

Republic of Korea Case Study

Analysis of National Strategies for Sustainable Development

This document is one of 19 country case studies that form the knowledge base for a synthesis report entitled “National Strategies for Sustainable Development: Challenges, Approaches, and Innovations Based on a 19-country Analysis.” The synthesis report and country case studies are available electronically at:

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Notice to Reader

Information in the country case studies was obtained primarily from publicly available sources (e.g., Internet and literature sources) and, where possible, was supplemented through interviews with government officials. The information was up-to-date as of May 2004. Every effort was made to ensure that official national sustainable development focal point contacts had the opportunity to provide feedback on the research, but such contacts were not successful in all cases. **This case study is in an unedited, working paper format.**

These case studies are made publicly available to add to the national sustainable development strategy knowledge base. The project’s research partners accept responsibility for any inaccuracies or omissions. The views expressed in this working paper do not necessarily represent the views of the funding partners.

The research partners welcome your comments on this country case study. Please e-mail comments to Darren Swanson at dswanson@iisd.ca.

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1 Introduction: Country Description

The Korean peninsula is located in the Northeast Asia, with southern half of the peninsula bordering the East Sea and the Yellow Sea. Korea shares its northern border with China and Russia. In addition to the mainland peninsula, Korea includes some 3,000 islands. Korea was subjected to colonial rule by Japan from 1910 till 1945 and afterwards to partition by ideological differences caused by the cold war. After the subsequent Korea War (1950-1953), Korea remained split into the Republic of Korea (ROK) and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) along the demilitarised zone (Korean Overseas Information Service).

Economy

The ROK, once known to be one of the world's poorest agrarian societies, has undertaken rapid economic development since 1962. Despite a relatively poor endowment of natural resources, it has achieved, in less than four decades, what has come to be known as "economic miracle", recording between 5 and 11 percent of annual growth rates since 1980. GDP doubled between 1985 and 1995. The country has joined the OECD in 1996 and currently ranks 10th in GDP among its thirty member states. GDP is \$941.5 billion and GDP per capita is \$19,600 (PPP, 2002 est.). 54% of GDP is generated by the services sector, 41% by the industry sector. Agriculture has steadily decreased over the last 50 years. The total labour force accounts for 22 million (2000 est.) and the unemployment rate is 3.1% (2001 est.). Predominant industries are energy- and material intensive industries like electronics, automobile production, chemicals, shipbuilding or steel or textiles production (CIA World Fact Book 2003).

Society

The country's political system is characterised by a strong presidency, with the President being elected every five years by nationwide direct popular vote. The President appoints the Prime Minister and the members of the cabinet on the Prime Minister's recommendation. The legislative branch consists of the National Assembly. While 243 out of 299 seats are elected by direct popular vote for four-year-term, the rest are appointed proportionally by political parties. The ROK consists of nine provinces and seven provincial-level cities.

Koreans have one ethnic background. As of the end of 2002, the country's total population was estimated at 47,640,000, with a density of 479 people per square kilometre (2004 est.). Life expectancy accounts for 76.5 years (2001 est.). The country is ranked 30th in the Human Development Index, with a value of 0.88 (UNDP 2003). The total literacy rate is 98% (2000 est.). The ROK has one of the highest percentages of students in the world. The national language is Korean (CIA World Fact Book 2003).

Environment

The country's surface area is 98,480 sq km, with a coastline of 11,545 km (6,230 km for the mainland and 5,315 km for the islands) (Ministry of Maritime Affairs and

Fisheries). The climate is temperate and the country's topography consists mostly of mountains, rolling hills and uplands, with wide coastal plains in the west and the south. The rapid industrialisation and urbanisation led to heavy pollution of the environment. In between 1990 and 2002, CO₂ emissions from fuel combustion increased about 93% (OECD/IEA 2003). As of 2001, only 8 countries emitted more carbon as CO₂ from fuel combustion than the ROK (OECD/IEA 2003). Air pollution, water management, waste management and pollution-related health problems remain main issues. The ROK is not rich in biodiversity, but the number of endangered species is rising.

