

Environmental Review 2007, Korea







### **ECOREA**

Environmental Review 2007, KOREA Ministry of Environment

;ECOREA is a compound of the prefix "ECO", which suggests an ecologically sound and comfortable environment, and the name of our nation, "KOREA".

"Preservation of the environment improves the quality of life while the environment industry creates new engines of growth.

Climate change is threatening our very future. Natural disasters and abnormal weather patterns are on the rise and the damage caused by them is becoming more serious. We must actively take part in reducing carbon emissions.

In the short term, our economy may undergo a period of difficulty while adjusting to these changes. But, we must endure. We must creatively adapt.

The various issues that affect our state policy-such as food, environment, water, natural resources, energy-must undergo an overall paradigm shift so that they become more eco-friendly."

from the inauguration speech of President Lee Myung-Bak

'08. 2. 25

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## The Minister's Message



The environment has become a key issue in the 21st century. Our ability to achieve 'Environmental Sustainability', a state in which environmental conservation, economic growth and social cohesion are balanced, will determine our national and corporate competitiveness as well as the quality of our individual lives.

In response to this issue, the international community has been recognizing the importance of environ-

mental conservation, and has been implementing new environmental policies to address environmental issues such as global warming.

In 2008, which marks the first year of the new administration, the Ministry of Environment will make an all-out effort to live up to public expectations in this new era, and establish a new framework for environmental policy based on a clear-eyed evaluation both of our past achievements, and of the limitations of our prerious environmental policies.

First of all, the Ministry will play a leading role in establishing a nation-wide system to address climate change. We will proactively deal with post-Kyoto negotiations by stepping up domestic efforts to protect the environment, such as setting national objectives for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, and introducing measures to adapt to climate change.

Second, the Ministry will work to protect public health by addressing environmental diseases such as atopy, asthma, and Sick Building Syndrome, and will establish a strong national system to manage environmentally harmful factors.

Third, the Ministry will break away from the widely-held perception that there must be a trade-off relationship between economic growth and environmental protection, and will nurture domestic environmental technology and industry as a new growth engine for the national economy, to achieve economic growth together with environmental conservation.

Fourth, the Ministry will actively meet the growing public demand for a cleaner environment by providing clean and safe drinking water, creating ecologically-friendly spaces where nature and humanity can coexist, and establishing a culture of resources-recycling.

Our experiences in implementing environmental policies to achieve the ideal of "sustainable development" are introduced in this brochure, ECOREA. ECOREA is the new name for GREEN KOREA, which has been published annually since 1999, and is a compound of the prefix "ECO", which suggests an ecologically sound and comfortable environment, and the name of our nation, "KOREA".

This brochure includes our action plans for 2008, a report on the environmental status of each sector including air and water quality, and our achievements in terms of environmental policy, as well as information on the organization and budget, and the relevant laws and regulations of the Ministry of Environment, which could be of helpful information for other countries preparing similar policies.

It is my hope that this brochure, "ECOREA - Environmental Review 2007, Korea", will serve to share Korea's experiences with other countries around the world, and through this promote the exchange of information on environmental policies, ultimately contributing to international efforts to address environmental issues. Thank you.

April 2008

MAANEE LEE

Minister of Environment

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#### Overview of Korea

## Republic of Korea in Figures

Area: 99,678.12 km² (2006)

Population: 48,456,369 (2007 Population estimated in Nov 2006,

male 24,344,276, female 24,112,093)

Capital : Seoul Government Type: Repubic

Religion: No affiliation 46.48%, Buddist 22.8%, Christian 18.32%,

Catholic 10.94%, Confucianist 0.22%, Other 1.24% (2005)

National Assembly: Unicameral National Assemble or Kukhoe (299 seats-members

elected for four-year terms; 243 in single-seat constituencies, 56 by

proportional representation)

Administrative Divisions: 9 provinces (do, singular and plural) and 7 metropolitan cities

(gwangyoksi, singular and plural)

GNI per capita : \$18,372 (2006) GNI (Unit: billion dollars) : \$887.3 (2006)

Currency: South Korean Won (KRW)

Climate: Four seasons, temperate, with rainfall heavier in summer than winter

- Source : Korea National Statistical Office

#### Map of Korea



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