

Gwangandaegyo Bridge opens to walkers again

Pedestrians may walk
on the bridge Sept. 22

Gwangandaegyo Bridge is Busan's landmark attraction. At 7,420 meters long, it opened with great fanfare on Jan. 6, 2003. It is appropriately nicknamed Diamond Bridge, due to how brilliant it becomes at night. Unfortunately, the bridge is almost always seen from afar, but that recently changed.

The bridge last opened to the public on the morning of July 27, when people were able to enjoy themselves by walking, watching performances and eating great food. The day kicked off at 7:30 a.m. with a pre-show by the Busking Again team from the TV show "Gag Concert."

Following that, there was a parade made up of walking clubs, citizens and a military band. Further highlights of the morning included performances from magicians, acoustic bands, K-Pop acts, juggling and miming. There were also photo zones for visitors who wanted to take pictures of themselves with Marine City and Gwangalli Beach in the background, as well as food trucks to



Seonghoon Kwon

Citizens enjoyed themselves on the morning of July 27, 2019, when Gwangandaegyo Bridge last opened to pedestrians.

prevent pedestrians from going hungry.

In total, the day took place over 4.9 kilometers of the upper section of the bridge from Bexco station to Megamart in Namcheon-dong (neighborhood). For those who missed the recent event, Busan Metropolitan City Hall is opening the bridge to the public once more on Sept. 22.

The upcoming opening of the

bridge promises to provide even more fun and amusement for people of all ages. It will again run from 7:30 to 10:30 a.m. on the same stretch of bridge as the previous event. Be sure to show up at least before 9 a.m. to make the most of the morning. For drivers' reference, this means that the top of the bridge will be closed from 6:30 to 11 a.m.

The opening of the bridge to pedestrians appears to be quite popular.

If the event continues to give people the chance to see the bridge up close and keeps featuring performances, then there's no reason why City Hall shouldn't at least think about once again opening it up to citizens in the future.

More information will be announced in the coming days and weeks on the official Facebook of City Hall (facebook.com/DynamicBusan).

Exports of seaweed from Busan and Gijang growing rapidly

Local product is at
peak popularity

Busan's Gijang seaweed is gaining traction as a super food in foreign countries.

According to data of seaweed export trends, exports of Busan seaweed nearly tripled to 2,000 tons in the first half of the year, compared to the first half of last year. Major export markets include Japan, the United States and Canada.

Exports to North America grew 99.7 percent, compared to the same period of 2018. Analysts say that this increasing demand has been caused by a higher interest in health foods.

Indeed, awareness of the health benefits of seaweed has been rapidly evolving in parts of Europe and North America. Seaweed is rich in calcium and has a high content of iodine, the main chemical element of thyroid hormones. Seaweed is also good for dieting, because it is very low in calories and high in fiber, which promotes intestinal health.

In Korea, the most common way to eat seaweed is to cook boiled seaweed soup with beef, shellfish and mussels. There is also a custom of cooking seaweed soup for a mother who has just given birth, because the



Busanillo

A lot of work goes into local seaweed.



Seaweed soup is a classic comfort food.

soup helps blood circulation. In this regard, seaweed soup is also associated with birthdays, which is why Koreans eat the soup every year they get older.

Busan seaweed is produced in Gijang, where sunshine is abundant and where warm and cold currents meet. Manufacturers in Gijang strive to produce a wide variety of products based on seaweed to meet overseas demand.

BFIC assists foreign culture groups

Applications for financial aid due Sept. 15.

The Busan Foundation for International Cooperation (BFIC) will aid foreign communities putting on social gatherings, celebrations and events of cultural promotion. Selected communities are eligible for financial and administrative support. The foundation will provide as much as one million won for a community.

Application for events through December is open from Sept. 2 to 15. Download the application form from



The BFIC has aided many cultural programs.

bfic.kr and send it to applybfic@gmail.com. Announcements regarding applications are scheduled for Sept. 19. For more information, call 051-711-6845.

A chance for social media influencers

If you are a foreigner living in Busan who is active on social media, you could qualify for the Saha-gu (district) Global Social Network Supporters, wherein you can earn money to use your social media to advertise Saha-gu on popular social media platforms.

You will need to upload posts on a quarterly basis. These posts would be about cultural events, festivals and other items related to tourism in the district. You would also have the ability to create and publish promotional content, which could net you

writer's fees. Additional benefits include invitations to the planning of events and participation in the Fam Tour, which tours famous attractions of Dadaepo, Jangrim Port and Gamcheon Culture Village.

To apply for the Saha-gu Global Social Network Supporters, download and fill the application form either at the official Saha-gu website (saha.go.kr) or blog (blog.naver.com/sahablog). Send the completed application form to yujoo77@korea.kr by Sept. 20. The program will run from Oct. 2019 to Dec. 2020.