

## **Achievements and Challenges of the Human Rights City Gwangju - Overview and Tasks of the Implementation of the Human Rights City Gwangju -**

A human rights city is “not just a social and political process operated by the philosophy in which human rights is the most fundamental principle as well as the principle to be abided by, but also human rights governance in which members of the city cooperate to improve quality of living for all based on human rights norms.” A human rights city emphasizes that all members of the city, including socially disadvantaged minorities, are respected regardless of their race, nationality, social status, and cultural background and they freely participate in and are responsible for city decision making and policy process (2011 World Human Rights Cities Forum).

After overcoming a long period of authoritarian regime, Korea has been rapidly developing democracy and human rights. The country established the National Human Rights Commission of Korea and its local branches in Busan, Daegu, and Gwangju to prevent violations of human rights and to seek help for human rights victims. These human rights efforts have not necessarily progressed forward; they experienced a period of dormancy or even retreat.

However, after 2010 (beginning of the 5<sup>th</sup> term of democratically-elected local government heads in Korea), the “human rights” paradigm—in which local governments play an important role in ensuring human rights of citizens and improving them—is increasingly becoming the norm across the country. In particular, Gwangju has made strong efforts to protect and improve citizens’ human rights, based on this long history and tradition of protecting human rights and democracy. Gwangju’s human rights model has spread to other cities, and Gwangju citizens have taken immense pride in the visions of human rights that transformed sufferings of human rights violations from governmental violence in the past into universal values of human rights.

### **I . Background and Process of Implementing a Human Rights City**

#### ***1. History***

##### **1-1. From City of Democratization to City of Human Rights**

Gwangju has been the focal point of politics, economy, and culture in the southwestern part of Korea. With a population over 1.48 million, Gwangju boasts a long tradition of fighting for justice in Korean history. It was the center of the Donghak Peasant Revolution of 1894 (a popular uprising for freedom and equality), March First Independence Movement of 1919 and Gwangju Student Independence Movement of 1929 (for national liberation against Japanese rule); from the April 19<sup>th</sup> Revolution of 1960 that toppled the military authoritarian regime to the May 18<sup>th</sup> Gwangju Democratization Movement that fought against oppressive government violence, Gwangju has been at the forefront of democratization in Korea. In particular, the 10-day citizen struggle of the May 18<sup>th</sup> Gwangju Democratization Movement led to thousands of victims and its spirit have inspired not just Asians, but also people around the world as an important asset that emphasized the values of human rights.

Gwangju seeks a human rights city to further strengthen its human rights values derived from historical experiences in civic life. In doing so, Gwangju focuses on sharing its human rights history and experiences with cities around the world so that humanity bonds together within the human rights framework and works together for the common development of human rights.

## **1-2. Human Rights Heritage of the May 18<sup>th</sup> Gwangju Democratization Movement**

Behind the Human Rights City Gwangju project is the spirit of the May 18<sup>th</sup> Gwangju Democratization Movement in which Gwangju citizens fought against government violence to protect the democracy and dignity of humanity. The city wants the spirit to continue beyond historical memory and pursues diverse policies and projects so that the spirit becomes a universal human rights value for people in the present and future. Thus, the special appeal of Gwangju as a human rights city is attributed greatly to the close connection between the spirit of the May 18<sup>th</sup> Gwangju Democratization Movement and what human rights represent.

In particular, the documentary heritage of the May 18<sup>th</sup> Gwangju Democratization Movement was included in the Memory of the World Register in 2011 by the UNESCO International Advisory Committee. Members of the Committee expressed deep respect for the unyielding courage and sacrifice demonstrated by Gwangju citizens against cruelties of oppressing troops. The move recognized that the movement was a monumental event in the global democratization history and its spirit was a common asset for humanity to continue to inherit and develop as a universal human rights value. In addition, Gwangju is building the May 18<sup>th</sup> Archives so that visitors can learn about and experience the spirit of the May 18<sup>th</sup> Gwangju Democratization Movement through the vivid exhibition of the archives of the movement.

