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External Agency

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Affiliates

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National Institute of Ecology

Korea Meteorological Administration (KMA)

http://web.kma.go.kr/eng

With the increasing importance of responsiveness to climate change and extreme weather, the Korea Meteorological Administration (KMA) was transferred from the Ministry of Science and Technology in 2008 to become an external agency of the Ministry of Environment. It is exclusively in charge of producing and reporting on meteorological information, monitoring and predicting climate change, and observing, monitoring, and reporting on earthquakes and tsunamis. In February 2014, the KMA and National Institute of Environmental Research of the Ministry of Environment jointly launched the Environmental-Meteorological Forecast Center. It aims to provide accurate and reliable forecasts by combining the fine dust, ultrafine dust, ozone, and other air pollution forecasts previously managed by the National Institute of Environmental Research with the yellow dust forecast of the KMA.

National Environmental Dispute Resolution Commission

Established in 1991, the National Environmental Dispute Resolution Commission is a quasi-judicial body that resolves disputes regarding health, property, and psychological damage caused by environmental pollution through an environmental dispute resolution system in a timely, lowcost manner via simple procedures. The Commission settles disputes caused by environmental damage equivalent to more than 100 million won, resolves disputes to which the state or a local government is a party, resolves disputes concerning two or more *si* or *do* jurisdictions, mediates authority, and resolves disputes that cannot be addressed by regional environmental dispute resolution committees in *si* or *do* areas and have been transferred to the Commission.

National Institute of Environmental Research (NIER)

http://www.nier.go.kr/eric/portal/eng

The National Institute of Environmental Research (NIER) is mainly concerned with the testing and evaluation studies on environmental conservation and prevention of environmental pollution. It has been establishing its presence as a national research institute specializing in the environmental sector since separating from Korea National Institute of Health in July 1978. The NIER carries out research in the fields of environmental health, climate and air quality, water environment, environmental

National Institute of Biological Resources (NIBR) http://www.nibr.go.kr/eng

The National Institute of Biological Resources (NIBR) was founded in March 2007 as a research institute specializing in biological resources. It was established for the purposes of ensuring the efficient conservation and management of national biological resources, strengthening the foundation for nurturing the bio-industry, and organizing exhibitions and training on biological resources. It obtains specimens and genetic resources of the native and endemic species of the Korean Peninsula and useful biological resources from overseas, carries out research on biological resources and biodiversity, is building an information system (database) on national biological resources, and produces publications such as "The Flora and Fauna of Korea" and "Endemic Species of Korea." In addition to research space, it is equipped with the largest storage facility in the East, capable of accommodating more than 11 million biological specimens, as well as exhibition space with replicas of the native and endemic species and ecosystems of the Korean Peninsula.

National Institute of Environmental Human Resources Development (NIEHRD)

http://ehrd.me.go.kr/memberEng/EngMain.do

The National Institute of Environmental Human Resources Development (NIEHRD) was founded in December 2006 as a training institution specializing in the environmental field. It is in charge of training public officials and civilians in environmental area. It offers capacity buliding for Ministry of Environment officials as well as training for environmental specialists at industrial field, a cyber learning system, instructor training, and international environmental education.

Greenhouse Gas Inventory & Research Center of Korea (GIR)

http://www.gir.go.kr/eng

The Greenhouse Gas Inventory & Research Center of Korea (GIR) was established in June 2010 for comprehensive and systematic management of greenhouse gas emissions information. It is in charge of formulating mid- to longterm greenhouse gas inventory management plans, setting national and sectoral greenhouse gas reduction goals, managing greenhouse gas statistics and operating the National Greenhouse Gas Management System (NGMS), providing support for operating the greenhouse gas and energy target management system, and organizing international cooperation and research on greenhouse gas reduction.

National Institute of Chemical Safety (NICS) http://nics.me.go.kr

The National Institute of Chemical Safety (NICS) opened its doors in January 2014 as an institution responsible for chemical safety and is in charge of the prevention of and responses to chemical accidents as part of measures to improve safety management regarding chemicals and chemical accidents. The NICS is building an accident response information system, organizes accident response manuals, provides support for responding to and restoring accident sites, and offers professional training to persons who handle or respond to chemicals, thereby preventing chemical accidents and terrorism in advance and acting as a risk management and response control tower that can respond to any emergency in a timely manner.

Korea Environment Corporation (KECO)

http://www.keco.or.kr/en/main/index.do

The Korea Environment Corporation (KECO) was established to ensure the efficient operation of projects related to pollution prevention, environmental improvement, promotion of resource circulation, and climate change response. The Korea Resources Recovery and Reutilization Corporation, established in 1980, and the Environmental Management Corporation, established in 1987, were combined to form KECO in 2010. KECO carries out waste reduction, recirculation and utilization, and ecofriendly treatment projects; installs and operates sewage and wastewater treatment facilities, waste-to-energy facilities, and other composite environmental facilities; tests and analyzes environmentally hazardous chemicals; installs and operates environmental monitoring networks and control centers; carries out greenhouse gas reduction projects; studies, develops, and provides support for policies regarding prevention of environmental pollution, environmental improvement, and resource circulation; and carries out projects to support the development of environment-friendly cities.

Korea National Park Service (KNPS)

http://english.knps.or.kr

Established in 1987, Korea National Park Service (KNPS) is an agency specializing in national park management. It was transferred from the Ministry of Home Affairs to the Ministry of Environment in 1998. It is involved in such activities as national park conservation, research on park resources, installation and management of park facilities, and guidance on and promotion of park use. It is also working on a project to restore and propagate wild fauna and flora to boost biodiversity.

Sudokwon Landfill Site Management Corp. (SLC) http://www.slc.or.kr/design/eng/index_eng.asp

The Sudokwon Landfill Site Management Corporation (SLC) was established in July 2000 to promote the appropriate treatment and utilization of wastes generated in the Seoul Metropolitan Region and to contribute towards creating a pleasant living environment for the residents of the surrounding areas. Situated 40 minutes from Seoul, Sudokwon Landfill Site measures 20 million square meters and receives and handles residential, construction, and commercial wastes discharged by the 24 million citizens of the Seoul, Incheon, and Gyeonggi regions. SLC ensures appropriate treatment of wastes brought to this landfill site, carries out support projects for residents of the nearby affected areas, and also carries out waste utilization and waste-to-energy projects such as power generation using landfill gas.

Korea Environmental Industry & Technology Institute (KEITI)

http://www.keiti.re.kr/eng/action.do

The Korea Environmental Industry & Technology Institute (KEITI) was established to nurture environmental technologies and industries and to promote the purchase of green products. It was formed in 2009 by combining the Korea Eco-products Institute and Environmental Technology Institute founded in 2005. KEITI plans and manages environmental R&D projects, promotes the distribution and utilization of the environmental technologies developed, offers research assistance for environmental technologies and businesses, supports overseas ventures by the environmental industry, lays the industrial groundwork to stimulate the environmental industry, trains environmental, technology, and business experts, and promotes the production and distribution of green products.

National Institute of Ecology

http://www.nie.re.kr/nie eng/index.html

The National Institute of Ecology, which opened in December 2013, is a comprehensive ecological research institute that aims to predict and study ecosystem changes on the Korean Peninsula following climate change, secure and conserve biological species, and educate the public on the environment. It carries out research on matters such as long-term changes to the national ecosystem following climate and environmental changes and operates exhibits such as an ecology experience center (Ecorium) and the Korean Peninsula Forest, Wetland Eco Park, and Alpine Eco Park, where visitors can encounter the unique ecosystem of the Korean Peninsula.