

SUWON-SI'S GROWTH AND HISTORICAL/CULTURAL IDENTITY

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Abstract: Erected some 200 years ago, Hwaseong was officially recognized as a World Heritage site in 1997, on grounds of artistic excellence and originality. This firmly established Hwaseong as the representative historical symbol of Suwon-si, once again illuminating upon the historical and cultural identity of Suwon-si and with it providing an opportunity for emergence of a new industry for the city.

A city's historical ruins and culture speak on the identity and image of the city itself and are crucial tourism resources. To this end, reinventing a city into a city of history and culture requires a symphony of the past, the present, and the future, in forming an environment in which historical ruins are preserved while modern environmental, sociological, cultural, and economic requirements are being met.

Keywords: Hwaseong, identity, creating a historical and cultural city, cultural assets

1 Foreword

Founded with the construction of Hwaseong, an official UNESCO World Heritage site, Suwon-si is today a metropolis 1.1 million people call home and simultaneously a historical and cultural city where the past and the future harmoniously coexist. Over its 200-year-old history, warring men razed the city's town down to rubbles in the 1910s and on another occasion in the 1950s, destroying countless valuable cultural assets in the process.

During South Korea's wild industrialization and industrialization days in the 70s and the 80s, Suwon-si saw the establishment of an industrial complex and large-scaled residential zones that catered to high-rise apartment complexes. Suwon-si also achieved soaring economic growth in the interim, but encroachment of green space, damage to vicinities of cultural sites, and general neglect over preservation, restoration, and use of cultural assets ensued, eventually causing Suwon-si to lose its own qualities and identity.

However, the 1997 recognition of Hwaseong as a World Heritage site changed how the people of Suwon-si regarded historical and cultural assets, triggering movements aimed at reestablishment of the city's identity and drafting of plans for the city's cultural assets and their use. Summarizing just the highlights of this transition in public awareness, the people of Suwon-si decided to reinvent their city as a city of history and culture. Under the banner of "transform Suwon into a city of history and culture," numerous projects are currently taking place, utilizing the historical and cultural value and the potential of Hwaseong as important assets in today's urban revitalization.

To achieve this, Suwon-si benchmarked the city of Himeji, the city of Hikone, Prague, Warsaw and other historically and culturally significant cities of Japan and Europe, all the while working towards establishing its own identity.

Efforts to convert Suwon-si into a historical and cultural city continue to this day, not only in the government sector but in the civilian sector as well. Citizens from all walks of life and experts from different fields of study have joined forces to form citizen groups, lending themselves as protectors of cultural assets, providing tourist guide and promotion services, and voluntarily initiating in numerous other projects under the greater common goal. Such efforts by the public not only contribute to the preservation and proper use of Hwaseong, but will prove to be critical in transforming the entire Suwon-si region into a true city of history and culture.

The content of this paper illuminates upon Suwon-si's identity from a historical perspective, evaluates the city's progress in reinventing itself as a city of history and culture based on its superb cultural assets, and discusses the direction of sustainable future growth for Suwon-si.

II Suwon-si's Origin and Transition

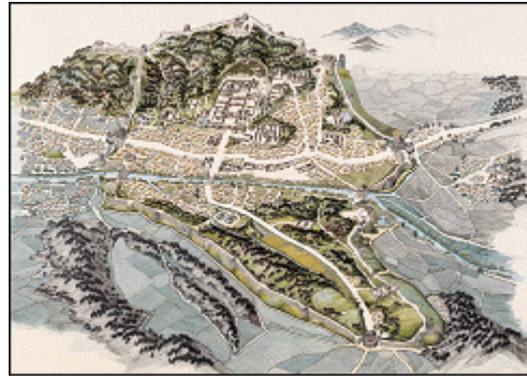
1. A New City for the 18th Century: Background and Characteristics of Hwaseong's Construction

Suwon-si came to being out of Joseon Dynasty's need for a new administration stronghold in expanding the reign's royal authority towards the end of the 18th century. The head of state at the time, Jeongjo, the 22nd ruler of Joseon Dynasty, relocated his father's grave to an area known as Hwasan, just south of modern Suwon-si. He did so in order to restore the authority of his father and thereby establish his own orthodoxy and majesty. He then ordered the construction of Hwaseong (known today as Suwon-si) to the north of Hwasan and charged it with the responsibility of protecting his father's burial site.

