

Inaugural Roundtable of Wetland City Mayors
Suncheon City, Republic of Korea
23-25 October 2019

Summary Report

1. Introduction

Resolution XII.10, adopted during the Ramsar Conference of the Parties in 2015 (COP12), endorsed the establishment of a Wetland City accreditation system, “Wetland City Accreditation of the Ramsar Convention”. Under this resolution, Contracting Parties recognize “the huge potential of urban areas in terms of education and public awareness related to wetlands conservation” and that the accreditation scheme “can assist cities, Contracting Parties and stakeholders in promoting awareness on the wise use and conservation of wetlands”. This accreditation scheme grants branding opportunities for cities that maintain a strong and positive relationship with wetlands. It will also accord cities with global recognition as model cities, which can also help boost local ecotourism activities.

At Ramsar COP13 held in October 2018 in Dubai, 18 cities from seven (7) countries were officially recognized as “Wetland Cities” under the Ramsar Convention. In support of this achievement, the Ramsar Regional Center – East Asia (RRC-EA) volunteered to assist in forging a stronger network of Wetland Cities by organizing the first Mayors’ Roundtable in the fourth quarter of 2019. This roundtable symbolizes the first step towards establishing such a network. The Ministry of Environment, and Ministry of Ocean and Fisheries of the Republic of Korea, and the Suncheon City Government hosted the event.

2. Objectives

The Mayors’ Roundtable aimed to serve as a platform for Wetland Cities to:

- establish and strengthen communication channels between cities,
- share and exchange information about experiences in managing urban wetlands with respect to local policies and regulations,
- facilitate dialogues to promote and develop socio-economic and environmental cooperation between the model cities, and
- facilitate exchanges between current and future Wetland Cities.

3. Participants

Around 130 representatives from Wetland Cities, local communities, academic and research institutions, and government and non-government organizations participated in the event. These included the mayors, vice mayors and officials of 13 Wetland Cities from seven (7) countries in Africa (Madagascar and Tunisia), Asia (China, Republic of Korea and Sri Lanka) and Europe (France and Hungary). The list of participants is attached as Annex 1.

4. Dates and venue

The meeting was held on 23-25 October 2019 at the Suncheon Bay International Wetland Center, Suncheon City, Republic of Korea.

5. Program of activities

Opening program, and keynote and special presentations

Messages were delivered by speakers from Suncheon City as host city; Ministry of Environment, and Ministry of Ocean and Fisheries of the Republic of Korea; Ramsar Regional Center – East Asia; Ramsar Secretariat; and Independent Advisory Committee for the Wetland City Accreditation of the Ramsar Convention.

Representatives from the Ramsar Secretariat, East Asia Secretariat of ICLEI, Suncheon National University, and Africa Secretariat of ICLEI presented about the Wetland City Accreditation, Pathways to Sustainable Urban Development, Blue Economy and Wetland Cities, and CitiesWithNature platform, respectively.

Presentations from Mayors

Mayors and representatives of 13 Wetland Cities from seven (7) countries were provided the opportunity to showcase their respective localities and highlight policies and programs that support a balanced approach to urban development and wetland conservation and wise use. The speakers represented the Wetland Cities of Changde, Changshu, Dongying, Harbin, in China; Amiens, Pont-Audemer, Saint-Omer, and Courteranges in France; Tata in Hungary; Changnyeong, Inje, Jeju, and Suncheon in the Republic of Korea; Mitsinjo in Madagascar; Colombo in Sri Lanka; and Ghar El Melh in Tunisia.

Meeting proper

As a segment of the roundtable, mayors and representatives of Wetland Cities convened in the afternoon of 24 October 2019 to deliberate on topics as enumerated in the meeting agenda. Agreements made at the meeting are elaborated under Item 6 of this report.

Closing program

The host city of Suncheon handed over tokens to the heads of delegation of participating Wetland Cities as a gesture of appreciation. After the ceremony, the mayor of Suncheon City formally concluded the event by conveying parting words and well wishes to all meeting participants. The program of activities is attached as Annex 2.

