. Since then, it has been an international trade center, experiencing societal changes, including politics, economy, and culture. Recently, Incheon expanded its global network with existing international organizations after successfully attracting the Overseas Koreans Agency. The industrial sector has diversified the regional economic framework following continuous successes in attracting advanced industries such as bio and hydrogen. Incheon made the 'first' into the 'best' and 'leaped' by taking on the 'challenge.' In 2024, Incheon began a grand voyage to become one of the world's top ten cities, opening the way to the hearts of people worldwide as a global city.

of the Great Incheon Era

Incheon's Imagination Becomes Reality

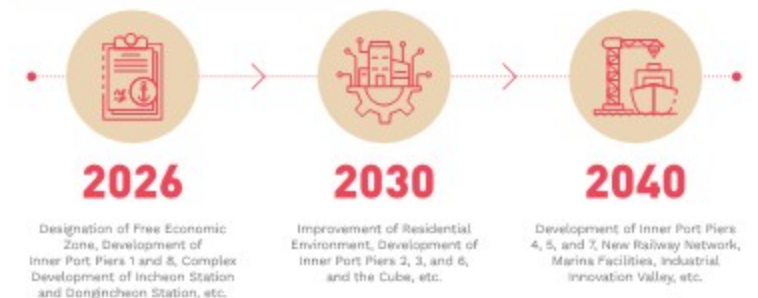
Incheon's future will shine brilliantly by becoming one of the top ten cities in the world. Let's take a look at the current status of the projects promoted to achieve that dream.



JEMULPO RENAISSANCE PROJECT

Jemulpo Renaissance Project focuses on recreating Incheon's inner port and Jung-gu/Dong-gu into a people-centered city where culture, tourism, and industry are integrated. Incheon turned the inner port area into a marine tourism space to break from the image of an old and deteriorating city. Sangsang Platform was created and opened, and the Manseok Detour Overbridge was demolished. The Jemulpo Renaissance is scheduled to proceed in three stages. The first stage includes the designation as a free economic zone, the development of Piers 1 and 8 of the inner port, and the complex development of Incheon Station and Dongincheon Station until 2026. The second stage comprises the development of the inner port Piers 2, 3, and 6 and the Cube by 2030, and the third stage comprises the development of a new railway network, marina facilities, and industrial innovation valley by 2040 to complete the project.

Three Phases of Jemulpo Renaissance Project





FREE ECONOMIC ZONE DESIGNATION PLAN

① New Designation for Southern
Part of Ganghwa Island

Area 18.92km²

Period July 2023–December 2025

Future Plan Apply for a Free Economic
Zone Designation in the second half
of 2024

② Additional Expansion of Yeongjong

Area 65.5km²

Period

First half of 2024–second half of 2026

Future Plan Sign and implement a
service contract for the establishment
of the Strategy for Developing
Undeveloped Sites in Yeongjong Area
in the First half of 2024

2

NEW HONG KONG CITY PROJECT

The New Hong Kong City project will be expanded and renamed. The New Hong Kong City Project was about attracting multinational financial companies to the southern part of Ganghwa Island, Ongjin-gun, and Incheon Port. Incheon recently expanded the scale of the project to additionally attract several overseas companies and Korean merchant companies, including multinational financial companies in Hong Kong. In particular, Incheon is seeking ways to strengthen investment incentives, such as designating Opportunity and Development Zones and Free Economic Zones, so that large-scale investments can be made by making the southern end of Ganghwa Island the project center. In April, Incheon will announce a master plan that includes the New Hong Kong City project plan and explain major initiatives.

3

HUB CITY FOR ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES OF KOREAN MERCHANTS WORLDWIDE

Incheon plans to raise its status as a global city by transforming Incheon, where the Overseas Koreans Agency is located, into the center of the global Korean network, like Hong Kong and Singapore, where the global network of Chinese merchants became the driving force for growth. For this, Incheon opened the 'Overseas Koreans Welcome Center,' a one-stop service provider for overseas Koreans, and created a residential complex exclusively for overseas Koreans to provide convenience. Incheon hopes that this will closely connect Korean networks worldwide centered on Incheon to share various information and experiences. In particular, Incheon has the country's largest free economic zone, international airport and port, and a successful business environment, including the investment environment, legal support, tax benefits, and investment infrastructure.

'FOR STRATEGIES' BASED ON THE KOREAN MERCHANT NETWORK FOR 10 MILLION INCHEON

- ① Creation of a hub city for overseas Koreans (Completed)
- ② Development of the Korean Merchant Business Hub
- ③ Development of Global Korean Network
- ④ Re-creation of diaspora values

4

ATTRACTING VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL EVENTS, INCLUDING 2025 APEC

Incheon engages in various activities to attract top international conferences by utilizing its international event management capabilities and infrastructure. Incheon has led the growth of the MICE industry before anyone else and has the country's first international conference complex. As Korea is confirmed to host the 32nd APEC Summit in 2025, Incheon joined the race to hold the summit. Incheon formed a citizen-wide bid committee to host the APEC Summit in Incheon and established an organic cooperation system with related organizations. In addition, Incheon invited embassy officials from ten member countries to introduce the National Museum of World Writing Systems and Gyeongwonjae, emphasizing that Incheon was the best place for the summit.

THE 32ND APEC SUMMIT IN 2025

When November 2025 (1 week)

Participants Approximately 6,000 from
21 member countries (World leaders and
officials, reporters, etc.)

Main Content APEC Summit, ministers'
meeting, concluding senior officials'
meeting, corporate meeting, etc.

Selection of Host City First half of 2024
(scheduled)



5

INCHEON LANDING OPERATION COMMEMORATION CEREMONY, ELEVATED TO INTERNATIONAL COMMEMORATIVE EVENT

Last year, Incheon expanded the commemoration ceremony for the Incheon Landing Operation. Unlike previous years, which were held rather simply by honoring veterans and commemorating victory, the period and scale of the ceremony were expanded with a reenactment of the Incheon Landing Operation near Palmido Island alongside an international security forum and a parade of war veterans. Most of all, Incheon intends to remember the noble sacrifice made during the Incheon Landing Operation and shed new light on its historical significance so that people can feel the importance of the freedom and peace achieved through it. This year, Incheon plans to organize the Incheon Landing Operation Commemoration Ceremony in various ways and invite the leaders of all Korean War participated countries to make it an 'international commemorative event' for the 75th anniversary in 2025.



INFO

Find More About Incheon Landing Operation

The Memorial Hall for Incheon Landing
Operation

Address 138 Cheongryang-ro, Yeosu-gu, Incheon

Hours 09:00–18:00 (Admission ends at 17:30)

Closed Mondays

Content Planning, process, and meaning
of the Incheon Landing Operation,
exhibition of related relics and materials

Admission Free

Homepage www.landing915.com

Information +82-32-832-0915

INCHEON TOWARD The Happiest City

The growth of a city is connected to the happy life of citizens, which is why Incheon is becoming the happiest city, a good place for anyone to live and stay. Hear the words of many people related to Incheon and find its charms.