## **2. Change of the Human Rights Environment**

### **2-1. Emergence of New Human Rights Tasks**

Since the military authoritarian regime collapsed, Korea has made significant progress in political, social, and economic rights of citizens thanks to development of democracy, the end of the Cold War, conciliatory inter-Korean relations, improved quality of living, and revitalized civic society.

A slew of laws and institutions have gone through revisions to protect and promote human rights such as abolishing or amending laws related to human rights violations, enactment of the Human Rights Promotion Act, and creation of the National Human Rights Commission. The number of civil organizations has mushroomed to deal with female, disability, labor, and environmental issues. And nongovernmental organizations are making concerted efforts in various fields to promote human rights.

Still, confrontational inter-Korean relations are constraining political and civil rights of individuals across the country. The flexibility of the labor market has also led to reduced labor rights as well as violations of the cultural rights of minorities (including immigrants), pointing to new tasks to be dealt with in the human rights field.

## **2-2. Ensuring Body of Human Rights Changing from the Central Government to Cities**

The emergence and dominance of the neoliberal order has created various social issues including widening social polarization, worsening labor conditions and discrimination of immigrants emerging at the city level. These issues have worsened human conditions, manifesting many human rights problems. Since the implementation of the local self-governing system, cities have become administrative units with relative autonomy from the central government and important living spaces for citizens. In these respects, cities are where human rights problems mainly emerge, but also where those problems can be effectively solved. Human rights conditions of citizens can be closely watched at the city level. And, at this level, participation of citizens in solving those problems as well as in creating necessary policies can be quickly addressed. Cities, thus, are emerging as the main body of ensuring human rights for those whose protection and improvement has been neglected by the central government.

## **3. Major Human Rights Activities of Gwangju**

### **3-1. Symbolization of Gwangju as a Human Rights City**

Facing the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Asian Human Rights Charter in collaboration with the Asian Human Rights Commission was announced for the first time in Gwangju among Asian cities in 1998. Symbolized as a human rights city, Gwangju enacted the Gwangju Prize for Human Rights in 2000 and, since then, has awarded such winners as Xanana Gusmão (former President of East Timor) in 2000 and Aung San Suu Kyi (of Myanmar) in 2004. Winners of the prize made the Gwangju Declaration as well in 2008 with the celebration of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Gwangju Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates with the participation of former Korean President Kim Dae-jung and former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev was held in 2006 to spread the importance of human rights and peace around the world.

### **3-2. Activities of Human Rights Solidarity among Regions**

Since the May 18<sup>th</sup> Gwangju Democratization Movement, Gwangju has strengthened solidarity with major cities and organizations around the world known for democratization movements and countless victims in the fights against military authoritarian regimes, which includes the Asociación Madres de Plaza de Mayo in Rosario, Argentina.

To stimulate inter-Korean relations at the humanitarian level, Gwangju has lent support for restoring houses devastated by flooding in North Korea in 2007 and for building an assorted feed production factory in Pyongyang in 2008. Gwangju helped Medan (Indonesia) recover from tsunami damage in 2004, assisted Haiti which suffered from earthquake damage in 2010, supported Sendai (Japan) devastated by the earthquake in 2011, ran the Nets Go campaign in 2012 to send mosquito nets to Africa, and helped build Gwangju Medical Center in Cambodia in 2013, all as part of its efforts to embody universal values of human rights.

Gwangju has also actively participated in international meetings and programs including the APCaD (2011), Mayors for Peace Conference in Hiroshima (2011), and UN Global Compact

(2011), to build collaboration with international human rights agencies and cities.