6. Meeting agreements

Decisions and recommended actions have been agreed by participating Wetland Cities following the meeting agenda below:

Agenda item	Decision/Action
1. Background presentation on the Mayors' Roundtable for Wetland Cities	No decision/action required. This agenda item intended to orient participants on the history and rationale for holding the roundtable.
2. Election of meeting chairperson	The mayor of Suncheon City served as Chairperson of the meeting following the recommendation by the representative from Tata, Hungary.

Agenda item	Decision/Action
	Recommendation from Tata, Hungary referred to similar principles in electing the meeting chairperson at global conventions such as in Ramsar COPs, i.e. head of delegation or assigned representative of host country assumes chairmanship.
3. Discussion on the establishment of the Network of Wetland Cities	The meeting unanimously agreed to establish the “Wetland City Network”.
4. Terms of Reference of the network	<p>The meeting revised the draft Terms of Reference (TOR) of the Wetland City Network per suggestions of network members. The Ramsar Regional Center – East Asia (RRC-EA) was endorsed by the meeting to serve as Secretariat of the Wetland City Network.</p> <p>The revised TOR will be circulated to network members for reference (see Annex 3).</p>
5. The logo of the network	<p>The meeting agreed to adopt a logo for the Wetland City Network as a means to promote the network.</p> <p>The Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Korea offered to design potential logos to be selected by network members.</p>
6. Other matters	<p>The meeting agreed to support the preparation of a Draft Resolution (DR) on the establishment and operations of the Wetland City Network. The meeting will work and coordinate with the Ramsar National Focal Points of the seven (7) countries with Wetland Cities.</p> <p>The proposed DR is expected to be submitted to the Standing Committee for subsequent adoption at Ramsar COP14.</p>
7. Date and venue of the next meeting	Amiens, France and Dongying, China offered to host the second and third meetings (in 2020 and 2021), respectively. Specific meeting schedules will be decided and announced by the host cities at later dates.

Annex 1. List of participants

No.	City / Organization	Country	Name	Position
1	Changde	China	Chaojun XIE	Secretary General
2	Changde	China	Banghong LUO	Deputy Director
3	Changde	China	Xiaoli SHENG	Director of Science
4	Changde	China	Junzhu CHEN	Director of Wetland Conservation and Management Center
5	Changshu	China	Yueming ZHANG	Vice Mayor
6	Changshu	China	Xinfeng QIAN	Deputy Director
7	Changshu	China	Qingfeng JU	Deputy Director
8	Changshu	China	Shuqing AN	Director
9	Changshu	China	Jiaqiu CHEN	Vice Chief Engineer
10	Changshu	China	Yaqin YAO	Program Coordinator
11	Dongying	China	Lixue HAN	Vice Mayor
12	Dongying	China	Yinlu CHEN	Director
13	Dongying	China	Hongshui GOU	Deputy Secretary of Party Committee
14	Dongying	China	Yuxiang WANG	Deputy Director
15	Dongying	China	Zhanqiang CHEN	Director
16	Dongying	China	Yan ZHANG	Deputy Director and Interpreter
17	Harbin	China	Jixian SUN	Deputy Secretary General
18	Harbin	China	Jinghui ZHANG	Deputy Director General
19	Harbin	China	Tong YIN	Division Chief
20	Harbin	China	Jinghua LI	Director
21	Harbin	China	Tong LI	Staff Member
22	Harbin	China	Wei GAO	Staff Member
23	National Forestry and Grassland Administration	China	Jiming YUAN	Deputy Director General
24	National Forestry and Grassland Administration	China	Xiaohong YAN	Director
25	National Forestry and Grassland Administration	China	Zhongming ZHAO	Official
26	Amiens	France	Florence RODINGER	Deputy Mayor
27	Amiens	France	Laurent GAVORY	Project Manager
28	Ramsar France Association	France	Jerome BIGNON	Senator and President
29	Tata	Hungary	Levente MURKL	Natural Conservation Officer
30	Tata	Hungary	Laszlo MUSICZ	Professional Director