INTERVIEW

Global Family in Songdo

REAZUL AHSAN & FARHANA HAQ FAMILY



The most satisfying thing about Songdo, a global city, is 'safety' and 'neighbors,' who are always friendly. Most of all, because the couple's children, Aisha and Ibrahim, spent their childhood in Incheon, it became their hometown. When they first came to Korea, they originally planned to stay for about a year and return. However, the couple is satisfied with their life in Incheon and planning to stay in Incheon for a few more years.



Director of Tourism Marketing, Incheon Tourism Organization

SO YEON-SOO

Various cultures were introduced through Incheon Port in 1883, and the Open Port Area is full of various storytelling elements that boast being the first in Korea in many aspects. In the past, cultural commentators directly explained the meaning of the place, but today, with 'Incheon EZ (app),' Kim Koo (independence patriot) will appear on your mobile phone and explain the history, which makes the visit to the Open Port Area more charming.

Student of George Mason University Korea (Foreign Languages, Korean Concentration)

JALEAH BROWNEE



I often spend time at Triple Street, a complex cultural shopping mall in Songdo International City. I am studying composition because I can feel people's fashion and K-POP with all five senses and get musical inspiration. In particular, the Entertainment Plaza, where cultural and artistic performances are held, and the Sky Observatory, where you can enjoy the beautiful view of Songdo, outline the charm of Triple Street.



Student of SUNY Korea FIT (Fashion Business Management Major)

JENNIFER CHRISTIANA

You can feel the culture and peace of nature at the same time at Soraepo Port. The waves and wind of the calm sea bring peace to me, and the traditional fish market is full of interesting things. I recommend a visit to the Sorae History Museum, where you can learn about the history and growth of this place.



Student of George Mason University in Korea (Computer Game Design Major)

SKORB RAY LAMAR

I usually go to Central Park and enjoy the scenery when the weather is nice. There, I enjoy delicious coffee or cake at a cafe with a waterside view and take a rest. I think living near the sea is a true blessing. I feel happy to live in Songdo and enjoy all these things.

from Georgia, Hambak Village 'KIM-cheese' owner

KIM IRINA



I came to Korea for the rehabilitation of my son, who was involved in a car accident five years ago. Korean medical staff have excellent skills and are kind, making patients and their families feel secure. I will stay in Incheon, have new dreams, and make them come true.

1st
HAPPY CITY
INCHEON

THE WORLD'S BEST CITY WITH HAPPY CITIZENS

Incheon is advancing quickly but robustly. Citizens live comfortably and freely follow their dreams in it. Take a look at the brilliant achievements that Incheon has made in figures.



3MILLION CITIZENS

100 TRILLION ERA

2ND ECONOMIC CITY

ECONOMIC BASE

ECONOMIC SCALE

(2021) **98.7** trillion won
(2022) **104.5** trillion won



Incheon's gross regional domestic product (GRDP) in 2022 increased by 5.8 trillion won compared to 2021. As the GRPD economic growth rate exceeded **100 trillion won**, it came second in economic scale among metropolitan cities in Korea. (GRPD Rank: Seoul > Incheon > Busan > Ulsan > Daegu)

SCALE OF ADDED VALUES BY INDUSTRY

Service Industry
Increased from 55.3 trillion won → **60.2** trillion won

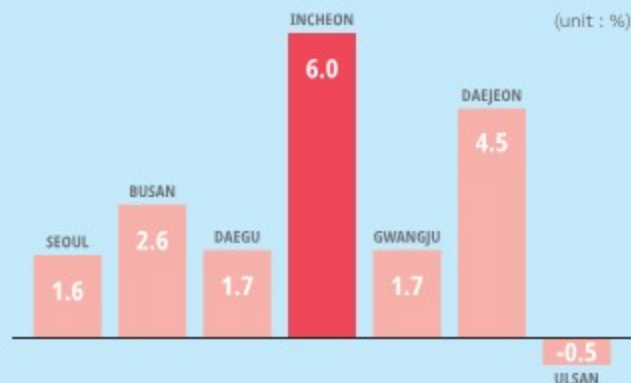
Manufacturing Industry
Increased from 23.7 trillion won → **25.6** trillion won

Construction Industry
Increased from 7.5 trillion won → **8.4** trillion won

ACTUAL ECONOMIC GROWTH

Source

National Statistics Office, (Provisional) Announcement of Local Income in 2022
Incheon recorded a 6.0% actual economic growth rate and boasts the highest quantitative growth rate among the seven metropolitan cities.



POPULATION GROWTH

EXCEEDING 3 MILLION IN POPULATION

Incheon reached **3 million in population**, following Seoul and Busan among metropolitan cities, and is the only one with an increasing population. *Daegu's population increased from the previous year due to the incorporation of 'Gunwi County of Gyeongsangbuk-do' into Daegu'



Source

Demographics of Registered Residents
- Population Registered as Residents : 3,000,454
- Including Foreigners: 3,081,470 (Foreign Population : 81,016)

URBAN SAFETY

TRAFFIC CULTURE INDEX

The traffic culture index is determined by investigating and analyzing 11 items in three sectors: driving forms, traffic safety, and traffic environment, and quantifying them on a maximum of 100 points.

(2022) **82.47**
(National Index: 79.69)

(2023) **82.66**points
(National Index: 79.92)

*Top among metropolitan cities

Source

Korea Transportation Safety Authority



REGIONAL SAFETY INDEX

This information is the result of objectively quantifying the safety capabilities of each local government in six areas into five levels using various safety-related statistics.

※ Closer to Grade 1 means relatively safe within the same administrative district.

(2022)
Traffic accident grade **2**
fire grade **2** ↑
crime grade **2** ↑
life safety grade **5**
suicide grade **2** ↑
infectious disease grade **3** ↑

* Grade 2 among metropolitan cities, and grade 4 among cities and provinces nationwide

Source

Ministry of Public Administration and Security

CRIME ARREST RATE

- Top 5 Crimes: **84%**
(National Average: 76.6%)

* 3rd in the Country

- Cyber Fraud:
1,343 cases → **1,456** cases

* 8.4% increase compared to the same period last year



Source

Incheon Metropolitan Police Agency

NEW ERA OF K-POP LAUNCHED AT YEONGJONGDO ISLAND



OPENING OF 'KOREA'S FIRST ARENA THEATER'



A beautiful miracle on the mudflat. Yeongjong International City, which has achieved the most dynamic development in Korea after numerous challenges, is expected to hit another 'Super Jackpot.' The city heralded a 'new era of K-pop' by opening a best-ever resort with Korea's first arena performance hall (ARENA). We rushed to the place at once after hearing that fans from around the world were setting Yeongjongdo Island on fire, and the dazzling future of K-pop was already unfolding.

