

# **Korea-Wadden Sea Exchange Workshop & Training Course on Getbol Education**

Mokpo, Muan and Sinan, Korea, 28.9. – 2.10.2010

Hosted by the Ministry of Land, Transport and Maritime Affairs, the Jeollanam-do Province as well as Muan County and Sinan County.

Organized by Eco-Horizon Institute, Getbol Forum, International Wadden Sea School (IWSS) and Common Wadden Sea Secretariat (CWSS).

Sponsored by Korea Marine Environment Management Corporation (KOEM), World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), Korea Ocean Research and Development Institute (KORDI) and Panasonic Korea Ltd.

## **1. Purpose**

Following the „First Joint Workshop Memorandum of Understanding Wadden Sea Korea“ from 19. – 20.10.2009 in Mokpo, South Korea, a specific workshop and training course on Getbold education was held in Mokpo, Muan and Sinan from 28.9. – 2.10.2010.

The purpose of this workshop was

- To strengthen the capabilities of tidal flat educators and the visitor centre managers in Korea by sharing experience and know-how on tidal flat education that the Wadden Sea countries and Korea have accumulated
- To reinforce CEPA programs for the tidal flat conservation by sharing the educational programs and materials on the Wadden Sea and the training courses for tidal flat educators
- To establish a continuous exchange program as well as collaborative network for tidal flat education according to the MOU between the Ministry of Land, Transport and Maritime Affairs and the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation

## **2. Content**

The workshop comprised two parts:

- a) a symposium for the Korean tidal flat visitor centre managers and educators with guest speakers from the IWSS held in Mokpo on 28.9.2010 with about 100 participants and
- b) a training course targeted towards the visitor centre managers, educators, tour guides, local residents and NGO activists held in Muan tidal flat visitor centre and Jeungdo tidal flat visitor centre from 29.9. to 2.10.2010 with about 30 participants.

Both parts aimed at

- sharing of management experience in visitor centres and the support policy for tidal flat education programs

- looking for measures to link eco-tours with education materials and training
- strengthening the capabilities of the educators and centre managers for creating exhibition materials and developing educational resources
- promoting the international exchange of education programs

### **3. Participants and Contributions from the Wadden Sea**

Three Wadden Sea educationalists from the IWSS network participated in and contributed to the workshop: Jaco Spek (Ecomare, Texel, The Netherlands), Ulrik Gelderman Lützen (Vadehavets Formidlerforum, Denmark) and Anja Szczesinski (IWSS coordinator). Altogether, the Wadden Sea experts contributed 11 presentations on various aspects of environmental education in the Wadden Sea, a sample guided tour on the mudflats as well as a practical session introducing various IWSS educational activities (Puzzle, Role Play on Coastal Development, Wader Migration Game, Landscape Journey, etc.).

### **4. Outcome**

The workshop proved to be very successful with highly motivated participants, fruitful discussions, a vivid exchange of experience and ideas and a set of recommendations formulated by the workshop participants for the future development of tidal flat education in Korea as well as for the further cooperation with the trilateral Wadden Sea:

### **Recommendations**

Korea and three participating countries of 2010 Korea-Wadden Sea Exchange Workshop & Training Course on Getbol Education agreed upon continued collaboration and mutual exchange, and we hereby recommend the following resolutions:

1. Upon confirming potential and possibilities of Korean Getbol education, we recognize the necessity of creating an integrated plan for Getbol education and establishing an institutional support system for further development.
2. To promote Getbol education, we recognize Getbol visitor centers in Korea as a main strategic base and establish an integrated cooperation system between stakeholders.
  - To strengthen network, information exchange and stakeholder involvement, analysis of stakeholders (central government, local governments, local communities, NGOs, etc) and participatory approach will be necessary.
3. We understand the Getbol Visitor Center's operational situation and will strive for effective and efficient management of the facility.
  - Establish operation and management manual for Getbol Visitor Centers.
  - Strengthen human resources to secure expertise needed for Getbol education.
  - Empower Getbol visitor center staff and educators and strengthen their roles.

