

4강유역



International Water Resources Specialists

**"It is very impressive
and creative"**

**The Landmark of Our River,
Magnificent Weirs
Open to the Public**

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Office of National River Restoration
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October 22nd

Simultaneous Opening of the Four Weirs Ipo Weir, Gongju Weir, Seungchon Weir, and Gangjeong Weir

Appointed as the most beautiful design among 16 weirs, Ipo Weir of the Han River attracts people's eyes with the sculptures symbolizing eggs of white heron, the mascot of Yeosu. The water square in front of the Ipo Weir has prepared the fun summer activities for families. Near the weir, auto-camping sites are organized as well as the sports facilities such as soccer fields, baseball fields, and the bike paths. In addition, the sites to experience nearby ecosystem are expected to become a novel picnic course.

There is a retention area constructed of approximately 1 million m² in size near the Ipo Weir. It is used as a resting area for the residents, while it becomes a water bowl and holds water in the rainy season. Like the old saying, it is catching two birds with one stone. It has been assessed that Yeosu, the frequently submerged area, was protected safely in the rainy season of this summer as a result of the construction of this retention area.

That day, the visitors of the Ipo Weir fell into the fresh autumn atmosphere as strolling on the pedestrian bridge. The 744m long bridge is a perfect fit for a walk or a bike-ride providing a great view down the Han River. The frequenter, Yong Hwan Kim who habitually visited the Ipo Weir on his way to the weekend farm said, "the Ipo Weir will become one of the representative tourist sites in the metropolitan area," and "the completion of the weir will boost up the Yeosu's local economy which have been relatively behind." A member of MTB (Mountain Bike) club, Yeong Woo Nam said "it only takes 40 to 50 minutes from the Yangpyeong station to the Ipo Weir on a bike," and he praised the path "it is fantastic to ride a bike as feeling the wind. Because the slope is gentle, the road is the best course for the beginners as well."

Yeosu has grabbed a new opportunity to leap much higher through the completion of three weirs' installation. Construction of a multi-use tourism district is in progress, as Yeosu municipal has invested KRW 496 billion in the project. The plan is to create a multi-use tourism district having villages, condominiums, waterfront cafés, an observatory, a culture and arts center, auto-camping sites, sports parks, and etc.

People have continually visited the Gangjeong Weir which connects Dalseong-gun, Daegu with Goryeong-gun, Kyeongsangbuk-do. Especially, the camera flashes are extra busy in front of The regional resident, Jungja Kim said, "I didn't know we had this much of space before. I like the widened river after the construction. After it is completed, the surroundings will be much better."

Gangjeong Weir is the largest in size among 16 weirs of the four rivers with 953.5m in length and 18 million tons in reservoir capacity. To maintain the water level and to prevent flood by discharging water, there are two large-scale rotational water gates of 45m in length and 11.6m in height. The regional characteristic of the Gaya dynasty was reflected upon its outer appearance; the pillars of weir resemble ancient battleships and the right section of fixed weir symbolizing Ureuk's Gayageum is drawing much attention.



An eye-catching feature of Gangjeong Weir is the stair-like structure of difference in height. Water flows along the structure with such distinguished sound. In the upstream of weir, there are an 8.8km bike path and a 24.3km nature walk as well as eco-green places and sports facilities. Nearby Naru Port was restored and Dalseong wetland is developed to welcome visitors. While the Gangjeong Weir is expected to become the regional landmark as a luxurious hot zone of the Nakdong River, the four story memorial cultural center in size of 3400 is under construction and anticipated to open in next June.

Gongju Weir and Seungchon Weir are also very crowded with family-based tourists. For the Gongju Weir, falling waterfall from the elaborate sculpture of pedestrian bridge was the eye-catching feature. The Gongju Weir embodied a phoenix which had stood for King Muryeong, the zenith of Baekje culture. The surrounding areas include Gomanaru (Goma ferry) with a legend of a bear in love with a lumberjack, Ungjinsa, Gongsan Fortress, and Songsan-ri ancient tomb providing the unique activities to experience the regional Baekje cultures. Yung soo Kim who has visited the Gongju Weir over the weekend said, "I am glad that the sedimentary sand islands have been disappeared due to the dredging work. I hope many people use the riverside parks and bike paths."