In addition, it was also necessary to establish the new city as part of a capital defense system and as a new center of trade in consideration of developments in transportation and changes in distribution of goods in the land.



Map of Hwaseong



Bird's-Eye-View of Hwaseong at its Construction

Construction of Hwaseong had been carefully planned and deliberate from the very beginning and mobilized the matured cultural and artistic capacities of late 18th century Joseon Dynasty and all the advanced technologies available at the time, not to mention the tremendous amounts of human resource and capital input the construction called for. Plainly speaking, Hwaseong is stark representation of Jeongjo's objectives: expansion of royal authority, political reform, cultural restoration, and reaching the height of Joseon Dynasty through democracy.

Construction of the new city and fortress in Suwon can be seen as a success. An entire city was relocated in relative ease and silence and the new city repopulated itself and restored the functionalities of a city in a short period of time. In addition, Suwon continues to prosper to this very day. Considering the characteristics of Suwon-si's origin and Hwaseong, we can derive the following:

First, Hwaseong was the indicative renaissance achievement from the latter half of Joseon Dynasty. Building an entirely new city speaks of the magnitude of that society's capacity. Ergo, creation of Hwaseong means that Joseon Dynasty enjoyed tremendous societal capacity during the late 18th century.

Second, Hwaseong was a new city that was built through careful planning. There were detailed and comprehensive plans for all functions and elements a city ought to have and more importantly they were all carried out to the fullest. Multifaceted urban functionalities were planned to ensure self-sufficiency. And, in consideration of the administration and government role the city was to play, a temporary palace for the king and even separate quarters for a think tank was reflected in the plans. Permanent shops were installed and markets were opened to achieve economic self-sustainment, and government funding and private capital worked together to promote the city's commerce and industry. In addition, the city focused on improving its agriculture, which was the king's financial foundation and one of, if not the most, important industries at the time. Eventually, Hwaseong became a model area for the nation's farming up until the end of the 18th century.

Third, realist thought was reflected in Suwon-si's origin and the construction of Hwaseong. Hwaseong's

construction required all the technological achievements of the day. Leading realists of the era provided fortification and flood control technologies, and an impressive group of bureaucrats, technicians, and intellectuals oversaw process management, brick manufacturing, commercial district formation, fortress defense, and much more. In addition, proprietary construction tools and machinery were developed to realize faster and more efficient construction, indicating the experimental approach and creativity of those involved in the construction.

Fourth, the architects of Hwaseong took a logical approach to the construction and construction management. They successfully built a 500-compartment temporary palace and 5.7km of fortress enclosure in mere 33 months. This incredible feat was only possible because of the technological, management, and administration capacities of the days were at their pinnacle, employing such revolutionary ideas as a new wage payment system, a performance-based rewards system, efficient management of resource procurement and fortification experts, and clear assignment of construction supervision and work responsibilities.

Fifth, Hwaseong achieved architectural and cityscape aesthetics and became a new city construction archetype. Convergence of engineering and fortress defense technologies gave birth to a practical planning methodology that utilizes creation and utility of the scenery and satisfies both practical and aesthetic considerations. The enclosure utilized ponds and trees to a dramatic effect. Hwaseong is also known as the “flower of fortress architecture” from the latter half of Joseon Dynasty, a name given thanks to the fortress’s high degree of aesthetic completeness. True to the city’s reputation as a “city of water,” numerous ponds were installed along the fortress’s enclosure to add to the scenic beauty of the city.

