

City-to-City Partnership for the SDG Implementation in Korea

Dr. Ga-Young So

Research Fellow

Korea Institute of Public Administration

10
Minutes
I have

City-to City
Partnership for the
SDG Implementation
in Korea

- Two Aspects
- First, Korea's International Development and Cooperation
- Second, what Korea does for its SDG Implementation

11

SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

**MAKE CITIES AND HUMAN
SETTLEMENTS INCLUSIVE, SAFE,
RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE.**

The world's population is constantly increasing. To accommodate everyone, we need to build modern, sustainable cities. For all of us to survive and prosper, we need new, intelligent urban planning that creates safe, affordable and resilient cities with green and culturally inspiring living conditions.

TARGET 11.1**SAFE AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums.

TARGET 11.2**AFFORDABLE AND SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT SYSTEMS**

By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons.

TARGET 11.3**INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE URBANIZATION**

By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries.

TARGET 11.4**PROTECT THE WORLD'S CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE**

Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage.

TARGET 11.5**REDUCE THE ADVERSE EFFECTS OF NATURAL DISASTERS**

By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations.

TARGET 11.6**REDUCE THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF CITIES**

By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management.

TARGET 11.7**PROVIDE ACCESS TO SAFE AND INCLUSIVE GREEN AND PUBLIC SPACES**

By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities.

TARGET 11.8**STRONG NATIONAL AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANNING**

Support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning.

TARGET 11.9**IMPLEMENT POLICIES FOR INCLUSION, RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION**

By 2020, substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, and develop and implement, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, holistic disaster risk management at all levels.

TARGET 11.A**SUPPORT LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES IN SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT BUILDING**

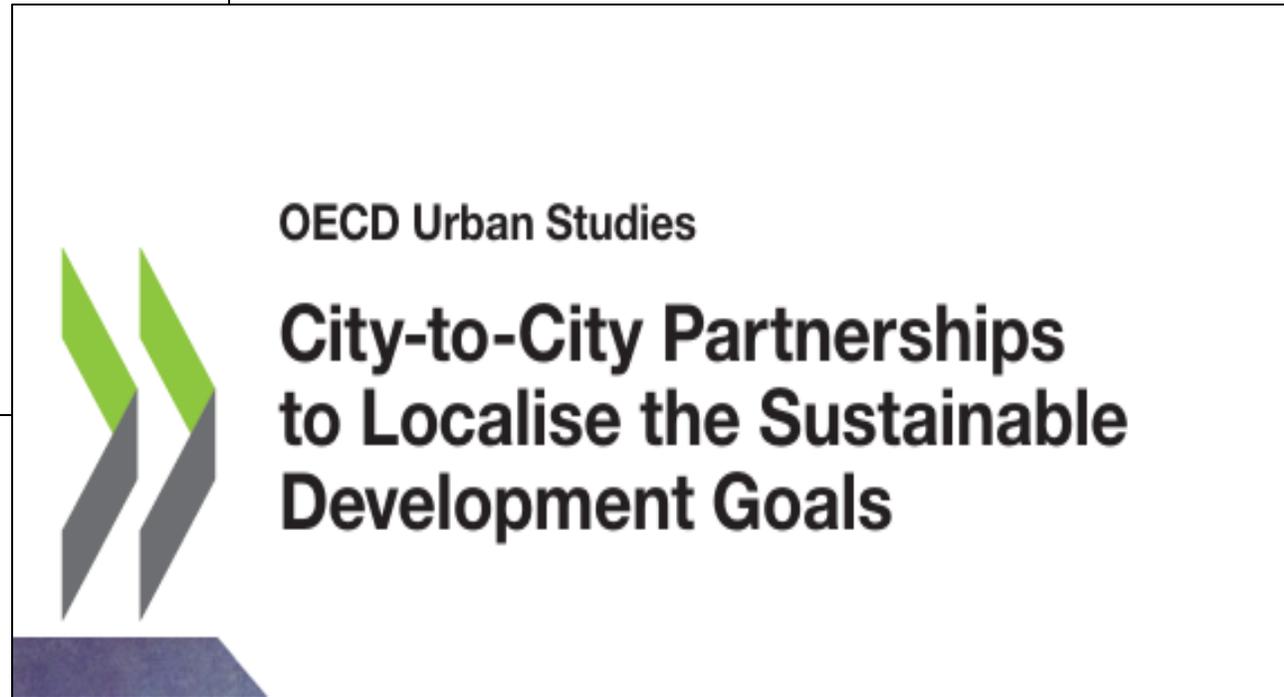
Support least developed countries, including through financial and technical assistance, in building sustainable and resilient buildings utilizing local materials.