'Fantastic Theater' with Overwhelming Sound and Immersion

On December 2, Yeongjongdo Island in Incheon drew the attention of many K-pop fans. This is because '2023 MMA,' the online music platform Melon's year-end awards ceremony, was held as the first event after the opening of Korea's first arena theater, Inspire Arena, in Yeongjongdo Island.

Arena refers to a large professional theater equipped with specialized music facilities. Korea's first arena was unveiled as one of the 'Inspire Entertainment Resort' facilities four years after its construction began in 2019. It can accommodate up to 15,000 people.

The theater focuses on live performances and has state-of-the-art stage facilities and top-notch sound equipment. The distance between the stage and the audience is 70m, more than 10% closer than other theaters, letting the audience vividly share the concert's excitement. In addition, the second to fourth floors are designed with a large level difference in audience seating to provide fans with the full view of the artist at a glance from any seat.

Inspire Entertainment Resort

Address 127 Gonghangmunhwa-ro, Jung-gu, Incheon

Major Facilities Hotel, digital entertainment street (Aurora), performance hall (Arena), water park (Splash Bay), MICE facilities, retail mall (F&B, shopping, and entertainment)

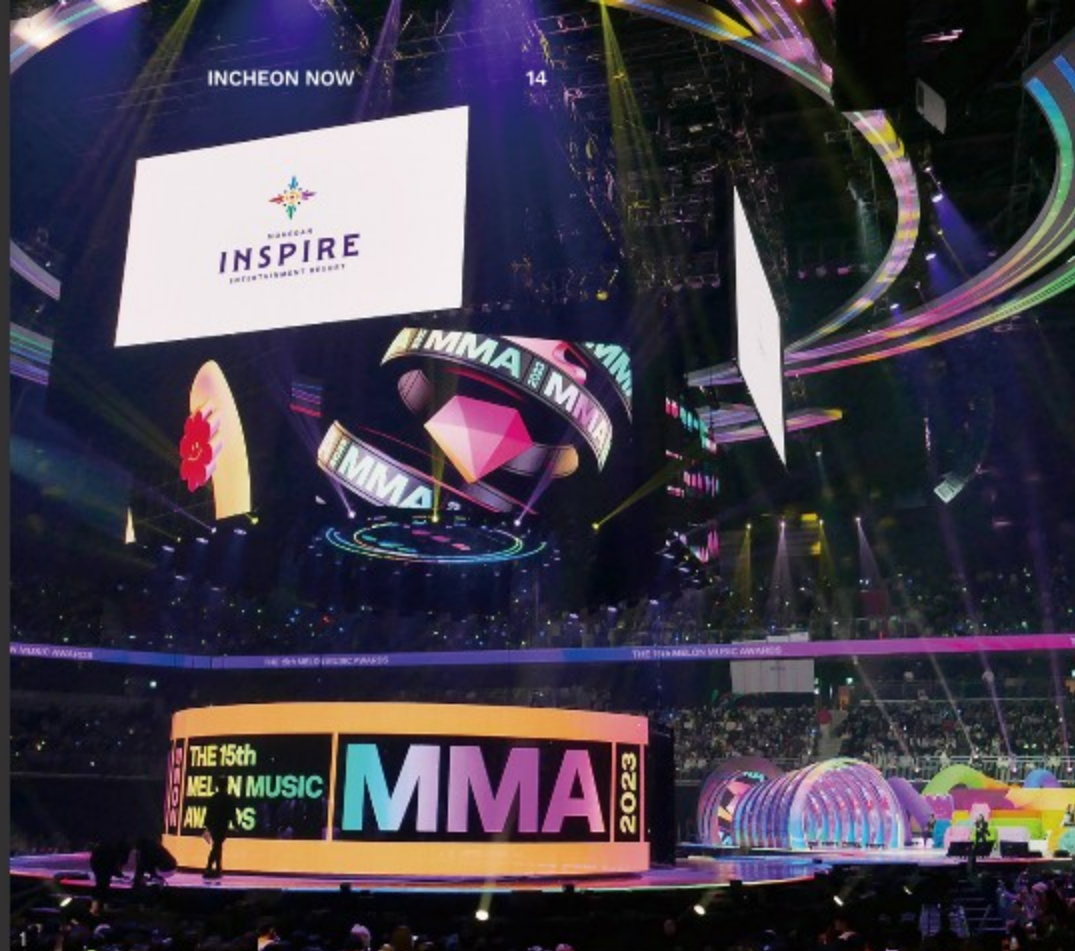
Homepage +82-32-580-9000



Yeongjongdo Island as a Mecca for 'K-pop Content'

The 'opening of Korea's first arena' was naturally followed by pouring rental inquiries. Large concerts and events are lining up from the first month, including Taemin's and TVXQ!'s concerts and SBS Gayo Daejeon. It seems clear that Yeongjong International City, connected to over 190 cities worldwide, will turn into a 'destination' rather than a 'stopover' through the immense K-pop concerts.

Korea's first and best arena, a theater where even the singer's breath reaches the audience's hearts, that embraces the largest entertainment resort in Northeast Asia, stands supreme in Incheon today. Like the sun rising brightly on the morning of the New Year, Yeongjongdo Island spryly opened the 'new era of K-pop.'



- 1 — "2023 MMA," held at "Inspire Arena," Korea's first arena theater, on December 2.
2 — LED media art screens installed to a ceiling 25m above ground



'Super Jackpot' Worth 167 Trillion Won Over 30 Years

Mohegan Inspire Entertainment Resort is a long-term project that will be completed in 2046 in four phases. Currently, about one-tenth of the total 4.36 million m² (1.32 million pyeong) sites have been developed. The company expects a production effect of approximately 167 trillion won and an added value of 60 trillion won over the next 30 years.

With the resort's opening, Incheon envisions a promising future in which Yeongjongdo Island leaps forward as 'Asia's representative tourist destination.' By leveraging Mohegan's know-how and Yeongjongdo Island's accessibility to a global hub airport, it is expected that it can become a world-class casino city like Singapore and Macau. Today, Jeju and Incheon are the only cities with two or more integrated casino resorts. Yeongjong International City will soon become a mecca for the casino resort cluster.

INSPIRE Entertainment Resort

[Learn more](#)

INSPIRE ENTERTAINMENT RESORT



ROTUNDA

The 'Rotunda,' a substantial circular hall with sparkling chandeliers dancing, catches the eye at the end of the road where a fantastic art show is performed. Enjoy a performance at Korea's first 'Inspire Arena' after enjoying the hospitality of the super-luxurious resort.



FOOD AND BEVERAGE AREA

With the concept of a 'global gourmet tour without a passport,' ten directly managed restaurants and various dining brands will be established. 'Michael Jordan Steakhouse,' the first to open in Eurasia, has already gone viral.



AURORA

'Aurora,' a 150m long and 25m high digital entertainment street, boasts an overwhelming scale that cannot be captured at a glance. It is a collaboration with Hyundai Futurenet, which created the Arte Museum.