An ambitious environmental policy was initiated at the end of the 1980s. The Environmental Agency was upgraded to a ministry with cabinet minister rank in 1990 (OECD 1997). The country was quite active in the follow-up process of UNCED: It developed a number of strategic environmental plans, increased Official Development Assistance expenditure to 0.063% of GDP, ratified the Kyoto-Protocol and a number of other international treaties and paid strong attention to the implementation of local Agenda 21 (UN 2002).

This study is mainly based on the analysis of government reports, that were available online, and relevant secondary literature. We acknowledge also the productive support from the Government of the Republic of Korea. Helpful comments on this study have been received from officials of several ministries and the Presidential Commission on Sustainable Development. All errors, nevertheless, remain with the author of this study.

Table 1: Profile by Selected Indicators

	Value
Human Development Index (and ranking)	30th (value 0.88)
Environmental Sustainability Index	135 th
CO ₂ Emissions from Fuel Combustion (2001)	436 million ton of CO ₂
GDP (PPP, 2001)	674.9 billion 1995 US \$
GDP per capita (PPP, 2001)	14,268 1995 US \$

Sources: *CIA World Fact Book, 2003, UNDP 2003, Yale University and Columbia University 2002, OECD/IEA CO₂ Emissions from Fuel Combustion 1971-2001, 2003 Edition*

2 Content of the National Sustainable Development strategy

The Republic of Korea has continually implemented strategies for Sustainable Development since the Rio-Summit in 1992. Since March 2004, a set of comprehensive national strategies for sustainable development is in preparation by the *Presidential Commission on Sustainable Development (PCSD)*, taking into account the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), and is to be established by 2006. There is a well-established framework for long-term planning, both cross-sectoral and sectoral, and with a high degree of spatial diversification (planning at national, regional and local level). Long-term planning occurs for the economy as

well as for the environment, but the environmental planning is most important for the issue of sustainability. Whereas the long-term plans provide a holistic environmental framework for action, the government adopts regularly strategic plans in major sectors that aim at concretising these holistic long-term plans (Lee 2000).

Regarding the issue of SD, two kinds of plans can be distinguished: 1) Plans that are drafted on the basis of the *Basic Environmental Policy Act* (1990), that obliges the government to pursue long-term planning, and 2) plans that have been drafted for international conferences or as an expression of the political will of the government (Republic of Korea 2002). The ROK can be thus characterised as a country that has a strong orientation towards strategic planning in all important sectors of policy. Due to the dualism of the planning approach, this study does not focus on a single strategy or plan, but pays equal attention to the long-term environmental planning and the complementary voluntary planning regarding the implementation of Agenda 21. Leaving out a dimension would sketch a one-sided picture of the many set-screws of Sustainability Policy.

The most important strategic plans in the first category are: a) The ten-year plan *Green Vision 21* (1996-2005), where currently work is undertaken to formulate the second long term plan, b) the *Mid-Term Plans* for putting the long-term planning into practice, where currently the third Mid-Term Plan is in action (2003-2007) and c) several strategic plans in different sectors, that are developed by the responsible ministries. These incorporate the principles of Sustainability as they try to incorporate environmental needs into sectoral policy-making or foster the promotion of eco-friendly technologies.

Regarding the second category, a *National Action Plan for the Implementation of Agenda 21* was adopted in 1996 as a compilation of the entire set of implementation programs started in each chapter of Agenda 21. In 2001, the follow-up plan “*State Environmental Mission for a New Millenium*” was adopted. The plans do not rival, but complement each other.

Planning for Sustainability – strategies content

Environmental planning follows the guiding vision of building a “Life-respecting, Sustainable Green Nation”. It lays down guidelines for all sectors to harmonize efforts for environmental improvement and SD. An important feature of environmental planning is the promotion of environmental industries. The government has committed itself to the objective of becoming a key environmental industry country by the year 2007. Another area of focus has been the integration of environmental and trade issues (MoE 2003).

