

AQUAPOLIS

No. 8
International
Conference of
Aquapolises



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The 5th ICAP to Be Held in 2007 in Busan, South Korea

The International Conference of Aquapolises (ICAP) is an international conference on water and greenery, the theme being restoration or creation of waterside and verdant spaces toward the fostering of scenic beauty. The first ICAP was held in Osaka in 1990, where the decision to continue holding the Conference was confirmed. Since then the ICAP has been held in Shanghai, Piraeus, and again in Osaka-four times in total up to present.

At the fourth ICAP held in Osaka in March 2003, it was decided that the fifth meeting would take place in Busan in 2006.

As a result of subsequent discussions with the city of Busan, the decision was amended so that the fifth ICAP would be held in 2007.

The precise date and other details will be confirmed and announced around July 2006.

Busan: The Place for the Next ICAP

In the current issue, AQUAPOLIS gives an introduction to Busan where the next ICAP will be held, so that representatives of other cities who will participate can make the Conference all the more fruitful.

Busan is a port city located in the lower southeast of the Republic of Korea in northeast Asia. With a population of four million, Busan is the second-largest city of South Korea and is also a city of international tourism. The name "Busan" is said to originate from the name of a cauldron-shaped mountain.



Map of Asia
(South Korea is located in northeast Asia.)

History of Development

This column describes the history of Busan, the second-largest city in South Korea and the economic center of its southeastern region.

Busan started its growth into a modern city in 1876, when the Ganghwa Treaty made the port of Busan, Korea's first international port. In 1905, establishment of port facilities, including Wharf No. 1, began along with the inauguration of Gyeongbu Railroad (Seoul-Busan Railroad). At almost the same time, a reclamation project was launched in 1902 to expand the city as far as Jungang-dong, Choryang and Busanjin as they are currently known.

In 1925, Busan became the capital of the Gyeongsangnam-do province in the southern part of Korea, replacing the city of Jinju. Since then, Busan has become the center of administration, economy and culture of the province. Busan underwent further growth during Korean War, when the city served as a temporary capital of the country.

Chronology (Busan)

July 1407	Opening of Busanpo (port)
February 1876	Reopening of Busanpo as an International port
May 1905	Inauguration of Gyeongbu (Seoul-Busan) Railway
August 1949	Elevation to Busan City (population: 470,000)
January 1963	Elevation to Busan Direct Control City (population: 1,360,000)
July 1985	Inauguration of the underground railway
May 1997	Hosting of the 2nd East Asian Games
May 2002	Hosting of the 2002 World Cup Korea/Japan
September 2002	Hosting of the 14th Asian Games BUSAN
October 2002	Busan Choir Olympics
October 2002	The 8th FESPIC Games Busan
September 2004	Hosting of the ITU Telecom Asia 2004
November 2005	APEC Leaders/Ministerial Meetings

Later, in 1995, the “Busan Direct Control City” was renamed “Busan Metropolitan City,” which is the official name of the city today. Busan had already accomplished rapid growth by that time, which was enough to allow the city to serve as a central port of the Pacific Rim.

In Busan, which has developed so rapidly and dramatically, many different events have been held in recent years. Examples include the Busan International Film Festival, which is an annual event for this leading film/multimedia city of Asia, and also the Busan International Motor Show and the Final Draw for the 2002 FIFA World Cup Korea/Japan. The city particularly enjoyed worldwide attention in 2002, as the host city for the 14th Asian Games as well as for the 2002 FIFA World Cup Korea/Japan. Moreover, the city hosted the “APEC Leaders” and “Ministerial Meetings” in 2005. Busan is also on its way to becoming a major city for trade fairs and conventions, with the establishment of the Busan Exhibition & Convention Center (BEXCO).

Port and Logistics

This column illustrates the port and logistics of Busan as the number-one port city of South Korea.

Since its opening as the first international port of Korea in 1876, Busan has served as the driving force behind the country’s industrial development, playing its role as an export base and also as a hub for maritime affairs and fisheries.



