

**2012 Global Human Rights Essay Contest on
“Human Rights City”
*If I were to change my city into a Human Rights City***

16 May 2012, Gwangju, South Korea

Hosted by: the Metropolitan City of Gwangju

Organized by: The Institute for Social Development and Policy Research at Seoul National University, Korea and the Korea Human Rights Foundation

Background

The 2012 Global Human Rights Essay Contest on “Human Right City” (Human Rights City Essay Contest, hereafter HRC Essay Contest) is a joint initiative by The Institute for Social Development and Policy Research of Seoul National University, Korea and the Korea Human Rights Foundation with support of the Metropolitan City of Gwangju in order to promote the idea of a human rights city as a means to localize human rights in the context of glocalization. Its primary goal is to promote youth participation in the building of a human rights city through the articulation of their visions and experiences. The Essay Contest will take place in Gwangju on 16 May 2012 during the 2012 World Human Rights Cities Forum.

Eligibility

Youth participants from any country (except Korea) aged between 18 and 35 can participate in the HRC Essay Contest. (Including students at college/university undergraduate and graduate student level)

Procedures and Deadlines

All participants must complete and submit the registration form online at <http://www.humanrightscity.net/> no later than **on or before January 31, 2012 by midnight Korea Standard Time (KST).**

The deadline for submission of essay is on March 15, 2012 by midnight Korea Standard Time (KST).

The announcement of the 3 candidates for the final round will be made online at the HRC Essay Contest Website on April 1, 2012.

The 3 finalists are invited to make presentations of their essays before judges on May 16, 2012 at the 2012 World Human Rights Cities Forum (Gwangju, May 16-18, 2012)

The award-giving ceremony will take place on May 17, 2012 at the closing session of the WHRCF.

Basic requirements: Application, Language, Length and Deadline

- Essay should be written in English.
- The deadlines for submission will be 15 March, 2012 by midnight Korea Standard Time.
- Length of essay should be between 5,000 and 10,000 words
- Sources must be cited properly in the case of usage. Proper bibliography or footnotes must be included.
- Papers must be written within the frame of politics, social, cultural and economic basis.

Writing Topics and Guidelines

An essay is expected to deal with issues related to ‘Human Rights City’. An essay is expected to answer the following hypothetical question “If I were to change my city to a human rights city”. The city that you plan to write about can be a city that you are a resident of or a city that you are particularly interested in.

Participants should read the two basic documents - 2011 Gwangju Declaration on a Human Rights City and Global Charter-Agenda for Human Rights in the City - which are two main references for essay writing. Please refer to the World Human Rights City 2012 Website for documents.

The main contents must have one or a few of these questions as the base argument:

- How to implement the Five Commitments to a Human Rights City in the Gwangju Declaration on Human Rights City (17 May 2011) in your own city?
- How to implement Global Charter-Agenda for Human Rights in the City (11 Dec. 2011) in your own city?
- How to make use of international recognized human rights norms and standards in your own city?
- How to promote civic participation and human rights education, learning and training to build a human rights city in your own city?
- How to deal with challenges facing existing initiatives and movements to build a human right city at the local, national and international level?
- What are some key challenges when building and or implementing a human rights city?

**Please keep in mind that you are not restricted to write on only one topic nor limited on the topics stated above. Multiple ideas/topics that can properly express your ideal human rights city can be used.

The essay may be written by a group (maximum of 3 writers). In the case that a group is chosen as a finalist, only one writer will be funded to present at the forum.

Judging Criteria

Content

- Demonstrated an understanding of human rights.
- Well researched.
- Present an analytical understanding of human rights cities.
- Original and creativity.
- Convincing arguments presented with the support of specific examples.
- Present a practical thought process.

Presentation

- Communicated ideas clearly
- Well-organized
- Correct syntax, grammar, spelling, and punctuation
- Written in compelling and original manner
- Bibliography of five or more varied sources including one non-internet source
- Thoughtfully selected, reliable sources
- Papers must be double spaced, 12 size font, Times New Roman.
- Papers must be the original work of the student. Plagiarism will not be tolerated.

A paper will be disqualified if:

- It is not on the topic.
- It is submitted after the deadline.
- It is not the student's original work.

Recognition and Awards

Upon initial review 3 finalists will be chosen and announced on April 1, 2012. The 3 candidates will then be invited to make presentations of their essays before judges at the 2012 World Human Rights Cities Forum (Gwangju, May 16-18, 2012) in the final round.

**In the case of a team paper being chosen as a finalist, the main writer or 1 representative will be funded to make the presentation in Gwangju, Korea.

***In the case the selected finalist is not able to attend the WHRCF and compete in the final round of the essay contest, the opportunity will then go to the next contestant that scored the highest during the initial judging.

The prizes are as follows.

- Airfare and accommodations to attend the 2012 World Human Rights Cities Forum in Gwangju from May 15-18th, 2012.
- First Prize: 1 person/team will receive Gwangju City Mayor Award, US \$3000
- Second Prize: 1 person/team will receive Gwangju City Mayor Award, US \$2000
- Third Prize: 1 person/team receive Gwangju City Mayor Award, US \$1000

**The prize amount is the same regardless of team or individual. If a team wins first prize the team as a whole will receive \$3000.

What is “Human Rights City”?

“Human rights city” can be defined as ‘both an urban community and a socio-political process in an urban context where human rights play a key role as a fundamental value and guiding principles’. It also means, in practical terms, all residents and inhabitants, in particular, minority groups who are socially vulnerable and marginalized, regardless of race, sex, color, nationality, ethnic background and social status can participate fully in decision-making and policy-implementation processes that affect their lives in accordance with human rights principles such as discrimination, participation, empowerment, transparency and accountability, etc. “Human rights city” can also be understood as “human rights governance in an urban context’ where local government, local parliament, civil society, private sectors and other stake-holders work together to improve quality of lives of all urban inhabitants in a spirit of partnership based on human rights norms.

What is World Human Rights Cities Forum (WHRCF)

The first World Human Rights Cities Forum under the theme “Globalizing Human Rights from Below: Challenges of Human Rights City in the 21st Century” was launched in Gwangju, South Korea on 16-18 May 2011 as a joint initiative of Gwangju Metropolitan City, the Korea Human Rights Foundation and the May 18 Memorial Foundation. Its aim was to promote international cooperation among cities by providing a space and platform for mutual sharing and learning about various experiences of building a “human rights city”. The Gwangju Declaration on Human Rights City which includes a

five-point action plan was adopted. The 2012 World Human Rights Cities Forum is to take place in Gwangju again on 16-18 May, 2012.

Submission

Registration forms must be completed online by **midnight (KST) on January 31, 2012**.

Papers must be submitted online through the human rights cities website <http://www.humanrightscity.net/>. There will be a space where papers can be uploaded.

All papers must be sent by no later than **midnight (KST) on March 15, 2012**.

All submissions must be in Microsoft Word format (.doc).

Any questions or concerns please contact khrf99@gmail.com.

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