Box 1: Overview of Long-term Environmental Planning in the ROK

The *Basic Environmental Policy Act* (1990) requires the establishment of a long-term environmental policy plan every ten years. Art. 35 of the Constitution guarantees the right to live in a clean and healthy environment. The *Green Vision 21* of 1997 was designed for the period of 1996-2005. While the *Green Vision 21* reflected the vision of realising an “Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development”, the *State Environmental Mission* aims at building a “biosphere, in which nature and humans co-exist in harmony”. Four main principles are lined out here: a) Conversion of end-of-pipe environmental approaches to pollution prevention, b) environmental policies based on market economy and democracy, c) policy integration and d) active international participation. The government has de-

scribed four areas of action: 1) Improvement of air quality in the Capital region, 2) Improvement of the water quality in the four major rivers, 3) safety management of hazardous chemicals along with waste source reduction and risk reduction of the proliferation of new technologies.

Up to now, there have been three mid-term plans, which are divided into environmental policy programs and environmental investment projects. The 1st *Mid-Term-Plan* (1992-1996) comprised a total of 117 unit projects, including 52 investment projects and 65 policy projects and a budget of 12.7 billion US dollars. The 2nd *Mid-Term-Plan* (1998-2002) consisted of 141 unit projects, including 95 policies and 46 investment projects. It involved 16 central governmental agencies and a total budget of nearly 31 billion US dollars. The 3rd *Mid-Term-Plan* is supposed to be adopted soon. Additionally, a number of action plans have been adopted, for example, the *National Action Plan to reduce GHG-Emissions*, the 5-year *Energy Conservation Plans* and the 10-year *National Plan for Energy Technology Development* (1997). The government has announced the preparation of a 10-year *National Plan for Land Preservation*. The *Natural Environmental Conservation Act* (1992) also requires a long-term plan for nature conservation every 10 years. The so-called *2nd Master Plan of Natural Environment Conservation* is currently under preparation. Already in 1997, a *National Biodiversity Strategy* was adopted. Also there exists the *Comprehensive Land-Use Plan* that lays down the integration of environmental and developmental concerns as a basic cornerstone of national land-use management for 2000-2020.

Source: MoE 2003, 2000, UN 2002

Regarding the *National Action Plan for the Implementation of Agenda 21*, it was drafted as a detailed action plan or a “mirror plan” for the Agenda 21. It presents an evaluation of the performance in implementing Agenda 21. It therefore addresses issues such as the promotion of cleaner technologies, of waste reduction and recycling and of environmentally friendly production and consumption patterns. The plan also mentions the issue of poverty eradication and promotes the implementation of local agenda 21. The *National Environmental Vision for the New Millenium* updates these voluntary efforts for integrated policy-making for Sustainable Development. It specially aims at introducing market-based instruments, enhancing preventive approaches of environmental protection and making the country a leader in global environmental policy (Republic of Korea 2002).

Coordination and Linkages with Other Strategies or Planning Processes

The *Green Vision 21* obliged ministries to adopt sectoral environmental plans. For example, the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Energy (MOCIE) has developed the 10-year *National Plan for Energy Technology Development* and the two 5-Year *National plans for Energy Conservation*. The Ministry of Construction and Transportation (MOCT) adopted the “plan first, develop later” concept of development for the whole country including urban and agricultural areas. In order to promote sustainable development of the national territory, MOCT also enacted the *Act on Planning and Use of National Territory* effective as of January 1, 2003, combining the *Urban Planning Act* and the *National Territory Use Act*. Under the Fourth Comprehensive National Territorial Plan (2000-2020), which is the highest-ranking national plan on territorial development and which was formerly called the Comprehensive National Development Plan, MOCT paid greater attention to *Green Vision 21*, making integration of development and environment one of the 3 keynotes of the plan. The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry has also set up a plan *Environmental Policy in Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries for the 21st Century* that aims at policy integration and contains specific targets for the development of technologies for reducing the use of chemical fertilizers and synthetic pesticides by 30% until 2004, and by 40% and 50% respectively until 2010 (basis year 1993) (UN 2002). Environmental considerations were also incorporated into the 7th *Five-Year Socio-Economic Plan* (1993-1997)

through the development of measures such as energy conservation and efficiency (Republic of Korea 2002).