The design motive of the Seungchon Weir in the Yeongsan River is 'Seed of Life,' presenting the fertility of Hanam Plain. In the nearby areas created are the habitats for migratory

birds, rodents, and reptiles and spawning grounds for fish. The entire weir area was remodeled to become an eco-friendly space and will be loved by the urban residents and tourists. In addition, Hogageong (a pavilion) and Seochang Naru (port) are there to provide sightseers a great view of Seungchon Weir at a glance and the bike path connected to the migratory bird habitat in the Hwangryong River will soon become a popular tourist site.

1 Performance directed by a director, Jin Chaek Son at the Celebrating event for completion of the Ipo Weir

2 The celebratory performance at the waterfront stage of Gomanaru, the Geum River

3 The President Myung-Bak Lee and his party walking on the pedestrian bridge at the weir completion celebrating event

4 Citizens cycling along the bike path near Seungchon Weir





The 4 Rivers Field Report with International Water Resources Experts

“To See the Four Major Rivers Restoration Project with My Own Eyes, I am Very Impressed of the Creativity.”

The foreign specialists in water resources toured around the completed Four Major Rivers Restoration Project sites and expressed their opinions about the project. Dr. Klaus Arzet from Germany, Professor Stephen Drown from the United States, and Dr. Oda Hideaki from Japan have expressed their feelings via columns of a magazine or a press interview. The following is the related contents

There are weirs in the Isar River of Germany just like the ones in the Four Major Rivers Restoration Project.

The field manager of the Isar Plan, Dr. Klaus Arzet

The Isar River which runs through Munich, Germany is considered as ‘an emblem of river restoration’ to anti-four rivers restoration project activists.

Since 2000, Munich has removed concrete dykes covering the Isar River and restored its natural appearance of winding streams. The anti-activists are using the Isar River case as a tool to criticize the Four Major Rivers Restoration Project insisting, “Germany has brought back the rivers to more eco-friendly state, while Korea has been artificially excavating the rivers.”

Dr. Klaus Arzet, the person who was in charge of the Isar River Restoration Project (the Isar Plan) fields work, was assigned as the Munich Water Resources Administer in 2003 and has been in the seat commanding of the Isar Plan until today.

He has visited Korea in the beginning of last October and toured around construction sites of the Four Major Rivers Restoration Project with Hyo Seop Woo, the president of Korea Water Resources Association. He said, “I believe that the Four Major Rivers Restoration Project needed to happen and it is just like the Isar Plan for its one of main purposes is to restore rivers.” The following is a series of questions and answers from the interview with Dr. Arzet. (President Woo provided examples and background details in between to help supplementing for the technical terms and materials that required of an additional explanation.)

Tell us about the Isar Plan.

“At the end of the 19th century, the Isar River in Germany had been regulated and straightened into a canal-type for the better and more efficient use of the river resources. However, the artificially fortified embankments have narrowed down width of the river and have increased the risk for floods. The Isar Plan has broadened the riverbeds regulating the flow velocity, and lowered the water level. In addition, its shape has been modified to be more natural with the outer curves.”

In Korea, the Isar River is considered as an example of nature restoration.

“To be precise, its concept is not to forcefully restore nature but to reinstate it. And the main purpose of the Isar Plan was ensuring flood protection. Then, the next was creating a nature-oriented recreational riverside area for the residents and reinstating the nature.”

Were there any difficulties in the construction process?

“Just as in Korea, there were objections from the environmentalists and a few activists. The conflict of opinions on the restoration method had existed for a long time. But today, it is being assessed as a river with friendly green spaces for the urban residents.”

If you are to compare the Isar Plan and the Four Major Rivers Restoration Project,

“The Isar Plan is a regional project to restore 8km section of the river. Its size is much smaller than the nation-wide Four Major Rivers Restoration Project. The width of the Isar River is only several tens of meters, while that of the rivers in Korea could be sometimes longer than 1km. The precipitation rate near the Isar River is very constant year-round, but there are torrential peaks of the precipitation rate during the summer in Korea. The surrounding characteristics in geography, climate, and precipitation rate are very much different for those two projects so it is not easy to compare them.”

Could you tell us how you feel after visiting the Four Major Rivers Restoration Project sites?

“It feels different to witness it with my own eyes from to hear of it indirectly in Germany. I was also impressed to know it had made fish ways. It seems to have been concentrated in flood control as well as eco-friendly restoration of nature. Urban residential facilities such as bike paths are nicely constructed. The Four Major Rivers Restoration Project shares a lot of similarities with the Isar Plan in this respect. The common goal is to restore rivers.”

