Turn your ideas into reality

Seoul
Oasis

STORY

By 이유진
(Lee Yoojin)
Seoul Oasis
A portal site that will serve as a place where citizens can bring forth their dynamic and creative suggestions and proposals
“Oasis, in which citizens’ ideas are put into practice as Seoul City policies, is a remarkable system that sets citizens’ imagination on fire. It is an outstanding example of e-government that provides citizens with faster and better services by utilizing IT technology.”

– Nicholas Negroponte, founder and Chairman Emeritus of MIT’s Media Lab

(World e-Government Mayors Forum, Jul.8, 2008)
Procedure (from proposal to policy...)

1. Proposal
2. Debate
3. Conference
4. Operation of project
Main figures (give us the numbers...)

Total No of visitors:
3,378,149
Average of 3,918 visitors per day~

Total No of ideas proposed:
22,750
Average of 26 ideas per day~

PS: 2006.10.10 ~ 2009.2.22
Main figures (give us the numbers...)

No of ideas selected fm. 13 conf.: 71

Proposals launched or in the works: 54
~having sites for BBQ parties, introducing the Internet to parks, vaccination system, starting a small business program, movie theaters with English subtitles, etc.

Number of plans formulated: 14

PS: as of Feb. 22. 2009
Seoul Oasis  currently in  Transformation

You can now rate the comments attached to your proposed ideas.

(Available as of Feb. 9th)

첫번째 문제는 공간 비만감이 심합니다. 오리나 닝이나...

평가 / 추천  2/0

첫번째 문제는 공간 아심가 심합니다.
오리나 닝이나 염소, 소 같은 것을 기우려면 적정한 공간이 필요할 것 같습니다.
평방미터가 넘는 서둘에서 양계장이나 외양장 그리고 조지를 마련하려면...

두번째 문제는 관리의 문제였어요.
오리나 닝이나 임소 등을 기우면 잡아먹는 사람들, 고양이들이 있지 않습니까?
일어버리지 않으려면 관리에 많이 신경을 써야 할 것 같습니다.

근린 공원 같은 곳에 전시용으로 키울 수는 있었겠으나,
서울처럼 만지면 들오는 것은 어렵지 않나 싶습니다.
Seoul Oasis currently in **Transformation**

You can now rate the comments attached to your proposed ideas.

(Available as of Feb. 9th)

From Jan. 1st ~ Feb. 8th (a day on the average)

- Suggestions: 38
- Comments: 73

After Feb. 9th

- Suggestions: 137
- Comments: 3,121

※ There was a total of 200 ideas suggested on Feb. 19th
What’s happening with the ideas selected now?

(this is how we are proceeding...)

- Ms. Yu-mi’s suggestion from June 2008 (conference 11)

Setting up vaccination card system
- Jan.’09: Completion of program development
- Feb.’09: Trial run (Jung-gu, Gwanak-gu, Seongbuk-gu)
- Mar.’09: Spreading of plan to all districts
What’s happening with the ideas selected now?

*(this is how we are proceeding...)*

- Mr. Seok-hyeon Heo’s suggestion from October 2007 (Conference 7)

- June 2008~January 2009:
  Construction of Seoul Forest U-Free Zone
  (Free Internet Service, U-Internet Park, U-Children’s Safety, U-Ecology Education Zone, etc.)
When a foreigner told me that he wanted to see a Korean movie, I told him to search for a theater that showed movies with English captions. He said, “There’s no theater like that in Korea.” That surprised me because I thought there was one. ⋯ Wouldn’t it be nice if there was a theater in Seoul that showed Korean movies with English captions. It would be a great opportunity to introduce Korea to the many foreigners living in Seoul. (Kang Shin-Hun, Feb., 2008)

- May 2008: meetings with movie distributors to select movies to contain English captions
- Jun. 2008: meetings with a theater held and plans drawn up
- Jul. 2008: “The Good, the Bad, the Weird” shown
- Aug. 2008: “The Divine Weapon” shown
- Sept. 2008: “Modern Boy” shown
- 2009: Movies with English captions shown after a movie theater was chosen

Recipient of the President Prize at the Jungang Outstanding Idea Suggestion Awards in 2008
Whilst there is a growing number of foreigners living in Korea through international marriage, they experience many difficulties due to language and cultural barriers. It would be great if they could receive newsletters that provide information about Korea and greeting cards in their native languages. (Jeong Gui-So, Nov. 2007)

- Mar. 2008: meetings in district offices held and cooperation requested from the Healthy Family Support Center
- Apr. 2008: plans drawn up
- Apr. 2008: newsletter published in English, Chinese, Japanese, and Vietnamese
- May ~ 2008: service expanded
Despite the fact that housewives, the long-term unemployed, and seniors are all valuable resources of our society, they tend to be denied the opportunity to prove their competency. How about a site that supports people who are interested in starting new businesses? They would love a site where information and knowledge, on starting a new business, can be exchanged and shared. (Yi Eun-Gyeong, Jun. 2008)

- Oct. 2008: plans for the creation of a small business portal
- Apr. 2009 : business startup portal site
- Apr. 2009 ~ : business startup portal in operation
Examples of Ideas – Turned-into-Reality through Oasis

Gwangjin Bridge as a Walkable Bridge

The Gwangjin Bridge would serve as a great place for Seoul citizens if it were turned into a walkable bridge. (Shin Dong-Wu, Feb. 2007)

- Apr. 2007: a consultation meeting for design and basic plans
- Aug. 2007: design evaluation and investment blitz held
- Sept. 2007: meeting for technical consultation on the structure and landscape design of the bridge
- Oct. 2007: design completed
- Apr. 2008: construction started
Seoul Oasis Meeting 14th is...

