

On Compilation of Electronic Encyclopedia of Korean Indigenous Local Cultures

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The purpose of this speech is to introduce the national project on Compilation of the Electronic Encyclopedia of Korean Indigenous Local Cultures, which is initiated by the Academy of Korean Studies (AKS). The project excavates and gathers cultural resources from 234 districts, then aggregates collected information through research and analysis, and finally provides service through the internet. The goal of this project is to preserve indigenous local cultures that are rapidly disappearing, and to provide infrastructure for a "marriage" between local cultures and technology.

The central government has approved a project budget of 132 million US dollars in July 2003, and each district will be assigned 600,000 US dollars, with 50% of the funds matched by the local government. The project is scheduled to start in 2006 and finish in 2015; participation of about 20,000 humanities and social sciences scholars is expected. As part of a pilot study, AKS has finished the compilation of Electronic Encyclopedia of Seongnam and Cheongju Local Cultures.

The expected impact of this project is as follows: Enhancement of scholarly research such as promotion of Korean Studies research, acquisition of indigenous cultural resources such as gathering raw materials for Korean Studies research, construction of specialized infrastructure for local cultures, and strengthening of national competitiveness through enhancement of creativity, discovery, and industrialization of indigenous intellectual properties.