HOTEL ROOMS

There are plenty of things to enjoy as a hotel, composed of three buildings and a casino under the same roof. The hotel operates 1,275 rooms with the concept of forest, sea, and sun. In addition, a foreigner-only casino will open within the year.



SPLASH BAY

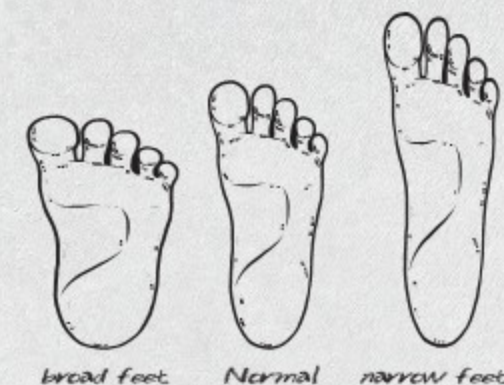
'Splash Bay,' an indoor water park where it is summer all year round, is covered with a glass dome that offers a blue sky. In addition to various attractions, visitors can also enjoy special activities such as floating yoga and watching movies underwater.

Byword for Comfortable Shoes,
NEW BALANCE

Some people are keen on comfort when it comes to shoes. One of the popular brands among such people is 'NEW BALANCE'. This brand, created to 'bring a new balance to unbalanced feet,' has produced 'comfortable shoes' by focusing on the balance of the feet from its birth to today.

Bring a New Balance to Unbalanced Feet

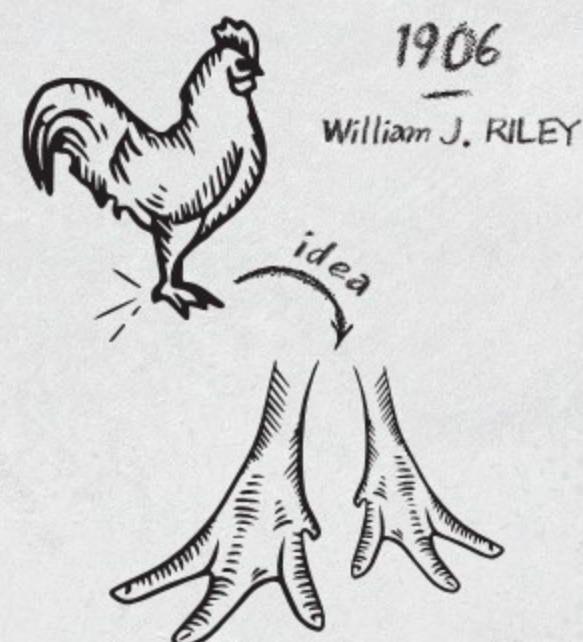
New Balance has a history of well over 100 years and is still at the center of trends. The core of unwavering brand strength is the competitiveness of its products. New Balance, established in 1906 in Boston, Massachusetts, USA, has been making sneakers, focusing on 'comfortable shoes' from the beginning. New Balance started from the idea of William J. Riley, a 33-year-old British man. He was researching 'comfortable shoes' for people with foot lesions or who worked mostly standing, such as police officers, firefighters, and postal workers, feeling much strain on their feet. He invented 'Arch Support,' an insole with support. The idea for arch support, which maintains the curve of the soles of the feet and ensures comfortable balance even while standing, came from chickens running in his yard. The chicken maintained perfect balance with only three toes. Inspired by this, William Riley introduced the first 'Flexible Arch Support,' which supports key points of the foot in a triangular structure modeled after the three toes of the chicken. Using this, 'New Balance Arch,' the origin of New Balance, was developed.



More Comfortable and Better-fitting Shoes

There is one philosophy that New Balance has held fast to until this day, which is to make shoes that even people with foot discomfort can wear comfortably. For a long time, New Balance has put considerable effort into technological development. For this, William Riley initially considered handmade shoes. However, hand work inevitably led to high costs to increase production. William Riley focused on the width of the shoes to cope with the various foot shapes of people while establishing standardized production. It reflected not only the vertical length of the shoe but also the horizontal width of the foot, including the ball of the foot, to enhance comfort further. New Balance's first running shoes, released in 1938, became a stepping stone for the brand's growth. The first person to wear these running shoes, made of lightweight kangaroo leather, was track-and-field athlete Dan McBride. Attention was drawn to him when he participated in a competition held in Massachusetts wearing New Balance running shoes. Orders for different types of sports shoes started coming into New Balance.

In 1960, New Balance released the 'Trackster,' which applied a wave pattern on the bottom along with arch support for the first time in the world. Another popularity factor was that customers could choose a size considering the width of the feet. As famous athletes preferred Tracksters, New Balance's brand awareness increased.



Introduction of the N Logo and Technological Innovation

The 'N' logo, distinguishing New Balance, was first introduced in 1975. The 320 model was New Balance's first product to apply the N logo. Innovations continued in terms of design and also functionality. Due to their ability to cope with various foot widths and cushion effects, the comfort is doubled. Indeed, these running shoes were selected as the 'No. 1 Running Shoes' in the October 1967 edition of <Runners World>. In 1975, Tom Fleming won the 1975 New York Marathon in these shoes. In 2010, the 320 model was identically reproduced and presented as retro sneakers.

New Balance, solidifying brand awareness, focused on continuous research and development in the 1980s. Through this, the 990 model, the first motion-control running shoe, was released in 1982. The 990 model, which is flexible and stable, means '990 points out of 1000 points.' Even though it was released at a high price of \$100 at the time, it received enthusiastic consumer support.

After that, New Balance continued to upgrade its products and introduced follow-up models. Through this, the 991, 992, and 993 models were re-released in the 2000s. Even today, the '99X' line is considered a 'classic' product representing New Balance's identity.



Running around Incheon in New Balance

Many enthusiastic runners choose New Balance's running shoes. Quite a few people show affection for the brand in marathons and their passion for running. In response, New Balance carried out a unique marketing campaign based on motivation for running. New Balance opened a pub named 'THE RUNWAY' on Charing Cross Road in London, which lets people purchase beer based on the distance they ran instead of money through a partnership with a fitness app.

On March 30, 2024, New Balance hosts the '2024 Run your way HALF RACE in INCHEON,' a half marathon in Incheon. The course starts from Arts Center Incheon, passes through Landmark City, Jack Nicklaus GC Korea, Amkor Technology Korea (second return), Incheon National University (third return), then passes through Jack Nicklaus GC Korea and returns to Arts Center Incheon. Competitions held by New Balance are gaining popularity and are closed on a first-come, first-served basis every time applications open. New Balance continues communicating with consumers by expanding the joy of 'running' in various ways.



