

LIVCOM Awards 2011 Whole City Project

Category D, Population (167,986) City of Andong , Republic of Korea



Queen Elizabeth II of Great Britain, when visiting Andong in 1999, praised Andong as a city of harmony, of the most traditional culture and the future.

■ **Location:** The city of Andong is located along the upper reaches of the Nakdonggang River, the longest river in South Korea, which gathers to it the streams that flow from the Baekdu Deagan Mountain System, the Taebaek Mountain Range and Sobaeksan Mountain. Andong is a combination of both a city and a village and is home to 167,798 residents. It is located in the center of Gyeongsangbuk-do, a transportation center connecting the large major cities of the country including Seoul, Deagu and Busan via the Jungang Highway.

■ **General Information-** Andong means ‘a comfortable and pleasant town of the east’.



As a former major cultural city, it has been home to many renowned sages and scholars.

The quintessential Korea inside South Korea, Andong is called a capital of the spiritual culture of Korea and the city of the Korean aristocracy because the city has preserved Korean Buddhist and Confucian traditions over a long period of time, from the Unified Silla Dynasty (BC57-AD 918) and Goryeo

Dynasty (AD 918-AD 1392) to the Joseon Dynasty (AD1392-AD 1910) along with the traditional cultural treasures of folk culture, old houses, Buddhist temples, and Confucian lecture halls. The total area of the city is 1,52040 km² (Forest and field: 71.0%, Arable area: 15.0%, Other: 14.0%), making it the largest area of cities in South Korea and two and a half the size of Seoul. The major industry sectors consist of 53.0% service tertiary industry, 32% agriculture and fishing industry and 15% mining industry.

■ **History and Culture-** The history of Andong began in BC 57 when tribal states began to form and grew into the current large city from Deadohobu, Dohobu, and Wanchalbu. It has played a role as a center of national administration. Andong-si was promoted to a city on January 1st, 1963 and in 1995 Andong-si and Andong-gun were unified to become one of the largest cities in South Korea. The 2,000 year-old Andong culture developed in unique ways because geographically

the city is surrounded by an inland basin and did not encounter outsiders. Many cultural assets have been excellently preserved, surviving wars and historical hardship. The oldest wooden Buddhist temple, Bongjeongsa Temple, built in the late Unified Silla Dynasty in AD 672. This temple was built to celebrate the landing of an imaginary oriental phoenix, Fenghuang, at the foot of Cheondeungsan Mountain.



Dosan Seowon

The 500 year-old Dosanseowan lecture hall built by Teogye Lee Hwang, a comprehensive Confucian scholar of the Joseon Dynasty. This hall is a landmark of Andong, which has been home to so many well-known scholars and sages.

Hahoe Village, wrapped by the Nakdonggang and established by the Pungsan Ryu family with a 600 year history. This typical folk village has a precious folkloric value. The village is still

inhabited and on July 30, 2010 its cultural and historical value was recognized by designation from UNESCO as a World Cultural Heritage.

In addition, many architectural cultural assets, including old houses and lecture halls, gives Andong the title ‘museum without a roof’. Andong has tried to capitalize on these features in its tourism industry such as a first-hand old house experience and the production of a musical that uses real scenery as its backdrop.



Hahoe Folk Village

■ A City of Nature: Andong, located along the upper reaches of the Nakdonggang River, has abundant green and water resources with 70% of the city area forest or fields and four rivers, including the Nakdonggang (131.5km), that flow through the center of the town. In 2010, Andong-si established a vision of being a Co2-neutral green city and is implementing basic policies for green growth. The Nakdonggang Project, which is a part of a government project to revive the four major rivers, is a project to restore the original function of the river, that of preventing flooding and natural disaster, and to build a green waterside belt that is becoming a rest space for residents. Currently, an observatory, hiking trails, bike trails, first-hand agricultural spaces, a habitat for migratory birds where visitors can learn about swamps, a swamp observation deck, a swamp and a swan park are under construction.



Wolyeong Bridge in Andong Dam

The outdoor museum located near Andong Dam, a tourist attraction of natural ecology and culture, and the beautiful scenic hiking trail of Wolyeong Bridge, the first wooden bridge in South Korea, are popular sites in which residents enjoy outdoor relaxation.

Since recent concepts of green growth has attracted attention as a new development strategy, Andong, which has long maintained its natural beauty and clean environment, is gaining attention as a wonderful place to live. As a result, in 2008 Andong was designated as the new provincial capital of Gyeongsangbukdo Province. In 2014, provincial government offices will be transferred to Andong, which has great possibilities and potential as a center of administration.