

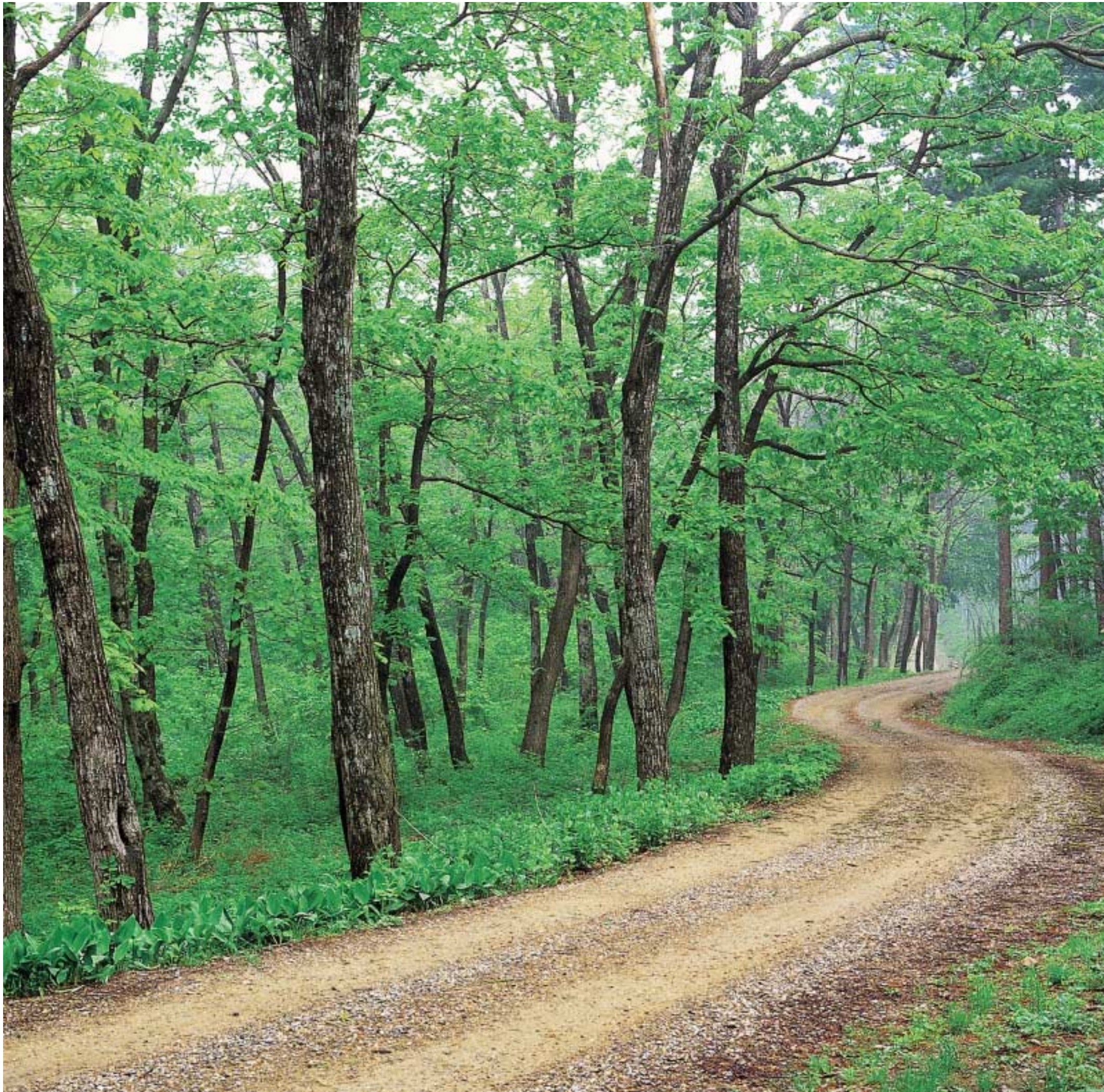
# *Green Korea 2005*

*Towards the Harmonization of Human and the Nature*



Ministry of Environment  
**Republic of Korea**





# Green Korea 2005

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# Minister's Message



It is my great pleasure to publish “Green Korea 2005,” a yearbook that introduces major environmental policies of the Ministry of Environment (MOE) in Korea to readers at home and abroad. Especially, in this age where information is the key to competitiveness, I am confident that “Green Korea 2005” will be a great source of useful information.

