

## *Turning the Industrial City into the City of Humanities Using Historical Heritages*

Hyeongkyu Cho, Changwon National University, South Korea

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### **Abstract**

The city has a close relationship with our daily life. The spaces that we routinely use, such as streets, apartments and parks, are a component of the city. Therefore, understanding of the city is a precondition for understanding our present life and looking into the future. As urbanization progressed rapidly, cities in South Korea have been dealt with in terms of 'engineering'. However, with the emergence of various urban problems, the viewpoint of 'engineering' has shown many limits. This study looked at Changwon City at South Korea and tried to find a way to make Changwon into a city of people and culture by using historical resources. In order to consider the Changwon as a 'community of life' rather than to look at it from the viewpoint of 'engineering', this study first looked at the history of Changwon and looked at the background of these historical resources. In addition, this study also proposed a desirable development direction of the city in relation to these historical resources. From a long-term perspective, this study has examined the meaning of cultural heritage in the industrial structure, the role of cultural heritage for city landscape recovery and regional linkage. Through the study, we can see that the old city center and the modern cultural heritage will become important compass in setting the future of Changwon city. And that these resources play a very important role in regenerating the city.

Keywords: City, Humanities, Historical Heritage, Changwon

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## **Introduction**

Located in Gyeongsangnam-do, South Korea, Changwon City was originally created after the three administrative districts, Changwon, Masan and Jinhae were merged into one city. In 2010, after the administrative districts were merged into one, the city named 'Changwon' was born. These three cities formed a very close relationship even before the merger, and Changwon City has faced many changes since the merger.

First, the changes in the industrial structure were the leading force behind the growth of Masan and Changwon. Especially, the decline of the Masan Free Trade Zone, which was a leading force behind Masan's growth, led to the decline of the city. In order to overcome this, an urban renewal project is being put forward with. In Changwon, the National Industrial Complex has been successfully operated so far. However, since the advent of the 4th industry and the sophistication of the industrial structure have emerged as urgent tasks, there is the need to flexibly respond to the effects of this industrial structure in the city. Second, the viewpoints on the cities have been changed. In the past, the growth-oriented urban policies were implemented in terms of efficiency. However, now is the time when management-oriented urban policies need to be implemented such as the ones that put emphasis on saving resource energy, expanding citizen participation, and preserving history and culture. Especially, the need to culturally improve the constitution of Changwon City by putting into use its historical and cultural resources is growing.

For this reason, it has become an important agenda to understand the history and culture, people and society, and spaces and environment of the merged city of Changwon and to survey the prospect of the city. In this regard, this paper intends to examine the practical tasks of changing Changwon as an industrial city into a human and culture centered city and seek to discover desirable solutions to these challenges.

## **Main Concepts of Urban Humanities**

In this Chapter, we will look at the main concepts for creating humanity cities. One of the concepts of the humanities city is the creative city. Charles Landry defined the creative city as city which has a diversified, sophisticated and internationally oriented cultural industries structure that nurtures and supports a wealth of local and international artistic activity that both are commercial, subsidized and voluntary. Cultural infrastructure plays an important role in the concept of creative city. Another concepts of the humanities city is the making the livable city. There are five fundamental aspects of great, livable cities: robust and complete neighborhoods, accessibility and sustainable mobility, a diverse and resilient local economy, vibrant public spaces, and affordability.

In order for cities to function as an infrastructure capable of implementing cultural infrastructure and self-realization needs, a new urban policy perspective is needed. For example, a policy that contains the identity of a city, a policy that encourage citizens to actively participate in urban policy, and a policy pursues long-term value rather than short-term value is needed. Based on the concept of humanity city, the next chapter will examine concrete strategy using Changwon city as a case study.

## Changwon as the Industrial City

On July 1 this year, United Changwon City was launched through unity of three different cities, Changwon, Masan and Jinhae. These three cities decided to integrate into united city to relieve the decentralization of individual cities and the improvement of administrative efficiency. Most of all, since these three cities were in a form of conurbation, such an integration seems to have large effect on the decentralization and urban growth.



Figure 1: Location of Three Cities

Among the original three regions of the merged city of Changwon, Changwon has a long history with its name derived from the merge of Uichang and Hoewon in 1408. After the establishment of the Republic of Korea, Changwon City was reborn as a representative industrial city. Changwon National Industrial Complex was created in Changwon City beginning in 1974, when the government selected Changwon City as an industrial city as part of the policy of fostering heavy chemical industry. As the hosting city of the industrial complex, Changwon has been developed as a planned city since 1973 and an urban project was established modeling after Canberra in Australia. The Changwon National Industrial Complex has grown from the cradle of the Korean machinery industry among the heavy industry-led industries to a world-class machinery industrial complex.

