



# GIJANG COUNTY NEWS

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## TRADITIONAL YET MODERN GIJANG : FULL OF LIGHT, WATER AND DREAMS

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The Gijang Newspaper, 'Gijang People', publishes foreign-language newsletters in English, Chinese and Vietnamese. It introduces hidden tourist spots and the charming city of Gijang to visitors. Foreign residents will be provided with useful information on daily living and policies.



# Lifelong Learning and Residents' Fair Successfully Held

The Gijang County Lifelong Learning and Residents' Fair was successfully held during November 21-22 at the Gijang County Office and Chaseong Art Hall. The event, which was held under the theme of 'Lifelong Learning that Changes My Self and the World', attracted more than 2,000 visitors. At this year's fair, the Gijang County Lifelong Learning Institution, the local residents' association and learning clubs gathered together to showcase the results of their learning. Various exhibitions such as Western knotting, calligraphy and

watercolors attracted the attention of visitors, and many people visited various experience booths such as headband making, fine dust purifying plant planting and black and white photograph taking. The performances of lifelong learning students such as Nanta, Korean dance gymnastics, and ocarina performances were also held consecutively, putting together a touching stage.



## Visit by Bungo-ono City Homestay Exchange Group

Gijang County's Korea-Japan Private Exchange Council held the '2019 Gijang County-Japan's Bungo-ono City Homestay Exchange Event' for three days from November 14th. This year's event was visited by 31 city council members, including the Bungo-ono City Mayor and chairperson. The Japanese delegation visited the Gijang County Office and National Assembly, followed by the Gijang-Hyundai Dreamball Park, Dongnam Institute of Radiological & Medical Services, Janganyo and such major sites. In the evening, the visitors stayed with Gijang resident families, solidifying their mutual friendship. The event, which has been running for 26 years, began in 1994 with students of Jagan Middle School and Kiyokawa Junior High School in Bungo-ono City, Oita.



## A Need to Preserve Gijang's Haenyeo Culture

The fishing villages of Gijang, boasting natural beauty, have their own haenyeo (female diver) culture, but the traces of this culture are gradually disappearing. There are more than 10,000 haenyeo nationwide and approximately 1000 in Busan, more than 600 of whom are working in 18 fishing villages around Gijang. Most of the female divers who work in areas such as Yeongdo and Songdo in Busan are from Jeju Island, whereas the haenyeo in Gijang are either the children of Jeju haenyeo or natives of Gijang. The number of haenyeo is gradually decreasing due to aging and reduction of fish and shellfish caused by changes in marine ecosystems. Jeju's Haenyeo Culture was listed as a UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2016 and was designated as National Intangible Cultural Heritage No. 132 in 2017. In order to preserve the culture of haenyeo, Gijang held musicals and exhibitions based on the theme of Gijang haenyeo in 2016, and in 2017 Gijang also operated a haenyeo culture experience education program for regular citizens. Haenyeo culture exists only in Korea and Japan around the world and can be a good tourism product. There is an urgent need to carry out visiting surveys such as collecting verbal data on the lives of these female divers. If the Haenyeo Welfare Centers, which have been set up in seven areas around Gijang County, are to offer experience products such as fishing village products, this could help promote haenyeo culture to become popular and attract many tourists.



## 24-hr Emergency Room at the Dongnam Institute of Radiological & Medical Services

Dongnam Institute of Radiological & Medical Services, the only regional emergency medical institution in Gijang County, has been operating a 24-hour emergency room with support from Gijang County since the second half of this year. With financial support from Gijang County, the Dongnam Institute of Radiological & Medical Services has recruited one specialist doctor and one nurse, and there are currently four emergency department specialists and 12 dedicated nurses at the emergency department. Gijang County occupies the largest area (28.47%) in Busan, has a high percentage of the elderly population, and is far from major university hospitals. The only emergency medical institution in the region is the Dongnam Institute. From this year the government has not supported the budget and manpower needed for operating the emergency room, and as such Gijang County decided to start supporting the emergency room operation budget.

## Appointment of Gijang County Ambassadors

Singer Han Hye-jin and broadcaster Kim Se-rae were appointed as public relations ambassadors to promote Gijang County nationwide as a cultural tourism city. Han Hye-jin is Korea's representative traditional singer and was appointed again after having acted as an ambassador for Gijang County for two years from October 2017 to October 2019.

Han has been actively promoting Gijang County at festivals and events throughout the country. Kim Se-rae works as a reporter and lives in Jeonggwan-eup. As a presenter at the Busan English Broadcasting Center, he plans to actively promote Gijang to foreigners living in Busan.