Up until now, humans have looked at the environment as a means to achieve material growth by using up the natural resources in faster and larger scale. Also behind the unprecedented rapid economic growth, there was the assumption that natural resources were infinite and we could have unlimited access to them.

However, the rapidly growing human activities have reached its limit of exceeding the environmental capacity. If we are unable to control our endless desire for more material abundance, then we will have no choice but to face various environmental problems that could arise from it. The environmental problems like pollution and noise not only threaten human health, but also raise new social problems such as environmental conservation in the process of national land development.

Now is the time for us to look back on the wisdoms of our ancestors, who considered the environment and humans as inseparable from each other. Without taking into consideration the environmental sustainability, we cannot achieve sustainable national development. Therefore,

we have to minimize the effects of human activities on the environment, and also change the activities themselves to be environmentally friendly ones. To accomplish this, environmentally friendly laws and systems have to be established and economic inducements for environmentally sound activities have to be provided.

In this context, the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Korea has been committed to effectively implementing countermeasures such as receptor-oriented environmental policies and preventive environmental conservation in order to resolve environmental problems of our society that are getting more complicated and magnified.

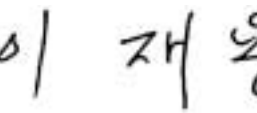
The Green Korea 2005 demonstrates our efforts to establish the Comprehensive National Environmental Plan and the Strategic Environmental Assessment System to take a holistic approach on the environment and development. In addition, sections on the promotion of purchasing environmentally friendly products and the distribution of environmentally friendly diesel vehicles through price mechanism to enhance environmental sustainability, and also policies on the water, air and waste sector were included. There is also a special section that introduces the Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting (TEMM), which aims to strengthen the environmental cooperation among the three countries in environmental management of the region.

It is difficult to predict what the MOE will be doing 10 years or 20 years later, but one thing I am certain is that all human activities will put environmental considerations first and environmentally friendly activities will be regarded as the most reasonable and economic ones in the near future. As the agency in charge of environmental conservation, our Ministry will initiate the efforts so that such a society is realized.

The Korean Ministry of Environment has been publishing Green Korea annually in an attempt to share information on our environmental policies and experiences. I sincerely hope that “Green Korea 2005” will help readers get a better understanding of Korea’s environmental administration, and also provide valuable information to other countries and scholars who are striving to make the environment better.