No. of submissions for debate: 269
No. of submissions for practical discussion: 41
No. of proposals to be discussed at Selection Committee: 6
Seoul Oasis Meeting 14th is for...

- Registration Card for Part-time workers
- Health of Housewives
- Operation of Seoul City’s official Podcast
- Revitalization of Hwagok Market in Gang Seo District
- Installing Prepaid Bus Card Recharge machines in bus stops
- Online Korean Courses for mothers from Mixed-culture families
Thank You !
The 14th Seoul Oasis Meeting

2009. 2. 26

Seoul Metropolitan Government
It is about issuing a registration card for part-time workers with personal information, licenses, career background and etc. An issuer can be either a company or the Seoul City Government. With this registration card, job seekers may not need to prepare separate resumes for each job. People, of course, can register their licenses and personal information by either online or in person. And, it is also necessary to prevent from registering false information.
1. Registration Card for Part-Time Workers

Netizens’ Opinions

▶ Wow~~ You would think hard ^^*
There are many part-time workers who just quit their jobs without taking a full responsibility. If a registration card is issued, more people may have a strong sense of responsibility.

▶ I appreciate your hard working for the national defense even in cold winter.

▶ If this plan works well, many benefits will be created in various ways.
Nowadays, National Health Insurance even covers little children’s medical checkups. And, companies make it mandatory for their workers to get medical checkups even though they are very basic checkups. However, housewives in their 20’s and 30’s like me have no place to get free basic medical checkups. So, they should pay all the money for such medical care.

When the economy is in bad shape, and households try to reduce unnecessary expenses facing economic difficulties, there would be not many mothers who are willing to pay for the expensive medical costs for themselves. Wouldn’t it be good if mother also get basic medical checkups for free?
Netizens’ Opinions

► That’s right. Alienation and indifference is a sad reality. The minimum welfares should be enjoyed by all people.

► Mother’s health is the most important. I hope more people will enjoy the benefit through policy complement.

► Don’t regional or company medical insurance provide regular medical checkups for them?????

► No. As far as I know, only those who are over 40’s can get the regular medical checkups.
3. **Operation of Seoul City’s Official Podcast Service**

Podcast is a series of video or audio digital media files on i-Tunes popular among people aged 10’s through 30’s. Many people all over the world log on to i-Tunes and download interesting podcast.

If we launch Seoul City’s official podcast service and allow the citizens to download at anytime and anywhere all kinds of contents of the city affairs which are now posted in subways, buses and outside signboards, the citizens’ interests in the city affairs will automatically increase.
3. Operation of Seoul City’s Official Podcast Service

Netizens’ Opinions

▶ It’s a fantastic idea. I hope the state-of-the-art technology, Podcast service, will widely promote the Seoul City’s image and policies and encourage the citizens’ active participation.

▶ The future of Seoul has become brighter and brighter. It’s surprising that various media have been developed these days.

▶ Why don’t we link this service with the broadcasters first?
I have lived in Gangseo district from birth, and I love Seoul and my district more than anyone else.

As a future architect, I have been interested in Seoul City Government’s city administration affairs. I also have had many interests in the traditional market revitalization projects, and I’m very happy to find the cyberspace where I can post my ideas and thoughts on the traditional markets.
4. Revitalization of Hwagok Traditional Market in Gangseo District

Netizens’ Opinions

▶ We have reviewed your proposal. It is great and easy to understand. We believe that when we come up with detailed measures based on the proposal, the traditional markets not only in Seoul but also across the nation will be revitalized and the lives of small business owners will be richer.

▶ I think developing the traditional markets is not enough. The traditional markets which can remind people of countryside flavor and old days will be competitive.

▶ I think the proposal is well written covering from problems to specific measures.
It will be good if prepaid bus card recharge machines are set up in bus stops.

I can recharge ‘t-money’ in street vendors and subway stations. However, when a bus stop is far from a subway station, and when I find that I do not have enough money on my card after I get on a bus, it is very embarrassing. I think prepaid bus card recharge machines are necessary especially in the bus stops on center streets.

It would be convenient if prepaid bus card recharge machines are installed in bus stops.
5. Installation of Prepaid Bus Card Recharge Machines In Bus Stops

Netizens’ opinions

▶ It is important to always give priority to citizens’ convenience. I believe this is a way to become a developed city.
▶ Cost may be the big factor.
▶ If the distance is too far between bus stops and streets are wide, the recharge machines are necessary.

▶ I totally agree. Since there is no place to recharge my prepaid bus card on center streets, I should cross the street, recharge my card and cross the street again to get back to the bus stop in the busy morning. It’s very inconvenient.
As a mother from mixed-culture family and a mother who fosters children, our future hope, I believe, if there are online Korean courses to which mothers coming from far foreign countries have an easy access, their children may not suffer from confusion, but be fostered well.

If online courses are made and posted on the Seoul City’s website, it will be helpful to promote Seoul as well.

I hope Seoul City will take the lead since its infrastructure for online courses is well established!

It will be an opportunity to show off Seoul’s technology to the world.
6. **Online Korean Courses for Mothers from Mixed-Culture Families**

**Netizens’ Opinions**

▶ We should show true love and support for foreigners living in Korea. Their children are proud Koreans.

▶ At a time when international marriage has increased, it’s our duty to help foreigners know better about and get closer to the Korean society.

▶ It will be good not only for mixed-culture family members but also all the foreigners who want to know more about Korea.

▶ I hope that along with the online courses, more opportunities for foreigners to communicate with their neighbors will be given.