## **II. Human Rights Promotion System in the Human Rights City Gwangju: Institutions, Models, and Policies**

Gwangju has emphasized active and responsible roles of local governments in protecting and promoting human rights of citizens. In this respect, the city actively launched the Human Rights City Project after the beginning of the 5<sup>th</sup> term of democratically elected local government heads in Korea in 2010. The project focuses on establishing the comprehensive human rights promotion system designed to protect and improve human rights. By close linkage among human rights institutions, models, and policies, Gwangju strives to improve human rights in civic life and create innovative human rights city models, establishing its reputation as a human rights city.

### **1. Human Rights Institutions**

#### **1-1. Enactment of the Gwangju Human Rights Protection and Improvement Ordinance**

Gwangju enacted the Human Rights Improvement and Democratization, Human Rights, and Peace City Promotion Ordinance for the first time in Korea in 2007. After complementing the ordinance, Gwangju enacted the Gwangju Human Rights Protection and Improvement Ordinance and has been implementing it since 2013. The ordinance clarifies Gwangju's responsibilities to promote human rights of citizens, including establishment of a human rights improvement master plan, development and implementation of human rights indicators, establishment of the human rights educational system, establishment of the Human Rights Support Center, support for organizations engaged in promoting human rights, writing up the Gwangju Human Rights Charter, strengthening international cooperation, operation of the Human Rights Improvement Citizen Committee, and implementation of human rights impact assessment. The ordinance stimulated other local governments in Korea to enact similar measures.

#### **1-2. Establishment of the Human Rights Office**

With the mayoral inauguration in 2010, Gwangju created the Human Rights Office and has been operating it. It is under the responsibility of a person from the private sector with abundant experiences in human rights activities who can serve as a conduit between the administration and citizens. The office is responsible for human rights administration in Gwangju and has been accumulating extensive expertise in it. The responsibilities of the office include the establishment of a human rights master plan and human rights system including the implementation of the Gwangju Human Rights Charter, operation of human rights governance including the Human Rights Improvement Citizen Committee, international exchanges including the hosting of the World Human Rights Cities Forum, operation of the Human Rights Ombudsman, and work related to the heritage of the May 18<sup>th</sup> Gwangju Democratization Movement.

### 1-3. Introduction of Human Rights Ombudsman.

Gwangju created the Human Rights Ombudsman in April 2013 and has been operating it. The institution focuses on relieving citizens experiencing human rights violations or discriminations in the administrative process. It consists of one standing ombudsman and six experts in various human rights areas designated as non-standing human rights ombudsmen. And it performs multiple functions including investigation of human rights violations and making recommendations so that administrative actions accused of violating human rights can be remedied. So far, the Ombudsman has offered 47 counseling sessions and registered 12 human rights violation cases. It also offered opinions on employee succession of cleaning jobs within Gwangju City Hall and recommended a remedy for improvement related to water stoppage in multi-housing units.

## 2. Human Rights Models

### 2-1. Declaration of the Gwangju Human Rights Charter

The Gwangju Human Rights Charter contains human rights models that members of the city must follow to embody the Human Rights City Gwangju. Its preamble contains 518 characters and its chapters consist of 18 articles. In addition, the Implementation of the Charter includes the city's willingness to implement human rights measures. The Charter was declared by citizen representatives on 47<sup>th</sup> Gwangju Citizens' Day on May 21, 2012. It was the first city-level human rights charter in Asia for the implementation of comprehensive human rights measures.

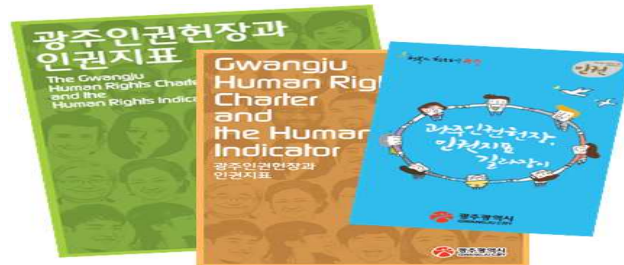


The structure and contents of the Charter were decided after comprehensive consensus building with citizens. And numerous meetings were held for making the Charter with participation from citizens, nongovernmental organization activists, scholars, experts, public officials, and officials in related organizations. To collect opinions about diverse human rights areas related to children, senior citizens, disabled persons, immigrants, women, workers, and culture, over 1,300 organizations/agencies contributed to the Charter.