'2024 Run your way HALF RACE in INCHEON' Schedule

Schedule	Division	Time	Details
Friday, March 29	Set-up	8:00~18:00	Set up supplies and facilities at the venue
	Training	10:00~16:00	Train staff in advance
Saturday, March 30	Opening	7:00	Open the venue and guide participants
	Announcement of Opening	8:40~8:50	Announcement for participants to line up and on the 20K race
	Warm-up Program	8:50~9:00	Warm up and stretch before starting, and line up at the starting line
	Race Start	9:00	Start the race by participant groups
	Finish	10:30~11:30	End of race
	Booth Event	11:30~13:00	Operation of brand booths and event booths
	Ending	13:00	Closing of venue



120 Years Since the First Emigration,

FIRST 'KOREAN LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR' IN THE USA



INTERVIEWEE

Sylvia Jung Luke
(Chang Eun-jung)
Lieutenant Governor of Hawaii

실비아 장 루크(장은정)
하와이주 부지사



A Korean lieutenant governor was elected in the 2022 U.S. midterm elections. It is the first time in the 120-year history of Korean immigration to Hawaii. The election of Lieutenant Governor Sylvia Jung Luke was another success story of Korean immigrants, making the hearts of Koreans overseas beat. With the first step of the ancestors who departed from Jemulpo Port to Honolulu, Hawaii on December 22, 1902, the history of the Korean people is booming in the international community today.

Q

Thank you very much for granting an interview with <Incheon Now>, the English newsletter of Incheon. Ms. Lieutenant Governor. Could you tell us when and why your family emigrated to the United States?

A

I was born in Seoul, then my family immigrated to Hawaii in 1977 when I was 9 years old. My father, who ran an import and export business, frequently traveled to Hawaii, which eventually became our new home. Since then, I've been lucky to be a part of Hawaii's vibrant Korean community and honored to serve as the highest-ranking Korean-American official in the United States.

Q

Although belated, congratulations on winning the election for the Lieutenant Governor of Hawaii. Could you tell us how you felt when you were elected?

A

Having served in the Hawaii State Legislature for 24 years, public service and caring for others is very important to me. I was deeply grateful, happy, and honored that the people of Hawaii entrusted me to continue serving our state as Lieutenant Governor.

Q

How did you enter the political arena? Could there be a particular role or meaning for an immigrant in the political world?

A

During my time at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, I served as one of the few female student body presidents. This experience showed me the power of collective action and the impact of people coming together to solve problems and advocate for important issues.

As an immigrant, my background is a strong source of motivation for my commitment to public service. From a young age, witnessing my mother's commitment to caring for others at our church and within the Korean community deeply influenced my values. This sense of compassion and community support continues to drive my work in politics today.



A talk between Lieutenant Governor of Hawaii Sylvia J. Luke and Incheon Mayor Yoo Jeong-bok

Q
A

After winning the election, you have been doing many things as the Lieutenant Governor. Could you tell us the most memorable moment or an anecdote where you felt great?

One of my top priorities as Lieutenant Governor is ensuring universal access to preschool for all of Hawaii's 3- and 4-year-olds. It's so important we prepare our children for their futures while supporting working families. In just one year, we opened 13 new public preschool classrooms across Hawaii. It was truly surreal to see the smiling faces of the young students, excited to learn and grow with their new friends. They are why I love public service and serving our state.

RELATIONSHIP WITH INCHEON

Q
A

Hawaii is the first place that Koreans emigrated to. Koreans must have written a rich history. Could you tell us about the distinctive characteristics of the 'Korean Society in Hawaii,' including its activities (development, scale) or unique culture?

The arrival of the first Korean immigrants marked the beginning of a vibrant Korean community in Hawaii. Korean values of collectivism and community support intertwine seamlessly with Hawaii's spirit of Aloha (love, kindness, compassion). When my family immigrated from Seoul, it was the close-knit Korean community here in Hawaii that supported us as we established our new lives.

Hawaii's Korean community maintains strong ties with the Republic of Korea, actively celebrating Korean culture throughout our islands. The Hawaii State Legislature has even passed a resolution designating every November 22 as Kimchi Day. The unique connection between Incheon and Hawaii is also an important part of our Korean community. Hawaii embraces Korean culture through food, entertainment, and cross-cultural exchanges with the Republic of Korea.

Q
A

What is Incheon to Korean immigrants?

For Koreans in Hawaii, Incheon is very special. Over 121 years ago, the first 102 immigrants arrived on the coasts of Oahu from Incheon. These Korean pioneers made tremendous sacrifices. They worked hard as laborers in the sugarcane fields and sent part of their earnings back to Korea. Their goal was not only to support their families but also to support education, contributing to the establishment of Inha University — a name derived from "Incheon" and "Hawaii."

Incheon will forever remain a cherished place for Koreans abroad, symbolizing our homeland and the rich history of Korean immigration. This connection is symbolic, as Incheon and Hawaii continue to strengthen our sister-state relationship.



Unveiling of the Marker Stone at Pier 7 of Honolulu Port in celebration of the 120th anniversary of the emigration of Koreans to Hawaii

Q
A

Incheon has successfully established the Overseas Koreans Agency. You also fully supported its establishment in Incheon. What kinds of support would it need in the future?

The establishment of the Overseas Koreans Agency in Incheon reflects the city's exceptional standing as a global center for culture and innovation.

As a Korean immigrant, I appreciate Mayor Yoo Jeong-bok and the Incheon government's unwavering commitment to safeguarding and fostering Korean heritage beyond borders. We must maintain our support for cross-cultural exchanges and initiatives that bring Koreans abroad to Incheon.

I look forward to visiting Incheon soon and continuing the legacy of friendship and collaboration between our states.



Commemoration ceremony and congratulatory performance for the 120th anniversary of the emigration of Koreans to Hawaii

WORDS OF SUPPORT AND TO READERS

Q
A

Please tell us how you remember Korea and special (good) memories about Korea you heard from your parent's generation.

My fondest memories of Korea is walking home from school on cobblestone roads as my friends and I stopped to eat sugar candies. Korea has developed into a thriving economy; and development and innovation has supported its exponential growth. Korea is now so different from when I was there as a child. I continue to be amazed and proud of how far the country has strengthened to care for its people.

Q
A

Please give a few words to Incheon citizens and overseas Koreans visiting Incheon.

To the citizens of Incheon, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude for remaining a beacon for Koreans abroad, a place we can always call home. The bond between Incheon and Hawaii is deeply meaningful to me, and we welcome you to Hawaii with open arms.

February's Scenery

INCHEON IN PHOTOS

QUIETLY BREATHING SEA PLAIN, MUFLAT

• INFO •

WHAT IS CHILMYEONCHO?

It has been said that the name chilmyeoncho (seven-face herb) was given because the leaves and stems changed color seven times while changing from light green to red. Another story is that it is because the six-sided fruit has different colors on each side, and the stems and leaves are red.

Habitat Mudflats by the coast

Life Form Annual herb

Size 10-50cm

Shape The leaves are linear with sharp ends and the plant has many branches at the top.



