

The Position of the Government of the Republic of Korea in relation to the Jeju Civilian–Military Complex Port Construction

The government of the Republic of Korea would like to convey our deepest respect to the World Conservation Congress for its efforts in promoting the international cooperation and collaboration in order to realize a world where human and nature live together in harmony.

The Korean government expresses our deepest concern about the fact that some members of IUCN are planning on submitting a motion on the Jeju Civilian–Military Complex Port.

The process for the Jeju Civilian–Military Complex Port construction at Gangjeong is being executed based on scientific basis in a fair and lawful manner.

First, the location of the Jeju Civilian–Military Complex Port was selected through a rational and voluntary process.

On May 14 2007, the location for the construction, Gangjeong, was decided according to the voluntary proposition by the residents of Gangjeong and the people of Jeju. Accepting the request from Jeju to modify the original design in order to allow the entry of 150,000 ton cruise ships into the port, in September 2008, at the Council for National Policy Coordination, the government came to the conclusion to follow and proceed with the construction of the Jeju Civilian–Military Complex Port.

Second, the Jeju Civilian–Military Complex Port Project has been carried out according to legal Environmental Impact Assessment procedures in compliance with Environmental Impact Assessment Act.

On July 5 this year, the Supreme Court of the Republic of Korea dismissed the appeal from the opposition who argued that Environmental Impact Assessment was unlawful, and once again acknowledged the legitimacy of the project.

While conducting Environmental Impact Assessment, in order to deal with potential environmental problems including marine pollution and damage to soft coral habitats, measures to mitigate environmental impact such as using contamination prevention films and eco-friendly construction method have been established.

In addition, measures for the protection of endangered species have been implemented such as relocating them to other places that have similar environment compared to their original habitats.

Third, the Korean government has been doing our utmost for the follow-up management since the construction began.

The government has been conducting regular weekly and quarterly monitoring on environmental impact on marine ecosystems, animals, plants, air quality and water quality to identify changes in environment.

Furthermore, the government is coming up with additional measures to deal with unexpected environmental problems through Post Environmental Impact Assessment.

Forth, the legitimacy of the Jeju Civilian-Military Complex Port Project was acknowledged.

The National Assembly of the Republic of Korea approved the budget for this project and the Administration broke ground

according to lawful procedures. In addition, the Judiciary acknowledged the legitimacy of the project.

The Korean government is deeply concerned that if the motion related to Korea's national security, which is based on scientifically ungrounded one-sided allegations, is discussed at WCC, it can become an inappropriate example of threatening a nation's sovereignty.

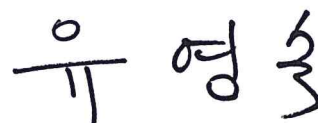
The Jeju Civilian-Military Complex Port will serve as the primary defender of peace and security of Korea, and also grow into an eco-friendly tourist attraction that many foreigners want to visit. In order to achieve this goal, the government will do all our best to work with the people of Jeju.

Considering all matters mentioned above, the Korean government expects wise judgement and close cooperation of the WCC participants and IUCN member organizations.

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