No.	City / Organization	Country	Name	Position
31	Tata	Hungary	Mate MUSICZ	Member of Birdlife Hungary
32	Department for Nature Conservation	Hungary	Andras SCHMIDT	Ramsar National Focal Point
33	Changnyeong	Republic of Korea	Jungwoo HAN	Mayor
34	Changnyeong	Republic of Korea	Sahyeon SON	Vice Mayor
35	Changnyeong	Republic of Korea	Janggeun SEONG	Section Chief
36	Changnyeong	Republic of Korea	Dongwook CHOI	Subsection Chief
37	Changnyeong	Republic of Korea	Seungho HA	Official
38	Changnyeong	Republic of Korea	Chawon LEE	Official
39	Changnyeong	Republic of Korea	Minseung KIM	Official
40	Changnyeong	Republic of Korea	Yeongrok PARK	Official
41	Changnyeong	Republic of Korea	Dongju KIM	Official
42	Changnyeong	Republic of Korea	Cheonil KIM	Resident Representative
43	Changnyeong	Republic of Korea	Changjae RHO	Resident Representative
44	Changnyeong	Republic of Korea	Insik LEE	Environment Expert
45	Changnyeong	Republic of Korea	Jongsik OH	Culture and Tourism Guide
46	Changnyeong	Republic of Korea	Youngjin YOU	Culture and Tourism Guide
47	Changnyeong	Republic of Korea	Mikyung MOON	Interpreter
48	Changnyeong	Republic of Korea	Gawon KIM	Interpreter
49	Inje	Republic of Korea	Sang-Ki CHOI	Mayor
50	Inje	Republic of Korea	Man-Chae SHIN	Secretary
51	Inje	Republic of Korea	Seoung-Gyu LEE	Deputy Mayor
52	Inje	Republic of Korea	Young-Gu JEON	Secretary
53	Inje	Republic of Korea	Seoung-Gu LEE	Director of Environmental Protection Division
54	Inje	Republic of Korea	Bong-Hee SEO	Ecological Environment Manager
55	Inje	Republic of Korea	Mi-Yeon KIM	Official
56	Inje	Republic of Korea	Jae-Young YOO	Staff
57	Inje	Republic of Korea	Ho-Sup HWANG	Local Conservation Committee
58	Inje	Republic of Korea	Jae-Chun LEE	Local Conservation Committee
59	Inje	Republic of Korea	Weon-Chun LEE	Local Conservation Committee
60	Inje	Republic of Korea	Hyo-Yeon LEE	Local Conservation Committee
61	Inje	Republic of Korea	Jong-Yul KIM	Local Conservation Committee
62	Jeju	Republic of Korea	Hee-Bum KO	Mayor
63	Jeju	Republic of Korea	Tae-Baek KIM	Director of Environmental Management