Sixth, Hwaseong raised the bar in the practice of keeping records. Known as Hwaseong Seongyeok Uigwe its construction report includes detailed accounts of the planning, structures, techniques, and processes relevant to the construction of Hwaseong. The report also includes pictorial records of Jeongjo’s visits to his father’s grave, the celebration of the fortress’s completion, state examinations, 60th birthday celebrations, celebrations for the elders of the city, etc. As such, the report not only contains records of the life during the days of the fortress’s construction but also boasts an impressive record-keeping technique. Having recognized the report’s historical significance and the value of the records contained in it, UNESCO officially accepted **Hwaseong Seongyeok Uigwe** into its Memory of the World program in 2007.

2. Suwon-si’s Transition from Completion of Hwaseong and the End of the 20th Century

Hwaseong was established to represent Jeongjo’s expanding royal authority and royal rule of reform. It was the intent of its architects to build an administrative, military, and industrial center rivaling the capital city. However, the untimely death of Jeongjo in his 24th year of rule (1800) led to diminishment in Hwaseong’s functions.

A wave of enlightenment hit the shores of Korea in year 1905 and with it the country’s first ever Western-styled medical institution was installed at the temporary palace of Hwaseong, the fortress that symbolized a restoration of the dynasty’s rule. This marked the beginning of Hwaseong’s downfall. In the early 20s, enlargement of the hospital resulted in demolition of most of the temporary palace structures. After that, designation of the hospital as a provincial hospital led to establishments of a police station, private homes, and schools near the fortress and the temporary palace’s once grand and elegant presence all but disappeared.

Independence of 1948 gave rise to the government of Republic of Korea; however, the ensuing war between the north and the south led to the destruction of most of Suwon’s cultural assets and the city itself became even more desolate.

South Korean economy’s transformation into a rising industrial nation during the late half of 1970s served as a catalyst for the city’s rapid urbanization. To avoid overpopulating the capital city, Samsung Electronics and other major corporations relocated their factories to Suwon, triggering five land division projects near Hwaseong and ultimately causing a notable increase in the size of Suwon-si. This is about when Hwaseong restoration and cleanup began, to undo the damages to the fortress by two wars. The project focused on restoring those facilities that could be restored, completely repairing decaying fortress walls to their original states, and cleaning up the surroundings of the fortress. It began in May of 1975 and ended in September of 1979.

1980s for Suwon-si were a decade of dealing with traffic, environment, and housing shortage problems in the capital city and other social issues the rapid economic growth of the 60s and the 70s gave rise to. Suwon-si underwent major residential zoning projects in the outskirts of the city, which led to additional expansion of the city’s boundaries and a rapid influx of population. Effects of the housing shortage problem and other urban issues Seoul faced continued to be felt in Suwon-si well into the 1990s. In response, the government initiated a

2-million-home supply program and Suwon-si saw even more large-scaled housing zone development projects, as well as new urban development projects.

As such, the age of urbanization and development for Suwon-si brought expansion of the city boundaries, increase in its population, and overall visible urban growth. In contrast, disappearance of the city's traditions, damage to the green zones, and other historical and cultural issues were either completely neglected or partially considered. Ultimately, urbanization and growth had a negative impact on Suwon-si's identity as a city of history and culture.

3. Designation of Hwaseong as a World Heritage Site and a Change in the Public's Awareness of Historical and Cultural Sites

The development-oriented urban planning policies of the 70s and the 80s were carried out in full earnest under the banner of economic development; however, these policies neglected the various cultural sites throughout the city and even treated them as obstacles on the road of economic growth. Inclined towards convenience and efficiency, these policies favored development of new residential and commercial zones and the old neighborhoods surrounding Hwaseong witnessed their inhabitants move out and experienced rapid deterioration. Suwon-si's city hall designated vitalization of the old neighborhoods as a key task and even took in detailed proposals to breathe life back into these neighborhoods, but city hall's promises never turned into action. As long as Hwaseong remained standing, it posed limitations in urban development and hindered restoration of the city and improvements to the city's infrastructure. Therefore, urban vitalization plans that did not deal with Hwaseong were considered impractical and the issue of Hwaseong remained simply as a problem until the early years of the 90s.

