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Busan Emerging as a Hub for Digital Asset Trading

Busan is taking a meaningful step toward becoming a hub for security token trading in Korea. The Financial Services Commission recently granted preliminary approval to the KDX Consortium, led by the Korea Exchange (KRX), which is headquartered in Busan, to launch a new over-the-counter trading platform for beneficiary certificates. This suggests that Busan's digital finance ambitions are beginning to take shape within a regulated framework.

The KDX Consortium reportedly includes KRX, BNK Financial Group, Busan Digital Asset Exchange (Bdan), Sejong DX, and BDACS, several of which are based in Busan. The consortium stands out for bringing together established financial institutions and emerging digital asset firms from the region, reflecting Busan's effort to build a locally anchored digital finance ecosystem. It also builds on Busan's earlier experience as a blockchain regulation-free zone. Taken together, these developments provide Busan with a stronger institutional and technological foundation for the commercialization of digital asset trading.

The next phase will be critical. If final approval is granted and the trading platform is successfully established, Busan could develop a clearer foundation for the circulation of real-world asset-backed digital assets and the broader field of asset tokenization. There is also growing potential to develop products linked to the city's key industries, including shipping, ports, logistics, and tourism. Such developments could help expand investment demand, attract companies, and draw specialized talent to the city.

Meanwhile, Bdan is exploring a range of tokenized assets, including precious metals such as gold and silver, as well as regionally distinctive commodities like coffee beans. This illustrates how digital assets may evolve beyond conventional financial products to serve as a bridge connecting regional industries with broader markets. The selection of the KDX Consortium is therefore widely seen as an important milestone in Busan's effort to establish itself as a digital finance hub.