To implement the Charter with citizens, Gwangju hosts the Human Rights Improvement Idea Contest annually. Since 2013, the city has held exhibitions from the work submitted to the Contest including human rights slogans, posters, and user created content as well as produced human rights souvenirs.



In addition, Gwangju publishes the Gwangju Human Rights Charter Guidebook, Gwangju Human Rights Charter Table Calendar and Poster Calendar, and Gwangju Human Rights Charter Comics so that the contents of the Charter become human rights culture rooted in civic consciousness.



## 2-2. Establishment of the Gwangju Human Rights City Master Plan

Gwangju wrote the Gwangju Human Rights City Master Plan in October 2011, a roadmap for implementing the Human Rights City Gwangju.

It created the system to ensure human rights at the city level. It also contains the future of a human rights city, offering alternatives to improve the human rights of citizens as well as forming human rights solidarity with other cities.

The vision of the Human Rights City was chosen to be “Understanding, Innovative Human Rights City Gwangju,” in the pursuit of participatory, caring, and solidarity communities.

Goals of the Human Rights City were set to implement the “Materialization of Human Rights” aimed at improving quality of living for citizens and “Globalization of the Human Rights City” aimed at improving the value and reputation of Gwangju. Five specific implementation strategies to achieve those goals include 1) creation of the Gwangju Human Rights Charter and Human Rights Ordinance, 2) development of Human Rights Indicators, 3) implementation of human rights education, 4) building international exchanges, cooperation, and networks, and 5) establishing of the Human Rights City brand.

## 2-3. Expansion of Human Rights Education

Gwangju considers human rights education as the starting point for the Human Rights City. Education enables citizens to understand that embodying values of human rights is what the city ultimately strives for, and education can serve as the minimum guideline for implementing human rights.

In 2013, 250,422 citizens (16.82% of the total population) received human rights education, including customized human rights education for preschoolers and students ranging from elementary schools to universities (223,312 citizens), public officials attending human rights lectures both offline and online (5,844), socially vulnerable groups including women, disabled persons, and immigrants (16,101), and workers in welfare facilities to improve their receptivity to human rights (5,165).

## 2-4. Operation of the Democracy and Human Rights Portal

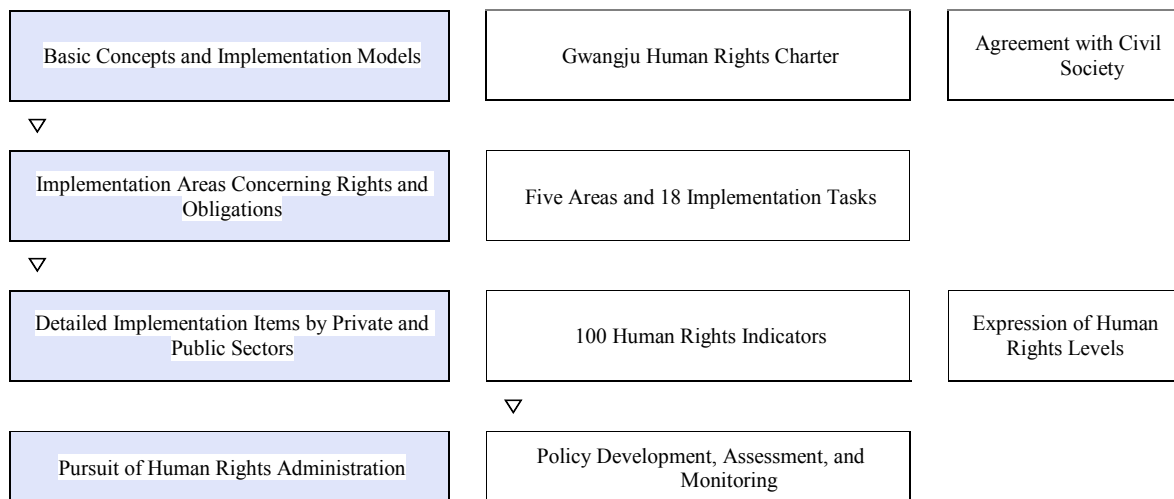
Since March 2013, Gwangju has operated the Democracy and Human Rights Portal. The portal uploads various human rights materials, delivers human rights trends including human rights news both domestic and abroad, and promotes and shares Gwangju's human rights policies with Korean and international audiences. By offering diverse human rights information, the portal helps improve citizens' receptivity to human rights and facilitate communication among citizens online for understanding the present and future of Gwangju.

