































From Public to National Museum: Mireuksaji National Museum

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1. History and Activities of Mireuksaji National Museum

Jun. 22, 1966 Mireuksaji in Iksan designated as historic site (No. 150)

May 9, 1997 Jeollabukdo Province opened Mireuksaji Relics Exhibition Museum

Dec. 30, 2015 Mireuksaji Relics Exhibition Museum elevated to Mireuksaji National

Museum

Organization and Number of Staff

	Total	Director	General Staff					
Category		5 th Grade/ Curator	6 th Grade	7th Grade for Administration	7 th Grade for Engineering	7 th Grade for Green Zone Management	9 th Grade for Facilities Management	Researcher
Total Staff	10	1	1	1	2	1	1	3
Ministry of Culture, Sports, and Tourism	4	1	1	1	-	-	-	1
Jeollabukdo Province	6	-	-	-	2	1	1	2

Appointment Period: Jan. 25, 2016 \sim Commencement of the organization of the Iksan National Museum in 2019

Overview of Facilities

- Building: 2,500 m² (750 Pyeong/Exhibition Room 2,100 m², Office Wing 400 m²)

- Land : 39,695 m² (12,000 Pyeong)

- Construction completed in 1994, opened in 1997

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Relics

- Designated cultural heritage: 1 treasure (Gilt-Bronze Incense Burner, Treasure No. 1753)

- Collection: 20,467 artifacts (19,048 artifacts commissioned by Jeonju National Museum, 1,155 artifacts (including Gilt-Bronze Exterior Sarira Container) of 58 categories, 264 artifacts (including Earthen Ringlet Curls) of 26 categories)
- Exhibition: 152 exhibitions with 1,263 artifacts

Treasure No. 1753: Gilt-Bronze Incense Burner

- Designation: Feb. 22, 2012 (Discovered in 2001)
- Production: United Shilla Kingdom (mid-8th century)
- Features: Four legs and six heads of lions engraved, gilded in the same way as Gilt-Bronze Incense Burner of Baekje

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2. Controversies over 'Provincial Management' vs. 'Municipal Management'

Management issue raised between Jeollabukdo Province and Iksan City

- Opened in 1997, the Mireuksaji Relics Exhibition Museum was run by Jeollabukdo
- In 2007, the province underwent restructuring and reduced the budget for cultural facilities with a low profitability.
- The discussion began on transferring the management authority of the former Mireuksaji Temple site and the Mireuksaji Relics Exhibition Museum (Jeollabukdo vs. Iksan).
- The required yearly management could pose excessive financial burden (equating to 2 billion won) to Iksan City.
- The budget shares for the management and operation of the site (60% from national subsidies, 40% from local subsidies) as well as the repairing and maintenance of the Stone Pagoda (70% from national subsidies, 30% from local subsidies) have been confirmed.

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3. Background and Motif of Nationalization: Accidental Discoveries of Relics

Sarira Container found during the dismantling of Mireuksaji Stone Pagoda (National Treasure No. 11) in Jan. 2009

- 2002 Began dismantling the stone pagoda for research
- Jan. 2009 Sarira hole found at the center of the four-sided interior stone walls on the 1st level of the pagoda
- Excavated 1,155 artifacts of 58 categories, including Gilt-Bronze Exterior Sarira Container, Gilt Interior Sarira Container, Gilt Record of Sarira Enshrinement, Bronze Sealed Container, and Silver Hatpin
- Gilt Record of Sarira Enshrinement: "The queen of Baekje established the

Mireuksa Temple and created the Stone Pagoda in the Gihae Year (693)

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4. Process of Nationalization: Establishing a Collaborative System

Local attention

- Related academia
- Local governments
- Local lawmakers

National Assembly

Related ministries

- Ministry of Strategy and Finance
- Ministry of the Interior

Affiliates of ministries

Collaboration

Nationalization

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4. Process of Nationalization: Controversial Issues

O Attention drawn from local communities and continued recommendations made by local governments

	C								
_	Jan. 2009	Found Sarira	Container	during	the	dismantling	of	the Mireuksaji	