How would you evaluate the Four Major Rivers Restoration Project?

“I deeply agree with the necessity of the project in

respect to flood prevention, water resources management, leisure space creation, regional economy activation, and etc. I would like to study it further to investigate the unseen effects that are about to appear in the future.”

In Korea, cases of the Four Major Rivers Restoration Project being criticized by Germans have been introduced to public quite often. Hans Bernhart criticized it as “wide destruction of nature.” A Korean doctor living in Germany insisted that “there are no artificial weirs in the Isar River as of the Four Major Rivers Restoration Project,” quoting the words of Stephen Kirner who participated in the Isar Plan.

“It is not appropriate for me to evaluate (their statements). But I know Stephen Kirner very well since he has worked as a project manager in the project. However, we do have weirs in the Isar River sharing the similarities in function with the ones of the Four Major Rivers Restoration Project in Korea. I believe there has been some misunderstanding or miscommunication between them two. Currently, we are reviewing the needs of additional installation of the weirs and trying to find the point of agreement with environmental groups. Professor Bernhart has been adhering to the negative opinions on the development of rivers for a very long time.”

What needs to be considered in the Four Major Rivers Restoration Project?

“The outcome of a project is not going to be maintained by itself. After-work systemic maintenance must be prepared to keep the rivers in the perfect condition. It will harmonize the river and the society and further benefit human beings.”

Written by Haeyong Son, a journalist of Choongang ilbo

/ Printed on October 10th

Dr. Arzet and Hyoseop Woo, the chairman of Korea Water Resources Association are observing water quality of the downstream and the surroundings of the Seungchon Weir.



The First Word after Seeing the Sejong Weir, “Brilliant,” ‘Fish Way’ is a Creative Idea

Stephen Drown, an International Ecology Landscaping Specialist from Idaho State University

Professor Drown (the second from the left) is talking as he looks at the Sejong Weir.



He has given a good score in all of the aspects in size, technology, creative design, and accessibility on the Sejong Weir.



“It looks like ecology restoration is a keyword. It is brilliant.”

October 6th when the Baekje Weir of the Geum River was opened to the public after two years of construction, Professor Stephen Drown, an international ecology landscape architecture specialist in Idaho State University expressed a fragment of his impression on the surrounding areas of the Geum River with this saying.

Professor Drown is currently the head of Landscaping Environmental Program in architectural engineering department, and he has been giving lectures on ecology, landscaping, and forest science for the past 35 years. He is one of the founders committees and the vice president of Colour Columbus, a nonprofit organization of environmental beautification, and also has been

rewarded by the government for contributions he made to create eco-friendly spaces under collaboration with Columbus city, Ohio State. His first stop was at the Sejong Weir adjacent to the first village of Sejong City meeting the Geum River. Sejong weir is an underwater weir designed to be 348m long (with a 125m fixed weir and a 223m movable weir) and 2.8m to 4m in height and despite of its small size, it was reborn to be an ecological space with natural fish ways and a small hydroelectric power plant with capacity of 2310 kW (770kW x 3times).

“It is obvious to see the efforts to purify and circulate water. Water stagnation will never happen.” His statement has reversed claims of the anti-Four Major Rivers Restoration Project groups, “water will not circulate with weirs installation and its quality will be downgraded.”

The Sejong Weir holds a facility for water surface purification (aerator) inducing the circulation of water and preventing water quality downgrades due to sediments. Professor Drown said “If the weirs were too high, then the water would have brimmed over while the weir is in operation effecting the downstream of the river. But the height of this weir is just about right.” He has given a good score in all of the aspects in size, technology, creative design, and accessibility on the Four Major Rivers Restoration Project near the Geum River including the Sejong Weir.

At the Columbus River of the Ohio State where Prof. Drown used to live, large-scaled dams were developed between 1950 and 1960. For the facilities have gone obsolete and a few species were impeded to swim out to the ocean with time, an extensive maintenance construction was required. In fact, it is in progress and the parts of dams are being torn down. “It has been a long time since the development of the Columbus River. But if such technologies had been applied to dams near it from the beginning, it would not have been needed to procure and to spend large amount of resources again.” “The fish ways in the Sejong Weir are a creative example to display how human can coexist with nature,” he added. Especially he praised the nature walks near the river as “they have a powerful magnetism inviting humans to the waterfront area.”