Address

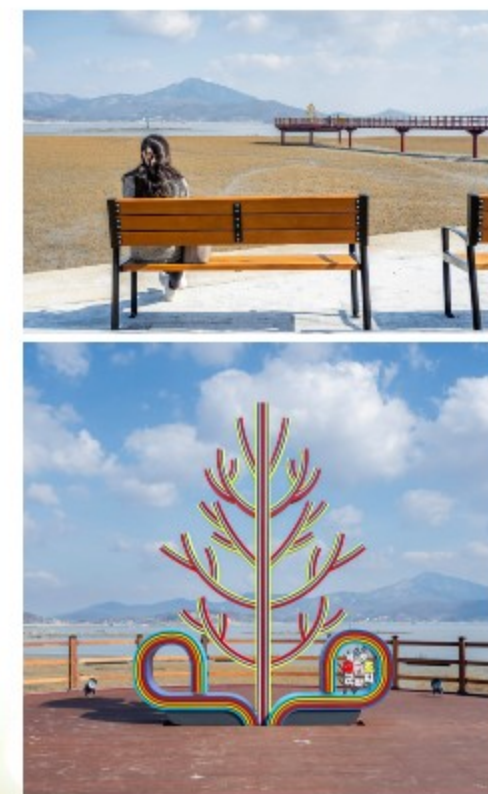
San 1-2 Maeum-ri,
Samsan-myeon,
Ganghwa-gun, Incheon

Chilmyeoncho Coastal Trail in Seongmodo Island, Ganghwa

When the sea moves far away, it reveals the land under it, a mudflat, a vast treasure trove of life. Incheon's mudflats account for 29.3% of the total mudflats in Korea, making it the second-largest mudflat region after Jeollanam-do. Incheon's mudflats boast a large scale and outstanding ecological value. Among them, the Seongmodo mudflat in Ganghwa is famous for its colony of chilmyeoncho (East Asian seepweed), one of the halophytes.



Recently, the Chilmyeoncho Coastal Trail opened in Seongmodo Island of Ganghwa. When you take a slow walk on the wooden walkway, where you can observe the vast 'mudflat' and 'chilmyeoncho' (East Asian seepweed) more closely, you can enjoy various sceneries of the mudflat. Tidal channels spread across the gray land. A tidal channel is a long and narrow waterway created by seawater flow. It winds and becomes entangled here and there, creating unique patterns all over the mudflat. Myriads of holes on the mudflat are the breathing pores of marine life living there. You can experience the romance of the West Sea in various ways, combining the salty scent of the sea, the cool breeze, and the rich black land. Another charm of the mudflat is the 'fantastic harmony' created by the gray mudflats and the chilmyeoncho that has turned deep pink. Chilmyeoncho is green in spring, turns red in fall, and gradually purple. For this, it is also called the maple of the sea. If you want to enjoy this scenery, visit between September and mid-October.



Carbon Neutrality

Are the Future Generations Doomed?



By. Kyra Rickard

(Fashion Institute of Technology
Fashion Business Management)



Commitment to achieving
carbon neutrality by

2050



Generation Z's Thoughts
on Climate Change

76%

As more and more companies are producing CO₂ emissions into the earth's atmosphere, it is now more important than ever to move towards a carbon-neutral future. What is carbon neutrality? According to the planA.earth "Carbon neutral means that any CO₂ released into the atmosphere from a company's activities is balanced by an equivalent amount being removed". This is important as CO₂ is a greenhouse gas that traps heat in the environment resulting in global warming. Of course, this problem has the biggest impact on the younger generations. The good news is countries such as South Korea, and continents such as Europe pledge to commit to carbon neutrality by 2050.

What is Generation Z's opinion on climate change? According to a Pew Research Report, 76% of Gen Zers consider climate change one of their biggest concerns regarding the future. The next question is what steps can people take to promote a carbon-neutral future? The answer is simple. Purchase from companies that pledge to a carbon-neutral future. Some of these companies include Apple, Starbucks, Ikea, and Ford. As climate change is something for the youth to be concerned about, more emphasis is placed on the matter, and luckily, laws are being established to make carbon neutrality a goal by 2050. More than 140 countries have planned to go carbon neutral by 2050. Priorly mentioned South Korea and Europe have pledged to this commitment. How are they planning on achieving this? One strategy South Korea plans on using is expanding public transportation infrastructure and promoting the use of electric vehicles. As for Europe one of their many strategies consists of Phasing out coal-fired power plants and transitioning to cleaner energy sources.

To conclude, CO₂ emissions create global warming by trapping heat in the earth's atmosphere. However, practicing carbon neutrality removes equal amounts of CO₂ from the atmosphere. Fortunately, companies as well as countries and continents have pledged to work on their carbon footprint. Some of these companies, countries, and continents include Apple, Ikea, Ford, South Korea, and Europe. As Generation Z seems to fear global warming; there is hope for the future due to the changes being made. We can all do our part to make a difference in the amount of CO₂ being emitted into the atmosphere and making the earth a healthier place for future generations.

SOURCES

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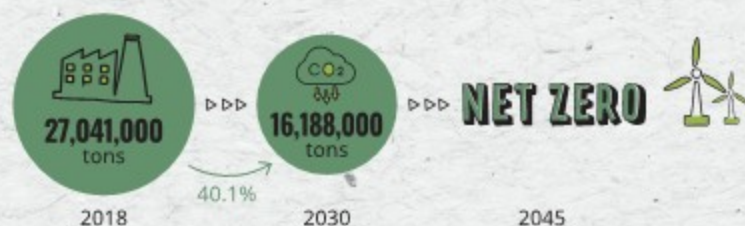
Incheon, a leading global climate city

Talking about the '2045 Carbon Neutrality Strategy'

Incheon is taking the lead in achieving carbon neutrality by 2045. As the specific roadmap is established, a briefing session on the '2045 Incheon Carbon Neutrality Strategy (Roadmap)' was held in the conference room of Incheon City Hall on November 20 last year. We looked at Incheon's journey toward '2045 Carbon Neutrality' as it aims to become a world-class city that leads carbon neutrality.

2045 Incheon Metropolitan City carbon neutrality promotion strategy

Carbon Neutrality Goal



Four Major Policy Directions & 15 Major Tasks

Create a low-carbon economic ecosystem

- Accelerate energy transition
- Expand energy self-sufficient buildings
- Foster new climate industries
- Expand eco-friendly transportation

Revitalize the global climate cooperation system

- Create a climate cluster
- Climate International City/International Organization Leader
- Build a global network

Expand customized citizen climate action

- Establish governance between carbon-neutral entities
- Intensify training for future generations
- Expand the green practice movement
- Promote Climate Change Living Lab

Strengthen safe climate crisis adaptation

- Expand carbon sinks
- Strengthen the virtuous cycle of resources
- Realize a fair transition
- Realize customized climate welfare



Five Years Earlier than the National Goal, 2045 Incheon Carbon Neutrality Strategy

It is not by 2050 but by 2045. Incheon set a carbon neutrality goal five years ahead of the national goal and established various action plans and a strategy to implement it. The '2045 Incheon Carbon Neutrality Strategy (Roadmap)' established in 2022 is a practical greenhouse gas reduction blueprint. In April 2023, we reflected the government's national basic plan in the roadmap and focused on examining the implementation of actual reductions by sector.