No.	City / Organization	Country	Name	Position
64	Jeju	Republic of Korea	Jeong-Lim PARK	Official
65	Jeju	Republic of Korea	Seung-Gwan KANG	Official
66	Jeju	Republic of Korea	Hyun-Ae KO	Official
67	Jeju	Republic of Korea	Deok-hong KIM	Head of Jocheon Village
68	Jeju	Republic of Korea	Hyeon-Cheol KIM	Official
69	Jeju	Republic of Korea	Bo-Hong KIM	Chairman of Regional Management Committee
70	Jeju	Republic of Korea	Do-Jin KO	Member of Regional Management Committee
71	Jeju	Republic of Korea	Myeong-Jo KANG	Member of Regional Management Committee
72	Jeju	Republic of Korea	JeRyang KO	Member of Regional Management Committee
73	Jeju	Republic of Korea	Byung-Gil JUNG	Member of Regional Management Committee
74	Suncheon	Republic of Korea	Seok HEO	Mayor
75	Suncheon	Republic of Korea	Seok Ho JI	Bureau Director
76	Suncheon	Republic of Korea	Seong Won WOO	Manager
77	Suncheon	Republic of Korea	Ji Man JANG	Secretary
78	Suncheon	Republic of Korea	Kwang Mook OH	Member of Suncheonman Wetland Committee
79	Suncheon	Republic of Korea	Yeong Dae KIM	Member of Suncheonman Wetland Committee
80	Suncheon	Republic of Korea	Gil Won SEO	Member of Suncheonman Wetland Committee
81	Suncheon	Republic of Korea	Duk Lim CHOI	Member of Suncheonman Wetland Committee
82	Suncheon	Republic of Korea	Keun Seok SEO	Member of Suncheonman Wetland Committee
83	Suncheon	Republic of Korea	Hyeon Cheol SON	Member of Suncheonman Wetland Committee
84	Suncheon	Republic of Korea	Man Seok KIM	Member of Suncheonman Wetland Committee
85	Suncheon	Republic of Korea	Chae Yeol JANG	Member of Suncheonman Wetland Committee
86	Suncheon	Republic of Korea	Hyo Seung KIM	Member of Suncheonman Wetland Committee
87	Mitsinjo	Madagascar	Liva Armand RAMILISON	Deputy Mayor
88	Mitsinjo	Madagascar	Jose Anicet RANDRIAMANANTENA	Technical Coordinator
89	Mitsinjo	Madagascar	Andriantsoa RAHAJARIVONY	Forestry Engineer and National CESP Ramsar
90	Colombo	Sri Lanka	Priyantha Dhammika PINDENIYA	Ecologist
91	Colombo	Sri Lanka	Uluwaduge Yasodha Isurie Lakmalie DHARMASOMA	Environmental Scientist
92	Ghar El Melh	Tunisia	Mustapha BOUBAKER	Mayor

No.	City / Organization	Country	Name	Position
93	Ministry of Agriculture	Tunisia	Hela GUIDARA	Ramsar National Focal Point
94	Ramsar Secretariat	-	Jay ALDOUS	Deputy Secretary General
95	Independent Advisory Committee	-	Gert Michael STEINER	Chair
96	ICLEI	-	Shu ZHU	Regional Director of East Asia Secretariat
97	ICLEI	-	Merlin LAO	Program Manager of East Asia Secretariat
98	ICLEI	-	Ge LIU	Program Officer of East Asia Secretariat
99	ICLEI	-	Ernita FLYNN	Senior Professional Officer of Africa Secretariat
100	Suncheon National University	Republic of Korea	Ky Young PARK	Professor and Member of Suncheonman Wetland Committee
101	Ministry of Environment	Republic of Korea	Song Hyun KIM	Official
102	Ministry of Environment	Republic of Korea	Joon Woo SEO	International Cooperation Officer
103	Ministry of Environment	Republic of Korea	Moon Hee KIM	Official
104	Ministry of Ocean and Fisheries	Republic of Korea	Roh-Hun MYUNG	Director
105	Ministry of Ocean and Fisheries	Republic of Korea	Ho LEE	Official
106	Ministry of Ocean and Fisheries	Republic of Korea	Hye Eun KIM	Official
107	National Wetland Center	Republic of Korea	Kyeong Jin CHU	Researcher
108	National Wetland Center	Republic of Korea	Jung Hun YEUM	Researcher
109	National Wetland Center	Republic of Korea	Hyun Ju LEE	Researcher
110	Korea Marine Environment Management Corporation	Republic of Korea	Haemiroo LEE	Official
111	Yeongsan River Basin Environmental Office	Republic of Korea	Sang Hun KIM	Director
112	Yeongsan River Basin Environmental Office	Republic of Korea	Yeong Taek AN	Official
113	Yeongsan River Basin Environmental Office	Republic of Korea	Hong Cheol KIM	Official
114	okearth campaign	Republic of Korea	Jae Seong SHIM	Member of Suncheonman Wetland Committee
115	okearth campaign	Republic of Korea	Sang Hun KIM	Representative
116	okearth campaign	Republic of Korea	Eun Jung JO	Vice Representative
117	okearth campaign	Republic of Korea	Ning JUNG	Vice Representative
118	okearth campaign	Republic of Korea	Y Eun JUNG	Earth Saver (China)

