

ECOREA

Environmental Review 2008, Korea



MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT
REPUBLIC OF KOREA



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>>> ECOREA is
a compound of the prefix “ECO”,
which suggests an ecologically sound
and comfortable environment,
and the name of the nation, “Korea”

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The Minister's Message

During nearly 14 months since its inauguration, the new government of Korea has implemented a number of policy initiatives. In my view, the most remarkable one among them is the new national vision for “Low Carbon, Green Growth” designed to guide the country for the next 60 years.

In the midst of the current global financial and environmental crisis, I strongly believe that the vision of “Low Carbon Green Growth” shall serve as a guiding principle to change the challenges of today into opportunities so that our country can make headway towards sustainable development.

Under the new national vision of “Low Carbon Green Growth” the Korean Ministry of Environment has prepared the environmental action plan which includes projects for promotion of environmental technologies and industries and programs for the creation of green jobs with a goal of generating some 220,000 green jobs by 2012.

This year is the first year of the action plan. A number of measures for GHG emission mitigation and climate change adaptation will be implemented, which involve biomass-to-energy and waste-to-energy projects, the construction of a climate change monitoring system, the development of a climate change vulnerability map, the introduction of a climate change impact assessment system and so on.

The ministry will strengthen its efforts to foster 10 key green industries and technology sectors, which include promotion of the environmental plant industry, creation of the carbon market, and the promotion of resource recycling, development of low emission vehicles and so on. The ministry will also establish Blue-Green (water & protected area) Networks in the country by restoring the ecological health of the rivers, particularly for four major ones in Korea, and promoting eco-tourism.



Every effort will be made so that the action plan could lay a strong foundation for the development of low-carbon society.

Furthermore, as part of our efforts to boost the national economy, the government will execute a significant portion of the environmental budget allocated for major projects in the first half of this year. The ministry will increase its support for small- and medium-sized environmental businesses to enable them to develop their own technologies, and will further expand its environmental services for those who are vulnerable to environmental pollution, particularly for citizens in rural regions.

I am very excited when I hear the news that many other countries are taking steps for green growth. I am confident that if nations of the world work together with the goal of protecting the Earth that we all share, peace and prosperity that we have been longing for could be attained sooner.

The Ministry of Environment has published the book “ECOREA - Environmental Review 2008, Korea” in order to share our green growth initiative with other countries. It includes our vision, our policy actions, and expected outcomes of our efforts. I hope this book will serve as a means to strengthen international environmental cooperation, and will result in better environmental policy worldwide through the exchange of ideas and experiences.



MAA-NEE LEE
Minister of Environment
April 2009



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