

현충시설의 가치향상을 위한 정책 및 제도 개선방향 연구

A Study of Improvements to Enhance the Value of Memorial Facilities

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SUMMARY

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This study was carried out to systematically manage memorial facilities that are rising in number and to enhance the significance and value of memorial facilities in terms of veterans affairs policy. To this end, the current status of designation, operation, and management of memorial facilities in Korea was diagnosed, and the direction of policy and system improvements was proposed to boost their value.

This study targeted memorial facilities defined by Article 74-2 of the Act on the Honorable Treatment of and Support for Persons of Distinguished Service to the State – that is, facilities designated by the Minister of Patriots and Veterans Affairs in recognition of their value in honoring persons of persons of distinguished services to the State or their merits and sacrificial spirit and in cultivating patriotism among the general public – and the scope was confined to the facilities located in Korea. This paper mainly consists of a review of the current status of domestic memorial facilities and their role and value in veterans affairs policy, analysis of the operation and management of domestic memorial facilities in Korea, domestic and overseas case studies, and proposal of a direction of improvement.

There are currently 2,259 domestic memorial facilities (1,386 overseas memorial

facilities, as of 2021), and the number is steadily rising. Memorial facilities, which are currently designated and managed nationwide in accordance with Regulations on the Designation and Management of Memorial Facilities, etc., are largely divided into facilities related to the independence movement and facilities related to national protection. Memorial facilities are diverse in type and include memorial stones, towers, sculptures, symbols, places, memorial halls, shrines, residences, annex buildings, and related facilities.

A public perception survey on memorial facilities conducted with the general public (900 copies) aged 19 or older across the country showed that the majority of Korean citizens recognized the importance of memorial facilities and expressed a strong will to participate in government-initiated memorial facility promotion projects. However, public awareness of memorial facilities was of a simple type, and it was deemed that promotional activities and marketing would be necessary to enhance public awareness and interest. Moreover, it was found that many Koreans viewed memorial facilities as facilities that retain historical facts and records rather than symbolic spaces for commemoration and remembrance that can cultivate patriotism. The images associated with memorial facilities were both relatively melancholy and somber as well as approachable and comfortable, and it was deemed necessary to diversify user programs at memorial facilities and enhance accessibility.

Chapter 3 examines the current status of operation and management of domestic memorial facilities according to the operator. The central government is subsidized some of the operating expenses from the State in accordance with the applicable law. It is staffed with professional manpower, such as curators and researchers, to plan and operate a wide range of programs to deliver the value of memorial facilities to the general public. On the other hand, local governments face difficulties in carrying out programs other than simply cleaning and monitoring the surrounding areas because there are few public servants from

welfare-related departments in charge of managing the memorial facilities along with the duties related to veterans affairs. Private organizations, also facing limitations in operation and management, typically make a gratuitous transfer of the facilities they owned to the Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs and operate them with financial support from the government paid as management service fees.

Chapter 4 presents a review of the best practices of domestic and overseas memorial facilities and commemorative and remembrance facilities, and implications are derived to strengthen the functions unique to domestic memorial facilities and to improve public awareness and utilization. First, the best-practice memorial facilities were found to have played a role in preserving and transmitting historical facts. They contributed to the formation of local identity and helped instill pride in local residents at the regional level. Second, they contributed to the honorable treatment of persons of distinguished services to the State through commemoration and remembrance and helped establish national identity. Memorial facilities were found to be distinguishable from cultural assets that simply preserve and maintain historical facts in that they are facilities for remembering and honoring persons of distinguished services to the State. Lastly, it is possible to establish and spread the culture of respecting and honoring veterans by promoting the related value of memorial facilities. To this end, it is necessary not only to improve the public awareness of memorial facilities but also to improve accessibility and promote the use of the facilities.

As examined in this study, a memorial facility is an invaluable medium for realizing the veterans affairs policy, which is one of the major symbolic policies of the State, and a means to form a veterans culture to respect and remember those who have sacrificed for the country and her people. From this point of view, this study set the policy directions to improve the value of memorial facilities as follows: 1) to establish the status of memorial facilities as a basis for

realizing the national veterans affairs policy and 2) to utilize memorial facilities as bases for forming and spreading the culture of respecting and honoring veterans.

Specific improvement directions proposed include improving the names of memorial facilities and the facilities themselves, reexamining the types of memorial facilities in consideration of facility characteristics, and preparing a designation and management plan, establishing the roles of relevant entities in the construction, ownership, and management of memorial facilities and promoting capacity building of each entity, establishing an organization dedicated to memorial facilities, and discovering and promoting excellent memorial facilities among others.

Keywords :

Memorial facility, veterans affairs policy, honoring veterans, culture of respecting and honoring veterans, memorial, remembrance, commemoration