## 3. Human Rights Policies

### 3-1. Development of Human Rights Indicators

Gwangju developed the Human Rights Indicators to measure human rights conditions objectively and to establish more systemic human rights policies based on the measurement. The Indicators considered both universal aspects of human rights as well as local characteristics of the city. To improve the objectivity and usefulness of the Indicators, Gwangju went through multiple steps from composition of advisory experts, hosting public hearings, meetings of administrative directors, advisory from the National Human Rights Commission of Korea, and advisory from the UN Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights. These steps led to 100 indicators under five areas and 18 implementation tasks. Indicators were designed so that they were logically linked with the structure of the Gwangju Human Rights Charter. In this way, there's uniformity between human rights policies and models, making the indicators an effective tool to improve human rights of citizens.

#### <Linkage between the Gwangju Human Rights Charter and Human Rights Indicators >



### 3-2. Assessment of the Implementation of Human Rights Administration

Gwangju makes strong efforts to ensure that human rights are an important consideration in establishing and implementing city policies. The city has also developed and implemented diverse human rights policies. The city operates human rights education programs for public officials in order to improve their awareness of human rights and establish high quality

human rights administrative culture. Since 2012, the city has assessed the implementation of human rights administration to investigate how human rights are administered. The assessment is directed at all administrative agencies including Gwangju City Hall and its branch offices. It is performed in two areas: development and implementation of human rights improvement tasks and implementation of human rights education programs (and their completion).

### **3-3. Operation of Human Rights Governance**

Gwangju has operated diverse forms of human rights governance to stimulate citizen participation in the Human Rights City Project. A major example of the governance is the Human Rights Improvement Citizen Committee (co-chaired by the mayor of Gwangju and a citizen in the private sector) specified in the Human Rights Ordinance and created in December 2009. The committee involves participation from various human rights experts and activists and evaluates and offers advisory on the Establishment of the Human Rights Improvement Master Plan and Human Rights City Development Plan designed to promote human rights and the Human Rights City.

Since July 2010, the city has held roundtable meetings consisting of civil organizations, scholars, and activists to come up with detailed alternatives for the Human Rights City including development of institutions befitting Gwangju as a city of democratization, human rights, and peace and of human rights indicators by area, and branding of Gwangju as the home of the May 18<sup>th</sup> Gwangju Democratization Movement.

Since March 2012, the city has also operated the Human Rights Policy Joint Meeting based on collaboration between private and public sectors and participated in by human rights activists, researchers, and officials of the Human Rights Office. It focuses on monitoring human rights conditions in the city and identifying ideas and policies to address immediate human rights issues at the administrative level.

### **3-4. Hosting of the World Human Rights Cities Forum**

Gwangju hosts the World Human Rights Cities Forum (created in 2011) annually in May. During the forum, human rights cities around the world discuss how to cooperate with each other and development of common implementation tasks.