The '2045 Incheon City Carbon Neutrality Strategy (Roadmap),' which has the vision of 'Realizing carbon neutrality by 2045 and making Incheon a world-class city,' contains four major policy directions and 15 major tasks and a greenhouse gas reduction plan for 154 tasks in seven sectors. Among them, the carbon neutrality strategy for seven sectors, including power generation, industry, buildings, transportation, waste, agriculture and livestock, and sinks, is notable.

First, in the 'power generation sector,' which accounts for approximately 58% of local greenhouse gas emissions, coal power generation will be phased out, and fossil fuels will be converted to carbon-free fuels. In the 'industrial sector,' a smart green industrial complex will be created, and eco-friendly fuel conversion and carbon capture, utilization, and storage (CCUS) technology will be introduced. In the 'building sector,' Incheon plans to expand zero-energy buildings (ZEB) and green remodeling. In the 'transportation sector,' Incheon plans to turn to a zero-emission transportation system such as hydrogen buses and electric vehicles. In the 'waste sector,' various greenhouse gas reduction plans were established, including waste reduction, upcycling, and regulation of disposable products. In the 'sink sector,' Incheon

focuses on creating urban forests, expanding urban gardens, creating marine forests, and conserving Incheon's mudflats, which account for about 30% of the nation's mudflats.

Carbon Neutrality by 2045, Incheon Takes Specific Actions

Currently, a project to build the 'GCF Complex,' which will integrate 15 international organizations, including the Green Climate Fund (GCF), is underway in Songdo International City. This is where the GCF headquarters, international organs and organizations, and research institutes related to climate technology, the environment, and the financial industry are located.

From August 28 to September 1, 2023, the '2023 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Adaptation Week' was held at Songdo Convensia in Incheon, an opportunity to discuss and share climate crisis adaptation measures and implementation experiences from around the world. Various events were held at the venue, including a climate change adaptation vision forum, a green Incheon tour, and a corporate adaptation technology exhibition. On November 6 of the same year, the 10th International Climate Finance and Industry Conference was held under the theme 'Carbon Neutral Governance for Global Cooperation.' As described, Incheon is faithfully fulfilling its role as a focal point of global cooperation in response to carbon neutrality. These activities will become a stepping stone toward achieving carbon neutrality in Incheon by 2045.





AN ARTWORK CREATED BY SHOOTING THREADS



One-day classes are gaining popularity, perfect for modern people who find it difficult to spare time for a long period or regularly. For it is a one-time event lasting a few hours a day, it is also suitable for those staying for a short time or traveling.

Incheon has various workshops that offer one-day classes.

This edition of Incheon Now introduces the 'Tufting' one-day class where you can feel the soft texture and buoyancy by hand, an experience in Incheon that suits your taste.

REFRESHING FEELING FELT WITH THREADS

You shoot a gun loaded with threads and create a fluffy rug. Tufting comes from the word 'Tuft,' meaning a tightly bound bundle of grass or hair, and refers to a textile craft that uses a tufting gun to shoot multiple bundles of thread from the back of the fabric. Recently, tufting works have been introduced on television and social media, receiving a positive response as an unusual hobby.

Tufting is the most dynamic among workshop experiences but is too static and delicate to be called a sport. When you look at the surface getting filled with threads along lilting sounds and movements, you feel a strange sense of pleasure. This unique atmosphere captured the hearts of many people. Most of all, it is said that it blows away stress when you concentrate deeply on work. In addition, because the work is done from the back of the fabric, slightly crooked or deviating lines are not noticeable. This is why even beginners and people who are not good at making art can enjoy the experience with fun and confidence.





LOAD THREADS OF VARIOUS COLORS AND SHOOT

When you enter the workshop, you will see three work tables. Colorful threads are lined up along the window, and a tufting gun hangs on one side. On the table, there is the fabric with the design to work on. In front of the design, the instructor will explain how the tufting gun works, how to use it, and the work order. After that, you will practice on the space next to the design, getting used to the gun by making various forms, such as horizontal, vertical, and curved lines.

After practicing enough, it is time to create art. Choose the thread of the color you want, connect it to the hook next to the frame and the gun, and fill in the surface by shooting. The gun is about 1kg, so it is important to hold it without losing the grip. Since hair can get tangled or caught in the thread, they provide hair ties in the workshop. Also, be careful not to get stabbed by the sharp parts like the needle and scissor blades on the front of the gun.

Once much of the work is completed, the instructor checks the thread density. This is because if the gap between threads is wide, it becomes sparse; if it is narrow, it becomes tough. When you feel a soft and dense texture, you can move on to the next step.

You apply liquid latex, secure the thread tightly so it does not fall out, and then dry it properly with a hair dryer. After that, the fabric is cut, the area that is not part of the work is trimmed, and a finishing fabric is added. Lastly, you use scissors and clippers to trim the thread line to make it look clear.



MINI INTERVIEW



Shakerra Bartley
with Kisura King

Witnessing the design come to life, piece by piece, was a rewarding experience that highlighted the beauty of tufting and the joy of having made something with my own hands. This tufting class is the perfect spot to unwind, learn a new skill, and maybe even create something awesome. My friend and I would go back if given the opportunity. It was fun going back and forth with each other over the process to see each other's progress and laugh about the mistakes we made along the way. Tufting is an amazing activity to do with friends and I think it would be great to do with a larger group. I look forward to tufting again and cannot wait!

SPACE TO CREATE MY ART

'Orosi' is a tufting studio located in Namdong-gu, Incheon. Tufting works are placed throughout the cozy space. It is exciting to look at everything from rugs with scenes from cartoons to mirrors, flower pot covers, and mini dolls. On one side of the studio, spools of various colored threads are placed along a shelf, and they look like a large palette of paints.

Works that can be created in a one-day class at Orosi include basic rugs, mini rugs, and mirrors. The advantage of tufting is that it can freely create any shape. Since they give enough time depending on the size of the work, you can take time to complete your work even when you are clumsy. Also, they give everything you need, such as fabric (bubble paper) to shoot the thread, a frame to secure the fabric, thread, and a tufting gun. There is just one thing you need to prepare, a design for your work. They also help you with the design, so all you need to do is submit your sketch at least two days before your visit.

INFO

Orosi



📍 1F, 13-1 Munhwaseo-ro
28beon-gil, Namdong-gu,
Incheon
🕒 10:00 to 19:00 every day
☎ +82-507-1334-5895





① Alcohols Showing the Characteristics of Incheon

STORY OF INCHEON IN A CUP

Incheon produces attractive alcoholic beverages from the latest beers and traditional makgeolli. With alcoholic beverages that are only available in Incheon, one cup after another, you will be drunk on their taste and flavor in no time.

