

Recent Achievements in 2014

During 2014, the Korean government endeavored to meet ever heightening international environmental standards, and take a responsible part in the efforts of the international community to tackle global climate change. Domestically, the government promoted a variety of environmental policies focusing on four core areas towards the ultimate vision of realizing "high quality environmental welfare for people's happiness and wellbeing".

1. Transition to Sustainable Society

- A series of concrete actions were taken for national greenhouse gas reduction including the preparation for the implementation of the nationwide emission trading system in 2015 and the establishment of the second national standards on average GHG emissions and fuel efficiency for vehicles.
- Efforts were made to promote recycling and resource cycle including starting the construction of eco-friendly energy town (Oct '14), expanding the Waste Electronics Pick Up Service, and submitting a bill for "the Act on the Promotion of Resource Cycle Society" to the National Assembly. (Oct. '14)
- The government promoted exports of Korea's environment industry and made successful cases by obtaining overseas contracts including river improvement project in Constantine, Algeria (KRW 203.3 billion) and desulfurization project in Tarapaca, Chile. (KRW 64.7 billion)

2. Advanced and Scientific Environment Management System

- A bill for "the Act on integrated management of environment pollution generating facilities" was submitted to the National Assembly.
- Environmental regulations were reformed in a way to support enterprises and small business owners.
- Environment Administration 3.0 was promoted in line with the efforts for government innovation. For instance, creative ideas in the environment area were supported to find business opportunity.

3. Expansion of Environmental Service for People's Happiness

- A trial operation of nationwide fine dust forecasting was carried out while the accuracy of the forecast was improved from 73% ('13) to 83% ('14).
- The government focused on ensuring health water environment and safe drinking water. As the result, water quality in 90 of the total 111 midium influence ares in the country was measured to be improved in terms of T-P concentration. (The clean water government standard was met at 81.1% in 2014, up from 80.7% in 2013.) Meanwhile, water supply in rural villages was expanded. (Of the total 160 thousand rural residents, 71.4% were provided with access to water supply in 2014, compared to 67.6% in 2013.)
- In order to recover the health of ecosystems and provide people with greater opportunities to enjoy nature, new eco-tourism destinations were designated (12 ('13) → 17 ('14)). The number of tourists in the areas with excellent ecosystems was increased by 14.6%. ('14)

4. Environmental Safety Management for Protecting Public Health

- The Act on Liability of Compensation and Relief of Injury Caused by Environmental Pollutions was enacted and announced with the purpose to establish an environmentally safe society. ('14.12)
- Lower statues of the Chemicals Management Act and the Act on the Registration and Evaluation, etc. of Chemical Substances were developed through stakeholder consultations. In the meantime, an inter-ministerial joint support team for industry chemical safety was established (Apr '14) aiming at an advanced chemical safety management system.
- Harmful substances in surroundings were more stringently managed. For example, the Ministry of Environment supported to remove asbestos slate roofs from 21,437 house units in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs as well as local governments.