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International Island Forum in Yeosu… An Island Exhibition, Telling the World About the 'Value of Islands'

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**Supporting the successful realization of the '2026 Yeosu Global Island Exhibition,' preparing blueprints for the development of islands
will commence at the Hidden Bay Hotel on the 20th through a hybrid approach, 450 people from 7 different countries will attend**

Under the theme of 'Climate Change and Islands,' the '2021 International Island Forum in Yeosu,' with 450 attendees from 7 different countries, commenced on the 20th at the Hidden Bay Hotel.

The International Island Forum to find sustainable regionally specific MICE industries by utilizing 365 beautiful islands is being held for the 3rd time after it was first held in 2018 by Yeosu City.

This year's forum is the first event since last August when the holding of the international event for the 2026 Yeosu Global Island Exhibition was finalized. By inviting experts from the nations of the U.S., the UK, Italy, Indonesia, Japan, and Fiji, as well as Korea, as panelists, the holding of the island exhibition was announced, and they discussed action plans for the preservation of biodiversity amidst the climate change crisis.

On the 20th, the first day of the forum, at 10 am, the opening ceremony was held and the forum began with two keynote announcements: 'The Holding of the 2026 Yeosu Global Island Exhibition' by Yeosu City's mayor Kwon Oh-bong and 'Climate Change and Islands' by the civilian co-chair of the Committee for Carbon Neutralization.

Afterward, through the 3 sessions of 'Marine Ecological Environment's Sustainability,' 'Climate Change and the Fishing Industry,' and 'Climate Change and Island Eco-tourism,' which were participated in by experts of climate change and experts of Korean and overseas islands, they discussed the changes in the ecological environment due to climate crisis and how this affected the industry environment, including the fishing industry and tourism. It was a time to shed new light on the importance and value of islands.

On the 21st, the second day, under the theme of 'Climate Change and the Daily Lives of Islanders,' residents of major Korean islands such as Baengnyeong Island, Jeju Island, Yeonheung Island (Goheung), and Geomun-do (Yeosu) participated to speak about the real changes to their daily lives living on islands due to climate change.

At the end of the forum, Hong Seon-gi (chief director of Korea Island Foundation), Kim Jun (director of Island Development Research Support Center), Kang Shin-ayum (professor at

director of Island Development Research Support Center), Kang Shin-gyun (professor at the Graduate School of Culture at Chonnam National University), and Jung Tae-gyun (expert island advisor of Jeollanam Province), who were chairs of each session, are planning on deliberating an action plan for 'Climate Change and Islands' through a general discussion.

In addition, there was an art painting exhibition by the Yeosu Youth Artist Association with a topic of 'Climate Change and Islands' and a corner called 'The Stories of the Taste of the Islands' where people could experience Yeosu's local foods using ingredients from the island that are disappearing due to climate change which was well-received by the participants.

Yeosu City's mayor Kwon Oh-bong said, "Islands are a tourism resource for a sustainable future and a home to humanity." He continued, "To ensure the success of the 2026 Yeosu Global Island Exhibition, we will hold various international island forums as well as various MICE events for the growth of Yeosu's tourism and MICE industries, but also to tell the world about Yeosu's brand as a marine tourism and resort city."

The city will continue to invite the 30 countries every year to the island forum to create an atmosphere conducive to progress and plans on continuing to extensively promote domestic and overseas islands and discuss climate change with experts and island residents.

(http://www.yeosu.go.kr)

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