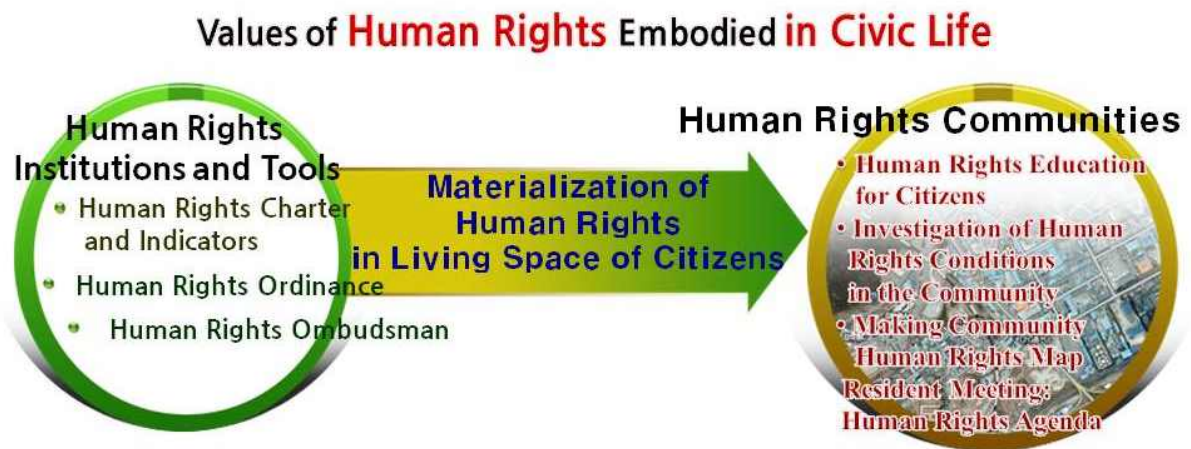
The 2011 forum was held with the theme of Globalizing Human Rights from Below- Challenge of Human Rights Cities in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, offering opportunities for human rights cities to present their human rights implementation cases and share their experiences with each other. The forum offered a stimulating opportunity for international cooperation with the goal that the Human Rights City becomes a new implementation paradigm to improve human rights.

The 2012 forum was held with the theme of City and Human Rights- Promoting Accountability through Empowerment and the 2013 forum theme was Sustainable Human Rights City for All- Guideline for Human Rights Cities. Discussions among human rights experts around the world yielded the first draft of the guideline that human rights cities can rely on.



### 3-5. Development of Human Rights Community

Since 2013, Gwangju has implemented the Human Rights Community Project, through which citizens identify human rights issues in their communities and work together to solve them. The project is intended for the formation of human rights culture and improvement of human rights environment at the community level. Five communities (selected based on the number of self-governing districts of Gwangju) identify and implement their own human rights programs related to human rights education, writing human rights mapping, status of human rights conditions in the community, human rights travel program, and human rights camp. According to a citizen evaluation of the project, the project “helped citizens understand their communities from the human rights perspective, and this improved their affinity for their communities as well as trust and respect toward other citizens.”



### 3-6. Collaboration Project with Human Rights Organizations

Gwangju has implemented the Collaboration Project with Human Rights Organizations to create human rights communities based on citizen participation. With the support of the city and expert groups, the project is designed to strengthen human rights capacity among private sector organizations and, ultimately, to spread human rights culture in civic society. The major programs of the project include Making the Documentary of Korean Comfort Women (Citizen Association with Korean Comfort Women), Analysis of Human Rights Violations by Local Laws and Regulations, and Operation of Human Rights Camp for International Workers.

## III. Challenges and Tasks of the Human Rights City

### 1. Ultimate Goals of the Human Rights City Gwangju

#### 1-1. Strengthening Citizens' Human Rights Capacity

What human rights cities ultimately strive for is to create an environment in which local residents enjoy freedom and happiness by not being discriminated against and maintaining

equal relations with each other. In order to so, basic principles of city operation must be centered on values of human rights, and human rights must be at the forefront of decision making and implementation of city administration. In addition, city issues must be understood from a human rights perspective and citizens must strengthen their human rights capacity. Thus, achieving human rights cities must satisfy two conditions. First, a democratic system must be in place so that citizens can actively participate in decision making and implementation of city policies. Second, human rights educational programs must continue to be operated, reflecting characteristics of the members of the city. The reason for these is simple. Human rights cities are fundamentally learning communities in which human rights culture spreads with citizen participation.