Economic and social planning follows inter alia the goal of eliminating absolute poverty in the short run and alleviating relative poverty in the long run. Also, emphasis is put to the fact that a viable health and medical care system is necessary. For this purpose, the *National Basic Living Security Act* was amended in order to guarantee basic standards of living for people in extreme poverty. Also the *Act to Promote Shifting to an Environmentally Friendly Industrial Structure* was enacted in 1995 (and revised in 1997 and 1999). It actively promotes energy conservation and resource-saving industrial activities (Republic of Korea 2002).

Local agendas have been established at the local level in quite a short time, which might be explained by the fact that the local authorities were granted greater political discretion and responsibilities during the 1990s (see Chapter 3).

Integration of Sustainable Development Principles

Through the adoption of long-term plans, both obligatory and voluntary, the government formally obliges itself to a perspective of policy-making beyond the scope of single legislative periods. Regarding the content, planning for SD in the ROK was for a long time understood as planning for environmental protection, regarding both the long-term environmental planning on the basis of the law and the planning for the implementation of Agenda 21, although the latter also pays attention to the goals of poverty eradication and other socio-economic issues. The financial crisis in 1997 and the subsequent structural reforms brought the issue of sustainability to the political forefront. Nevertheless, this meant in particular, that economic issues were given priority over environmental issues due to the need of revitalising the economy, instead of seeking for ways to equally consider economic, environmental and social needs. In recent years, the government has paid special attention to the introduction of market-based measures as a means of internalising environmental costs and encouraging sectors to operate in an environmentally friendly manner, without increase the overall administrative burden for enterprises (Government of Korea 2002).

3 Institutional and procedural aspects of Korea's long-term planning

3.1 *Development and Institutional Aspects of long-term planning for Sustainability*

The main legal basis is formed by the *Basic Environmental Policy Act* from 1990. The country's strategy process was strongly influenced by the follow-up process of UNCED, but interestingly also by international trade-related provisions of MEAs and environment-related trade restrictions of OECD-countries. As it was the declared objective of the government to catch up with the industrialised countries and to gain full access to their markets, environmental and social standards of OECD countries played a triggering role for policies of SD in the ROK in the 1990s.

Competencies for SD issues are dispersed across government. In the 1990s, two governmental committees performed overall co-ordination tasks with regard to policies for SD: the *Environmental Conservation Committee* and the *Economic Policy Coordination Committee*. The Environmental Conservation Committee, chaired by the Prime Minister, consisted of several high-ranking officials from different ministries and representatives from civil society. The Economic Policy Coordination Committee (EPCC), chaired by the Minister of Finance and Economy, is the highest decision-making body regarding the coordination of economic policies, including environmental sectors. But it was the MoE that took over the core responsibility by mainly formulating the *Green Vision 21* and the *National Action Plan for Agenda 21*. Since 1998, there also exists an *Inter-Ministerial Committee on the Climate Change Convention* that consists of related governmental agencies, academia and industry; led by the Prime Minister. In 2001, the *Industrial Committee on Measures for the Climate Change Convention* has been set up, and is charged with harmonising policies for climate protection and strengthening international competitiveness (MoE 2003, Ramakrishna et al. 2003).

