



Acknowledge the Property Right of Developers of Reclaimed Area, the Land without Any Owner

Ownership of developers who settled on the ownerless land within the civilian control line, relying on the promise made by the government, should be acknowledged.

"We cultivated the wasteland of Haean-myeon, Yanggu County, Gangwon Province, following the government policy. Please keep your promise of acknowledging the property right of land after 10 years of cultivation."

We turned the wasteland into fertile land with 10 years of hard work. Now, please keep your promise!

Right after the independence, Haean-myeon, Yanggu County used to belong to the northern region of the 38th parallel but was reclaimed during the Korean War. However, the region was ownerless land, land without owners, as 80% of original inhabitants who moved to North Korea could not return due to the Armistice Agreement or went missing.

The Korean government carried out two rounds of settlement projects and made a promise to settlers to give ownership of war-torn farmland after 10 years of cultivation and development. However, the government hasn't kept the promise for 70 years. Since Korean Constitution contains the Korean Peninsula and its annexed island as territory, the land ownership of original inhabitants, who evacuated from their home to North Korea but could not return, still remains. Therefore, if the government acknowledge the land ownership of settlers, the problem of land with two different property right may arise.



민통선 내 무주부동산 및 국유지

Petitioners moved to Haean-myeon, a quasi-war zone, that had zero infrastructure, such as water supply and schools, and where every movement was under military control, only relying on the government's promise of granting ownership. While they started their settlement under the tents provided by the military and cultivated wasteland for decades, they filed a complaint to the ACRC in September 2017 as the government did not fulfill its promise. The complaint is as follows: "Acknowledge decades-years of efforts of turning the wasteland into fertile land, and sell ownerless land and state-owned land as compensation to relieve people's grievance of restricted property rights."

Turn reclaimed land without owners into state-owned land and lay out legal grounds for selling the land to developers

The ACRC, first, launched a government-wide TF involving relevant authorities, including the Ministry of Economy and Finance, the Ministry of National Defense, the Ministry of Public Administration and Security, the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, and Transport, the Public Procurement Service, the Yanggu County Office, the Korea Asset Management Corporation, and the Korea Land And Geospatial Informatix Corporation. The TF established a collaborative framework, seeking alternatives through a number of meetings, and reached an agreement of "giving compensation to developers by nationalizing the ownerless lands" to a large extent by holding the first on-site coordination meeting in December 2018. The next step in resolving complaints regarding ownerless lands in the reclaimed area is establishing basis laws and designating the

competent authority. The ACRC drew up a draft of the "Act on the Special Measures of Restoration and Preservation Registration, etc. of Unclaimed Lands within the Regained Areas," which may be a legal ground based on legal advice from the National Assembly, legal experts, and Ministry of Government Legislation. Moreover, the ACRC made continuous efforts to visit relevant agencies to explain its objectives and intent, leading to an agreement that the enforcement of the Act would be within the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Economy and Finance.

The ACRC held an on-site coordination meeting on August 4, 2020, a day before the enforcement of the Act above, involving citizens from Haean-myeon and relevant agencies, and implemented comprehensive measures, such as promoting underdeveloped Haean-myeon and providing stable housing conditions for citizens, in collaboration with relevant agencies.

On August 5, 2020, the Act on the Special Measures finally went into effect, which is a ground for the nationalization and sales of ownerless lands. The Act set legal grounds for nationalizing ownerless lands that amount to 222,968 pieces (around 94 million square meters) within reclaimed areas during the Korean War due to a long-standing conflict at the legislative and administrative blind zones, equivalent to 15% of the Seoul area and selling them to developers.

Three years of persistent efforts by the ACRC not only enabled systematic management of territory but also fulfilled the 70-year-long cherished wishes of citizens, keeping the government promise to the people.



Fishermen at Risk of Losing Jobs at Busan New Port Request for measures for livelihood

A promise made to fishermen at risk of losing jobs to grant lands developed in the course of building New Port, should be kept.

"Please return the lands that the government promised in the form of measures for a livelihood since we could lose the fishery rights that we kept for generations due to public development."

"We lost our home that was left for generations."

The government built Busan New Port in order to take the lead in northeast international logistics by building a global logistics port hub build in preparation for the 21st century. As a result, more than 1,200 fishermen lost their homes where they made their living for generations.

In 1997, the government promised to provide lands made of dredged soil and developed during the construction of the port as measures for livelihood moving further from giving legal compensation.

While the government promised to petitioners to provide them with lands as measures for a livelihood, relevant law stipulates that when selling public property, the value should be based on an appraisal cost at the time of sales. Petitioners requested the ACRC and said, "Since we cannot accept buying lands at the appraisal cost with already soared land values, please take measures for selling lands at a price Changwon city (formerly, Jinhae city) bought from the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries."