## **1-2. Creation of the Understanding and Participatory Human Rights City Model**

Gwangju operates participatory administrative institutions including Participatory Budget System, Citizen Auditing System, and Citizen Construction Project Monitoring System. Operated at the community level is the Common Citizen Meeting through which citizens seek their own local problems and search for solutions with each other. Citizen participation stabilizes human rights institutions and policies and helps identify new human rights items closely associated with civic life.

The Human Rights City Gwangju is the process to transform the noble spirit of the May 18<sup>th</sup> Gwangju Democratization Movement into values of human rights. In this process, the city works with citizens to create a new model of a human rights city that citizens can trust and participate in.

## **2. Tasks of the Human Rights City**

### **2-1. Establishment of the Stable Human Rights Administration System**

A human rights city emphasizes roles of local governments in protecting and improving human rights of the members of the city. Local governments must place human rights perspectives at the front of city administration. They must establish detailed human rights policies, and these policies must be acceptable enough so that each administrative division of the city can pursue them practically.

The implementation of such policies must also be monitored continually to help human rights policies become feasible in reality. Public officials must strengthen their understanding of human rights to improve the level of human rights administration and cooperation among divisions dealing with matters related to human rights is needed for coordinating and developing policies. There should be a cycle system for human rights policies from establishment to implementation and assessment to ensure continuity of policies as well as accumulation of policy achievements, contributing to the creation of the systemic human rights policy management system.

### **2-2. Expansion of Citizen Participation in Human Rights City Policies**

The increasing emphasis on local governments' roles in the Human Rights City Project may result in reduced participation of local citizens for whom human rights are conferred. Thus,

it's important to create a structure in which citizens can support and build consensus for the Human Rights City Project. For this purpose, the human rights agenda must be closely associated with civic life, and they must be realized by determination and participation of citizens. Human rights in civic life are the core matter for the Human Rights City to consider. Human rights directly aligned with lives of the members of the city can motivate citizens to pay attention to human rights and to participate in human rights policies. Human rights must be understood in daily civic life involving communities and workplaces, and there should be major organizing bodies to actively advocate human rights at the community level. Diverse cooperative organizations for human rights must come out of civic society.

### **2-3. Creation of Cooperative Networks with Korean and International Cities**

There is no standard form of human rights city. Rather, achieving a human rights city requires continual experiments in the process of realizing values of human rights. A human rights city needs cooperation with other cities as well to create mushrooming of human rights cities. Thus, it's important to create a network among local governments considered to be human rights cities within a given country. In addition, for the common pursuit of the universal values of human rights, human cities around the world need to form a cooperative body among them, sharing human rights institutions, policies, and administrative experiences with each other. Active support at the national level is required for composition and operation of a cooperative body among cities in a given country; support from such international organizations including the UN is needed for such a cooperative body among cities around the world.

### **2-4. Multilayered Cooperation among Human Rights Actors**

As mentioned in the UN Human Rights Council Advisory Committee Report in August 2012 (which gave the basis to the Human Rights Council Resolution in September 2013), local governments' roles in ensuring human rights are becoming increasingly important. Still, since human rights are fundamental life issues associated with human existence, they are connected to every area of human life including politics, economy, society, and culture. In this sense, it doesn't seem sensible to clearly differentiate roles of the central government from those of local governments in protecting and improving human rights. Rather, successful establishment of a human rights city model must be backed up by strong institutional and financial support at the national level. In other words, local governments must form close partnerships with the central government in order for the human rights city to adequately protect human rights of citizens. In addition, ensuring human rights of citizens requires horizontal solidarity and cooperation among human rights actors within the city as well as multilayered cooperation among public agencies including local governments, central government, and international agencies like UN.