“Still there are many people arguing that the Four Major Rivers Restoration Project is the destruction of nature.” And Prof. Drown replied, “Human and nature should not be separated. Human is a part of nature, and there is no way to benefit nature if human is not being benefited.” What it means is that dredging and the development of waterfront area are not an one-way development advancing only humans, but it is the ‘Collaboration’ between human and nature promoting better use of natural ecosystem for preventing flood and securing fresh water.

Written by Jiyong Lee, a journalist of Maeil Business Newspaper

/ printed on October 7th

Despite of Objections to Dredging the Nagara River in Japan, the Water Quality Improved after the Construction

Dr. Oda Hideaki, an Urban River Restoration Specialist in Japan

“The weirs harmonized in nature are very impressive.”

October 10th, Dr. Oda Hideaki(70) said “the design of weir representing Gaya earthenware and Gayageum is much more beautiful than I imagined,” when he visited the construction site of Gangjeong Weir in the Nakdong River between Gwagchon-ri of Dasan-myeon, Goryeong-gun, Gyeongbuk and Jukgok-ri of Dasa-eup, Dalseong-gun, Daegu.

Dr. Oda is an international expert of river maintenance who has been in charge of river domain in the Public Works Research Institute of Japan (like the Ministry of Land, Transport, and Maritime Affairs in Korea) for a very long time. He manages a NPO now for international businesses related to water resources and restoration of urban rivers. Gangjeong Weir is 953.5m in length and attracts the most attention among 16 weirs constructed in the four rivers for having the largest rotational water gate in Asia.

Dr. Oda has looked around the construction site very carefully and said “no way (with laughter)” brushing off the opinion that the Gangjeong Weir is at the early stage of ‘canal’ business. He added, “even if the boats try to move upstream from the bottom river, it is not possible for them to sail away since the weirs are obstructing the path.”

He viewed the assertion that the Four Major Rivers Restoration Project is the destruction of nature as an opinion neglecting the picture as a whole. He said with certainty, “In the beginning there might be damages from erosion and other changes, but problems as such will disappear with proficient management of water.” Relating some civil movements against the Four Major Rivers Restoration Project, Dr. Oda mentioned that there were objections from civic groups in Japan when Nagoya municipal of Aichi operated dredging within the Nagara River 10 years ago. The weir installation was carried out then to prevent overflows of sea water, while the civic groups protested raising their voices that it would destruct nature. As a result of the construction, however, the water quality was improved and the environment was recuperated. Dr. Oda said “the construction period of the Four Major Rivers Restoration Project was too short for it to be discussed thoroughly with many different social classes in advance. That would be the only drawback if I were to find one.”

Written by Younghun Jang, a journalist of Dongah ilbo / Printed on October 18th



Dr. Oda Hideaki (right) is talking to the field official at construction site of the Gangjeong Weir



Gangjeong Weir of the Nakdong River which Dr. Oda Hideaki said to be much more beautiful than what he had imagined

'The Masterpiece' which was considered of various functions just right for the characteristics of Korean Rivers

Professor Pierre Julien from Colorado State University, U.S.A



Professor Julien talking to the Minister Myung Pil Shim about the Ipo Weir

“It is as if a new paradigm is being suggested to the river restoration.”

Professor Pierre Julien, a water resources specialist from Colorado State University of USA assessed the Four Major Rivers Restoration Project with this saying.

Professor Julien is an expert of rivers and water resources in the States, and he has been recognized to be an erudite scholar especially in the subjects of sediment travel in weirs and dams of

the river. With near completion of the Ipo Weir in sight, Professor Julien was asked to give a comment after visiting sites of the Four Major Rivers Restoration Project for the second time. “Multiple functions to prevent flood, manage water resources, create eco-friendly eco system, and secure water-friendly facilities and leisure spaces are all fused together to grant an access to the most favorable solution and an artwork,” he said.

Next questions were related to his specialty, the possibility of sediments accumulation in the upper region of the weir. Professor Julien explained, “Generally the dams installed in reservoirs limit water discharge of the gates from upper stream to lower stream causing problems of sedimentation in the upper region of the dam. However, the Ipo Weir was not constructed to block the water flow between the upper region and the lower region, and height of the weir which plays a critical role holding water is relatively low compared to the dams. Therefore, the regional sedimentation, even if it occurs, will be naturally taken care of with small and large floods over the summer.”