Stone Pagoda

Apr. Held a symposium to 'shed new light on the Mireuksa Temple' /

Attended by important figures

May Submitted the recommendation on the elevation of the status to the

National Museum to the National Assembly, and requested the

designation as a UNESCO World Heritage site

Jun. Held a special exhibit of the Sarira Container excavated from the

Mireuksa Temple site

- Jul. 2009 Made a recommendation for the nationalization of the Mireuksaji

Relics Exhibition Museum (Jeollabukdo)

- Dec. 2012 Promoted the project as a core policy

(Strengthen the management system of cultural heritages-strengthen

the functionality through the construction/extension of national

museums housed in local regions)

- O Internal disagreements and two consigned research projects
- 2010 ~ Internal disagreements raised on the identity of the Iksan National Museum (by adjacent cities including Jeonju, Gongju, and Buyeo)
- Nov. 2012 Conducted a consigned research project on the systematic conservation and management of the relics found on the Mireuksa Temple site
- *1980~1994 Reviewed the conservation and utilization of the relics discovered from the Mireuksaji Temple site during the three excavations for five years, as well as the pros and cons of the nationalization of the museum
- Feb. 2013 Designated as a national administrative agenda (113-4-2. Promoting the Elevation of the Status of the Mireuksaji Relics Exhibition Museum in Iksan to a National Museum)
- Nov. 2014 Conducted a consigned research on the feasibility of nationalization of the Mireuksaji Relics Exhibition Museum
 - * Proposed to extend the existing facilities after nationalization

(Reason: Designated as 'Ancient City Conservation and Promotion Zone' (by Cultural Heritage Administration on Mar. 5, 2012), Focus lay on the historic importance of Sarira Container found inside Mireuksaji Stone Pagoda (in 2009))

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- 4. Process of Nationalization: Decisive Events
- O Project costs included in the budget
- Dec. 2, 2014 Budget for additional facilities (2.5 billion won for the designing costs) allocated to begin restructuring the existing museum into the Iksan National Museum
- * Accomplished through collaboration of the Special Committee on Budget and Accounts of the 19th National Assembly, national government, and local government (Jeollabukdo)
- O The Task Force launched within the National Museum of Korea
- Secured project costs for 2015 (including 2.5 billion won for the designing costs)
- Jan. 5, 2015 Reported on the plan for the Iksan National Museum (tentatively named) (to Minister of Culture, Sports, and Tourism)
- * Results of the feasibility study conducted in 2014 were reflected in the plan: the existing facility, land, and collection are to be extended and expanded after nationalization
- Jan. 20, 2015 Formed the Task Force for the preparation for the Iksan National Museum (tentatively named)
- * Responsible for the tasks required for the establishment and opening of the museum, including the determination of its characteristics, scope, and contents

- * Consists of five members (including the team head, a curator, a researcher, an engineering official, and an administrative official)
- Feb. 2015 ~ Jun. 2015 Developed and promoted the master plan on the establishment of the Iksan National Museum
- * To prevent the disuse of the project costs for 2015, the Fast Track-type plan covering both nationalization and extension projects was adopted.

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- 4. Process of Nationalization: Another Controversial Issue
- 2015~2019 During the mid-term budget deliberation by the Ministry of Strategy and Finance, another issue was raised.
- Apr. 1, 2015 Notified of the ministerial stance
- * Ministerial stance: "The Iksan National Museum is not subject to the mid-term budget deliberation. 2.5 billion won of the designing costs will be allocated. The project will be to construct a storage room with viewing windows."
- * When the scope of the project was confirmed, only part of the designing costs (worth 2.5 billion won in total) was determined to be executed.
- Only a storage room? Why not consider the purpose and significance of the establishment of the Iksan National Museum?
- * No significance of nationalization recognized, the museum degraded to a 5th grade institute, and prestige as a national institute weakened
- O Re-discussion on the establishment of the Iksan National Museum
- Apr. 8, 2015 Notified of the additional policy of the Ministry of Strategy and Finance
- * The project may be promoted after the nationalization of the Mireuksaji Relic Exhibition Museum (after transferring the properties and establishing the organization)
- * After nationalization of the community properties managed by the local government, an issue was raised on the organizational structuring as a national institute.
- What is the priority of the procedure of nationalization? / How will the budget for 2015 be excuted?
- May 2015 Construing the Community Property and Commodity Management Act
 vs. Discussing the prerequisites in the Local Autonomy Act
- * Community Property Act: When transferring the responsibility of local governments to the national government, the community properties will also be succeeded.
- * Local Autonomy Act: When establishing a national institute, the national government shall not burden local governments with the expenses for the

establishment of national institutes. The succession of the community properties is subject to the deliberation at the local council.