The federal government's initiation of the municipality program in 1995 brought many changes. This conversion into the municipality system served as an opportunity for revitalization of old neighborhoods as a political issue. Most of the politicians who vied for municipal representation took on this issue as part of their campaign platform, introducing countless policies and increasing the public awareness in the issue.

As a result, Hwaseong was suddenly no longer an obstacle in urban development but rather a valuable tourism resource that's worth preserving. In short, the public saw the potential to revitalize the communities by creating a new cultural tourism industry with Hwaseong as the main attraction.

Interest in Hwaseong's value as a cultural asset soared. In realizing community development and discovering a new source of propulsion for growth via this cultural asset, something had to be done to substantiate the importance, excellence, and value of Hwaseong and to re-illuminate upon the identity of Suwon-si as a city of history and culture and thereby unite the citizens of Suwon-si under a common goal. What resulted from this need were the city hall and the public's efforts to promote Hwaseong's inclusion in UNESCO's World Heritage program. Thanks to their devotion, Hwaseong was at long last accepted into the UNESCO program on December 4th, 1997, at the 21st general meeting of the World Heritage Committee in Naples, Italy.

With this achievement, Suwon-si got what it wanted: re-illumination upon Suwon-si as a tourism destination. All of the city's policies were now focused on preservation, restoration, and use of Hwaseong, now a bonafied World Heritage site. These policies brought many great changes. Specifically, the process of change in the city's policies and the public's awareness of can be summarized as follows:

First was the change in city hall's policies. Following the recognition of Hwaseong as a World Heritage site, Suwon-si's city hall first set out to change the public's awareness of the city's cultural asset. It did so by reconnecting the road to the fortress, cleaning up the areas around the fortress, and completely opening up the fortress to the public and thereby acquainting the public to the fortress itself.

Preservation and use of Hwaseong required comprehensive and long-term policies addressing not just the fortress, but the identity of the city itself. Accordingly, in 1998, city hall presented it's Suwon's Future Proposal, which was a 100-year plan for realizing a city where history lives and breathes. And, in 1999, city hall introduced Hwaseong Tourism Program Development Plan, which aimed to reestablish Hwaseong's tradition and originality and to secure an image of the city as a tourist destination of historical and cultural value. Since then numerous and detailed plans for the preservation, restoration, and use of Hwaseong were established and carried out into action.

Second was the change in the public's view. Acceptance of Hwaseong into UNESCO's World Heritage program aroused a sense of pride and interest in the people of Suwon-si. Before UNESCO's recognition, the only people capable of introducing Hwaseong and guiding foreign tourists through her grounds were the twenty cultural tourist guides licensed by Gyeonggi-do province. The very first fully private Hwaseong-related organization was the Hwaseong Research Group, which was founded by civilians with expertise in urban planning, architecture, history, culture, and public administration and with the goal of promoting Hwaseong through research on the fortress's excellence and value. Today, the group includes 37 private, educational, corporate, and religious organizations as its members, carries out research on preservation, restoration, and use of Hwaseong, and guides tourists to the fortress, as well as engaging in promotion and monitoring of Hwaseong. In addition, there are currently tens of thousands of individuals and families registered under Cultural Heritage Administration of Korea's Hwaseong Guardian program.

Third was the change in the government's policies. The public interest and city hall's new stance following Hwaseong's acceptance into UNESCO's program forced politicians to accept Hwaseong and other cultural assets of historical value as key policy issues. As a result, national assembly members from ruling and opposing parties joined forces with provincial assembly members and municipal assembly members to draft Special Bill on Transformation of and Support for Suwon as a Historical and Cultural Center. This bill aims to raise the value of Hwaseong as an international cultural asset and to enhance the country's cultural capacity through preservation of cultural assets and utilization thereof as tourism resources and is currently being pushed forth for enactment. Restoration of Hwaseong was even part of the candidates' platform during South Korea's 17th presidential election back in 2007.