Since 2000, the *Presidential Commission on Sustainable Development (PCSD)* has become an important actor in the process of co-ordinating policy action. It was inaugurated as an advisory body to the President on September 30th 2000, on the basis of a presidential decree and replaced the *Environmental Conservation Committee*. The change related to a shift of the political responsibility for coordination in the last stage from the Prime Minister to the President. Much of the co-ordination effort is left to the MoE, which is being supported by the PCSD. PCSD's main mission is to find ways to harmonise policies for economic development and the environment. It is entitled to preview principal long-term plans and policies that set broad goals and basic directions (PCSD 2002). At the end of 2003, the PCSD was appointed for the 3rd time (see Box 2) (PCSD 2002).

Additionally, the *IMF* had played a crucial role in shaping the countries economic reforms in the second half of the 1990s. It required deep-cutting economic reforms, especially regarding the privatisation of the banking and electricity supply sector. The financial squeeze caused problems to the realisation of several planned measures and led to a reduction of the budget for the implementation of the *Green Vision 21*.

Box 2: The Presidential Commission on Sustainable Development

The 1st Presidential Commission on Sustainable Development was established in September 2000. Originally, the PCSD consisted of 35 members that are appointed for two years: 13 of them are ex-officio members, i.e. 12 cabinet ministers and a co-ordinator (senior secretary for welfare and labour to the President). The remaining seats are assigned to representatives from NGOs and enterprises, academics, lawyers and media, etc. The PCSD operates several sub-committees. Under the current government's campaign, "Participatory Government", 77 members were appointed for the 3rd PCSD, out of which 48 appointed on the nominations by 16 local governments (3 for one local government, consisting of nominations from mayor/governor, local parliament and local NGOs), and 29 others from NGOs, academia, industries, labour, legal profession, mass media, arts and culture, agricultural and fisheries sector, religious and female bodies. Under the Commission, there is an operating committee, consisted of no more than 20 members, which is responsible for prior examination and coordination of issues for the Commission, and expert committees which set policy courses and implementation plans for five fields including dispute management policy, water, territory and nature, energy and industry, society, health and the environment, and international cooperation and education. The 3rd PCSD aims at four broad goals: 1) Quality living in active economy, 2) Prosperous living in civil harmonization, 3)

co-existence of human and nature in clean environment and 4) civil integration through dispute management.

The PCSD organizes reporting to the President on a regular basis, deliberates major policies aimed at Sustainable Development and shall serve as a policy development centred commission. In this context it has the task to prioritise governmental tasks in the areas of water, energy or social affairs. Finally, it is also co-responsible for structuring the dispute management system, and shall undertake research to cope with social disputes.

Since 2000, the PCSD has issued several policy counsels and has drafted guidelines for the sectoral implementation of SD for 11 areas of action, including land-use, transportation, water, fisheries, energy use and education. The PCSD also acted as a national preparatory committee for the WSSD between March 2001 and August 2002. Additionally, the PCSD prepared nation-wide implementation plans and strategies for major international agreements such as the Climate Change Convention.

Source: MoE 2003, PCSD 2002

3.2 *Participation and integration in long-term planning*

For a long time, administrative decisions had been highly centralised and closed to public access. Things started to change with the enactment of the *Information Disclosure Act* in 1996 that requires the release of information to the public upon request. The new government now has started efforts to widen the participation under the heading of the “Participatory Government”. As a result, the issue of public participation has gained prominence recently.

The 3rd PCSD is an example for this process of changing administrative attitudes. It serves as a platform for participation of stakeholders in advising governmental actions. One of its special aims is the deliberation of conflicts. For this purpose, the 1st and the 2nd PCSD institutionalised several subcommittees, consisting of no more than 10 members that were supposed to solve conflicts between ministries by discussions and dispute settlements.

The environmental movement is broadly organised and comprises grass-root organisations as well as more professional organised NGOs. Within the government, the MoE has become more and more supportive of NGOs in order to strengthen their movements. NGOs have been consulted during the drafting of the long-term and mid-term plans. The MoE operates also several discussion groups with governmental experts, experts from private think tanks and NGOs.

