

"Efforts to spread science and culture for a sustainable future" GIST operates eco-friendly energy experience booths at the '2025 Gwangju Science Invention Festival'

- Research Institute For Solar and Sustainable Energies, energy education for local residents through solar power kit experience... successful with 300+ participants
- Opening a space for science and technology education connected to daily life and leading the way in improving citizens' 'energy literacy'



▲ The 'Eco-friendly Energy Experience' booth operated by the GIST Research Institute For Solar and Sustainable Energies at the '2025 Gwangju Science Invention Festival'. Participants are assembling various kits utilizing solar energy and operating them with solar energy.

The Gwangju Institute of Science and Technology (GIST, President Kichul Lim) announced that it participated in the '2025 Gwangju Science Invention Festival' held at the Gwangju National Science Museum on May 17 (Sat) and 18 (Sun) and successfully operated the 'Eco-friendly Energy Experience' booth.

This event was jointly hosted by Gwangju Metropolitan City and the Gwangju National Science Museum and organized by the Gwangju Science Culture Association, and a total of 63 programs were operated in 8 venues.

The GIST Research Institute For Solar and Sustainable Energies (Director Sanghan Lee) participated in the 'Basic Science Yard' section and presented various experiential programs on the topic of solar energy, which received a great response with approximately 300 local residents participating.



Participants shared their thoughts on energy through reciting six-line poems on the topics of 'eco-friendly energy' and 'renewable energy.' They also assembled and operated various solar kits, including solar boats, cars, windmills, dog robots, and airplanes, and vividly experienced the principles of renewable energy technology and its potential for practical use.

The Research Institute For Solar and Sustainable Energies is dedicated to researching and commercializing next-generation energy technologies such as solar energy, batteries, hydrogen, and power systems, while also actively engaging in science education-related activities with the local community.

This booth operation was more meaningful because it was linked to the Urban Campus Living Lab project of the Regional Innovation-centered University Support Environment (RISE) promoted by Gwangju Metropolitan City. It is planned to be expanded into a sustainable education and service-type program to improve energy literacy of local residents in the future, and to this end, the Next Generation Energy Research Institute closely collaborated with Gwangju National University of Education in the preliminary planning and operation of the booth.

Since its launch as the 'Solar Energy Research Institute' in 2009, the Research Institute For Solar and Sustainable Energies has been leading research in core energy fields such as organic solar cells, energy

storage devices, and catalyst technology. In addition, it operates a joint research center with Nobel Prize winners in chemistry, Professor Alan J. Heeger and Professor Gerhard Ertl, and is strengthening its global research capabilities by establishing a cooperative system with leading universities around the world, such as Imperial College London and UC Santa Barbara.

Director Sanghan Lee of the institute said, “This experiential booth was an educational space where you can directly experience how science and technology can be connected to your daily life,” and added, “In the future, GIST will actively carry out activities to spread science culture with the local community as well as energy technology development.”

Meanwhile, GIST is operating various science education programs such as the ‘GIST Science School’ in cooperation with the National Gwangju Science Museum, and through these, it is strengthening community-linked activities such as expanding the base of science and technology education and fostering future talent.