As such, designation of Hwaseong as a UNESCO World Heritage site brought on changes in Suwon-si's urban policies and in the public's and the politicians' view on cultural assets.

III Securing Suwon-si's Identity and building a City of History and Culture

1. Suwon-si in Today's World

Hwaseong is an official World Heritage site and at the same time a symbol of Suwon-si. The historical importance of Hwaseong and the structures that make up the fortress are now widely considered as superb tourism resources. However, the numerous efforts that have been made to preserve and use Hwaseong since its acceptance into UNESCO's program have yet produced any significant result.

In 2004, a survey was taken on visitors to Hwaseong and their reasons for visiting, as part of Comprehensive Tourism Industry Plan of Suwon. Results from this survey identified "quiet rest and walk" as the most common reason for visiting Hwaseong, followed by "sightseeing/cultural site tour" and "expectations for acceptance into the UNESCO program." Conducted also as part of Comprehensive Tourism Industry Plan of Suwon, a landmark recognition survey in 2005 found out that Suwon World Cup Stadium was the most recognized landmark of Suwon, with Hwaseong ranking in the second place. Despite its cultural and historical importance and value as a tourist attraction, Hwaseong placed second in the landmark recognition survey because deterioration of Hwaseong neighborhoods and poor scenery (apartment complexes, etc.) are hindering Hwaseong from living up to its image as a historical, cultural, and economic symbol of Suwon-si.

2006 Facility Enhancement Research for Vitalization of Hwaseong Tourism looked into the business aspect of Hwaseong. The report identified that the average duration of stay was two to three hours and that lack of facilities and hands-on experiences at Hwaseong explain the low level of visitor spending. The interpretation of these findings is this: Suwon-si is in possession of Hwaseong and other diverse and unique tourism resources, but they are incomplete as tourist destinations and lack products and programs designed to attract visitors. These sites, therefore, merely function as places to visit while passing through and fail as stay-and-see types of tourist destinations.

Although the public's awareness on cultural assets has changed, there still remains a complex web of interests. The government lacks support policies for residents that have been victimized by cultural asset preservation, restoration, and use policies and affected land and building owners.

2. Cases from Abroad and Benchmarking

Suwon-si's transformation into a city of history and culture needs to be approached from two angles. First is planning for the inside and out restoration, repair, and renewal of Hwaseong from a cultural and historical context and in consideration of long-term sustainability. Second is to repair and renew the urban district of Suwon also from a cultural and historical context and in consideration of long-term sustainability. With these in mind, there are a few examples from abroad that can be benchmarked by Suwon-si.

1) Japan's Himeji and Hikone

The city of Himeji is rich in historical and cultural assets, most notable of which is the Himeji castle, which was inducted into the World Heritage program in 1993. War and post-war restoration of the city resulted in considerable damage to the Himeji castle, but its watchtower and other historically valuable elements of the castle still remain standing to this day. Himeji castle is a superb cultural asset, as well as a superb tourism resource, for the city of Himeji.

In 1986, the city of Himeji enacted a plan to improve the Himeji castle and has since continued to maintain and restore the castle. In addition, the city set forth bylaws concerning the city's scenery and made it a goal to transform itself into a "beautiful city the people can feel close to and feel proud of." The officials of Himeji worked to create a historical scenery to complement its castle.