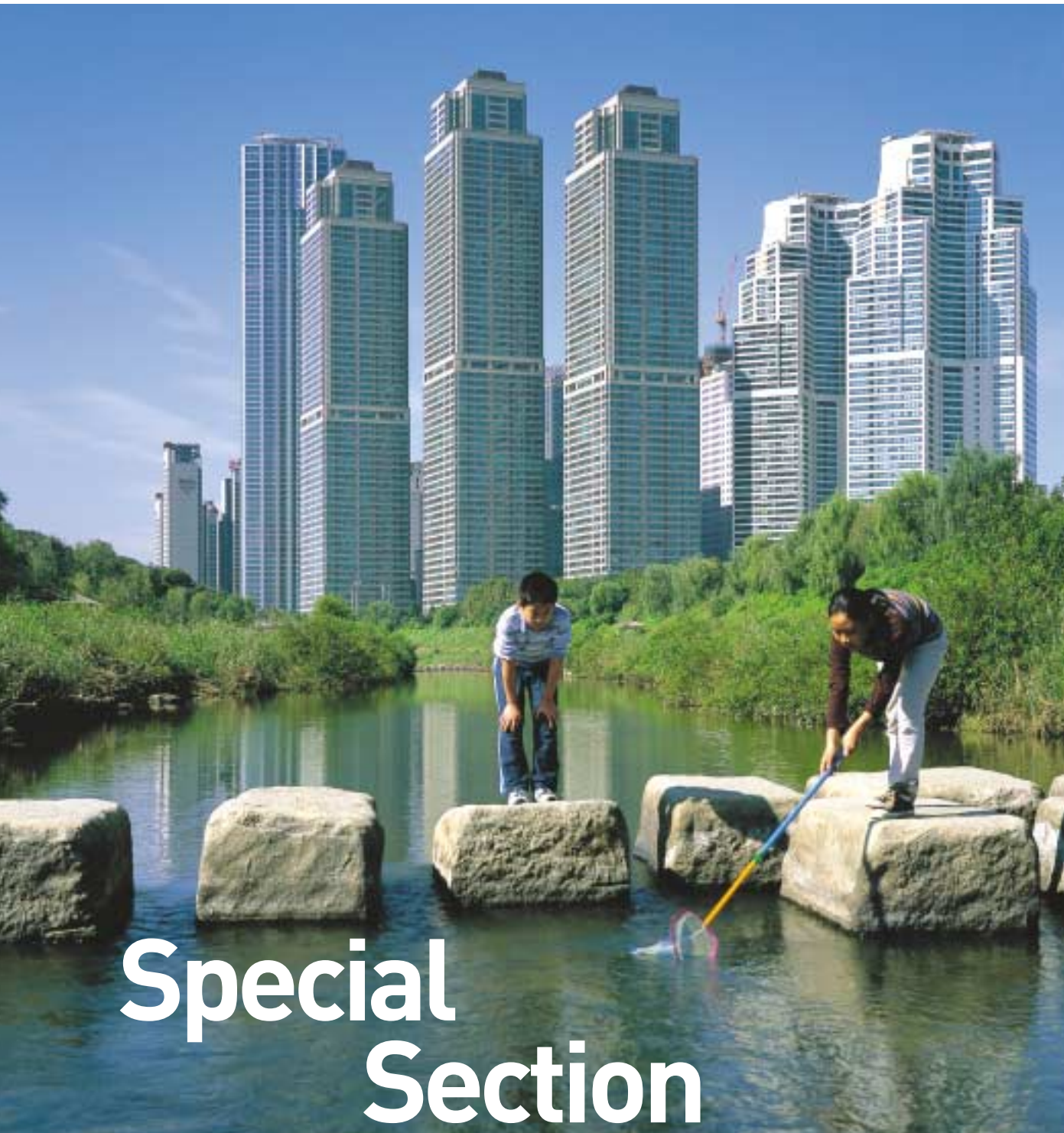
Thank you.

December 2005



**Lee Jae-yong**  
Minister of Environment  
Republic of Korea





Being held every five years since 1985, the Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development (MCED) in Asia and the Pacific has been an important forum for the assessment of the state of the environment, the formulation of actions in response to imperatives posed by important global forums, and the synthesis of regional perspectives, priorities and forward-looking agendas. MCED 2005 has been designed to advance the sustainable development agenda established at MCED 2000 and the WSSD taking into consideration emerging issues and realities particularly in the process of globalization.

### The Fifth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific

The Fifth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP MCED 2005) was held in Seoul 24~29 March, 2005 under the theme of "Achieving environmentally sustainable economic growth." About 1,400 participants from 52 countries and 24 international organizations attended the meeting.

The meeting proposed "achieving environmentally sustainable economic growth" as a means to seek a win-win solution between pressures on the environmental carrying capacity of the Asia-Pacific region and reducing poverty, which has been exacerbated by rapid economic growth and high population density. In order to implement this in Asia and the Pacific, the Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Development, the Regional Implementation Plan for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific 2006-2010, and the Seoul Initiative for Environmentally Sustainable Economic Growth were adopted.

The meeting was comprised of the Preparatory Meeting of Senior Officials of MCED 2005, the Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development (MCED) and 10 side events. At the Preparatory Meeting of Senior Officials of MCED 2005 that was held for four days from March 24, 2005, participating countries evaluated the environmental state of the Asia-Pacific region for the past 5 years and there was a briefing on the Tsunami that occurred in December 2004. Also, reports and resolutions to be



The Fifth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific 2005 is in session in Seoul 24-29 March 2005.