In the meantime, Masan was raised to the status of a Bu in 1910 under the Japanese colonial rule, and its function as an international trade port was resurrected after being designated as an open port. In the 1970s, the Masan Free Trade Zone was established. It was the industrial complex, the first ever established in Korea in January 1970 under the "Export Free Zone Act". It achieved a rapid growth in the 1970s thanks to the government's strong export drive policy. As a result, the economy of Masan flourished through the development of free trade zone in the 1980s and early 1990s, and the business activities in the downtown areas of Chang-dong and Ohdong-dong also prospered. However, its volume of exports dropped to \$1,463 million in 1991 due to the growth of neighboring city Changwon and labor disputes since 1988. As a result, the number of employees in the complex decreased from 36,000 in 1987 to 19,000 in the end of 1991. Consequently, the urban regeneration of Masan has become a very important issue.

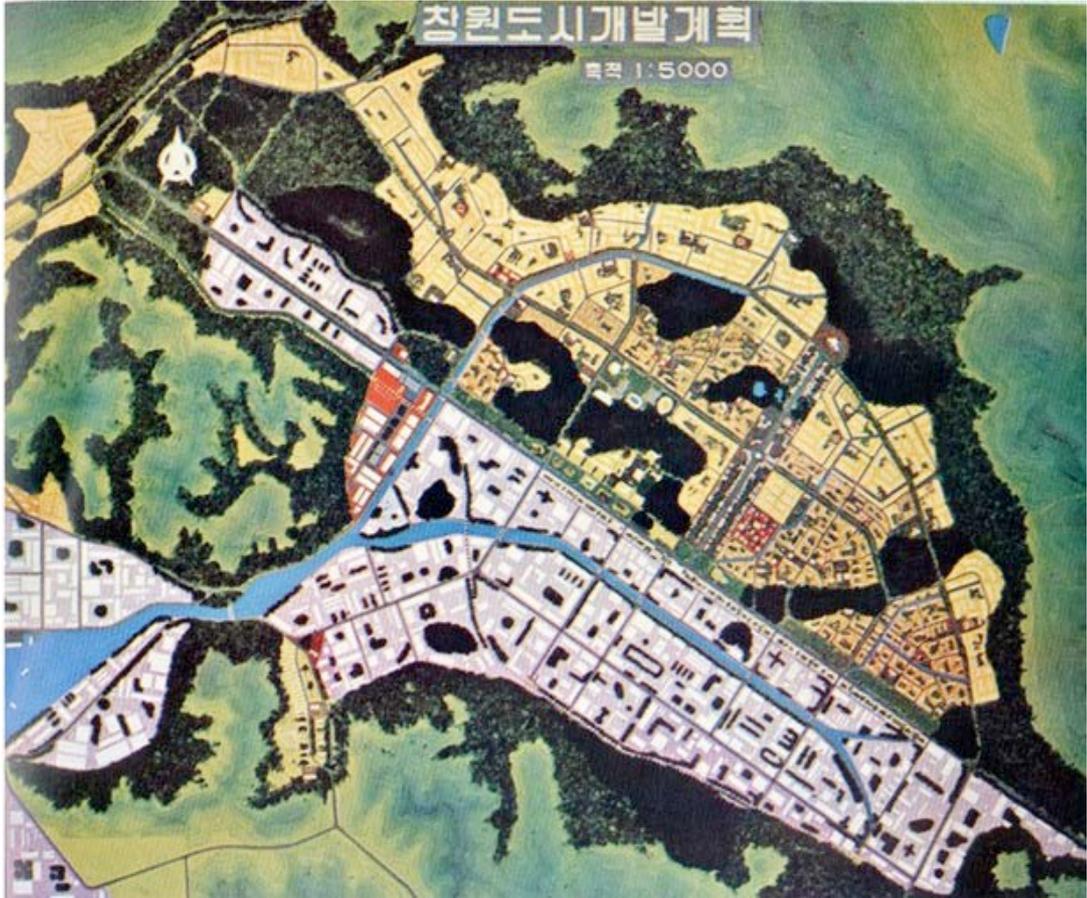


Figure 2: Urban Development Plan of Changwon



Figure 3: 1980's Scenery of Masan Free Export Zone

Jinhae City was originally built in 1912 for the Japanese military purpose and later used as a naval base in the Korean War. It has now become the central base for the ROK Navy. Famous for the port city and the cherry blossom festival, the city is also an area where the business activities of the multinational companies are expected to thrive after its being designated as the Busan-Jinhae Free Economic Zone. The city as well is having its old downtown areas declining due to the development of new towns. However, since its old downtown areas were built during the Japanese colonial period, the city has many modern cultural heritages built during those days. Therefore there is a growing need to effectively utilize these resources to contribute to the revitalization of the city.