No.	City / Organization	Country	Name	Position
119	okearth campaign	Republic of Korea	O Sung LIM	Earth Saver (Suncheon)
120	okearth campaign	Republic of Korea	Yun Ji JUNG	Earth Saver (Suncheon)
121	okearth campaign	Republic of Korea	Se Jun PARK	Earth Saver (Suncheon)
122	okearth campaign	Republic of Korea	Seong Min JUN	Earth Saver (Suncheon)
123	EAAFP	-	Doug WATKINS	Chief Executive
124	EAAFP	-	Vivian FU	Communication Officer
125	Izumi	Japan	Sadao YOSHIDA	Vice Mayor
126	Izumi	Japan	Kazuhiko HARUTA	Director
127	Izumi	Japan	Hidekazu MATSUOKA	Manager
128	Izumi	Japan	Mi Jung KANG	Member of International Exchange Promotion

Contact information of Wetland Cities

No.	Country	No.	City	Contact information
1	China	1	Changde	912727129@qq.com, 823449801@qq.com
		2	Changshu	zgqlp@163.com, 447440316@qq.com
		3	Dongying	szrzyjrsk@163.com
		4	Haikou	ramsarfang@qq.com, hugolin1984@foxmail.com
		5	Harbin	ycgl22234@126.com
		6	Yinchuan	jinhulv@126.com
2	France	7	Amiens	l.gavory@amiens-metropole.com
		8	Pont-Audemer	ghislaine.ferrere@developpement-durable.gouv.fr
		9	Saint-Omer	ghislaine.ferrere@developpement-durable.gouv.fr
		10	Courteranges	ghislaine.ferrere@developpement-durable.gouv.fr
3	Hungary	11	Tata	varos@tata.hu, fabalis@gmail.com
4	Republic of Korea	12	Changnyeong	wavetalk@korea.kr
		13	Inje	kmyeon519@korea.kr
		14	Jeju	hako@korea.kr
		15	Suncheon	suaeda@korea.kr
5	Madagascar	16	Mitsinjo	rahajarivony2015@gmail.com
6	Sri Lanka	17	Colombo	PA1-Mayor@colombo.mc.gov.lk
7	Tunisia	18	Ghar El Melh	communegharelmelh@gmail.com

Annex 2. Program of activities

Day 1: 23 October 2019 (Wednesday) Venue: Suncheon Bay International Wetland Center	
8:30 – 9:00	Arrival of participants and registration
9:00 – 9:30	Opening program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening message Mr. Heo, Seok Mayor, Suncheon City, Republic of Korea • Welcome messages Mr. Yoo, Myung Soo Director, Ministry of Environment, Republic of Korea Mr. Myung, Roh-Hun Director, Ministry of Ocean and Fisheries, Republic of Korea Mr. Suh, Seung Oh Executive Director, Ramsar Regional Center – East Asia • Congratulatory messages Mr. Jay Aldous Deputy Secretary General, Ramsar Convention Secretariat Mr. Gert Michael Steiner Chair, Independent Advisory Committee • Welcome performance • Photo opportunity
9:30 – 10:00	Coffee and tea break
10:00 – 11:30	Keynote presentations (30 minutes, including 5-10 minutes for Q&A) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wetland City Accreditation Mr. Jay Aldous Deputy Secretary General, Ramsar Convention Secretariat • Pathways to Sustainable Urban Development Mr. Shu Zhu Regional Director, East Asia Secretariat, ICLEI • Blue Economy and Wetland Cities Prof. Park, Ky Young Suncheon National University, Republic of Korea
11:30 – 14:00	Lunch break and viewing of exhibits
14:00 – 15:20	Presentations from Mayors (20 minutes each, including 5 minutes for Q&A) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • China: Changde, Changshu, Dongying, and Harbin
15:20 – 15:35	Coffee and tea break
15:35 – 16:55	Presentations from Mayors (20 minutes each, including 5 minutes for Q&A)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • France: Amiens and Ramsar France Association for Pont-Audemer, Saint-Omer and Courteranges
16:55 – 18:00	Short break and travel from meeting venue to dinner venue
18:00 – 19:30	Welcome dinner and cultural performance night
Day 2: 24 October 2019 (Thursday)	
Venue: Suncheon Bay International Wetland Center	
8:00 – 8:30	Arrival of participants
8:30 – 9:00	<p>Special presentation (30 minutes, including 5-10 minutes for Q&A)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CitiesWithNature platform <p>Dr. Ernita Flynn Senior Professional Officer, Africa Secretariat, ICLEI</p>
9:00 – 10:20	<p>Presentations from Mayors (20 minutes each, including 5 minutes for Q&A)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Republic of Korea: Suncheon, Changnyeong, Inje and Jeju
10:20 – 10:40	Coffee and tea break
10:40 – 12:00	<p>Presentations from Mayors (20 minutes each, including 5 minutes for Q&A)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hungary: Tata • Madagascar: Mitsinjo • Sri Lanka: Colombo • Tunisia: Ghar El Melh
12:00 – 14:00	Lunch break
14:00 – 15:45	Meeting proper
15:45 – 16:00	Coffee and tea break
16:00 – 16:30	<p>Closing program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Handing over of tokens by Host City to Wetland City Mayors • Message from Mayor of Host City
16:30 – 18:00	Short tour around Suncheon Bay National Garden
18:00 – 19:30	Hosted dinner
Day 3: 25 October (Friday)	
Field visits	
9:00 – 12:00	Tour around Naganeupseong Folk Village
12:00 – 13:30	Lunch break
13:30 – 18:00	Tour around Suncheon Bay Ecological Park
18:00 – 19:30	Hosted dinner