Harnessing city-to-city partnerships to finance urban development

Policy paper

More info 

OECD Regional Development Papers • 17 April 2025



**Traditional Donors (e.g. US's
Second Trump Administration)
are cutting foreign aid
budgets**

- First, Korea's International Development and Cooperation
- Continuously stresses the role of local government and city-to-city partnership in its national comprehensive strategy.

Definition and Actors

- Definitions
 - City-to-City partnerships are a modality of decentralized development co-operation (DDC), undertaken by municipalities from developed and developing countries to initiate and develop co-operative actions to their mutual benefit.
 - International Development Cooperation carried out by subnational governments, or when cities and regions from one (often developed) country partner with cities and regions from another (often developing) country
- DDC comprises a variety of subnational Actors
 - Cities, regions, provinces, city-states, federal states and inter-municipal co-operation bodies

Usual Forms of Partnership

- Usually, rely on a peer-to-peer exchange and learning based on good practice and follow the principle of reciprocity
- Involves a political and technical dimension, notably via the engagement of the local government administration, and a social dimension, for example, through the mobilization of civil society.
- Currently, estimated that 70% of cities in the world are engaged in some forms of city-to-city international co-operation programs (partnerships across borders)

SHINE

Seoul's Heart for International Networks and Empowerment

서울시 글로벌도시정책관
국제협력담당관

서울시는 서울 도시발전의 경험 및 정책 공유를 통해 세계도시문제 해결방안을 제시하며, 민간기업의 해외진출을 지원합니다.



서울 ODA 사업

서울시의 행정 경험과 도시 운영 노하우를 개발도상국 도시들과 공유, 지방정부의 도시 기본계획 수립, 정책 자문, 역량강화 프로그램 실시

태후 리아

TOP1 벤처캐피탈, 신용시스템 및 자생단속시스템 운영 및 구현을 위한 정책자문

캄보디아 프놈펜

중대거리 벤처캐피탈, 프놈펜 중심지 관광·상권 활성화를 위한 도시 기본계획 수립

스리랑카 콜롬보

자원화수시설 벤처캐피탈, 제2물 에너지화 시설 건립을 위한 사전 타당성조사

인재개발 및 역량강화

서울 유학박람회

도시외교 및 ODA 중점 협력국 대상으로 현지에서 유학 박람회를 개최하고 서울시에 필요한 외국인 인재를 발굴·유치

미래핵심사업의 인재확보, 개발도상국 공무원을 대상으로 서울도시정책 관련 연수 등 실시

서울 테크 스타트업상

개발도상국 이공계 학사 졸업예정자 등을 대상으로 서울 소재 대학교의 이공계 석사과정을 지원
* 2016년 현재 강좌, 서울시청, 영문언어, 한양대 수석교사담당

우수정책 공유

서울시에 방문하는 해외도시 공무원 등을 대상으로 시 우수정책 공유 및 도시 문제 해결 컨설팅을 제공하여 ODA 사업 발굴 기회로 활용

[서울=뉴시스]2024년 개발협력주간, 2024.10.30. (자료=서울시 제공) *재판매 및 DB 금지

- The Case of Seoul
- The Seoul Metropolitan Government (SMG)
- The Seoul Urban Solutions Agency (SUSA)
- Project from Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA)

Statistics for Korea's International Development and Cooperation

구분	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025(확정액)
총ODA(십억원)	3,200.3	3,427.0	3,754.3	3,938.3	4,777.1	6,262.9	6,501.0
Bilateral	2,493.8 (77.9)	2,775.0 (81.0)	2,926.1 (77.9)	3,115.7 (79.1)	3,673.9 (76.9)	5,128.2 (81.9)	5,445.1 (83.8)
Loans	1,141.2 (45.8)	1,184.9 (42.7)	1,258.2 (43.0)	1,230.5 (39.5)	1,503.0 (40.9)	2,032.0 (39.6)	2,150.0 (39.5)
Grants	1,352.6 (54.2)	1,590.1 (57.3)	1,667.9 (57.0)	1,885.2 (60.5)	2,170.9 (59.1)	3,096.2 (60.4)	3,295.1 (60.5)
Multilateral	706.5 (22.1)	651.9 (19.0)	828.2 (22.1)	822.6 (20.9)	1,103.2 (23.1)	1,134.7 (18.1)	1,055.9 (16.2)