The media have played a crucial role for raising environmental awareness among the public in the 1990s by not only disseminating informations regarding the state of the environment, but also by reporting on important scientific findings and developments in the international community (UNESCAP 2003).

3.3 *Monitoring aspects*

The *Basic Environmental Policy Act* provides clear mechanisms. It obliges the MoE to report every year on the state of the environment and environmental policies. It requires the establishment, monitoring and update of the long-term and mid-term planning. According to the MoE, progress on implementing Agenda 21 has also been

reported regularly to the UN. The ROK has a long tradition in Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) with the introduction of the EIA System in 1977. Alongside with the governmental Assessment System, the Prior Environmental Review System for environmental soundness of major development projects (PERS) has been established. It aims at identifying possible environmental impacts of all major and basic long-term and mid-term state plans, large-scale state development projects affecting large land areas and major policies approved by other committees. Currently, an economic cost-benefit-analysis is carried out for all major development projects and recently the MoE has also announced to introduce the instrument of Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment (MoE 2003).

The responsibilities for monitoring are widespread. Each ministry and agency is responsible for the monitoring of sectoral plans according to the included indicators. The MoE is responsible for the monitoring of the long-term environmental planning and with planning for Agenda 21, but also for the evaluation of the promotion of environmental industries. It also issues reports on best practices regarding environment-economic issues, for example on “Best Practice in Environmental Management in Korean Companies” in 2002 (MoE 2002). Since 2000, the PCSD is also charged with the task of monitoring the implementation of the requirements of Agenda 21 and of international conventions.

3.4 *Implementation of long-term planning and related specific initiatives*

The responsibilities for implementation of the long-term planning on the basis of laws and the voluntary long-term planning, and also of the subsequent mid-term and short-term plans are widely dispersed among the government. One main responsibility for the implementation of Agenda 21 is laid with the MoE. In 2000, it had to share this role with the newly founded PCSD (see above). The PCSD has, however, only advisory power. Additionally, each ministry has the responsibility for implementing its own plans. The Office of the Prime Minister is responsible for inter-policy coordination and conflict resolution (UNESCAP 2004).

Since 1995, the *Special Account for Environmental Improvement* secures new revenues through charges imposed on polluters and transfers from general and other accounts, and also through loans from the National Bond Management Fund and foreign bonds (UN 2002). A number of initiatives have been started at the local level in the context of Local Agenda 21, and especially in the still heavily polluted region of Seoul. Efforts on local level concentrate on environmental protection, but recently also focus more strongly on the issue of education and awareness raising. It would be worth studying this development in greater depth. There appears to be a serious mechanism for national coordinated action for SD in the ROK given the Korean Council for Local Agenda 21 and the National Action Plan. But this could not be scrutinized while writing this study.

Box 5: The rapid spread of Local Agenda 21

Local Agenda 21 gained acceptance at an unprecedented short period of time. At present, 213 out of 249 local government units or 86 percent of them have adopted a Local Agenda 21. One important reason for this was the reform of local governments in 1995 that gave the local governments greater regulatory power, for example, in the area of air quality standards. The government also helped to establish the *Korean Council for Local Agenda 21* in June 2000, which consists of all agencies im-

plementing Local Agenda 21 to better coordinate the implementation process.

Source: PCSD 2002, MoE 2003

Concerning initiatives at the national level, the MoE and the MOCIE have started several projects and strategies in order to support the development of environmental innovations and their world-wide dissemination. The *Eco-Technopia 21* Project of the MoE is crucial in this context, and so are efforts to strengthen the dissemination of products of Korean environmental industries via Exhibition Centres within and outside the country. 16 local centres for the promotion of environmental industries have been established additionally. The Ministries of the Environment, Industry and Finance have commonly developed the Environmental Industries Development Strategy (2001-2003) and recently founded a common planning unit for further promotion of environmental industries.