 \rightarrow Unrest increased within the local community \rightarrow Succession of community properties delayed (succession of properties first?) or establishment of institute first?)

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- 4. Process of Nationalization: Situation Changed, Winning World Heritage Designation / Finalized the Plan for Property Succession
- O Established the master plan and secured total project costs
- Jun. 2015 Research on the master plan for the establishment of the Iksan National Museum completed
- * Decided to extend the existing facility through remodeling in 2019 after the nationalization of the Mireuksaji Relics Exhibition Museum (including the succession of the properties and the establishment of the organization)
- * Architectural area of 10,000 m² (area of extended facilities equating to 7,500 m², area of new facilities equating to 2,500 m²), total project costs equating to 41.5 billion won, operational personnel equating to 27 employees
- Jul. 2015 Project costs for 2016 (including 2.5 billion won for facilities) included in the national budget
- * Strengthened the negotiation with the Ministry of Strategy and Finance, discussed the stepwise implementation of the project (① secure the building and establish the organization ② secure the land)

O Situation changed

- Jul. 4, 2015 Baekje Historic Areas listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site
- * Including the Mireuksa Temple and the Royal Palace in Wanggung-ri, Iksan / Gongsanseong Fortress and Royal Tombs in Songsan-ri in Gongju / Gwanbuk-ri Administrative Buildings, Busosanseong Fortress, Royal Tombs in Neungsan-ri, Jeongnimsa Temple site, Naseong City Wall in Buyeo
- Jul. 9, 2015 Deliberation on the succession of the property (i.e. building): re-deliberated (by Jeollabukdo Provincial Council)
- Sep. 1, 2015 Discussed the creation of the organization of the Iksan National Museum (consisting of 1 division, 1 office, and 27 employees)
 (Ministry of the Interior vs. National Museum of Korea)
- * Impossible to create a new organization without a tangible governing body, the small size of the existing Exhibition Museum unsuitable for the status as a national museum
- * The new organization can be created after the extension and opening of a national museum in late 2019.

- Sep. 8, 2015 Deliberation of the succession of the property (i.e. land/worth 200 million won): approved (by the Iksan City Council)
- Sep. 22, 2015 Deliberation of the succession of the property (i.e. building/worth 1 billion won): approved (by the Jeollabukdo Provincial Council)
- ▶ Problems solved → Property succession planned (by securing the land and the building) → Agreed on the succession of the community properties (national government vs. local government)

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- 4. Process of Nationalization: Issues on the Budget and the Organization Resolved
- O Problems solved with the support of the National Assembly and the continuous negotiation with the related ministries
- Sep. 2015 Visited the National Assembly to remind the lawmakers (based in Iksan) of the pending issue on the establishment of the Iksan National Museum
- * Explained that the succession of the property (i.e. building) is being delayed at the Jeollabukdo Provincial Council and the creation of a new organization was disapproved by the Ministry of the Interior
- Oct. 8, 2015 Re-discussed the organization with the Organization Policy Bureau of the Ministry of the Interior
- * No organization has been launched without the tangible governing body. The decision was made to consider the project promotion committee.
- Oct. 23, 2015 Approved the allocation of the budget for 2015 (totaling 1.85 billion won) and confirmed the total project costs (worth 41.5 billion won)
- * Strengthened the negotiation with the Ministry of Strategy and Finance, discussed the stepwise implemenation of the project (① secure the building and establish the organization, ② secure the land)
- Oct. 27, 2015 Requested the approval of the organization during the site visit by the Director for Organization and Management Innovation of the Ministry of the Interior
- * Requested the approval of the organization (consisting of 1 division, 1 office, and 14 employees): The personnel for the operation of the exhibition museum and the promotion of the nationalization project
 - * Based on solid grounds
- Completing the succession of the community properties, it is inevitable to close the Mireuksaji Relics Exhibition Museum without the operational organization (fierce complaints raised by nearby residents).
 - It would deprive over 0.4 million cultural tourists of the opportunity to enjoy

the UNESCO World Heritage site every year (the prestige as a World Heritage site to be weakened rapidly).