City-to-City Partnership in Korea

- Out of 41 institutions, there are 7 local governments that carry out international development projects, based upon Korea's ODA budget
- For the enhancement of the effectiveness, systematic communications between the central government and the 7 participating local governments at the Prime Minister's Office
- Also, at KOICA, there are requests for proposal options for local governments.

Korean Examples

- Kyungsanbook-do
 - Saemaul Undong for Laos / '16-'25, 35,00,000 USD
 - Saemaul Undong for Vietnam / '14-'27, 7,460,000 USD
 - Saemaul Undong for Sri Lanka / '24 – '28, 139,0000 USD
 - Saemaul Undong for Indonesia / '15 – '27, 3,010,000 USD
- Seoul: Firetrucks and Capacity Building for Fire Fighters in Cambodia / '25, 200,000 USD
- Kyunggi Province: Participatory Model for Desert Protection in Mongol / '25, 150,000 USD
- Incheon Metropolitan City: Project to Construct the Forest in Mongol / '18-'27, 2,450,000 USD
- Kyunggi Province: Constructing Libarires in Vietnam's Gwangnam Province / '25, 200,000 USD
- Kwangwon Province: Scholarship for Veterans' Descendents / '25, 180,000 USD

- For a moment,
- Let me be professional to promote where I work

Korea Institute of Public Administration

A Leading Institute of Convergent Policy Research for Strengthening Publicity

Purpose

KIPA is committed to conduct research on the development and improvement of administrative system. It collects and manages information and data related to public administration. It aims to contribute to national development by promoting an exchange of information among domestic and overseas research institutes.

I KIPA is established under the Law of : The Act on the Establishment, Operation and Fostering of Government-Funded Research Institutes, etc.

Vision

KIPA spearheads convergence research for a more robust public administration.

Mission

Finding and supporting government policies through professional, responsible and active research in public administration.

Goals

- Research that serves the public interest and social reform
- To enhance KIPA's international reputation in the global society
- To keep a horizontal organization structure with discretion and responsibility

Office of Audit and Inspection

Center for Policy
Data and Survey

Center for International
Development Cooperation

Department of
Public Leadership
and Conflict Management

Department of
Performance
Management
& Evaluation

Center for Government
Performance Evaluation

Department of Regulatory Policy

Department of Disaster, Risk & Safety Management

Department of
Governance
& Innovation

Center for Government
Organization Design

Division of Planning
and
Coordination

Office of Administrative
Operations

Office of Research Planning

Vice President

President

A following question...

- Can we think of a standardized or Korea's model for city-to-city partnerships?
- We have emphasized city-to-city partnerships as a modality of decentralized international development and a way to localize the SDG implementation (departing away from one-size-fits-all?)
- However, all these projects we have seen are built from the demand of partner countries for the Korean models.
- To make worse, all these cases are literally cases (maybe except, Saemaul Undong). NO MODEL

- Just to brainstorm,
- I would like to go over what Korea has done for domestic city-to-city partnerships or collaborations,
- In the expectation of transforming some features of these into the model layers

The Local Autonomy Law (1)

- Article 164 (cooperation between local governments) ① Local governments shall cooperate within the scope of laws and regulations when they receive requests for joint handling of affairs or consultation, coordination, approval, or support from other local governments.

② The head of the relevant central administrative agency may provide necessary support for the revitalization of cooperation between local governments.

Amendment in 2024

- ② The head of the relevant central administrative agency may provide necessary support for the revitalization of cooperation between local governments.
- Usually, local governments hope metropolitan governments to take care of coordination and approval. With the 2024 amendment, central government agency is also expected to play a significant role in these regards.
- Usually, local governments' requests include financial resources, human capital and other material and technical supports.

