

# *A Study of a New Paradigm for the ROK-China Relationship: "Human-Cultural Ties" and international cooperation between cities*

KIM, Su-Han

Research Fellow, Department of Urban Management, Policy Research Division  
Incheon Development Institute (IDI, ROK)

## **Summary**

Despite the significant expansion of interstate economic cooperation in Northeast Asia in the era of globalization, ironically there has been a significant increase in political disputes between countries in the region. To overcome the deterioration of the political situation in the region, the concept of "Human-Cultural Ties" between the ROK and China as a policy agenda has increasingly been discussed.

This study aims at exploring the concept of "Human-Cultural Ties" as a new form of interstate exchange between the ROK and China. "Human-Cultural Ties" establish mutual trust between countries based on dialogue and cooperation by identifying common agendas between countries in terms of history and culture, which form soft power. This study argues that both countries only share the concept of "Human-Cultural Ties" as a linguistic term with different intentions and purposes based on their own national interests and strategies. Moreover, this study suggests that it is necessary to establish and build up "Human-Cultural Ties" at the local government level, because local governments are relatively less affected by international politics.

[Translated by ERINA]