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News

## Wonsan-Mt. Kumgang International Tourist Zone and Hyondong Industrial Development Zone

*(Interview with Choe Yong Dok, Director of the Economic Zone Development of Kangwon Provincial People's Committee)*



**Reporter:** I would like to know the position of the Wonsan-Mt. Kumgang international tourist zone.

**Director:** Wonsan is a key area linking the eastern and western coast areas. Situated at the heart of northeast Asia, the port city is connected with many cities and towns in Asia and Europe through railways, road and port, and has a favorable traffic conditions for tourism.

The city has major industrial branches, such as machine-building, chemical, daily-goods, textile, garment, foodstuff, building-materials and fishing industries. The Wonsan Rolling Stock Complex is one of the

major machine-building bases in the country.

It also has educational institutions such as the Wonsan University of Agriculture, Wonsan Jong Jun Thae University of Economics, Wonsan University of Fishery and Wonsan Jo Kun Sil University of Technology.

The Wonsan-Mt. Kumgang area is home to tourist destinations, namely Songdowon, Myongsasipni Bathing Resort and the celebrated Mt. Kumgang. The Songdowon International Children's Camp, Masikryong Ski Resort and many other resorts also sit in this area. Thanks to the consistent policy of the government of the DPRK, the area's natural eco-environment is preserved in its original state, attracting tourists from all over the world.

**R:** Would you tell me the prospect of the Wonsan-Mt. Kumgang tourist zone?

**D:** On June 11, 2014, the Presidium of the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly issued decree No. 48 on establishing the Wonsan-Mt. Kumgang International Tourist Zone in a bid to boost international tourism in the Wonsan area, the celebrated Mt. Kumgang and other scenic attractions along the east coast of the country.

The zone embraces Wonsan, Masikryong Ski Resort, Ullim Falls, Sogwang Temple, Thongchon and Mt. Kumgang areas.

According to the location of the areas and the subjects of tourism, the law on tourism in the Kumgangs special zone, the law on economic development parks, and foreign investment-related laws will be applied here.



Under the wise guidance of the Workers' Party of Korea, the world-class Masikryong Ski Resort and Songdowon International Children's Camp have been built as monumental edifices of the era of the WPK, and the areas of Wonsan, Ullim Falls, Sogwang Temple and Thongchon are being turned into holiday resorts with their own characteristics. As a result, tourists' interests in Mt. Kumgang and scenic spots are growing day by day.

The Wonsan-Mt. Kumgang zone has 142 historical sites, 11 sand beaches, 7 bathing beaches, 9 natural lakes, 676 tourist spots, 4 mineral water resources and more than 3 280 000m<sup>3</sup> of mud resources efficacious for neuralgia, enteritis and colitis. It has all the infrastructure for tourism

including an airport, a harbor and railways. The Wonsan area itself has Kalma Hotel, Saenal Hotel, Masikryong Hotel and other facilities capable of accommodating 2 240 persons, whereas the Mt. Kumgang area has facilities capable of accommodating 4 100 persons and other service facilities.

The masterplan for the Wonsan-Mt. Kumgang area and the masterplan for construction of Wonsan have been worked out, and the overall planned Wonsan-Mt. Kumgang zone covers 43 600 ha in total.



According to the plans, the international tourist zone will have several tourist channels like domestic and international ones, and the Wonsan area will be built as a tourist area that is centred on nature, a tourist area characteristic and comprehensive, as a competitive area for 4-season tourism and as an area for domestic and inter-regional exchanges in politics, the economy and culture.

**R:** Would you please tell me about the Hyondong Industrial Development Park now under development?

**D:** The zone was set up by decree No. 3450 of the Presidium of the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly on November 21, 2013. It is situated in Hyondong-ri in the southern suburb of Wonsan. Covering an area of 2km<sup>2</sup>, it is included in the the Wonsan-Mt Kumgang International Tourist Zone. The Law of the DPRK on Economic Development Parks is the legal basis of the establishment and management of the Hyondong Industrial Zone, and according to this law foreign investors will enjoy privilege and economic benefits in the zone.

The zone embraces the Wonsan Port which has long been a major point of maritime traffic to Russia, Japan and southeast Asian countries, and it is connected with the Eurasian Continent by rail and road; these constitute favourable natural and geographical conditions for tourism and industrial production.

The zone will be built according to the national strategy of making the Wonsan-Mt. Kumgang area into an international tourist zone—as an industrial development zone based on the IT industry and producing tourism-related goods to satisfy the demands of tourists from home and abroad.

For its characteristics as a tourist zone, the Hyondong Industrial Development Zone is expected to bring great benefits to foreign investors.

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