The Local Autonomy Law (2)

- Article 169 (Composition of the Administrative Council) ① A local government may organize an administrative council (hereinafter referred to as the "Council") between the relevant local governments to jointly handle some of the affairs related to two or more local governments. In such cases, the head of a local government shall report it to the Minister of Public Administration and Security and the head of the relevant central administrative agency if the Si/Do is a member, and to the Si/Gun/Do Governor if the Si/Gun or autonomous Gu is a member.

② In order to form a council, local governments shall set the rules according to consultation between the relevant local governments, report them to the relevant local councils, and then announce them.

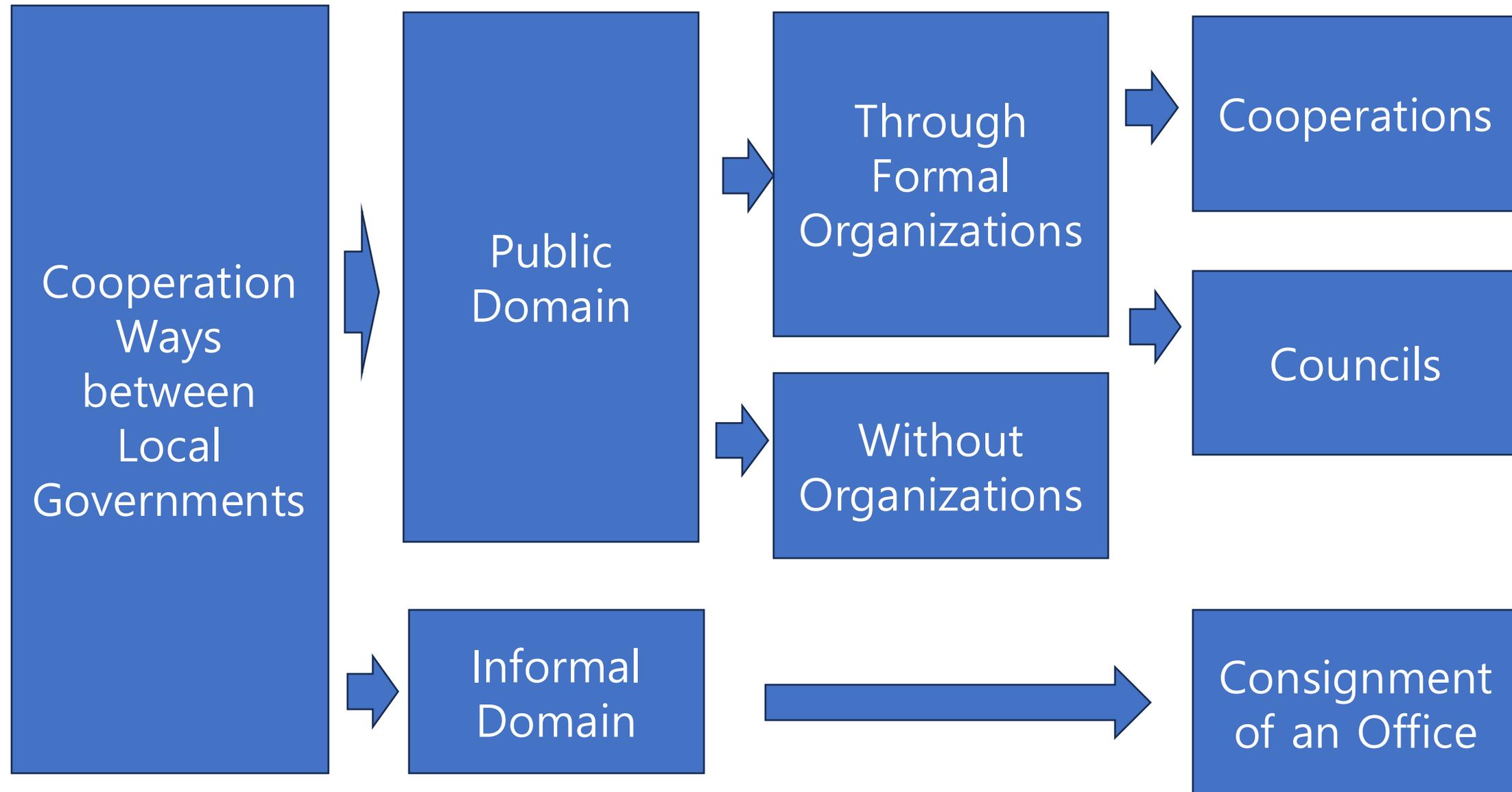
③ The Minister of Public Administration and Security or the Mayor/Governor may recommend the relevant local governments to form a council if necessary for the public interest.