- Nov. 17, 2015 The Ministry of the Interior decided to review the creation of the organization
- * 1st Exhibition Building (Mireuksaji National Museum) / two employees (a 5th grade curator, and a 6th grade official) / additional four persons (to be recruited autonomously)
- Review planned by the Ministry of the Interior vs. Budgeting disapproved by the Ministry of Strategy and Finance, failing to meet the requirements (ministry being negative about establishing a new national institute)
- ▶ Problems solved \rightarrow <Establishing a new institute> + Constructing an exhibition building (managed by 5^{th} grade director), <Existing personnel> + Recruiting two employees (a curator, and a 6^{th} grade official)
- Secured the operational budget for the Mireuksaji National Museum for 2016 (worth 1 billion won)

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4. Process of Nationalization: Project Flowchart

Local attention

- Related academia
- Local governments
- Local lawmakers

National departments

- Developed the master plan based on the feasibility study

Local governments

- Approved by the local council
- = Succession of community properties

Related Ministries

- Created a new national organization
- Secured operational budget and project costs

Support from National Assembly

Nationalization

Launch and Operation of National Institute

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- 5. Problems Raised after Nationalization
- O Restructuring of the operational system
- Dec. 22, 2015 Organization restructured as an affiliate of the Ministry of Culture, Sports, and Tourism: approved by the Cabinet Council
- * Established the Mireuksaji Museum as an affiliate of the National Museum of Korea, recruited two additional employees (a 5th grade researcher and a 6th grade official)
- Dec. 30, 2015 Launched the Mireuksaji National Museum (1 building with 6 employees)
- * Number of employees adjusted autonomously by the National Museum of Korea to secure more specialists (1 curator, 1 researcher, 1 6th grade official, and 1 7th grade official)
- Appointed required employees additionally (6 persons supervised by the local government)
- * Regulated the personnel appointment by the local government (titled the Regulations on the Formation and Management of the Mireuksaji National Museum / 6 persons appointed (expected to serve until the effectuation of the organization in 2019)
- Signed an agreement to transfer and acquire the operation of the exhibition museum under the contract on the succession of the properties (National Museum of Korea vs. Jeollabukdo Province)
- Jan. 25, 2016 Acquired the relics collected and managed by the museum as well as the additional facilities
- \ast 287 collected relics, 430 artifacts, 18,258 trees, 33 convenience facilities / worth 1.1 billion won in total
- Acquired buried cultural properties that belong to the nation and stabilized the management system of the collection
- * 19,048 artifacts consigned by the Jeonju National Museum, 1,452 artifacts excavated by the National Research Institute of Cultural Heritage, including Gilt-Bronze Exterior Sarira Container
- Established the national accounting system and the information communication system, and improved the management system of the museum facilities
- * Established the D-brain accounting system, recruited 4 private police guards, complemented the security system, produced the signboard and renovated the road signs

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- 6. Implications of Nationalization
- Nationalization requires the will power of the academia, local governments, and residents as well as a clear goal.
- It also needs systematic research conducted by specialists and the development of contents and logics.
- The national authorities should show interests and be aware of the necessity, while the National Assembly should provide active support.
- A network with related Ministries should be formed for a continuous discussion.
- After nationalization, the museum should continue to draw local attention and actively maintain a cooperative relationship.
- * Demand for nationalization recently growing in other regions
- * Gyeongju Folklore and History Museum, Chungju Museum, Naganeupseong Folklore Museum in Suncheon, Gangjin Celadon Museum, Ganghwado Island Museum