4. For further development of Getbol education, we shall promote exchanges between domestic and foreign educators.
  - Continuous exchanges between Getbol educators.
  - Establish strategy for specialized programs in each Getbol visitor centers.
5. In order to strengthen Getbol education for children and teenagers, we will work towards including Getbol in school curriculums.
  - Seek cooperation from local and central educational organizations.
  - Establish standard curriculum for Getbol visitors.
6. We shall collaborate closely with local communities to seek effective Getbol education and eco-tourism methods.
  - Construct support system for stable Getbol education based on local environment and community's culture.
  - Analyze local resources and develop programs to stimulate eco-tourism.
7. We should expand collaboration and continued exchanges between Korea and three countries of Wadden Sea for conservation and development of Getbol education.
  - Between Korea and three countries of Wadden Sea, Getbol programs and ideas shall be exchanged through mutual visits.
  - Translate and adapt Wadden Sea Getbol programs and educational materials for Korea.
  - Regularly hold *Korea Wadden Sea Exchange Workshop & Training Course on Getbol Education* on a rotational basis.

## 5. Follow-up

Concerning the Korea-Wadden Sea cooperation, the following concrete measures have been suggested and discussed:

IWSS workshop: A delegation of Korean centre managers and/or educators is invited to take part in the next IWSS network workshop in Tönning, Germany, from 22.-24.11.2010. The Korean colleagues are considering this option, especially as the next option of an English speaking meeting of Wadden Sea educationalists will most certainly not come up until the next IWSS workshop at the end of 2011.

IWSS & Wadden Sea educational resources: The IWSS as well as the Dutch and Danish colleagues have offered free access to all available educational resources for the use (after translation and adaptation) in the Korean tidal flat education.

"Insight-stay" in Wadden Sea centres: The Korean colleagues have been offered the opportunity to stay for a week or two in one of the Wadden Sea centres to get insight into the centres' management and first-hand experience of the various educational programmes offered by the individual centres. The IWSS offered support to find "host centres". Travel to and from the Wadden Sea would be at the expense of the individual Korean guest, the costs for board and lodging during the

stay in the Wadden Sea would need to be arranged for by the Trilateral Cooperation resp. project funding or other sources.

Follow-up workshop in Korea: The Korean colleagues plan a follow-up workshop in 2011 again in cooperation with the Trilateral Wadden Sea. The IWSS suggested to contribute “case studies” to specific aspects relevant for Getbol education at that time after having given an overall picture of Wadden Sea education this year.

## **6. Background Information and Analysis**

The situation of the Korean tidal flat education is highly heterogeneous within the country. Whereas some centres such as the Muan Tidal Flat visitor centre struggle with educational know-how and cannot fill the brand new, highly advanced centre with life, which is also reflected in very low numbers of visitors, other centres such as the Nakdong River Estuary Centre or the Suncheon Bay Centre are well-organised, offer various educational programmes and rather struggle with too many visitors.

Until now, exchange of experience between the various centres was limited. The potential of knowledge-transfer and synergy effects has only recently been recognized and the workshop constituted the first meeting of centres managers and educators and is considered the first step in the organised exchange between Korean tidal flat centres.

Although the offers and quality of tidal flat education range from very well developed to practically not existent between the centres, the Korean tidal flat education generally faces structural and organisational problems that have been addressed at the workshop and are reflected in the recommendations.

Overall, there seems to be a high potential for professional tidal flat education in Korea with motivated educationalists and much expert knowledge on centre management and educational program development. However, due to a lack of exchange this potential is concentrated in few locations. But with a well-organized exchange among the Korean centres, some structural changes in the centres' management and some inspiration from cooperation partners such as the Wadden Sea the Korean tidal flat education can certainly develop “from within” towards a valuable tool of tidal flat conservation.

The contributions by the Wadden Sea experts thus were primarily best-practice examples of the benefits of cooperation in education and our role was above all that of a facilitator. By providing our analysis and recommendations we confirmed impressions and strengthened suggestions for improvement that the Korean colleagues themselves had identified before. Thus, this workshop with the chance to formulate recommendations supported by both the Korean and Wadden Sea education experts was certainly a valuable step in the structural and organisational improvement of Korean tidal flat education.