

A comparative study of offers for recreation in nature parks in Germany and in recreation forests in Korea

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Abstract — This comparative study was designed to search for the difference in recreational use and recreational offers between German Nature Parks and Korean Recreational Forests. To review current recreational offers, a complete search of the websites of all German Nature Parks and 50% of Korean Recreation Forests was undertaken. The result is compared per category of offers. Hiking is offered as a recreational forest activity in nearly all Nature Parks in Germany (95%) and Recreation Forests in Korea (98%). Apart from hiking, biking (92%) and horse riding (71%) were offered by most of the German Nature Parks whereas Walking (96%) and Fitness trail (76%) activities were mostly offered in Korea. Swimming (66%), canoeing (62%), fishing (43%) and sailing (38%) were very famous water activities in German Nature Parks. However, there are very few water activities except swimming (74%) in Korean Recreation Forests. Environmental education plays an important role in nature friendly recreation. In terms of quantity and quality, there were better offers in environmental education in Germany than in Korea. Nature educational trails were offered by 68% of German Nature Parks compared to 26% of Recreation Forests in Korea. Various environmental education programs for children were 63% in German and only 40% in Korea. Furthermore, there were more offers in German Nature Park, for example environmental guide (56%), environmental education program (47%) and environmental touring (26%). There were nine tour themes in German Nature Parks with the largest proportion (66%) dedicated to experience with nature and 8% for the disabled people. On the other hand, the Korean Recreation Forest has not so many tour themes as in German Nature Parks. Nevertheless, the activities comprise of nature experience (80%), cultural history (72%) and wellness (32%). The demand of recreation users on Infrastructures is very high, therefore almost all of Korean Recreation Forests have Toilet (94%), Kitchen & Water (80%) and shower rooms (68%). They exhibit passive recreation and the environmental education program is less compared to that of German Nature Park, but the infrastructure plays a very important role in nature recreation of Koreans. It sums that, German Nature Parks have more of almost all kinds of recreational offers than Korean Recreation Forests.

Key words: comparative study, German Nature Park, internet search, Korean Recreation Forest, recreation, recreational offer, recreational use

1 INTRODUCTION AND METHOD

The occident and orient had very different culture and history. Because of differing understanding of nature, they had also high contrast

with nature using forms. To review current different recreation use in nature, German Nature Parks and Korean Recreation Forests were compared since both are founded not only for nature protection, but also for recreational use. The recreational offer reflect on exact expectations of recreation users, therefore the different recreational use type of both countries can be recognize through this study.

To review recreational offers, services and infrastructure, a complete search of the websites of all German Nature Parks and

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50% of Korean Recreation Forest was conducted in 2007.

2 RESULT

The two countries have other direction in environmental education. Installation and furnishing plays an important role in Korean Recreation Forest, whereas programs (including environmental guide, program for children, environmental program, etc) and their contents are the most important in German Nature Park. There are no environmental education activities in only 12% of German Nature Parks as opposed to 24% of Korean Recreation Forests.

There are variable and many activities in German Nature Parks than in Korean Recreation Forests. The activities in Korea is mostly hiking, walking, fitness trail and team sport as well as soft and passive activities, but the offers in German Nature Parks are more active, variety and hard.

There is much difference in the water- and winter activities, because in Korea almost all of the Recreation Forest areas are on the mountains.

TABLE 1

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION (%)

	Germany	Korea
Nature Experience Trail & Nature Educational Trail	68	26
Environmental Education Programs for Children and Youth	63	40
Educational Guide	56	2
Environmental Education Program	47	
Environmental Touring	29	
Nature Research & Nature Observation	18	22
Wild Flower Garden, Plants Garden, Wild Animal Park	15	28
Environmental Education Center, Nature Friend's House	8	2
No Environmental Education	12	24

TABLE 2

ACTIVITIES (%)

	Germany		Korea	
Forest Activity	Hiking	95	Hiking	98
	Biking	92	Walking	96
	Horse Riding	71	Fitness Trail	76
	MTB	37	Team Sport	64
	Nordic Walking	34	MTB	10
	Golf	32	Survival Game	8
	Paragliding	25	Traditional Sport	6
	Inline Skating	21	Youth Fitness	6
	Climbing	20	Bow Sport	4
	Tennis	15	Paragliding	4
	Bosseln	8	Gateball	4
Hunting	7			
Water Activity	Swimming	66	Swimming	74
	Canoeing	62	Fishing	4
	Fishing	43		
	Sailing	38		
	Rowing	38		
	Surfing	31		
Diving	14			
Winter Activity	Cross Country	41	Snow Sledging	18
	Ski & Snowboarding	27		
	Snow Sledging	19		
	Skating	11		
	Curling	8		
Ice Sailing	1			

TABLE 3

INFRASTRUCTURE OF KOREAN RECREATION FORESTS (%)

Info. office & Parking place	100	Restaurant	20
Toilet	94	Observatory	16
Kitchen & Water	80	Stage	16
Shower room	68	Multifunctional	8
Pavilion	58	Venue	
Campfire place	40	Traditional	4
Seminar room	32	large Stool	

The demand of recreation users on Infrastructures is very high, therefore almost all of Korean Recreation Forests have Toilet (94%), Kitchen & Water (80%) and shower rooms (68%).

TABLE 4
TOURING (%)

Theme	Germany	Korea
Nature Experience	66	80
Hiking	62	
Cultural History	58	72
Biking	54	
Sport	41	18
Environmental Education	38	4
Wellness and Cure	32	32
Suitable for the Family	30	
Ship Cruise	26	
Culinary Food	20	
Horse Riding	12	
City Sightseeing	12	
For Disabled People	8	

3 CONCLUSION

In summary, Korean recreation is characterised by passive activities, few and furnished environmental education with simple tour themes. The reason of this condition is, there is less amount of holiday periods in Korea than in Germany, leading to less experience with Nature in a conurbation life style. In the

case of the German Nature Parks, there are variable and many activities, very good offers and few demand on comfortable furnishing.

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