About the matters that require attention after the Four Major Rivers Restoration Project, Professor Julien added, “The monitoring task is a must to continuously observe the way of rivers respond and adapt to the new environment. It is an optimum solution to maintain multiple achievements of the river restoration project in functionality and efficiency even long after the completion of the construction.”

Written by Seung Kyum Kim, International Public Relations Specialist

Professor Julien described the Ipo Weir as ‘the optimum solution and a masterpiece.’



Flood Damage in 50 years The Minister of the Foreign Affairs, Thailand “Will Learn Flood Control Project of Korea”



The Minister of Foreign Affairs in Thailand, Surapong Tovichakchaikul is listening to Myung Pil Shim, the Minister of the Office of National River Restoration on the Four Major Rivers Restoration Project at the Ipo Weir site.

A Field Trip to the Ipo Weir Appointed with Request of the Minister Surapong

The minister of Foreign Affairs in Thailand, Surapong Toyichakchaikul visited the Four Major Rivers Restoration Project sites on his way back from attending the 1st Mekong-ROK Foreign Minister's Meeting held in Seoul on October 27th and 28th. This trip was engaged with the request from the minister Surapong himself. When he was in an event of Jae Hong Lim the ambassador's inaugural address on October 26th, he mentioned “I believe I can get some ideas of flood control from the Four Major Rivers Restoration Project of Korea.” In addition, he expressed his desire to pay a visit saying “During this visit, I must go to see the water resources management sites of Korea. Please arrange a meeting.”

The Minister Surapong who came with the ambassadorial party of 15 people including the Thai ambassador in Korea, Chaiyong Satjipanon was full of admiration for the entire time of field trip exclaiming “exceptional” over and over. He has also asked many questions after comprehensively going through the promotional pamphlet of the Four Major Rivers Restoration Project.

The Minister Surapong asked, “What are the secrets resulting in almost-zero damage despite of the torrential rainfall this summer?” “We could withstand the rainfalls by installing multi-

purpose weirs to adjust water level and by dredging riverbeds to enlarge water reservoir,” replied Myung Pil Shim, the Minister of the Office of National River Restoration.

Dispatching a team to Korea to learn the special method of water management

The Minister Surapong reported the current status of Thailand as the worst flooding situation in the past 50 years, “The flood damage in Thailand had happened mostly by the overflow of the Chao Phraya River, which runs across the downtown Bangkok.” He stressed desperately that “the submerged area is an international breadbasket that we must prevent flooding to secure food supply of Asia.”

After the field trip, the Minister Surapong expressed the broad applicability of the Four Major Rivers Restoration Project of Korea in Thailand for disasters prevention against flood and torrential rainfall. He stated that he will report back to the Prime Minister of Thailand, Yingluck Shinawatra about the Four Major Rivers Restoration Project and soon dispatch a team of executives to be inherited of the know-how.

Written by Hyun seop Song, a journalist of New Daily Press



“The Four Major Rivers Restoration Project is an Earthly Alternative to Water Related Problems of the Globe, Presented by Korea”



800 Domestic and Overseas Experts Participated in and Paid Much Attention on the Four Major Rivers Restoration Project

Under the theme of River Restoration for Green Growth, 800 of the experts from 20 different countries participated in this international conference, and the guests and speakers included; Hwang Sik Kim, the Prime Minister, Young Sook Yoo, the Minister of the Environment, Soo Gil Yang, the Chairman of Presidential Committee on Green Growth, members of OECD, UNESCAP, MWH (England), NIES (Japan), faculties of Technical University of Hamburg (Germany), James Cook University (Australia), various international organizations, specialists from universities, international professionals, domestic officials, and principle researchers.

The Prime Minister, Hwang Sik Kim announced the successful outcome of the project and said, “The Four Major Rivers Restoration Project is a pan-governmental core business that will enforce national competitiveness by securing abundant water resources and by preventing floods.” Young Sook Yoo, the Minister of the Environment emphasized the eco-friendly aspect of the project in her welcome address, “The Four Major Rivers Restoration Project has been carried out as preserving the riparian ecosystem despite of all the worries and concerns from the environmental groups and some citizens.” And

she added, “In the reality of annual precipitation rate per person being merely one-eighth of the world average, I believe that the Four Major Rivers Restoration Project is a good solution to prepare ourselves against water shortages.” Myung Pil Shim, the Minister of the Office of National River Restoration stated that the Four Major Rivers Restoration Project is nearly coming to the finish. He continued, “People who were against the project have almost changed his or her opinion after their visits to the site and now support the idea of this project. It could have been better if the benefits and objectives of the project were thoroughly announced to the citizens in the beginning.”