Resolve 24-year-long complaints and establish an optimal development project

After receiving the complaint, the ACRC thoroughly checked the written agreement and the agreed terms between the then government and fishermen made in 1995 when Busan New Port was being developed. After reviewing the Special Act on Designation and Management of Free Economic Zones, the ACRC received a relevant document from requested persons and held dozens of working-level meetings, including five on-site inspections and six rounds of meeting with the commission attended.

The ACRC designated participating authorities, including Changwon city as a requested authority, and South Gyeongsang Province, Gyeongsangnam-do Development Corporation, and the Busan-Jinhae Free Economic Zone as relevant authorities, provided arbitration after closely listening to each opinion. Persistent persuasion was made as each authority had a different point of view, and participants finally reached an agreement for the first time in 9 months after the complaint was filed.

▲ The selling price of the lands for a livelihood provided to fishermen would be 6,143 won per m², equivalent to a price Changwon city bought from the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, and ▲ the costs of earthworks within the lands for livelihood are borne by two different councils for the livelihood of fishermen. ▲ The site of Uichang District council for the livelihood that falls short in extent due to the road incorporation would remain its size as agreed upon with the exchange of the land between Changwon city and Gyeongsangnam-do Development Corporation, and ▲ the terms on the authorization for implementation plans, which restricts the transfer of ownership before developing infrastructure, would be eliminated.

The arbitration by the ACRC removed the burden of 16.9 billion won from fishermen and positioned them as joint project operators along with Changwon city and Gyeongsangnam-do Development and Corporation for Ungdong District 1 development project, which is expected to be the optimum development project where public and private interests coexist.



he current status of lands with dredged soil at Ungdong District 1, Busan New Port



Keeping the promise for government support regarding quick supply of public masks at pharmacies

Appropriate support measures should be implemented for pharmacies that contributed to the preventive measures in Korea.

"Please keep the government's promise to provide compensation like tax support for the efforts of pharmacies that significantly contributed to stabilizing the supply and demand of masks when every citizen suffered from COVID-19."

"More than 23,000 pharmacies across the country said, "Compensate our efforts for the supply of public masks."

With the global spread of COVID-19 in February 2020, the Korean government established supply and demand policy for public masks, and accordingly, pharmacies across the country joined the supply of public masks. At that time, the government promised directly and indirectly for many times to take support measures like tax support to compensate the efforts of pharmacies that substantially contributed to stabilizing the supply and demand of masks, but no concrete compensation measures were implemented.

Therefore more than 23,000 pharmacies across the country filed a complaint to the ACRC: "Pharmacies participated in the government's COVID-19 emergency supply and demand measures for masks, contributing to the supply of public masks for the people, while suffering the loss due to disturbance to the work of pharmacy and enduring psychological pain, such as harsh language and criticism, due to the mask shortage. However, the government has not implemented any countermeasures after making a promise about support, such as tax exemption for the public masks. So please implement support measures as soon as possible."

Based on five supportive projects, agreed on the implementation of the promise about government support related to public mask supply.

The finance authority did recognize the contribution of the Korean Pharmaceutical Association to Korea's preventive measures, such as a quick supply of public masks, but believed that support through tax exemption is not feasible.

The ACRC found other alternatives that may support pharmacies in place of tax exemption, taking into account the government situation where tax support is not feasible. The ACRC settled the conflict between the Korean Pharmaceutical Association and the prevention authority by implementing measures, including ▲ to supply and install non-contact thermometers at nationwide pharmacies, ▲ launch a pilot project for the public late-night pharmacies that ensures access to the pharmaceuticals during the after hours, ▲ send pharmacists to vaccination centers across the country, ▲ promote the role of a pharmacist in the time of COVID-19, and ▲ support local pharmacies with suicide prevention.

The government at that time repeatedly rolled out its support policies regarding the quick supply of public masks based on the digital network of nationwide pharmacies. However, the promise was not fulfilled, causing disappointment and distrust against the government, which is why developing appropriate compensation plans as an alternative policy was found desirable. The coordination provided an opportunity to increase the trust in the government and strengthen public-private cooperation.





Request for the improvement of the housing condition and environment of the Gyeongju Leprosy colony formed by Forced Displacement

Welfare and environmental issues in lepers settlement, isolated for more than 40 years due to the forced displacement, should be resolved.

“Lepers settled in Gyeongju Hope Farm due to forced displacement, the government policy. House and stall constructed by the government were left unattended to be deserted for more than 40 years, and neighbors have blamed our village as the main culprit for the environmental pollution.”