The First meeting of the Seoul Initiative Network on Green Growth

discussed at MCED were drawn up. Many countries mentioned their countries' environmental state and progress in implementing sustainable development. In addition, they announced their support for the theme of the meeting, which was "environmentally sustainable economic growth." Participating countries recognized how important economic growth is to the eradication of poverty and to the achievement of environmental sustainability.

Along with the Preparatory Meeting of Senior Officials of MCED, side events such as the Civil Society Forum, Private Sector Forum, Eminent Scientist Symposium, etc. were held, which discussed the roles and challenges of each sector of society to achieve environmentally sustainable economic growth. The outcomes of those discussions were reported back to the Roundtable.

The Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development took place for two days, opening ceremony of which President Roh Moo-hyun of the Republic of Korea attended. In his speech, Roh stressed the importance of implementing "Green Growth," saying economic growth that does not take environmental sustainability into consideration will inevitably result in serious environmental devastation. With Kwak Kyul-ho, the former Korean Minister of Environment acting as chairman for the meeting, participating countries exchanged views on experiences and lessons they had learned while working to achieve environmentally sustainable economic growth. At the MCED 2005, environment ministers from 52 countries officially adopted the outcomes of the meeting including the Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Development.

Korea, as the host country, was able to demonstrate its commitment to active participation in regional environmental cooperation. The meeting was an opportunity to spread the new concept of "environmentally sustainable economic growth." In particular, the Seoul Initiative on Environmentally Sustainable Economic

### Summary of Side Events

| Name of Event                                     | Number of Participants | Outcomes  |
|---|------------------------|---|
| Civil Society Forum                               | 166                    | Discussed strategies for 2005-2010 about sustainable consumption and production in Asia and the Pacific region<br>Adopted "Civil Society Forum 2005 Seoul Declaration" and encouraged participation and collaboration between civil society for green growth in Asia and the Pacific region   |
| Private Sector Forum                              | 350                    | Proposed outstanding environmental business management of major enterprises and the challenge of governmental policies for sustainability and stressed the importance of the role of industry   |
| Eminent Scientist Symposium                       | 70                     | Discussed environmental issues like protection of biodiversity, natural disasters, water resources, and sustainable development   |
| Multi-Stake Holders Forum (APFED)                 | 125                    | Announced APFED final report and proposed recommendation of Environment Ministers Meeting<br>Established integrated approaches for sustainable development and build partnership among stakeholders   |
| Environmental Economist Symposium                 | 70                     | Discussed ways to overcome environmental problems and achieve continuous economic growth<br>Called for active participation of environmental economists in policy making process  |
| Environmental Technology Forum                    | 200                    | Presented and discussed the current status and outlook of environmental technology in Asia and the Pacific region<br>Promoted environmental industry and technologies of Korea by introducing outstanding environmental technologies and visiting programs to environment-friendly facilities |
| Briefing on Prevention and Control of DSS Project | 90                     | Established regional network to prevent and control DSS phenomenon in Northeast Asia<br>Presented a plan to develop DSS monitoring network  |
| Knowledge Partnership Project                     | 30                     | Discussed advanced environmental policies and projects implemented by the World Bank & ways to expand Knowledge Partnership Project   |
| Water Forum                                       | 20                     | Set up a system for preparatory work for the World Water Forum (June 2006)<br>Organized sub-region institutes for the Pacific and Central Asia countries  |

Growth will be carried out for the next 5 years, and it will aim to achieve the three targets of enhancing environmental sustainability, improving environmental performance, and strengthening the role of the environment as the engine for economic growth. It is expected that the Seoul Initiative will establish the framework for environmental cooperation in achieving green growth in member countries.

