

THE NATIONAL ATLAS OF KOREA 2024

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION INSTITUTE
MINISTRY OF LAND, INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORT



Preface

The National Atlas of Korea serves as the official record of Korea's territory and territorial history, as well as its natural and cultural heritage. This comprehensive, visually engaging resource contains facts and statistics detailing the nation's political borders (the peninsula and territorial islands), territorial waters, physical landscape, natural resources, and natural environment. Additionally, this thorough reference invites readers to explore all aspects of the nation's human dimensions—economy, culture, governance, demographics, social systems, international relations, history, and more. The maps, diagrams, tables, and photographs vividly portray evidence from the past while exploring the evolution and development of the nation through today. The atlas provides valuable insight about Korean history, landscape, and culture not only for an international audience but also for Koreans themselves. This educational resource is thus invaluable across public and private sectors of society, including government and education, at home and abroad.

Since 2007, the National Geographic Information Institute of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport has published *The National Atlas of Korea* as a three-volume set: Territory and History (Volume I), National Land and Natural Environment (Volume II), and National Land and Human Environment (Volume III). In 2024, the National Geographic Information Institute introduced a five-volume set consisting of Korea in the World (Volume I), Natural Environment (Volume II), Use and Development of National Land (Volume III), Population and Industry (Volume IV), and Society and Culture (Volume V). Within these volumes, users can easily access a wealth of information and data on a variety of topics relevant to all aspects of the nation's past and present as well as planning and projections for Korea's future.

Adopting a new approach with recent updates, *The National Atlas of Korea 2024* contains four chapters. Chapter 1: National Territory discusses the national borders, area, territorial history, ancient maps, and development of Korea and its territory over time. Chapter 2: Korea in the World details the international status of the Republic of Korea, including its international relations, international development cooperation, international trade, and human and cultural exchanges. Chapter 3: Challenges and Potential of National Territory emphasizes the meaning and value of our territory and heritage while presenting current challenges and addressing the nation's potential. Lastly, Chapter 4: Current Status of North Korea explains the administrative divisions, physical geography, population, urban structure, economy, and public and private sectors of North Korea, as well as inter-Korean relations and international affairs of the Korean Peninsula.

Incorporating the latest data and cutting-edge cartographic and infographic techniques, *The National Atlas of Korea* has gained international recognition as a valuable, world-class atlas at the International Cartographic Conference in 2017 and 2023. As the Republic of Korea and its people play an increasingly important role globally, the National Geographic Information Institute pledges to support the continued publication of the atlas to foster pride and education among its people and share information with international audiences about the nation and its contributions to the global community.

December 2024

Cho, Woosug

Director General, National Geographic Information Institute
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