

LIFE

INTERVIEW

Cycling with Bubakeo's manager Benjamin Nobu



Benjamin Nobu, manager of Bubakeo.

Autumn is on its way and the clear skies provide a fitting climate for enjoying the outdoors. There are many beautiful locales in the city where you can enjoy the weather, instead of walking, why not ride a bike around? Busan is a bicycle-friendly city with over 20 bike lanes and 12 city-run bicycle rental shops.

Last year, a group of cycling experts in Busan dubbed themselves "Bubakeo," and established a company. They promote bicycle-riding culture and carry out various social contribution activities. Benjamin Nobu, manager of the organization and a member of the Busan Global

Citizen Advisory Group for International Tourism City, sat down with Dynamic Busan to answer a few questions.

Q. Hello! Please introduce yourself.

A. My name is Benjamin Nobu. I was born and raised in Ghana and came to Korea through the Korean Government Scholarship in 2013. Currently, I hold a Ph.D. in Business Administration. I spend my time researching several topics relating to consumer well-being, ethics, bicycle safety education and others. I developed an interest in bicycle tourism quite recently and got associated with Bubakeo, a bicycle tourism venture company in Busan. Through that, I have organized several bike tours for foreigners living in Busan to explore some of the beautiful places in Busan, like Yeongdo. I believe that bike tours are one of the best ways to get to every nook and cranny of a city and enjoy the scenery.

How would you describe Bubakeo?

Bubakeo is a Venture Company and Social Enterprise in Busan. The company organizes bicycle safety edu-

cation, bike tours, bicycle map development and bicycle-related campaigns. Given that the world is facing environmental issues exacerbated by climate change, Bubakeo believes that a new form of tourism is needed. Cycling is not only important for the environment but also for a healthy lifestyle. Therefore, Bubakeo encourages everyone in Busan and Korea to get on their bikes and visit our website (www.bikebusan.com) to learn more about our activities.

Is Busan a good place for cycling?

There are many beautiful places to discover and experience in Busan through cycling. The city has beautiful beaches where cyclists can ride along and feel the breeze. There are various historic places where cyclists can experience the history and culture of Korea and many parks where cyclists can relax and enjoy nature, in a special way.

Also, people can ride to Jagalchi Market to enjoy the rich taste of fresh seafood and explore buildings in Yeongdo and Haeundae. So yes, Busan is an excellent city for cyclists. Therefore, we encourage people to dust off their bikes, hit the road and maybe join us on a tour.

Do you have any special stories that took place in Busan?

Yes, Yeongdo is one of the most beautiful islands in Busan yet unknown to many people. Traveling around there on my bike gave me the unique opportunity to learn about the history of shipbuilding in Korea. I'm convinced that Busan is a unique place for tourists.

What is your vision for Bubakeo and yourself?

Bubakeo is designing a groundbreaking project called the Bicycle Taxi (BTX). This project, designed to help people get to their destinations easily and conveniently without having to go through much traffic, is specifically for the city of Busan. The smooth operation of this project will be possible with the development of a bicycle road infrastructure in the city and we plan to select a particular place in Busan to pilot this project. When it succeeds, it will be a big help in creating an Eco-Delta City and employment for citizens. It will help reduce people's dependence on cars and provide better transportation alternatives. I hope to contribute my knowledge and skills to see this project come to fruition.



Culture Corner

History and protection of Dokdo

Dokdo is Alive, a special exhibit featuring

If you don't know much about Dokdo, the easternmost island of Korea, now is your chance to learn. Busan Marine Natural History Museum will hold a special joint exhibition, "Dokdo is alive," with Dokdo Museum. The considerably sized free exhibit is on the first and second floor until Feb. 6.

The history and ecosystem of the

island are illuminated in three sections with the help of over 150 works, including ancient documents, marine creature samples, photos and videos. Among them, notable works include historical and current maps and pictures of the island.

To prevent the spread of COVID-19, the exhibition is available through reservation only (reserve.

busan.go.kr/exprn) and is limited to a maximum of 55 visitors per hour. For more information about the exhibit or attendance regulations, visit the museum's website (busan.go.kr/sea).

• **Address:** 175, Ujangchun-ro, Dongnae-gu, Busan

• **Hours:** Tuesday through Sunday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Closed Mondays.

• **Phone:** 051-550-8828

• **How to get there:** Dongnae Station (metro line 1), exit 4. Take Dongnae-gu village bus 1-1 and get off at the Busan Marine Natural History Museum stop.



Busan Marine Natural History Museum

Jump in and explore ocean depths

New interactive exhibit "Wave Splash" makes waves

Summer may be gone, but it's not too late to catch some waves. Until Sept. 26, Shinsegae Department Store, in Centum City, is hosting the "Wave Splash" exhibit, featuring cutting-edge technology that takes visitors on an underwater ride they won't soon forget.

The sensory experiential exhibition reinterprets waves and sea creatures through projection mapping, VR (virtual reality), kinetic art and media art, allowing visitors to experience the ocean like never before.

There are several unique sections based on seven artist's imaginations

and personalities. Each artist involved in the installation is from Busan.

The first two sections are "Bling waves," an archway photo zone filled with colorful waves and "Particle waves," a visual spectacle produced by projecting wave movements onto the walls and floors. Next, "Dolphin's wave" and "Aurora," feature floating art installations that utilize movement and pigment. In "Vathys Okeanos," whose name pays tribute to the Greek titan god, visitors can venture to the depths of the ocean through the use of VR headsets. The "Starry night ball play"

area hosts a ball pit below spinning silver disks. The last section, "Beach day dreamers," was made with Songjeong Beach in mind, another photo zone, where visitors can lounge around or pick-up some shifts at the yellow pineapple stand. Each section is hands-on and interactive so kids of all ages can enjoy it.

Experience the exhibit at "Shinsegae Gallery," located on the sixth floor of the Shinsegae Department Store in Centum City. Tickets are sold on-site and are 7,000 won for those over 13 and 5,000 won for those under 13. Infants under 36 months can attend for free. Admission takes place at 15-minute intervals, and the maximum number of people per session is limited to 30.

For more information, visit



Wave Splash

The dolphin and aurora complement each other.

Shinsegae's website (shinsegae.com).

• **Address:** 35 Centumnam-daero, U-dong, Haeundae-gu

• **Hours:** 10:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. weekdays. 10:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. weekends and holidays.

• **Phone:** 051-745-2900

• **How to get there:** Centum City Station (metro line 2), exit 12. Enter via the department store.