Annex 3. Terms of Reference of Wetland City Network

Purpose

Wetland Cities of the Ramsar Convention provide a huge potential to promote the conservation and wise use of urban and peri-urban wetlands in support of the Ramsar Strategic Plan. The establishment of a network of Wetland Cities aims to contribute to the implementation of the Ramsar Convention through collective efforts of local governments and local communities.

The network will serve as a platform that will allow the 1) effective access to communication channels among Wetland Cities, 2) promote the exchange of information about experiences and lessons learned in managing urban and peri-urban wetlands with respect to local policies, 3) facilitate dialogues to develop environmental and socio-economic cooperation among Wetland Cities, and 4) exchange of human resources among network members.

Membership and Composition

Wetland Cities accredited by the Ramsar Convention can join the network as members.

Cities that are interested in the Wetland City Accreditation scheme are welcome to participate in activities of the network as observers.

Any organization, including international, national and local level governmental or non-governmental organization, that is supportive to the network will be able to be involved in activities of the network as observers.

Secretariat

The Ramsar Regional Center – East Asia will serve as Secretariat of the network. The functions of the Secretariat shall be as follows:

1. organize or assist the host city in organizing the regular meetings of Wetland City Mayors,
2. maintain close coordination and communication among members,
3. facilitate the exchange of information among members,
4. maintain and update the website of the network,
5. forge camaraderie and partnerships among members, and
6. invite cities and organizations that are interested to participate in network activities.

Operation

1. Wetland Cities shall strive to actively participate in all network activities.
2. Members of the network shall meet regularly on an annual basis through the Mayors' Roundtable. The Mayors' Roundtable aims to serve as the main forum for decision-making, primarily by consensus or by majority votes, and face-to-face discussions by Wetland Cities on priority issues.
3. Network members will share information and experiences on the development and implementation of wetland-related policies and programs related to conservation, wise use, management and education.

Financial Arrangements

1. Members will participate in activities of the network, including attendance to regular meetings, by utilizing their own resources.
2. For other activities of the network such as development and management of a website for the network, members will share the cost based on agreement.

Review of Terms of Reference

These Terms of Reference will be reviewed by members of the Wetland City Network at least once every three (3) years in accordance with the cycle of the Meeting of the Conference of Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention (Ramsar COP). Any amendments to this Terms of Reference shall require deliberation and approval by the Wetland City Network.