

THE NATIONAL ATLAS OF KOREA II 2020

Physical Geography

MINISTRY OF LAND, INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORT
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION INSTITUTE



Foreword to *The National Atlas of Korea II 2020*

Our land is a precious place that Korean people will always call home. Our land should also be a space where everyone can have opportunities to realize their dreams and potential. We are responsible for creating a well-balanced, safe, clean, and beautiful country and for passing it on to our descendants. *The National Atlas of Korea*, which comprehensively records current information about our land, is the foundation for achieving this goal.

The National Atlas of Korea was first published in a single book form in 2007. The second edition was published in three volumes: *Territory and History* (Volume I, 2014), *National Land and Natural Environment* (Volume II, 2016), and *National Land and Human Environment* (Volume III, 2016). This edition provided comprehensive and stereoscopic information on Korea's natural and human environment. The newly published *National Atlas of Korea II 2020* details the present state of the natural environment as well as changes that have occurred through time.

Korea is a dynamic country, having achieved urbanization, industrialization, and democratization in a relatively short period of time. Even now, the land, space, and natural environment are changing according to changes in the industry, population, and urban spatial structure. This atlas illustrates Korea's natural environment in various maps. It is expected that this atlas will help readers comprehensively understand the land of Korea. This atlas will be a key reference for major policy formulation and decision-making, an important textbook for enhancing an understanding of and pride in our land, and a fundamental tool in promoting the Republic of Korea to the international community.

I am grateful to all the organizations and experts who have collected and organized a vast amount of data to accurately capture the changes in our land in *The National Atlas of Korea II 2020*. I would particularly like to express my gratitude and respect for the hard work of the National Geographic Information Institute and the Korean Geographical Association, who led the atlas production, and the domestic and foreign experts who provided valuable data and reviewed the atlas.

Maps accurately represent geographic reality and reflect worldviews such as beliefs and values that enable us to perceive the world around us properly through the framework they provide. Distributing and sharing information on the land builds the foundation for the nation's economic growth and helps develop the nation's democracy. I hope that the newly published *National Atlas of Korea II 2020* significantly contributes to achieving greater economic and social growth and leads to a democracy that embraces the worldview of a new era. In addition, I hope that *The National Atlas of Korea II 2020* will be widely used and loved not only by Korean people, but also by everyone in the world who wants to learn about Korea.

Thank you.

December 2020

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Preface

Since ancient times, our ancestors have published maps and texts about regional geography based on systematically collected information concerning the nature, history, society, and culture of each region of the nation. These maps and publications have been used to govern the nation. Continuing this tradition, the Korean government published two editions of the *National Atlas of Korea* (2007 and 2014–2016). *The National Atlas of Korea*, which details information about Korea's natural environment, politics, economy, society, and other human environments, is an official national document that records the current state of the country as well as changes through time by adopting state-of-the-art cartographic techniques, such as infographic methods.

The National Geographic Information Institute first published *The National Atlas of Korea* in 2007. From 2014 to 2016, three volumes of the second edition of *The National Atlas of Korea* were published: *Territory and History* (Volume I), *National Land and Natural Environment* (Volume II), and *National Land and Human Environment* (Volume III). The newly published *National Atlas of Korea II 2020* revises the content pertaining to Korea's natural environment that was published in 2015, describing aspects of the natural environment in more depth.

Chapter 1 (Lithosphere) describes the beauty and diversity of our land by explaining its landforms, geology, and soil. Chapter 2 (Biosphere) describes the various organisms living together with humans, and is divided into ecology, animals, and plants. Chapter 3 (Atmosphere and Hydrosphere) deals with weather, climate, hydrology, and oceans, which greatly influence our daily lives. Chapter 4 (Anthrosphere) explains various environmental changes and pollution created by human activities and efforts to overcome the problems caused by them.

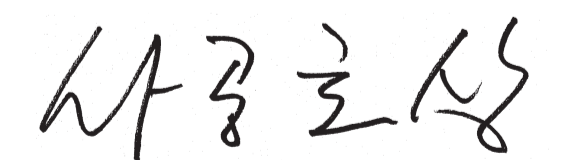
This revised edition adds new content, including the current status of the wind and solar power generation industry in Korea, discussion of ecosystem services, information regarding the soil and agriculture of North Korea, and data on the distribution of particulate matter across the nation, in order to reflect the changing characteristics of the physical environment in Korea and the interests of the Korean people. In addition, this revised edition further enhances visual quality by adopting state-of-the-art cartographic and infographic techniques while reflecting the most recent trends in the atlas industry.

I hope that *The National Atlas of Korea*, called *Daedong yeojido* in the 21st Century, will become an important reference for policymakers, a repository of academic information for scholars, and a useful set of textbooks for educators. Finally, I would like to thank all those who participated in publishing *The National Atlas of Korea II 2020*, including the Korean Geographical Society. I hope that everyone comes to better understand and love our land through *The National Atlas of Korea II 2020*.

December 2020

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