In addition, the Korean government held bilateral meetings with 13 countries and international organizations during the MCED 2005 to strengthen environmental cooperation among participating countries. These efforts allowed the government to create collaboration with countries that were not active in environmental cooperation, while strengthening existing environmental cooperation. The participants at the meeting included Iran, India, Singapore, the Maldives, Japan, NEASPEC, ASEAN, UNEP, the World Bank, IPCC, UNCCD, and IGES.

It was very meaningful that Korea hosted such a meeting where the economic growth and the environment were discussed, since Korea is a country that has achieved rapid economic growth during the past 40 years to be recognized as a model of economic development in Asia and the Pacific. The successful hosting of the MCED and the implementation of the follow-up measures including "the Seoul Initiative" will build a regional consensus in achieving sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific region. Korean government expects participating countries to continue to take an interest and to actively join in these efforts.



## Seoul Initiative on Environmentally Sustainable Economic Growth



The Asia-Pacific region has experienced the fastest economic growth of any region in the world. Asia and the Pacific is also home to over half the world's population, where over two thirds of the world population living in poverty are located. It is necessary to have economic growth in order to eradicate poverty, but the current state does not allow sustainable development. The theme of MCED 2005, which was "Achieving environmentally sustainable economic growth in Asia and the Pacific," will make leaders of countries from around the world to come up with concrete strategies to spread "green growth" across the region.

The main focus of the meeting was to find ways to pursue economic growth, while also maintaining environmental sustainability. The "Green growth" focuses on reducing the increasing environmental pressures which arise from economic growth, thus enabling economic growth to reduce poverty while ensuring consumption and production are maintained within the environmental carrying capacity. It requires us to reduce environmental pressures of economic growth by improving ecological efficiency of production and consumption patterns in order to create a win-win synergy between the economy and environment.

The area of the Asia-Pacific Region is vast, covering 40% of the world's territory and is home to 61% of the world's population. Rapid economic growth in past decades has enabled the alleviation of poverty and promoted social progress in parts of the region. However, dramatic increases in industrial and agricultural production, as well as rising levels of consumption, have placed enormous pressure on the environment. Therefore, the green growth calls for consideration of the environment while coming up with economic plans and also during the process of development. Also it allows economic development to reinforce environmental sustainability and in some cases give rise to new opportunities for economic growth.

In this regard, the "Seoul Initiative on Environmentally Sustainable Economic Growth (also referred to as "SI")" was adopted officially at the MCED 2005 held in Seoul in March 2005, as one of the regional implementation plans for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific. It aims to achieve 3 policy goals and 24 policy areas to maintain the balance of the environment and economic growth.

The SI proposes various international projects to strengthen environmental cooperation among ESCAP member countries in achieving green growth and also to seek implementation plans for Asia and the Pacific. First, the SI establishes a network

among member countries to enhance interest in green growth and to build consensus in the region. Later on, the SI will seek outstanding models based on the cases presented by countries attending periodic policy forums. Also, capacity building programs will be implemented for developing countries so that policy-makers of member countries understand the necessity of green growth and come up with implementation plans. Not only that, small scale pilot projects will be implemented through voluntary participation of countries.

Korea will reconfirm its commitment for sustainable development in the region by continuing on with the implementation of the Seoul Initiative for the next five years so that UN ESCAP and member countries can strengthen environmental cooperation in the process of achieving green growth in Asia and the Pacific region.