New Amendment in 2024

- ② In order to form a council, local governments shall set the rules according to consultation between the relevant local governments, report them to the relevant local councils, and then announce them.
- Previously, processes required the approval of local parliament. Now, it is only expected to report to the local parliament.

- The changes in the method of cooperation between local governments through the revision of the Local Autonomy Act are as follows.
- **First, the system was revised to reduce the financial burden on local governments and to allow central administrative agencies to consider financial measures in a legislative state due to the lack of a presidential decree to determine specific matters concerning the establishment and operation of special local governments.** The difference between special local governments and administrative councils is that they have the character of a public corporation based on the Local Autonomy Act, followed by independent rights capabilities and responsibilities.
- **Second, to improve the existing cooperation system between local governments, the decision of local councils during the process of establishing administrative councils was simplified to 'report'.** This aims to revitalize cooperation between local governments by increasing access to the means of cooperation called administrative councils. The system was revised to reduce the financial burden on local governments and to allow central administrative agencies to consider financial means together by preparing the basis for administrative and financial support for cooperation with local governments by the heads of related central administrative agencies.
- **Third, the public demand for various life administrations such as welfare, culture, and education is increasing recently, and the limitations of administration focused on geographic and regional locations are faced, but the office consignment system has not been activated.**

The Varieties of Cooperation Forms



Case 1 Local District : Dal-Lee-Go Tour Bus

- Daegu Metropolitan City's Dal-Suh Gu and Dal-Sung Gun
- Goryeong-gun, Dalseo-gu, and Dalseong-gun plan to explore tourism routes and revitalize the local economy through the fourth Daligo Tour Bus collaboration project this year.



Case 2 Provincial Level

- Launch of the Chungnam Innovation City Local Government Association / Lee Seung-chul, chairman of the association, said, "We will do our best to provide integrated services in Naepo. The Chungnam Innovation City Local Government Association (hereinafter referred to as the Association) will begin its full-fledged work this month.
- As of April 1, the union formed and launched the organization with 23 public officials from the 2nd and 6th teams. The association was established to maintain and manage Naepo New Town, which has been divided into Hongseong-gun New Town Facility Management Office and Yesan-gun Naepo Cultural Office, as a living area. It was approved by the Ministry of Public Administration and Security in December last year and has been preparing to launch it since January this year.
- The union office will temporarily use the space on the third floor of the sewage treatment plant in Naepo New Town, Sapgyo-eup, Yesan-gun, and use the former ubiquitous office in Hongbuk-eup, Hongseong-gun.
- After organizing the organization, the association plans to handle affairs such as △ maintenance and management of public facilities and infrastructure in Naepo New Town △ maintenance and management of automatic garbage collection facilities △ maintenance and management of parks and green areas △ maintenance and management of street lights and security lights △ consultation on building landscape review △ maintenance, management and operation of apartment facilities △ rest area landscape specialization project (public garden, etc.).

Case 3

- The Nakdonggang River Neighborhood' was officially launched as the Nakdonggang River Council of South Gyeongsang and Busan local governments. Securing budget and manpower through legal organization in 6 local government social consultative bodies Na Dong-yeon, Mayor of Yangsan, as the first chairman...Joint press conference for the heads of local governments
- Starting from the new year, the council will join forces to solve joint issues and cultural tourism resource conversion projects in the Nakdonggang River area. The Nakdonggang River Council previously held its first meeting in Yangsan as an Nakdonggang River council in October 2022 and held the first conference in November last year.

Implications

- Sub-nations (e.g. cities) are the spaces where both local and global challenges must be addressed.
- Sub-nations (e.g. cities) can mobilize key actors and enhance citizens' participation.
- Sub-nations (e.g. cities) are pioneers in the SDG implementations.
- Sub-nations (e.g. cities) are hubs for innovative and ambitious ideas.
- Sub-nations (e.g. cities) are centers of economic activity and resource flows.

The world is on the right track for increasing the proportion of city-to-city partnerships (30% increase)

- THANK YOU
- GA-YOUNG SO (gayoung.so@kipa.re.kr)