Figure 4: Jinhae Town under the Japanese Colonial Period

### **Restoration of Changwoneupseong Fortress and Its Connection with the Surrounding Areas**

Changwoneupseong Fortress, which is 1.2km in circumference, was constructed with four gates in the four cardinal directions, a well, a fortress, a battlement, and a moat, most of which have been so damaged and it is hard to find their traces. It was originally a castle surrounding Changwon Dohobu, and its construction was completed in 1477 to fight against the invasion from the Japanese raiders. However, today's most of Changwoneupseong Fortress has been so damaged that it is impossible to find its traces. Changwon City planned to restore of Dongmunji of Changwonupseong Fortress in 2007 with a view to restoring the old Eupseong Fortress and creating a symbolic space representing Changwon in the Joseon Dynasty period. However, with the merger of Changwon City, the restoration of Eupseong Fortress has gradually been pushed off the policy priorities. As a result, there has been no particular progress so far except for the purchase of a few private houses around Dongmunji.



Figure 5: Changwon Eupseong Dongmun Area Restoration Plan



Figure 6: Dongmun Area Restoration Strategy for the Connection to the Surrounding Area

The restoration of Changwoneupseong Fortress can play a very important role in restoring the history of Changwon. Therefore, there is the need to implement the restoration policy in connection with the surrounding areas from a long-term perspective. The restoration site of the Dongmunji and the Changwon Confucian School are located very close to each other with a distance of only 100 meters. Therefore, the following tasks for linking them to the surrounding area can be considered. First, there is the need to make Uian Street, which links the two areas, into a history street by applying public design techniques. In addition, there is the need to review an additional project to expand Eupseong Fortress to the north side of Dongmunji so that it can be linked to Changwon Confucian School. A community space for local residents and visitors can be created through the creation of the upper deck in the surrounding parking lot and in the other usable areas.

Meanwhile, a long-term restoration master plan needs to be established for Seomunji, Bukmunji, and Namunji. Restoration strategies are needed since it is virtually impossible to restore all parts of Euseong Fortress. In terms of dots, the four gates need to be restored step by step. In terms of lines, the street linking the gates needs to be made into a history street. In terms of planes, the traditional markets, the schools, and the public facilities within the Eupseong Fortress area need to be made into the places for experiencing history. A storytelling technique using historical and cultural resources such as Kim Jong-young's birthplace in the neighborhood needs to be applied, and street-centered restoration and urban regeneration should be considered to request financial support from the central government. As one example related to this project, there is the Gamyong Street development project in Chungju City, which is a project to restore the area in front of the Kwanhua Park in Chungju Eupseong area, where a provincial office was located in the Joseon Dynasty period, into a place alive with history and culture. With the support of 300 million won from the government, the signboards and public facilities on the roadside were improved with traditional designs, and Byeokcheon Fountain and the parks were built. Another example is the Culture and History Street Project in Incheon City. The street is in front of Incheon Jung-gu Office, where there were many Chinese and Japanese residents in the opening port era. The area has recently emerged as a tourist destination by preserving the Chinese houses and the buildings from the late period of Joseon Dynasty and rearranging the surrounding streets.

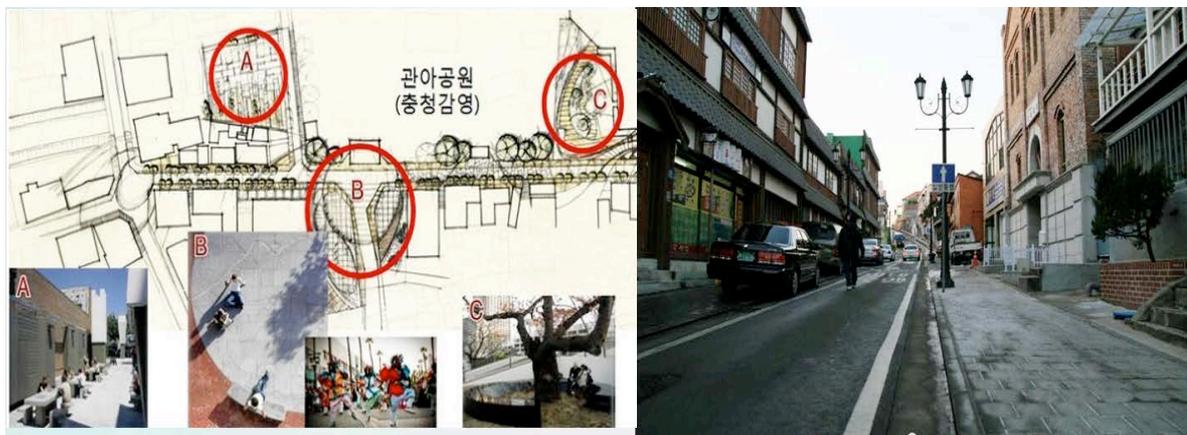


Figure 7: Chungju Gyungyoung street development project(Left) and Incheon City History and Culture Street Project(Right)