## <Appendix 1>

### Structure of the Gwangju Human Rights Charter

This is the social agreement reflecting basic concepts and implementation tasks of the human rights city. It is the future blueprint of the Human Rights City Gwangju aiming to ensure and promote human rights of citizens as well as practical standards based on which to implement human rights across communities in Gwangju.

#### ■ Preamble (five paragraphs, 18 lines, and 518 characters)

· It describes the tradition and historical heritage of Gwangju, purposes of enacting the Charter, implementation tasks and willingness to achieve them, democratic decision making and participants in creating the Charter, and cooperation and solidarity with domestic and international cities.

#### ■ Chapters (five chapters and 18 articles)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| ·Chapter 1:<br>Communications and<br>Participation | Article 1: freedom of thought and expression<br>Article 2: transparency and access to public information<br>Article 3: culture of human rights and citizenship  |
| ·Chapter 2: Pursuit of<br>Happiness                | Article 4: right to work and labor rights<br>Article 5: public health and sanitation<br>Article 6: decent housing and environment<br>Article 7: protection from abuse and violence  |
| · Chapter 3:<br>Protection of Social<br>Minorities | Article 8: social security and livelihood<br>Article 9: gender equality and women's rights<br>Article 10: rights of children, youth and the elderly<br>Article 11: rights of persons with disabilities<br>Article 12: cultural diversity and identity |
| ·Chapter 4:<br>Environment and<br>Safety           | Article 13: clean environment and leisure facilities<br>Article 14: access to public facilities<br>Article 15: public safety and human security   |
| · Chapter 5: Culture<br>and Solidarity             | Article 16: right to education and creative learning<br>Article 17: culture and art<br>Article 18: international solidarity and cooperation   |

#### ■ Implementation of the Charter (3 articles)

· It describes implementation actors of the Charter and the scope of implementation, obligations for implementation through institutions and policies, and amendments to the Charter.

## <Appendix 2>

### **Gwangju Guiding Principles for a Human Rights City** *(draft)*

#### **(Gwangju Compact)**

**(17 May 2013)**

##### Principle 1 : The Right to the City

The Human Rights City ensures the rights of all its inhabitants to enjoy a decent life in a healthy environment with full access to basic services including housing and mobility that are affordable, acceptable and adaptable.

##### Principle 2 : Equality and Non-discrimination

The Human Rights City implements the non-discrimination policy which includes gender mainstreaming as well as affirmative action to reduce inequality and to empower the marginalized and vulnerable groups.

##### Principle 3 : Human Rights Mainstreaming

The Human Rights City applies a human rights-based approach to city administration and policy making including planning, designing, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

##### Principle 4 : Participatory Democracy, Co-Responsibility and Accountability

The Human Rights City establishes effective accountability mechanisms ensuring rights to public information, communication and participation in decision-making, implementation and monitoring.

##### Principle 5 : Social Inclusiveness and Cultural Diversity

The Human Rights City promotes social cohesion and cultural diversity based on mutual respect among communities of different racial, religious, linguistic, ethnic and social cultural backgrounds.

##### Principle 6 : Equitable Urban Development and Sustainability

The Human Rights City applies an integrated and holistic approach to equitable urban development that promotes human security, environmentally sustainable and safe community and promotes corporate human rights accountability.

Principle 7 : Socio-Economic Justice and Solidarity

The Human Rights City promotes socio-economic justice and solidarity among urban and rural communities within the country and beyond.

Principle 8 : Human Rights Education and Training

The Human Rights City fosters a culture of human rights and peace through human rights education and training for all duty bearers, right-holders and stakeholders.

Principle 9 : Institutionalization of Human Rights

The Human Rights City adopts policies and programs and establishes effective institutions, with adequate personnel and resources and ensures full involvement of the civil society.

Principle 10 : Right to Remedy

The Human Rights City establishes appropriate independent mechanisms and procedures providing effective remedy and redress including mediation, arbitration and conflict resolution.