The government also introduced instruments and tools to organise cross-government SD policies, such as the *National Biodiversity Strategy*, the *National Plan for Energy Technology Development* or the *Strategic Impact Assessment* (see chapter 3.3). Also, it started action for implementing tools for *Green Budgeting* (MoE 2003, KEI 2003).

Tab 1: Selected Sustainable Development Initiatives

Initiative	Outline
<i>Environmental Industries Development Strategy (2001-2003)</i>	The strategy was formulated by nine relevant ministries, inter alia the MoE, MOCIE and MOFE. The latter formed the <i>Environmental Industry Development Committee</i> with the Vice Minister of Environment as its chair to facilitate environmental technology and environmental industry development. The strategy contains 58 development measures in 5 core priority areas, which aim at establishing both potential national environmental industries and domestic markets as a step-stone for further dissemination.
<i>Eco-Technopia 21</i>	For 10 years starting in 2001, the government plans to invest approximately one trillion Korean won to support research and production of new environmental technologies under the <i>Eco-Technopia-Project</i> . The planned technology development consists of 30 core tasks across 12 areas. The project is divided into three stages (2001-2003: 195 billion won, 2004-2007: 440 billion won, 2008-2010: 365 billion won), each of them representing another more ambitious stage of technology development. Step by step, the development of original and cutting-edge technologies, such as nano-environmental pollutant monitoring technology, shall be fostered. The <i>Technology Road Map</i> was devised in 2002 by the MoE to ensure an efficient implementation of <i>Eco-Technopia 21</i> . From 2001 to 2003, the project resulted in 6.4 billion Korean won in exports, 25.4 billion Korean won in domestic construction and 10.6 billion Korean won in product sales.
<i>Environmental Technology Evaluation System</i>	The system is designed to appraise and disclose the technical performance of new technologies. The system administers a 3 to 6-month performance test of new technologies at pilot plants. Technologies with outstanding test results are labelled as “New Technologies by the Government” and are subject to extra promotion. By now, MoE has collected and provided information about the latest environmental technologies via some 2,500 databases.

<i>The Korean System of Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting (KORSEEA)</i>	KORSEEA is a MoE-research project that adds Environmental Accounting Elements to the National Accounting System. KORSEEA includes data on expenditures on environmental protection, on charges and subsidies as well as data on the supply of natural resources, on non-market uses of natural assets by industries and households and on asset accounts of non-produced “economic” and “environmental” assets (both in physical and monetary terms, including stocks, changes in stocks through depletion and degradation and other volume changes of land, minerals, forests, fish, air and water).
<i>Ten-Year National Plan for Energy Technology Development (1997-2006)</i>	This plan incorporates three separate technology plans: conservation of energy, new and renewable energies and cleaning of energy. It aims at reducing 10% of the total energy consumption by 2006 (basis year 1997) and to supply 5% of national energy with renewable energies in 2011 by creating an own national market for innovative technologies as a step-stone for their world-wide dissemination.
<i>Basic Plan for Restructuring of the Energy Supply Industry (2002-2009)</i>	In the wake of the IMF-led economic reforms, the energy sector was liberalised and privatised. The power generation sector of the former state company KEPCO was split into six companies. The Korea Electricity Commission was set up to protect consumer welfare, to monitor the markets and to manage the privatisation process that is supposed to last until 2009. The main goals are to guarantee a long-term and stable electricity supply, increase efficiency in the industry and promote consumer convenience through expansion of customer choice in the use of electricity. The dissemination of renewable energies is also a prominent objective in this context.
<i>Special Act on Seoul Metropolitan Air Quality Improvement</i>	This special act aims at improving air quality in the Capital Region to average OECD-levels in ten years. Key features include a total maximum loading system of pollutants, an emission trading system and enhancement of low emission vehicle supply. In this context, the <i>Eco-Vehicle-Choice-Program</i> has been designed to initiate green vehicle purchasing by disclosing emission discharge information on all domestic vehicles and models online. From 1 January 2005, the Act requires producers to manufacture a set proportion of low- and zero-emission bus vehicles. Buses in Seoul shall be replaced with natural gas buses. The MoE provides subsidies for achieving this goal.

