

## NEWS

# New Gadeok airport necessary to regional welfare

## City Hall against expanding Gimhae International

City Hall is hard at work planning for Busan's new airport, which aims to better connect Busan to the rest of the world. The city has drawn up a road map for the construction of Gadeok International Airport. Building a new airport, rather than simply expanding Gimhae International, is necessary to accommodate an influx of visitors for the 2030 World Expo and to further develop Busan as an international destination.

City Hall is doing its utmost to raise awareness of the need to build a new airport that can cover the entirety of Busan, Ulsan and Gyeong-sangnam-do 24 hours a day. In addition, it has come up with a plan to improve runway construction, which will dramatically improve noise



An aerial view of the future Gadeok International Airport.

and safety.

This plan will also reduce total off-shore landfill area, which will in turn lower the cost of construction. In fact, as the landfill area decreases, the estimated cost of building the new airport is only about 500 billion won more than it would cost to expand Gimhae (around seven trillion won). Noise levels will be manageable fol-

lowing the relocation of just 400 households. In addition, Gimhae faces numerous difficulties in expansion, whereas Gadeok can be built in a manner that accommodates further expansion if necessary.

To win hosting rights for the 2030 World Expo, City Hall believes that a basic location and design plan for a new airport should be established be-

fore the city sends its application to the Bureau International des Expositions in May 2022.

The necessity of a new airport is made even clearer after consulting data from a survey conducted by the Busan Development Institute. On average, travelers from the southeastern part of the country spend about 150,000 won to go from their place of origin to Incheon International Airport, which is about 700 billion won in total per year. The Gadeok International Airport is a long-overdue project and an obvious need for the eight million residents of the nation's southeastern region.

Constructing a brand new airport in Gadeok is not an unreasonable demand but a necessary one to do away with high costs, noise pollution and personal inconvenience. It is also a matter of reviving the area's increasingly stagnant economy. Construction of the new airport is essential for the development and stability of the southeastern region and the entire nation.

# Summer prevention guidelines make summer safe

## Alert systems, beach and restaurant procedures take shape

### ■ Levels of social distancing

The government is implementing a three-level social distancing plan that will vary depending on the severity of COVID-19 and the intensity of quarantine measures. The Central Disaster and Safety Countermeasures Headquarters announced a set of standards and action plans for each level of distancing.

The country is currently at Level 1, as virus cases have largely been manageable. In the event of the health system being incapable of coping

with the spread, or if daily infections exceed 50 for 14 consecutive days but remain below 100, the government will apply Level 2. Level 3 measures will be implemented if infections in the community occur on a large scale and daily infections exceed 100.

Mayors of South Korea can adjust local alert levels as needed in regards to their cities' confirmed cases and the severity of COVID's spread. Busan will apply Level 2 if local infections reach 25 or more per week.

Level 3 will only be applied after discussion with government agencies regarding social costs and nationwide quarantine measures. Levels may be lowered after spreading has been stabilized and the daily number of confirmed cases decreases below the regional level for a week.

### ■ Level-by-level regulation of events and activities

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
Gatherings, meetings, events	Allowed (recommend compliance with quarantine rules)	No gatherings of more than 50 indoors and 100 outdoors	No gatherings of 10 or more
Attendance of athletic events	Number of spectators restricted	No spectators allowed	Suspension of events
Use of private facilities	Permitted with an order to refrain from operating high-risk facilities and a recommended compliance of prevention measures	Suspension of high-risk facilities. Facilities must follow quarantine measures.	Suspension of high-risk facilities. Facilities must follow quarantine measures.
Schools, kindergartens and daycares	In-class or remote	In-class or remote (reduction of students for in-class)	Remote or closure
Private institutions and enterprises	Flexible work hours and working from home recommended	Restricted number of workers recommended	Working from home recommended for all but necessary



The city has been working hard to raise awareness of its new policies on Haeundae Beach.

### ■ Beach quarantine

Until Aug. 15, visitors to Haeundae, Songjeong, Gwangalli, Songdo, and Dadaepo must wear masks. Failure to comply may result in a fine of up to three million won. Additionally, eating and drinking at these beaches between 7 p.m. and 6 a.m. is prohibited. City Hall and local police are enforcing these rules to include roads around the beaches and nearby parks. Confirmed patients who cause spreading by not complying with the rules will face consequences.

City Hall has tasked foreign consulates in Busan with keeping foreign residents informed about COVID-19 prevention guidelines. English instructional materials have been installed at the entrance of beaches, and announcements are being made in English to aid non-Koreans in proper procedure.

**Dynamic Busan**

English newspaper of Busan  
Metropolitan City, Korea

**Published by** Busan Metropolitan City

**Executive Director** Bae Byungcheol

**Chief Editor** Choo Changsik

**Editor** Kang Ahrang

**Production** Busan Ilbo

**Copy Editors** Mike P.W., Cha Sunghoon

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