Port of Busan

Today, Busan is the center of the southeast economic zone of Korea with almost the same importance as that of the Seoul metropolitan area. Busan particularly achieved international fame in 2000, when its port was ranked as the world’s third largest for its freight handling capacity in twenty-foot equivalent units (TEU).

Busan has been promoting several projects to make the city an integrated logistics hub in northeast Asia. Such projects include the establishment of Busan Port Authority, the construction of Busan New Port, its nomination as a warehouse for the London Metal Exchange (LME), and the construction of the LME DISTRICT Park around Gamcheon Port.

Furthermore, Busan plans to launch an Internet portal to provide information on Busan port, linking ten major cities on the Yellow Sea Rim with marine/port networks.

Diversified Industries

Until the mid-1970s, Busan recorded a rapid economic growth in such light industries as footwear, textiles and plywood. Since that time, the city has been continuously working to reorganize its industrial structure to pursue high-tech and high-value industries. A good example may be the selection of, and intensive investment in, the ten strategic industries and their potential for drastic growth. As a result, Busan has been chosen as one of the “Top 10 Cities in the Asia-Pacific Region Ideal for Doing Business.”

City with Advanced Transportation Systems

Situated along international air routes, Busan is not only a gateway to the Continent and oceans but also a logistical hub of northeast Asia. The air, sea and road traffic networks of Busan have a long history of development.



Road Network (Busan)

As a terminal of Korea High Speed Rail, which was inaugurated in 2004 and will start its full-scale operation in 2008, Busan has formulated "New Transportation Policy 21" with the aim of establishing itself as a digitized transportation city to realize its ambition to become a major international city of the 21st century. The city has upgraded its transportation system for citizens to a highly sophisticated level, as demonstrated during its successful hosting of major international events such as the 2002 FIFA World Cup Korea/Japan and Asian Games BUSAN 2002.

City of Culture and Tourism

Busan is not only blessed by a natural environment that includes beautiful beaches and mountains of various sizes, but also boasts historical sites such as Beomeosa Temple, as well as such cultural heritages such as Dongnae Hakchum (Dongnae Crane Dance) and Suyeong Yaryu (the mask dance drama of Suyeong).



Beach (Busan)

In addition, the city holds various domestic and international events and festivals throughout the year; examples are the Busan International Film Festival, Busan Sea Festival, and Jagalchi Festival that are now extremely popular and attract many people. With these blessings of the environment and the variety of events, Busan is becoming an international city of culture and tourism.

Major Event Held in Busan in 2005: APEC Leaders' and Ministerial Meetings

The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) held its forum in Busan, South Korea on November 12-19, 2005, and the Ministerial Meetings for its member countries were held at BEXCO as well as the APEC House built on Dongback Island. Above all, the Leaders' Meeting on November 18 and 19, which was chaired by the Korean president Roh Moo Hyun, was attended by the leaders of APEC member countries including President Bush of the United States, President Putin of Russia, and Prime Minister Koizumi of Japan. Discussions covered a wide range of subjects, resulting in The Busan Declaration. There were also a variety of events and performances held in the city during the APEC period.