• GAEHANGNO LAGER •

It is a craft beer created through the Gaehangno Project. Brewed cleanly, it is characterized by a refreshing feeling with a grain scent when kept inside the mouth and a subtle herb flavor from the hop when going down the throat. It is only available to those visiting Incheon, such as restaurants, pubs, and bars.



• SAMYANGCHUN •

Samyangchun received attention after being selected as the official wine for toast for the Incheon Night during the Sixth World Forum of the Organization for Economic Cooperation & Development (OECD). It is a premium alcoholic beverage brewed three times, as suggested by its name and aged 70 to 100 days, offering a clean aftertaste, unlike ordinary grain wine.



• SOSEONGJU •

In 1990, Incheon Takju released the nation's first rice makgeolli. Soseongju, the name of the wine, was named after Soseong Prefecture, the old name of Incheon given in the reign of King Gyeongdeok of Silla. It gives off a savory scent, has an easy body, and is smooth on the throat.

Delivering the latest major news from Incheon INCHEON NEWS

Unveiling of a Monument Celebrating the 120th Anniversary of Emigration of Koreans to the Americas and the 20th Anniversary of Sisterhood Relationship with Honolulu



A historical milestone was built to celebrate the 120th anniversary of the emigration of Koreans to the Americas and the 20th anniversary of the friendship with Honolulu. Yoo Jeong-bok, Incheon Mayor, visited Honolulu, Hawaii, Incheon's sister city, on January 12 and attended the unveiling of the 'Sculpture for the Sisterhood Relationship' in Pawaa Inha Park and the 'Marker Stone at Pier 7 of Honolulu Port' with Josh Green, the Hawaii Governor, and Rick Blangiardi, the Honolulu Mayor.

Incheon Style Administrative System for Citizen's Happiness Passes the National Assembly

The roadmap of Incheon citizen's happiness will change in 2026. With the passing of the 'Incheon Administrative System Reform Bill' at the Assembly plenary session on January 9, Incheon's administrative system comprising two counties and eight boroughs, maintained since 1995, will change into a system of two counties and nine boroughs. The bill proposes combining the land areas of Jung-gu and Dong-gu into 'Jemulpo-gu (borough)' and island areas into 'Yeongjong-gu,' respectively, and separating an area of Geomdan-dong of Seo-gu into 'Geomdan-gu.'

Incheon City Tour, Renewed

The 'Incheon City Tour' route has been reorganized for March, a great month for excursion. Mainly, Inspire Entertainment Resort is added to the 'Sea Route,' and the Sangsang Platform is added to the 'Incheon Retro Route' to reorganize the routes. In addition, the previous eight themes have been expanded to ten themes with the addition of Sorae Port and Wolmido tour courses. In particular, Eurwangni Beach is added to the sunset night course, which runs from April to September.

Opening of 'Hydrogen Electric Airport Limousine,' Convenient Way to the Airport

With the operation of the new airport limousine and the addition of stops on existing routes, it is now more convenient to use the airport. Incheon founded a new route for airport limousine 6777-1 and added two stops on the routes of existing bus 6777 bound for and away from Seoul, respectively. In particular, six hydrogen electric coaches (three for 6777 and three for 6777-1) are added to two routes for the first time in Korea.

Efforts and Aspirations to 'Host APEC' in Incheon

The catchphrase '2025 APEC Incheon, It's Incheon, now!' is printed on Incheon United's new uniform for the 2024 season, 'Spectrum.' Incheon has been making efforts to increase citizen consensus through various activities, starting with the launch of a pan-citizen committee to host the APEC summit in Incheon, promoting a 1 million signature campaign (collected 1.1 million signatures), and holding meetings with heads of diplomatic missions abroad.

CULTURE AND ART TO ENJOY IN INCHEON

Various cultural and art events are held in Incheon, from performances to exhibitions, experiences, and festivals. Enjoy culture and art that suit your taste and find joy in your daily life.



ACI Composer Series - Beethoven

If you want to delve fully into the music world and immerse in the melody, we recommend the 'Composer Series' offered by Arts Center Incheon (ACI). The Composer Series is a special concert that focuses on a single composer, such as Rachmaninoff, Prokofiev, and Dvorak, and it started with Tchaikovsky in 2020. In 2024, it focuses on Beethoven, the classical music master, and presents his myriads of masterpieces in various compositions. This year's series is presented by the conductor Hong Seok-won and the KBS Symphony Orchestra alongside violinist Kim Jae-yeong, pianist Ahn Jong-do, Soprano Sohn Ji-hye, and Tenor Kim Hyo-jong to add brilliance to the performance. In addition, the September concert, among the five concerts planned this year, will be chamber music, and violinist Yoo Esther, cellist Shim Joon-ho, and pianist Park Hae-jong will perform Beethoven's piano trio, Archduke, and sonata.

Date and Time Saturday, March 16, 2024 at 17:00
Venue Arts Center Incheon Concert Hall
Price ₩ 50,000 won, ₩ 40,000 won, ₩ 20,000 won
Time required 100 minutes
Information ☎ 032-453-7700



Matinee Concert - Shin Chang- yong's Music Lounge

Arts Center Incheon has planned and operated matinee concerts since 2019. Matinee refers to the daytime concert, and ACI planned the matinee concert for citizens who are freer during the day or have no time to attend the concert at night. ACI's matinee concert offers friendly commentaries added to live music, making it enjoyable for everyone, from those who have just started to listen to classical music to enthusiasts. In particular, the host will personally give a neat and beautiful performance and clearly explain the piece, making the concert friendlier to the audience. In 2024, pianist Shin Chang-yong will host the concert. Songs selected are the ones that can be enjoyed comfortably as if they are performed in a lounge, and delicate and beautiful melodies will be presented through the intimate collaboration between performers active at home and abroad and the host, Shin Chang-yong.

Date and Time Wednesday, March 6, 2024 at 11:00
Venue Arts Center Incheon Concert Hall
Price All seats 25,000 won
Length 90 minutes
Information ☎ 032-453-7700



INCHEON NOW READERS' VOICE

In 2024, "INCHEON NOW" will gather and deliver various information and stories covering business, travel, culture, etc. We also need your valuable opinions to make Incheon Now a more informative newsletter. Please feel free to send us the most impressive article you have read, what you wish from us, and new ideas. We will draw a winner among those who sent reviews and send a small gift certificate.

E-mail Address : prman@korea.kr

Reader Reviews

Louis (Songdo-3-dong)



I'm glad I learned how beautiful Incheon's night is. I often read Incheon Now to find out information and news about Incheon. I hope you continue to introduce various stories.



Brooke (Guwol-dong)



Incheon Now is full of the information that catches the interest of foreigners and has the beautiful design that I always read it, fascinated by it. As a foreign resident of Incheon, I want to thank Incheon Now.



Jae-young (Unseo-dong)



I joined the opening event for Piers 1 and 8 of Incheon Port, enjoyed the performances, and looked around the space. I root for Incheon for its first step toward becoming the world's best city.



"INCHEON NOW" Mobile QR



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