

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, November 24, 2023

## Monk Seong Gak receives a plaque of appreciation from Korea Correctional Service

– In recognition of his contributions in prison reform and the  
opening of Geochang Detention Center –

On November 24, 2023, Korea Correctional Service (Commissioner Shin Yong Hae) under the Ministry of Justice awarded Monk Seong Gak (the chief monk of Mangunsa Temple in Namhae, Gyeongsangnam-do) with a plaque of appreciation in recognition of his major contributions in prison reform and the opening of the Geochang Detention Center.

Monk Seong Gak, who is the only holder of Busan's intangible cultural heritage in *seonhwa* (Zen painting; brushstrokes of lines), served as a member of the corrections committee for the past 32 years. In particular, he donated 11 Zen painting works to the Geochang Detention Center, which opened last October, contributing to creating an encouraging environment for inmates to return to society.

During the award ceremony, Monk Seong Gak expressed, "I am extremely pleased that my small interest and support have instilled hope and faith in inmates." He also added, "I will continue to do my best to provide practical help in reforming inmates and purifying their minds."

Commissioner Shin Yong Hae also commented, "I would like to express my

sincere gratitude to Monk Seong Gak for his efforts. We will do our part in support of our corrections committee members so that they can continue to serve with satisfaction and pride." ☐

General Affairs & Planning Division, Korea Correctional Service, MOJ	Contact	Director Han Tae-hwan (02-2110-3366)
		Secretary Lee Kwon-sang (02-2110-3367)