The Conference was programmed to have a field trip to Ipo Weir and Gangcheon Weir of the Han River on 8th followed by an academic forum on 7th. Consisting of five regular sessions and two special sessions, the forum has created the place for a good discussion of green growth and proceeding strategies. During the session of ‘Revitalization of Waterfront Tourism and Culture and Regional Development,’ discussions on the riverside tourism and the local growth were carried out very actively. In the session of ‘Water Related Policies and Industry’ session, water industry status and prospects were introduced at home and abroad with examples of Indonesia, Thailand, and Cambodia.

At the exhibition booths of Lotte Hotel where the conference was held, the Four Major Rivers Restoration Project Exhibition and related photo exhibition were organized displaying the purpose and the progress of project at a glance.

Cycling on the Bike Path after Visiting the Ipo Weir and Gangcheon Weir

On the first day of ‘Water and Green Growth’ forum at Jamsil Lotte Hotel, Soo Gil Yang, the Chairman of Presidential Committee on Green Growth said in his keynote address, “Through the Four Major Rivers Restoration Project, it is expected to resolve water shortage phenomena, to act in response against climate changes such as drought and flood, to decrease cost of damage restoration, and to create green employment.” “The Four Major Rivers Restoration Project is not a simple way to preserve ecosystem but an effective alternation to cope with the on-going climate change,” he added.

Anthony Cox, the Environment Directorate OECD participated in ‘Water and Green Growth’ session declared, “Water resources are a fundamental

issue in the green growth of OECD as well. The appropriate management of water resources helps economic growth and development.” Professor Philippe Gourbesville from University of Nice-Sophia Antipolis participated in the session called ‘Water Resources and River Basin Management’ said, “The Four Major Rivers Restoration Project include the major rivers that run across the country such as the Han River, the Geum River, the Nakdong River, and the Yeongsan River and is in a comprehensive size supplementing the social, environmental, and economical needs. Considering the size and difficulty level of the project, it could be a solution to the global issues suggested by Korea.”

The academic forum on the first day was followed by the field trip on the second day. Approximately 90 participants at home and abroad visited the Ipo Weir and Gangcheon Weir sites and witnessed outcome of the Four Major Rivers Restoration Project with their own eyes. They enjoyed the riverside wind cycling on the bike path near the Ipo Weir in Dangnam District. They paid much attention with interest in the results and effects of the Four Major Rivers Restoration Project as watching the promotional video at the information center of Gangcheon Weir.

The significance of this event was to share experience in the Four Major Rivers Restoration Project with many different countries and to suggest a new paradigm in water resources management. In addition, the positive image of the Four Major Rivers Restoration Project will be expanded to worldwide and it will further become the sturdy foundation to export water related technologies.



Introducing the Four Rivers Restoration Project

“Water in the Green Growth Economy in Practice Towards Rio+20” was held on the 1st of last October in Zaragoza, Spain. It was a meeting in which each case of water-savings from countries was intensively discussed in order to prepare UN’s Rio+20. Korea was invited by host and attended to present the Four Major Rivers Restoration Project.

Environment Administrator Cha explained that a scope of this project was bigger than that of any other precedents at his presentation and presented details as well. There were several important issues raised.

First, “How financial management was made through the project?” Secondly, “What was the social conflict between stakeholder parties on the restoration project and how this conflict was started and handled?”

Thirdly, “How the stakeholders participated in this project?” Lastly, “What is the effect of this project and what was expected from it?” According to the Four Major Rivers Restoration

Project, researches on Water for Green Growth with WWC, Ministry of Land, Transport and Maritime Affairs, K-water and Korea water Forum were also introduced. It was such a meaningful event which informed the Four Major Rivers Restoration Project as an example of green growth and green economy to the world. It positively affected Korea to keep positioning as a strongly water-managing country.