Source: MoE 2003, UN 2002, MOCIE 2003

3.5 Country summary of national SD strategy

Table 1: Summary of ROK's National Sustainable Development Strategy

Criteria/Aspects	Outline
<i>Content of SDS</i>	
Typology	Cross-sectoral and sectoral planning with a strong focus on the Environment
Content	The national environment plans contain guidelines, action areas, quantified objectives, measures and an implementation framework
Linkages with other strategies and planning processes	High integration regarding the inter-linkage of sectoral plans with the overall national environmental planning framework
<i>Development Aspects</i>	
Legal basis, state of process	Basic Act on Environmental Protection, active implementation of Agenda 21 and WSSD commitments
Institutions, responsible agencies	Responsibilities divided among Ministries and governmental committees, such as the Ministry of Environment, the Office of the Prime Minister and the Presidential Commission on Sustainable Development (PCSD)
Decisions and negotiation	Rather open, co-ordination and dispute management by the Office of the Prime Minister and recently within the PCSD, high availability of information
External Support	No direct external support, indirect constraining impacts of economic reforms commissioned by the IMF
<i>Participation</i>	
Coordination	Coordinated by the relevant ministries responsible for sectoral planning, PCSD serves as an overall platform
Inter-governmental actors	PCSD, Environmental Preservation Committee (until 2000), Economic Policy Coordination Committee, Inter-Ministerial Committee on the Climate Change Convention, Industrial Committee on Measures for the Climate Change Convention
Civil society, NGOs actors	New Vision of "Participatory Government", regular consultation of NGOs, several discussion groups and public consultation meetings, strong environmental movement, crucial role of media for public awareness-raising
<i>Monitoring, Reporting and Adaptation Aspects</i>	
Responsibilities & Mechanisms	Legal provisions by the Basic Environmental Protection Act. Requirements for constant monitoring and update of long-term and mid-term planning. Central role of MoE. No provision for independent quality checks of monitoring.
Compliance mechanisms	No compliance identifiable mechanisms or implications for failure to comply.
Learning and Adaptation	-
Application of Strategic Environmental Assessment	Preparations to introduce SEA. PRES system already fulfils many of the features of a SEA.
<i>Implementation of SDS</i>	
Responsibility and Coordination	Responsibility rests with the Office of the Prime Minister, additionally with the PCSD. Implementation of individual measures is responsibility of individual ministries or lead agencies.
Financing and capacity	Extra funding via charges and shifted government funds through the Special Account on Environmental Improvement
Communication	Mainly via the media that report prominently on these issues, also

<i>Specific SD Initiatives</i>	<p>through web</p> <p>Strong focus on promoting environmental industries by several initiatives and programs for technology development and dissemination such as Eco-Technopia 21 or the Environmental Technology Information System</p> <p>Attempts to introduce tools of Green Budgeting</p> <p>Strong focus on Energy Technology Development with a perspective of inventing technologies that can be exported via market mechanisms</p> <p>Ambitious, integrative, preventive measures for improving air quality in Seoul metropolitan area</p>
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4 Supporting information

Ministry of the Environment: <http://www.me.go.kr:8080/engl>

Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Energy: <http://www.mocie.go.kr>

Ministry of Construction and Transportation: <http://www.moct.go.kr>

Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries: www.momaf.go.kr

Presidential Commission on Sustainable Development: <http://www.pcpp.go.kr/english>

Report to the WSSD: www.un.org/esa/sustdev/natlinfo/cp2002.htm

Environmental report:

http://www.me.go.kr/user/part/part_period_list.html?av_dept=1101

Korean Overseas Information Service:

<http://www.korea.net/learnaboutkorea/aboutkorea.html>

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