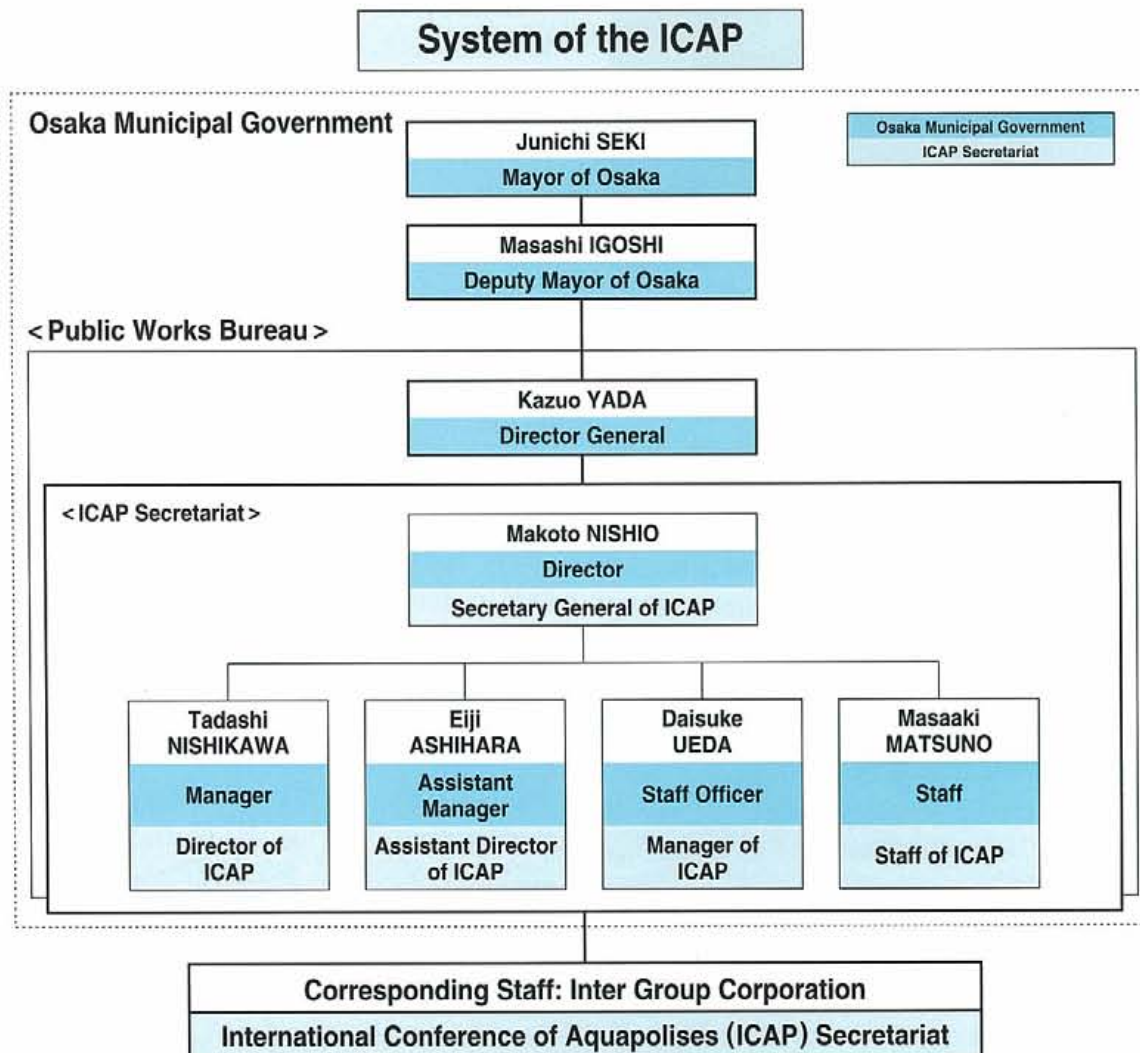
About the Water Symposium in Osaka

On August 18-19, 2005, Osaka City held a Water Symposium on the theme of “consider the future of Osaka, the City of Water,” aiming to raise citizens’ interest in aquapolises.

With an eye to the next ICAP to be held in Busan, representatives of Busan as well as Seoul were also invited to this domestic symposium. They discussed with academics, citizens and students the ideal waterside spaces in urban areas needed for the future, as well as the creation of refreshing or bustling waterside spaces. As a result of these discussions, the participants successfully confirmed a shared view of what is required for the future of Osaka, the City of Water.



State of a discussion



Notice from the Secretariat

Please be informed that the chief of the ICAP Secretariat has been changed as indicated below.
 Chief of the ICAP Secretariat: Mr. Makoto Nishio, Manager of the River and Canal Disaster Prevention Department, Public Works Bureau, Osaka Municipal Government

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