## Changdong Old City Center and Urban Regeneration

Masan flourished through the development of free trade zone in the 1980s and early 1990s, and the business activities in the downtown areas of Chang-dong and Ohdong-dong also prospered. However, after the late 1980s, the city began to experience an urban decline due to its industrial decline. Today, the urban regeneration of Masan using cultural resources has become a very important issue.

Chang-dong, which corresponds to the downtown area of Masan, was the place where a tribute granary (Masan Granary) was located in the Joseon Dynasty period and has a high historical value. With the establishment of Masan Granary, the official residences and private houses were formed in its neighborhood, and it naturally became the center of Masan Port.



Figure 8: Historic Site of Masan Jo-Chang

As the trade became active, Masan Port became the foundation for Masan City. In order to prevent the urban decline, Masan City has been implemented urban regeneration projects mainly in the Chang-dong and Ohdong-dong area. As a part of the government research and development project, a research was conducted with Changwon as a test-bed from 2011 through 2013, and as a result, Chang-dong Art Village was created utilizing the 70 vacant stores in an alley. Chang-dong Art Village was designed to be restored as a place of historical meanings that leads the way in reviving Chang-dong Street in Masan, to be recreated as a meeting place for people, and to be created as a community zone for new creative activities of local residents to begin.

The urban renewal project for Chang-dong is still in progress. Conflicts often arise between the residents of the art villages and the local government. The creation of the Art Village in Chang-don itself cannot automatically guarantee the urban

regeneration. There is still a lot of misconception that with the help of the Bilbao effect, the creation of beautiful buildings and facilities is all about the urban regeneration. The genuine effects of the urban regeneration require several principles. First, the urban regeneration should be led by the local residents. The project should proceed in the way that the local community and citizens work together to beautify the city. Second, they should not be obsessed with short-term outcomes. An urban regeneration is a task which takes a very long time and thus, should be proceeded from a long-term perspective. Third, it requires various projects to be linked. No matter how many efforts are invested in beautifying individual buildings and urban spaces, it is difficult to provide vitality to the city with no connection with the surrounding areas. The buildings and urban spaces of excellent designs are still important, but the city-level maintenance that supports them is needed more than anything else.

