

World Environment Day 2025 to be Held in Jeju - Hosted in South Korea for the First Time in 28 Years

- Jointly hosted with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) on June 5, 2025, focusing on the theme of ending plastic pollution

The Ministry of Environment (Minister Kim Wansup) and the United Nations Environment Programme (Executive Director Inger Andersen) announced that Jeju Special Self-Governing Province has been selected* as the host venue for World Environment Day 2025, at 4 p.m. on October 28 (Korea Standard Time).

* Hosting in South Korea for the first time in 28 years since Seoul (Olympic Gymnastics Arena) in 1997.

World Environment Day is one of the largest environmental events in the world, jointly organized by the UN Environment Programme and the host country on June 5 every year since 1973, to pledge the international community's interest and efforts in environmental conservation.

The World Environment Day event in 2025 is expected to be an opportunity to raise global awareness about the importance of ending plastic pollution, in connection with the fifth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-5) of the UN Plastics Treaty, which will be held in Busan, South Korea, from November 25 to December 1, 2024.

Jeju Island, blessed with a pristine natural environment, was selected as the host site as it best embodies the spirit of World Environment Day, having declared the '2040 Plastic Zero Island' vision in 2022 and pioneering efforts to end plastic pollution by introducing a deposit system for disposable cups for the first time nationwide.

Inger Andersen, Executive Director of the UN Environment Programme, stated, "Jeju's efforts towards a future without plastic pollution align with the

goals of World Environment Day 2025,” She added that “Jeju’s pristine natural scenery and innovative environmental policies will inspire action for environmental protection.”

Minister of Environment Kim Wansup stated, “The World Environment Day event in 2025 will be a milestone for global efforts to end plastic pollution,” and added, “Together with Jeju Island, we will successfully host the event and establish ourselves as a leading country in ending plastic pollution.”

Press Release

To be released from 16:00 KST, 28 October, 2024

**Republic of Korea selects Jeju Special Self-Governing Province as venue
for World Environment Day 2025**

Seoul, 28 October 2024 – The Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Korea and the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) announced today that Jeju Special Self-Governing Province will be the venue for World Environment Day on 5 June 2025.

World Environment Day has been celebrated annually on 5 June since 1973. Since then, the Day has grown to be the largest global platform for environmental outreach.

World Environment Day 2025 will highlight the importance of ending plastic pollution, creating synergies with ongoing negotiations to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, whose fifth session will take place in the Republic of Korea this November.

Jeju, an island renowned for its natural wonders, is leading the Republic of Korea's policy efforts to combat plastic pollution. It is the first province to have introduced a disposable cup deposit system in the Republic of Korea – Jeju declared in 2022 its vision to become free of plastic pollution by 2040.

"Jeju Island's commitment to a future free of plastic pollution aligns perfectly with the goals of World Environment Day 2025," said Inger Andersen, Executive Director of UNEP. "By showcasing its pristine natural beauty and innovative environmental initiatives, Jeju will inspire others to take action and safeguard our planet."

Kim Wan-sup, Minister of Environment of the Republic of Korea, said, "World Environment Day 2025 will be a key moment for global efforts to end plastic pollution. We will work together with Jeju Island to ensure the success of the event and position ourselves as a leading country in tackling plastic pollution."