Petitioners lamented over more than 40 years of life. Lepers moved from place to place following the governmental policy until they settled in Hope Farm. In 1961, the government let 240 lepers discharged from the National Chilgok Hospital live in Cheongun-dong near Bomun Tourist Complex in Gyeongju in order to assimilate them as members of society as part of the leprosy management project. In 1979, the government displaced them to Hope Farm located at Sindang-ri 3, Cheonbuk-myeon, Gyeongju-si for the development of the Bomun Tourist Complex in Gyeongju as part of a national project. At that time, the government built and provided an unlicensed house and a poultry farm per household for 486 displaced people.

40 years have passed, and the slate roof of 452 poultry farms constructed by the then government have become worn and corroded with some parts turning into dust, where Group 1 carcinogen was detected. Due to the conventional and open septic tank and old and worn sewer, the house had a bad smell. The conventional septic tank flooded whenever it rained, which flew into the river, polluting it, and wastewater from poultry farms was discharged to the Hyeongsan river, the water source for Pohang-si and Gyeongju-si, for which Pohang citizens criticized. In the meantime, petitioners filed complaints to different agencies, which was of no use, and candidates pledged for every election to develop settlements, which they forgot shortly. Petitioners eventually took the issue to the ACRC.

Agreement made on removing the old slate roof and laying the foundation for job creation and agricultural income generation.

The ACRC first examined the relevant document of the establishment of settlement for lepers. It turned out that the government had been promoting a development project with national funding, but as most of the petitioners were the elderly (average age of 85), they did not even know about such system.

The ACRC carried out a series of on-site inspections, held working-level discussions to seek a solution, and worked to mediate the situation in collaboration with relevant agencies of Gyeongju-si, Pohang-si, and North Gyeongsang Province. Petitioners and relevant agencies agreed with the ACRC.

Gyeongju-si decided to tear down 452 old poultry farms and slate roofs and repair worn-out septic tanks and sewers. The city also planned to improve the living condition by repairing old houses with the consent of residents of Hope Farm, lay a foundation for job creation and income generation, and establish welfare facilities, such as care centers and nursing homes, for the benefit of residents' convenience.

North Gyeongsang Province is committed to cooperating with budget support to smoothly implement facility maintenance projects, including the removal of collective poultry farms at Hope Farm and the repair of septic tanks and sewers.

Pohang-si decided to actively cooperate in enhancing the living environment and tackling water pollution, such as by repairing old sewers

in the Hope Farm region, and improving the water quality of the Hyeongsan river.

Daegu Regional Environmental Office will proactively cooperate with national budget support regarding the sewer maintenance project.

The country should recover the rights and interests of displaced lepers with governmental policy.

Lepers have been excluded from society for more than 60 years due to the government's displacement policy. While the then government stated that the displacement is for the self-supporting life of lepers, isolation of lepers, in effect, seems to be the purpose. At present, lepers still scratch a living by raising chickens at the abandoned poultry farm.

In 2021, the ACRC bore fruit of addressing issues regarding the settlement of lepers(82 in total) across the country in close cooperation with central agencies and local governments. We hope the hearts of lepers who were displaced by the governmental policy bloom like flowers with hope as the name the "Hope Farm" in Gyeongju represents.





Improving the “Traffic Safety Facilities Near Elementary Schools” for Safe School Zone

The health and safety of children from nearby elementary schools should be considered prior to the construction of an expressway.

“It would be a huge noise if an expressway is constructed nearby elementary school. It will also endanger children’s safety. Please establish measures for children to go to school safely.”

Construction of an expressway is planned, which will threaten school zone. 2,704 residents filed a collective complaint.

The Korea Expressway Corporation developed a construction plan for Gangjin–Gwangju Expressway, but the problem is that the elementary school and town are located nearby. If the construction starts as planned, a 10–meter embankment will be installed in front of the nearby town, which will undermine the right to a view view and cause damage related to noise and dust.

Therefore residents requested the Korea Expressway Corporation for traffic safety facilities, such as a sound–proof tunnel, sound–proof wall, low–noise pavement, and bridge. However, the corporation stated that the request from residents is not acceptable as construction costs will exceed the budget if the construction plan changes to include a tunnel and bridge.

Since narrowing the difference of opinions was not feasible, 2,704 residents from a nearby town eventually came to the ACRC asking for help to develop traffic safety facilities.

A Dangerous school zone has become better. Full mobilization of measures to reduce noise for the health and safety of children!