In addition, Comprehensive Plan of Himeji (2001) designates Himeji castle as the core of transforming Himeji into an attractive city where history and culture converge, noting the importance of castle maintenance and use in their goal and identifying establishment of a symbol zone centering around the castle and preservation, use, and improvement of the castle as its priorities. In addition to this plan, there are many projects in the spirit of transforming Himeji into an international tourism destination, focusing on creating a unique and elegant cityscape where the Himeji castle and other cultural and historical assets of the city coexist with the natural surroundings and the urban functionalities of Himeji. One notable example of such projects is the Gokoen park, which along with other projects of its type contributed greatly to restoring areas around the Himeji castle. In particular, the road leading from Himeji Station to Himeji castle has been widened and now acts as a symbolic and focal element of the Himeji castle scene. Not only that, old military installations in the area have been converted into Himeji Art Museum and other uses that are essential to creating the image pursued by the people of Himeji. The case of Himeji provides many lessons for Suwon-si and its efforts to restore and maintain Hwaseong.

The city of Hikone was founded with the construction of Hikone castle in 1603 and was built based on solid planning that included residential homes around the watchtower for warriors and merchants. Hikone castle takes on the quintessential design from jyokamachi at its best and its watchtower, moat, land division markings, and ancient homes have been well preserved to this day.

The city of Hikone also had to widen its roads and install arcades along the sidewalks to counter the traffic issues that ensued from modernization during the 1970s. All the two-storied wooden shops in the central commercial district of the city were replaced with reinforced concrete buildings. However, the city center experienced a prolonged period of stagnation that stems back to the 80s. The area has not only seen a reduction in the number of inhabitants, but also closures of modernized shops and stores.

What marked the turning point of such downfall was the expansion of the castle road next to the Hikone castle during the 1990s. During this expansion, the modern, reinforced concrete shops and stores running along the side of the road were replaced with two-storied wooden buildings and the sidewalks themselves were decorated with trees to bring back the image of the old city.

This redecoration of castle road revived the city's history and tradition and was the result of the unanimous will of the city's people to revitalize the road with the best of the old.

With favorable reaction from tourists, castle road became a new attraction of Hikone. The new road gave Hikone its confidence back and even encouraged other scenery restoration projects throughout the city. From this perspective, castle road construction was the beginning of a new era for the city of Hikone and is an excellent benchmark case for the people of Suwon and the road connecting Hwaseong's Paldalmun and Janganmun.

2) Examples from Europe

On its path to reinvent itself as a city of history and culture, Suwon-si has much to learn from cities in Europe. First up is the Polish capital city Warsaw, which underwent massive reconstruction following the end of WWII. Hitler's attack on the city in 1939 was a terrible and unprecedented misfortune for Warsaw. The city's museums and public installations were robbed of all its assets and over 84% of the buildings in town were destroyed. In addition, half of Warsaw's 1.3 million residents died. From such turmoil, Warsaw embarked on rebuilding itself in 1945. The first up on the list of to do's were to rebuild the demolished royal palace and other buildings from the monarchy era and to restore the city's streets and parks to their original states. Although the items needed for the restoration and reconstruction were lost in fire and by looting, the city of Warsaw sought after any trace of records about itself throughout the world and relied on accounts of its people to carefully investigate everything down to the last brick. With socialism dominating the society, the fact that the city paid such scrutinizing attention to restoring the royal palace and other relics of feudal ages offers the people of Suwon-si something to ponder.

The second point to learn from European cities is the importance of a square, the focal point of community activities. Ancient Greeks' agora, Romans' forum, and other public squares found throughout Europe weren't simply wide open spaces for the public, but rather the center stage of politics and economics and at times of religion. City squares aren't mere open spaces in the heart of the city; they serve a central role for the communities in the city. Not only that, city squares allow visitors to the city to experience the community's identity and leave them a long-lasting mark. People often say "a country's culture is found on the streets in the East and in the squares in the West." As such, in traditional cities of the East people's activities mostly take place on the streets and city squares are indeed rare sights. Hwaseong is no exception and deep and careful consideration will need to take place on whether the original plan of Hwaseong will be implemented in the fortress's restoration and maintenance or a square will be newly installed to serve as the center of the community.