The “Towards a GREEN ECONOMY” report introduces the four major rivers restoration project as an example of Green Growth. In the water chapter from the “Towards a GREEN ECONOMY”, published by UNEP(UN Environment Programme), it was written that the Four major rivers restoration project was a case which successfully adopted the Green Growth by restoring the rivers. In the introduction of Korea’s Four Major Rivers Restoration Project, it was announced that KWR 22 trillion was invested as a part of the green growth strategy, and 34,000 jobs have been created indicating the economic surplus of KWR 40 trillion. It was also announced that this project had several goals to achieve, which are to prevent water-scarcity, to control flood and water quality, to restore ecosystem, to develop along the river, and to create culture and recreation spaces. Many general topics about the green economy including global transformation to green economy, energy and resource efficiency, and investment in nature were discussed.



Experience of Kathleen Stephens, the previous U.S. Ambassador in Korea at the Bike Path of the South Han River

“After cycling along the bike path of the South Han River, it feels really good.”

Kathleen Stephens, the previous U.S. Ambassador in Korea cycled along the bike path of the South Han River on October 18th. The course she took initiated from the Misari Boat Race Course through Paldang Bridge, the South Han River Recycled Railroad Route, Yangsu-ri Station, and to the Jamsil Olympic Park. Ja Yeol Koo, the president of Korea Cycle Federation and Dong Hwan Kim, the president of ProCycle accompanied ambassador Kathleen Stephens.

Ever since the ambassador Stephens was assigned to be in Korea, she had been actively participated in the bicycle-related events. She was highly interested in cycling. She wanted to participate in the last event of the South Han River bike path opening on October 8th, but she had to be on a business trip relating to the President Tour. “If I could stay a little bit longer in Korea, I would have cycled on all of bike paths in the four rivers,” she added.

She was especially interested in the recycled railroad of the South Han River between Paldang Station and Yanggeun Bridge and enjoyed chatting and taking memorial pictures with the urban residents of Yangpyeong-gun.



Dean of the College of Engineering, Colorado State University, Visiting the Office of National River Restoration

Sandra Woods, dean of the College of Engineering, Colorado State University, visited the Office of National River Restoration with her colleagues on October 24th. Colorado State University is a prestigious school in the field of water resources and has many graduates of water resources specialists in Korea. There has been much exchange in knowledge and information as a Professor Pierre Julien from the University participated in the international forum of the Four Major Rivers Restoration Project. The Dean, Woods was very much interested in the fact that the Four Major Rivers Restoration Project included the solution to water-related issues such as drought and flood caused by climate change as well as to water quality enhancement. In addition, she was surprised by the fact that the dredging of the accumulated sedimentary soil within the riverbeds and installing 16 weirs were all completed with domestic technology in two years.

The emeritus professor Justin Harper who was a vice president for research of Colorado State University gave an opinion that the Four Major Rivers Restoration Project will restore the environment and enhance local development as well as fundamentally resolve water-related problems with no doubt. In addition, he was interested in the future exchange of knowledge suggesting a lecture on the Four Major Rivers Restoration Project at Colorado State University.



Memorial stamps were issued for "the Four Major Rivers Project"

On the 21st of October, memorial stamps were issued for remembering "Celebration of New waves in the four rivers" which was simultaneously held at the Ipo Weir of the Han River, the Gongju Weir of the Geum River, the Seungahon Weir of the Yeongsan River and the Gangjeong Weir of the Nakdong River.

The Korean post office under the Ministry of Information Economy designed images of four weirs above and published four different kinds of stamps and they were sold in all of domestic post offices.

The Best 10 Spots of the Four Rivers for Autumn Photo Sketch



with completion of the Four Major Rivers Restoration Project. We expect to have increased tourists in this fall, so we ended up appointing good spots that will provide nice background of changed riverside views to the tourists."

The Office of National River Restoration has assigned and announced 10 spots near the four rivers that will capture the best scenery of autumn. These places are appointed with the recommendations of 5 different photo experts who are in charge of seasonal recording of the four rivers. Three spots were appointed in the Han River, the Ipo Weir, Yongseum with Tangeumdae, and Jaraseum and the surrounding riverside eco-parks. For the Geum River, Hapgangjeong and reeds field in Shinseong-ri were chosen. And for the Yeongsan River, reeds wetland and the sunset from the Yeongsan Dam, Seokgwanjeong port and Hwangpo sailboats have won. Lastly, appointed Oriseum viewed from the observatory of the Bibong Mountain, Dodongsoewon viewed from Daramjae, and Eulsukdo habitat for the migratory birds in the Nakdong River.

The Office of National River Restoration has declared, "Beautiful scenic views have been increased in number