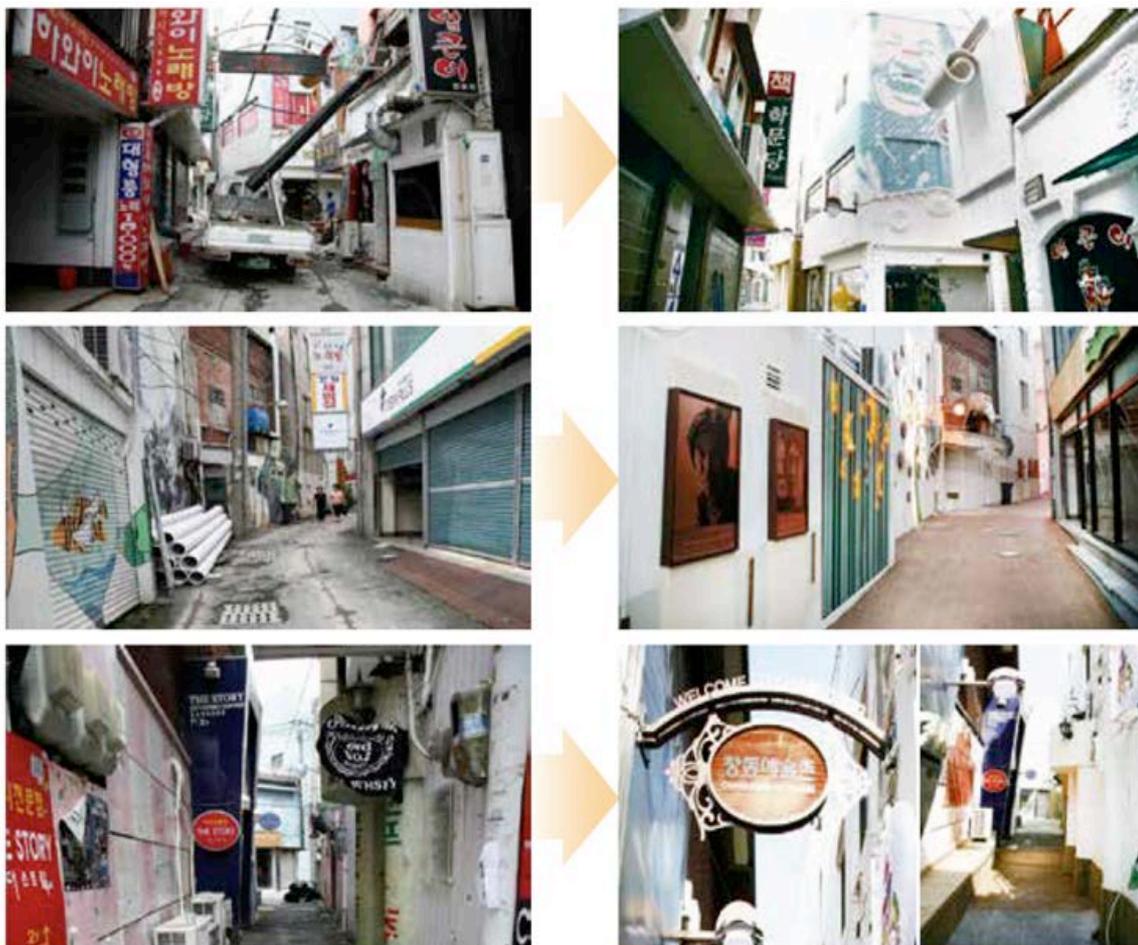


Figure 9: Before(Left) and After(Right) of Changdong Urban Regeneration

### Planned City Jinhae and Modern Cultural Heritage

In 1905, the Japanese Empire made an urban plan to develop the Jinhae Bay into the largest naval port in Asia to serve as a bridgehead for continental invasion. The project of creating Jinhae Naval Port was begun in 1912 and completed in 1920. As the urban structure, the radial horizontal street structure with the Bukwon Rotary, the Joongwon Rotary, and the Namwon Rotary as axes was selected. The Joongwon

Rotary is the central axe in the urban structure of Jinhae and located in the upper center of the figure below.



Figure 10: Jinhae Urban Development Plan(Left) and Present Jinhae City(Right)

As Jinhae was established as a planned city during the Japanese colonial period, the city still has some modern cultural heritages. Modern Cultural Heritages are not designated cultural properties, but the ones among the buildings or facilities formed in the modern era and worthwhile to commemorate that particularly require measures for their preservation and utilization. In addition, they are cultural heritages that had been built until before and after the Korean War from the period of enlightenment. Changwon has some valuable modern cultural heritages of usage values, which are concentrated in the Jinhae area. Among them, the buildings shown in the following figure have been well preserved. However, it is hard to utilize them since they are in the military base.



Figure 11: Jinhae Provincial Command Buildings

There are many buildings in the new towns of Jinhae City that are not as well-preserved as those above but convey the atmosphere of the period of the Japanese colonial rule. Since these buildings are concentrated around Joongwon Rotary and already used as restaurants, they have high values for urban purposes.



Figure 12: Jinhae Black & White Coffee Shop

In the case that cultural heritages maintain not only their original appearances but also their original functions, it is best for them to be able to play a role in the cities with these original functions. However, in the case that they have lost their original functions except for their buildings, the preservation-centered policies are needed for the preservation of their original forms since they possess excellent academic or historic values. Especially, it is because once the cultural heritages of the city are utilized, it is almost impossible to recover them in their original forms or their original values. However, the modern cultural heritages contribute more to local revitalization

or urban regeneration when used in the urban contexts rather than when merely preserved. Currently, in Jinhae, there are some committees consisting of local residents and experts, providing many suggestions for local development. Long-term strategies are needed in the future to use modern cultural heritages and to bring vitality to the ancient city of Jinhae. It is also possible to preserve the urban heritages and use them as the elements of the local images. In order to do this, it is necessary to conceive the ways to link them to the production system such as local industries.

## **Conclusion**

This study looked at Changwon City at South Korea and tried to find a way to make Changwon into a city of people and culture by using historical resources. In order to consider the Changwon as a 'community of life' rather than to look at it from the viewpoint of 'engineering', this study first looked at the history of Changwon and looked at the background of these historical resources. In addition, this study also proposed a desirable development direction of the city in relation to these historical resources.

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**Contact email:** [hkcho@cwnu.ac.kr](mailto:hkcho@cwnu.ac.kr)