Third is the importance of waterfront. Since long ago, most cities have developed around a river, the sea, or a lake. Waterfront gives vitality to city life and secures sustainability through enhanced ecological stability. Suwon-si has four watercourse and numerous lakes, including Suwoncheon, which runs through the heart of Hwaseong, placing Suwon in a very good position to develop and utilize waterfronts to secure an identity as a city of history and culture.

Fourth point is that uniqueness and diversity of the city's scenery must be realized within a historical and cultural realm. Paris, Prague, and other leading European cities contain buildings and structures that are unique and individual; however, landmarks and average buildings in these cities complement the historical and cultural nature of their respective cities. From this perspective, Hwaseong's restoration and maintenance goal can't be any clearer. But beyond that Suwon must adopt a similar approach to the areas nearby Hwaseong and other key attractions of the city in order to firmly secure itself the identity of a city of history and culture.

Fifth point is the importance of sustainability. Prioritizing historical and cultural aspects of the city is in essence a refusal to be biased towards the comfort of the current generation or the immediate efficiency requirements. Residential and tourist attraction planning must take place within a capacity that enables sustainment of the given traditional space or city's roadways, traffic system, and other infrastructures, as well as socio-cultural practices concerning residence density and other issues.

Lastly, it's important to realize software that corresponds well to the physical characteristics of the city. Landmarks symbolizing a region and specific distances and locations are each given their own identities and historical and cultural significances and get naturally associated with relevant events and activities. In other words, proper compatibility between hardware and software enable the residents and visitors to interact with historical and cultural spaces.

3. Transforming Suwon into a City of History and Culture

Today, the public considers their historical ruins and culture as representations of their given city's identity and image and as attractive tourism resources. This shift in the public's view has also led to numerous efforts aimed at using such cultural assets to vitalize the community's economy. In the case of Suwon-si, Hwaseong's acceptance into UNESCO's World Heritage program in 1997 triggered drafting of policies geared towards preserving and

utilizing the city's cultural assets. However, these policies have so far had little effect on the actual vitalization of the regional economy.

Utilizing cultural assets as tourism resources must first be preceded by restoration of damages to the cultural assets and establishing the city's image as one of history and culture. The high-rise buildings, roads, and other urban infrastructures that were built out of development-prioritizing policies of the past that never took preservation of cultural assets into consideration are today the biggest obstacles on the road to establishing Suwon's image as a city of history and culture.

Preservation and restoration of cultural assets does not mean that the entire city has to be reverted back to its 18th century state. Rather, it means that existing assets need to be carefully preserved in their states, damaged assets need to be equally carefully restored with their original qualities, and those structures that clash with the cultural assets and don't necessarily facilitate to the historical scenery of the city need to be corrected through city-wide rejuvenation.

A city of history and culture is not a recreation of the past; instead, it is a city where the past, the present, and the future coexist in harmony along with historical ruins and the requirements of the modern environment, society, culture, and economy are met to allow the residents to enjoy a life of abundance. Further, a city of history and culture is a city that continues to improve, create, and utilize its historical and cultural values and where new attractions, facilities, and programs capable of enticing visitors are continuously created through promotion and development of arts and culture unique to that city.

In terms of cultural asset use, it's also important to allow the visitors to not only enjoy them with their eyes but also to touch and feel them and experience the uniqueness of such assets as to leave a long-lasting impression of Suwon as truly a city of history and culture.

Therefore, transformation of Suwon-si into a well-balanced arts and culture city that produces, consumes, and distributes new arts and culture that base on the historical and cultural identity of Hwaseong under a holistic approach that is inclusive of the cultural ruins of the city and the physical and humanistic qualities contained in them will need to be accompanied by an overall improvement to tourist markets, tourist attractions, tourist products, basic services, marketing, and the entire tourism system of the city for the purpose of enabling tourists to come and experience the city's history and culture over an extended stay in the city.

