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2023 Lifelong Learning Cities Announced

Key Points

- A total of 24 lifelong learning cities, including seven new lifelong learning cities and 17 existing cities specialized for lifelong learning, will receive around 1.1 billion won in subsidy to implement lifelong learning programs.
 - Various regional stakeholders, including local governments and higher education institutions, will be encouraged to participate in lifelong learning by supporting the consortia of lifelong learning cities and provincial lifelong education centers with the designation of four cities and provinces as part of this effort.
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- On March 6, the Ministry of Education (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Lee Ju-Ho) and the National Institute for Lifelong Education (President Kang Dae Joong) announced seven new lifelong learning cities selected under the 2023 Regional Lifelong Education Promotion Support Project, as well as 17 existing lifelong learning cities (i.e. independent lifelong learning cities without consortium affiliation). In addition, four cities and provinces are also announced to be funded by the Regional Specialization Program (i.e. lifelong learning cities affiliated with provincial lifelong education centers under consortia).

< Lifelong Learning City (Outline) >

- ▶ **Concept:** To improve residents' quality of life and raise cities' competitiveness, Lifelong Learning Cities include active learning communities where all residents can cherish the joy of learning throughout their life cycle.
- ▶ **Designation method:**
 - First designation:** Lifelong Learning Cities are announced with a nationwide open call every year, based on the evaluation of lifelong learning infrastructure within the city including relevant personnel, institutions and budget (2001~).
 - Re-designation:** Four years after the first designation, the cities go through an evaluation for re-designation to examine their adequacy as lifelong learning cities, after which they have their status renewed every three years (2020~)
- ▶ **Number of lifelong learning cities:** 188 (2022) → 195 (2023) ※ 86.3% of all 226 cities
- ▶ **Primary activities:** Operating lifelong education programs; establishing on- and off-line lifelong education infrastructure; supporting voluntary learning clubs; and advancing the expertise of lifelong education practitioners, etc.

- This year, seven cities* are designated as new lifelong learning cities and they will receive 90 million won in subsidy to implement lifelong learning programs.

* Gangwon Yangyang-gun, Gyeongnam Goseong-gun, Gyeongbuk Bonghwa-gun, Jeonnam Gurye-gun, Chungnam Gyeryong-si, Chungnam Cheongyang-gun, Chungbuk Boeun-gun

- ☐ Furthermore, the Ministry of Education will provide subsidy for the Regional Specialization Program, which supports the existing lifelong learning cities, as well as for the consortia set up between lifelong learning cities and regional lifelong education centers around the country.
- The Regional Specialization Program aims at offering various lifelong learning programs reflecting regional specificities to residents by using the lifelong learning spaces within each region. Under this program, 17 cities* are designated to carry out their own lifelong education programs (and receive around 30 million won in subsidy).

* Gangwon Samcheok-si, Gangwon Cheorwon-gun, Gyeonggi Bucheon-si, Gyeonggi Pyeongtaek-si, Gyeonggi Hanam-si, Gwangju Dong-gu, Gwangju Buk-gu, Daegu Nam-gu, Daegu Suseong-gu, Busan Geumjeong-gu, Busan Seo-gu, Busan Jung-gu, Seoul Dongdaemun-gu, Seoul Jongno-gu, Jeonnam Gokseong-gun, Jeonbuk Gimje-si, Chungbuk Chungju-si

- The consortia between Lifelong Learning Cities and regional lifelong

education centers include programs tapping into the lifelong resources that each city or province has. This year, four cities and provinces (i.e. Gangwon, Busan City, Sejong City, Chungbuk) are selected to receive a subsidy of around 60 million won, and to make the best practices of lifelong learning partnerships between local governments widely known.

- Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Lee Ju-Ho said, "To revitalize the lifelong learning all across the country, it's critical to establish a regional lifelong learning system in collaboration of local governments, regional universities and local businesses to focus on promoting lifelong learning nationwide."
- He added, "This year, I hope lifelong learning will play an instrumental role to make all regions across the country more dynamic, for which the Ministry of Education will closely communicate and work with diverse regional stakeholders."