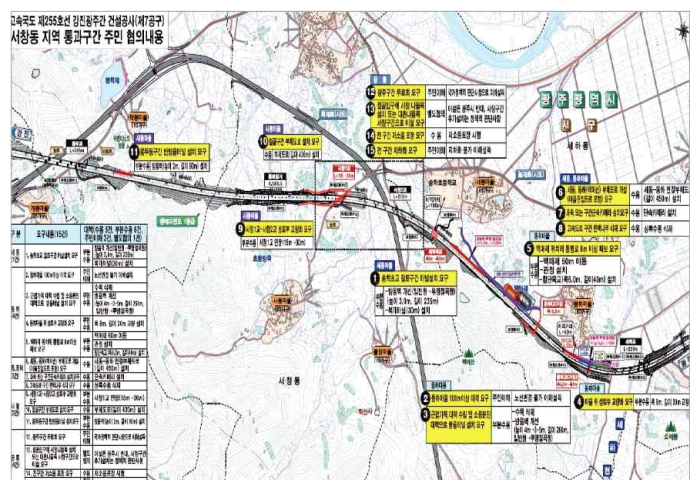
The ACRC made several on-site visits and found the followings: the expressway that is designed to run through a nearby school may endanger the traffic safety of children; a 10-meter embankment of the expressway may violate the right to a view; and the noise and dust may undermine pleasant residential life of nearby residents stipulated in the Constitution.

The ACRC found reasonable alternatives to minimize the inconvenience of residents through discussion with relevant agencies, such as the Korea Expressway corporation tax and Gwangju Metropolitan city.

▶ According to the relevant agencies, such as the Korea Expressway Corporation and Gwangju Metropolitan city, once the change of the total construction expense is made in collaboration with the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, and Transport and the Ministry of Economy and Finance, they will install a sound-proof tunnel and wall will be installed and plant trees behind the Songhak Elementary School.

▶ In addition, more bridges on the way into town will be constructed, and the access road to the nearby town will be built straight. At the same time, the farming road will be paved to reduce dust.

The efforts to reduce damages from the construction of the expressway led to an opportunity of minimizing traffic inconvenience by developing traffic safety facilities and reducing the environmental damage to students and residents.





Close Unused "Jinbu Airfield in Gangwon Province" and Return the Site to Residents

The neglected airfield, a hindrance to regional development, is transformed into a place for residents in Pyeongchang.

"Jinbu airfield in Pyeongchang county, Gangwon province, which is used only a couple of times a year, hinders the regional development and undermines the traffic for the residents, losing its original purpose. The Korean Army promised to relocate the Jinbu airfield 4 years ago, however, it feels frustrated since the Army has not even found the site for relocation."

4 years have passed since the authority promised to relocate the Jinbu airfield that was neglected in the traffic hub.

Jinbu airfield in Jinbu-myeon, Pyeongchang country, Gangwon province is a reserved operating base for helicopters. In 1973, the military reserved the site for the take-off and landing of a helicopter in case of a military operation, regarding espionage or regional provocation. Since the site of Jinbu airfield is close to Pyeongchang KTX train station and expressway, its location may be a great advantage for economic development if properly utilized.

However, the Jinbu airfield located at the traffic hub has been rarely used for military purposes, and it was, in effect, neglected since there was no maintenance in the absence of relevant regulations. In 2014, residents of the region filed a collective complaint to the ACRC, requesting the relocation and closure of the Jinbu airfield. At that time, with the mediation of the ACRC, the military made a promise to residents about securing the replacement site and relocating Jinbu airfield, however, the plan fizzled out, failing to find a proper relocation site for more than 4 years, which is why more than 900 residents once again turned to the ACRC in 2019.

The first mediation of the ACRC that was left incomplete was finally brought to an end, with the ACRC taking responsibility!

In 2015, the ACRC carried out the first mediation of the relocation of the Jinbu airfield. Later, 19 rounds of on-site investigations were conducted, bearing heavier responsibility, due to the collective complaint of the same and unresolved case. The Commission paid more attention to the growing grievances of residents and carried out discussions with relevant agencies.

The ACRC conducted a full investigation of nationwide reserved operating bases for helicopters and found that the usage of the Jinbu airfield for military operations was significantly low. Moreover, the airfield site was at the traffic hub within a 1km radius of Jinbu KTX train station and Jinbu IC of Yeongdong expressway, which was evaluated as an advantage to regional development. Based on the investigation, the ACRC carried out several discussions with the relevant agencies, sharing the grievances of residents.

The ACRC implemented mediation plans to resolve the "closure of Jinbu airfield," a longstanding worry of residents, which has been a trouble for years for Jinbu-myeon residents and held an on-site mediation meeting, gathering the residents and relevant agencies, including Pyeongchang district office and the Korean Army.

▲The Army thoroughly reviewed to find out whether the Jinbu airfield is required for military operations, reached a conclusion that it no longer serves a military need, and will close the airfield and carry out procedures for sales according to the relevant laws. ▲Pyeongchang-si will actively listen to the opinions of residents and establish urban planning or public interest business plans in order to utilize the airfield site for the residents after the closure of the Jinbu airfield.

The Jinbu airfield was established as a military operation base in the 1970s, however, as time went on its usage reduced, and it has become a hindrance to regional development. The collective complaint was such a complex one, but it was resolved amicably with the acceptance of the mediation that objectively evaluated the value of the site as a military operation base, reflecting the opinions of residents.