Neighborhoods surrounding Hwaseong, the symbol of Suwon's history, have always been and are to this day homes to people and are areas that have been affected in terms of property value and living conditions by past and present efforts to maintain the historic nature of the community and by the cultural asset itself. Therefore, efforts need to be made toward vitalization of the local economy to ensure qualitative betterment and the interests of the people who live there without damaging the historical ambience. The core supporters of preservation and use of cultural assets are regional residents and the citizens. To this end, there needs to be government policies assuring support and actions to promote self-initiated participation by the people.

Transformation of Suwon into a city of history and culture commenced with Hwaseong's acceptance into UNESCO's World Heritage program. Having previously neglected during the city's growth and by the city's development restrictions, Hwaseong is now an officially recognized symbol of Suwon and has successfully recast light on Suwon as a city of history and culture. In addition, evaluation of the historical value of Hwaseong confirmed the importance of the fortress as a tourism resource. Ergo, basic concepts and goals of inducing growth of Suwon as a city of history and culture and with Hwaseong as the motif are as follows:

- . A city capable of continuously piling on layers of time on top of its past and satisfies modern environmental, social, cultural, and economical requirements along with its historical ruins to enable its residents to lead a life of abundance.
- . A city that promotes, produces, and enjoys historical and cultural values, inheriting the appearance and style of its past in full.
- . A city that promotes exclusive arts and culture and internal growth and is rich in terms of attractions, facilities, and programs aimed at enticing visitors from abroad.
- . A city realizing urban culture administration for the people and growth of the regional communities in conjunction with vitalization of the tourism industry.

Hwaseong is an international heritage site of massive historical value in a comprehensive way that includes the ruins itself and the physical and the humanistic qualities found in it. At the same time, the fortress is home to many who live there. Under a newly organized concept of Suwon as a city that produces and will continue to produce assets of historical and cultural significance, the city's vision and goal is to transform itself into a city of history and culture and a city where the past and the future coexist in harmony.

Today, there are numerous projects well underway in Suwon to achieve this goal and these projects include those aimed at establishing Suwon's identity as a tourist destination of history and culture, equipping tourism facilities and infrastructures and developing cultural tourism programs, developing arts and culture that embrace the city's identity, and improving the city's image and revitalizing its economy.

IV Conclusion

Thanks to Jeongjo's foresightedness to build Hwaseong some two hundred years ago, today's Suwon-si has to have in its possession a superb cultural asset. Damaged by two wars and development-oriented economic policies of the past, Hwaseong was restored in 1979 and Suwon as a city discovered the basis of transforming itself into a city of history and culture. And, in December 1997, UNESCO designated Hwaseong as a World Heritage site. This marked an international recognition of Hwaseong's importance and elevated the fortress's status to a cultural asset deemed worthy of the mankind's protection. In addition, the new designation recast light on to Suwon's identity as a city of history and culture.

Official recognition as a World Heritage site isn't the end to all problems. Implementing restoration and preservation plans to keep Hwaseong at its best for generations to come and drafting and execution of plans for proper use of this excellent cultural asset would allow the fortress to shine even brighter. Acceptance of Hwaseong by UNESCO was an opportunity for Suwon to let the world know of its identity as a city of history and culture and an opportunity for the city to kick start a tourism industry. Acceptance of Hwawong also means that we now need to draft and enact numerous policies on the preservation, restoration, and use of the city's cultural assets. Utilizing historical and cultural assets of the city meant that preservation and restoration of damaged assets and improvement of the city's image as one of history and culture were the key tasks. Achieving these tasks means forming an environment that satisfies modern environmental, social, cultural, and economical requirements while enabling its residents to lead a life of abundance and creation of new attractions, facilities, and programs capable of enticing visitors based on the historical and cultural values of the city. Therefore, from a holistic perspective that's inclusive of the city's ruins and the physical and humanistic qualities found there, the cultural assets of Suwon will need to be utilized in a sustainable manner as both cultural assets and homes to actual residents who live there.

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