### Main Agenda of Seoul Initiative

| Targets   | Policy Areas  |
|---|---|
| Improving environmental sustainability                                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Incorporate the concept of ecological efficiency and environmental sustainability into economic and social development planning, since ecological efficiency is critical in ensuring environmental sustainability</li> <li>(b) Share experiences on assessing the pressure being placed on the environment by rapid economic growth</li> <li>(c) Enhance the ecological efficiency of economic growth and harmonizing fast growth with environmental sustainability</li> <li>(d) Promote sustainable production and consumption patterns by changing the way society produces and consumes as called for by the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, possibly by linking them with traditional lifestyles and cultural values</li> <li>(e) Internalize environmental costs into the price structure by employing various economic instruments such as green GDP and tax incentives of expenditures aimed at ecological sustainability</li> <li>(f) Promote demand-side management to improve the ecological efficiency in the way society produces and consumes natural resources such as water, energy and raw materials</li> <li>(g) Promote a circular economy by improving the way society uses the available resources</li> <li>(h) Promote capacity-building and awareness of Governments, the private sector and civil society concerning the need to improve ecological efficiency</li> <li>(i) Promote partnership among various stakeholders in society to improve ecological efficiency and environmental sustainability and awareness of the respective roles they are expected to play</li> </ul> |
| Enhancing environmental performance   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Promote the "polluter-pays principle" in managing and protecting the quality of natural resources such as air, water and the natural ecosystem</li> <li>(b) Promote environmentally friendly production processes through the promotion of cleaner production and development and transfer of environmentally sound technologies</li> <li>(c) Promote the effectiveness of environmental governance by upgrading environmental regulations and standards and effectively enforcing legal instruments for pollution control and ecosystem management</li> <li>(d) Promote best practices such as integrated natural resources management and total pollution load control for water, air and oceans</li> <li>(e) Promote partnership among the various stakeholders to enhance their participation and compliance with environmental governance</li> <li>(f) Strengthen close cooperation among the member States and the concerned stakeholders to address transboundary pollution and environmental risks</li> </ul>  |
| Promoting environment as an opportunity for economic growth and development | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Promote environment-related investment and environmental technology research and development as an opportunity for economic growth, employment and industrial competitiveness</li> <li>(b) Promote and create a positive synergy between environment and economy</li> <li>(c) Promote the role of the private sector in presenting the environment as a business opportunity not as a burden or cost for the economy and private sector</li> <li>(d) Present environmental regulations and demands for environmental quality as an opportunity to promote the environmental industry and the market for environmental goods and services</li> <li>(e) Establish policy frameworks that encourage the creation of new market opportunities for infrastructure, goods and services as well as technologies related to pollution control and environmental resource management</li> <li>(f) Promote environmentally sound technologies and facilitate their adaptation, diffusion and transfer</li> <li>(g) Take advantage of government purchasing power in facilitating market-building and secure profitability for cleaner production activities in the early stages</li> <li>(h) Enhance consumer awareness of environmentally friendly products</li> <li>(i) Encourage sustainable ecotourism taking into consideration the natural environment of the Asia-Pacific region to generate income for its residents</li> </ul>  |



# Overview of MOE Policies & Efforts

The MOE has been carrying out integrated policies on the nation's nature conservation and management of water quality, air quality, water supply, sewage, waste disposal and recycling under the global banner of "Sustainable Development." It also has positively participated in international efforts to address environmental issues and disputes through collaboration with various international agencies and organizations. Especially, the ministry is working to come up with solutions for regional problems, DSS for example, in cooperation with Northeastern countries through the "Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting" and similar endeavors.

## Overview of MOE Policies & Efforts

### Nature Conservation

Korea has diverse natural habitats and abundant biodiversity, as 65.4% of the land is covered with forests and three sides of its land are surrounded by the ocean. This is why it has long been called "Geum-Su-Gang-San," which refers to a beautiful land seemingly embroidered with silky mountains and rivers.

However, during the past 40 years Korea has been following supply-oriented development policies based on economic efficiency rather than on sustainable conservation and management. As a result, Korea achieved rapid economic growth in a short period of time, but this led to problems of degradation in the natural environment such as the destruction of ecosystems as well as the reduction of forests in the Baekdudaegan (the Baekdu Mountain Range) and tidal flats in many islands and coastal regions. However, as living standards improved, the demand for an enhanced quality of life has increased as well. Therefore, there is an expectation of sustainable development, where nature and society can stand together in harmony.

#### Conservation and Management of Scenic Beauty & Outstanding Ecosystem

The MOE recognizes the need to systematically conserve and manage outstanding ecosystem, scenic natural sites, and biodiversity on the Korean Peninsula. Currently there are 24 ecosystem conservation areas (248Km<sup>2</sup>), 15 wetland protection areas (187Km<sup>2</sup>), and 20 national parks (6,580Km<sup>2</sup>) for a total of 75 natural parks covering 7,772Km<sup>2</sup>. In addition, there are 153 designated special islands including Dokdo Island comprising 9,985Km<sup>2</sup>.

In addition, several areas in Korea are internationally recognized for its conservation values. On March 30th, 2005, Jangdo Wetland in Shinan was the third wetland site in Korea to be registered in the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention following the Yong Wetland in Mt. Daeam (106ha), which is the oldest high wetland in the country, and the Woopo Wetland in Changnyeong (854ha), which is the largest natural inland wetland in Korea. Also in October 2004, Mt. Guwol was designated as the fourth UNESCO Biosphere Reserve of Korea along with Mt. Baekdu (in DPRK), Mt. Seorak (3,932Km<sup>2</sup>), and parts of Jeju Island (Mt. Halla, two stream corridors, and three islets, 831Km<sup>2</sup>).

The Natural Environment Conservation Act amended in December 2004 was a breakthrough in preventing development projects from recklessly destroying scenic beauty. One of the biggest improvements made was the introduction of the Assessment System for Natural Sites of Scenic Beauty, which will be reviewed by the Environmental Preservation Advisory Committee of the MOE or the Scenery Assessment System supervised by the Scenic Beauty Committee of local environment authority. Also

the MOE is currently working on the enactment of the National Trust Act on Cultural Heritages and Natural Environmental Assets, which will allow the private sector to raise money for trusts to conserve cultural heritages and natural environmental assets that need to be highly conserved.

### Eco-Network on the Korean Peninsula

Recently, the MOE is creating an integrated eco-network as a key initiative so that it will be possible to manage animals that move from the northern part to the southern part of the Korean Peninsula. Therefore, the Baekdudaegan (Baekdu Mountain Range), the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), and various small islands and coastal regions were selected so as to be included in three national ecological core patches.

#### Baekdudaegan (Baekdu Mountain Range)

The Baekdudaegan is the geographical backbone of the Korean Peninsula and has great ecological significance with various plants and animal habitants. Recently on January 1, 2005, the Act Relating to the Baekdudaegan (Baekdu Mountain Range) was enacted under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (specifically the Korea Forest Service). The MOE set the principles and standards for designating Baekdudaegan Protected Areas in October 2004, and the Korea Forest Service designated Baekdudaegan Protected Areas in September 2005 (about 2,634 km<sup>2</sup>), and will establish the basic action plan according to these principles and standards in late December 2005.

#### Demilitarized Zone (DMZ)

The Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) was created when the armistice was signed between the Republic of Korea (ROK) and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) ending the Korean War in 1953. A strip of land encompassing approximately 907 km<sup>2</sup>, the DMZ extends west-east for 248 km (155 miles) and north-south for 4 km (2.4 miles) in the middle of the Korean Peninsula. The Civilian Control Zone (CCZ) was established in the area within 20 km of the southern DMZ border. As humans have not set foot there for more than 50 years, it has become a unique treasure trove of wild flora and fauna. In other words, the bio-diversity in the DMZ and bordering regions has been well preserved and restored.

The Ministry of Environment established and implemented the Ecological Conservation Plan of the DMZ in August 22, 2005, based

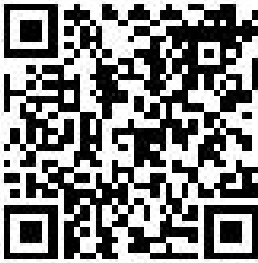


on the research results of 2002~2004, the historic summit between the two one another. In the future, if the Envirc sibility that they would pursue the des in order to enhance environmental co

### Small Islands and Coastal Region

The Korean Peninsula has arour areas, and various shorelines provide logical benefits in terms of marine res ing natural scenery, and habitats for v

Recently, in order to conserve int ment with UNDP so that both sides car for 4 years from 2004 to 2007. This pro, operating national wetland committ Conservation was established to stren periodic monitoring was carried out ar observed. Especially, Dokdo Island has gered species, so it was designated as visitors to Dokdo Island have increas ural ecological investigation to monitor April 2005 to March 2006.



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