

Korea's Politics of Green Growth : Background, Progress and Characteristics

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I. Introduction

- The **Green Growth Policy** is one of the highest policy priorities of the Lee Myung-bak Administration.
- Korea's Green Growth is also based on the premise of **the energy-climate crisis**, just like developed countries' climate change policy.
- However, the background of Korea's Green Growth Policy is **different** from that of developed countries.
 - Since 60s, Korea has strived to **modernize its industries** and now turns out to be the most **successful model**.
 - Korean believe that Korea should continue industrial development.
 - They feel **less responsible** for climate change than developed countries.

II. Historical Changes in Perception of Growth Model

- In this regard, the green growth policy of Lee's Administration marks a **significant turning point** on Korea's path to economic growth.
- Making a shift from the development-environment trade-off to the **eco-modernization** paradigm.
- Historical milestones have also provided a good reason for Korea to establish a new paradigm.
- Korea adopted green growth as the new engine for eco-modernization on the 60th anniversary of the foundation of Korea.



Last 60 years ;
Economic growth



Next 60 years ;
Green growth



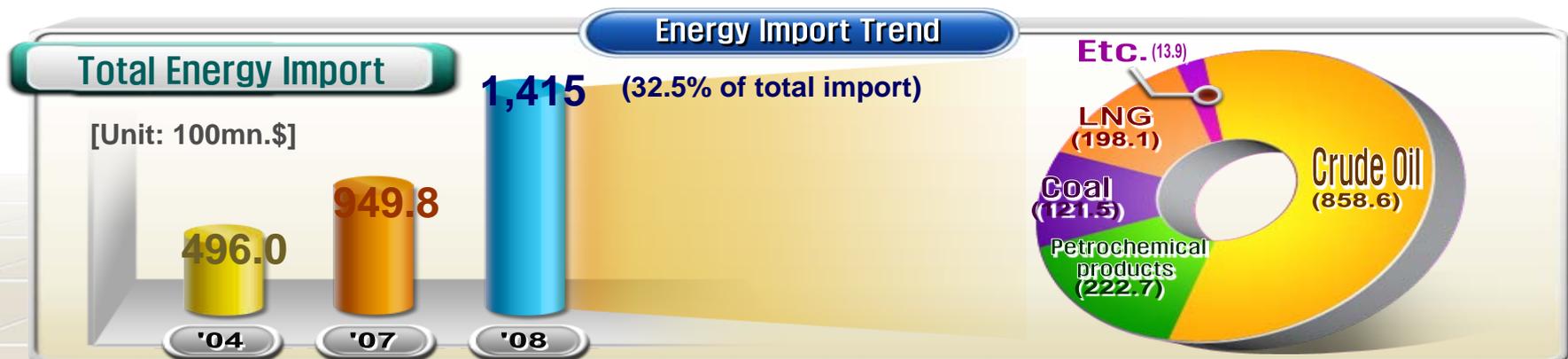
III. Political Leadership Creates Opportunity for Paradigm Shift

- For all ages and countries, **political leadership** plays a critical role in setting a **new direction for a country**.
- As for the President Lee,
 - Though nicknamed “bulldozer” due to his reputation during the career at Hyundai, he has focused on **eco-friendly** projects such as Cheonggyecheon restoration, Seoul Forest, Smart public transportation while serving as the Mayor of Seoul
 - The basis of Green Growth policy is laid down on the same philosophy which he had pursued as the Mayor of Seoul



IV. Green Growth : Indispensable Choice for Korea

- Korean peninsula is experiencing more **severe climate change phenomenon** than any other countries.
 - Average temp. has risen by **1.7°C** over the past century, which is more than twice the global average.
 - More occurrence of **torrential downpour** and **prolonged drought**
- Korea **imports 97% of the energy needs**, since there is little fossil fuel.
 - The lack of domestic energy resources and the resultant vulnerability to the oil price fluctuation can serve as a **stimulus for developing alternative energy**.



Export of petrochemical products (37.68bn.\$)

V. The proactive Nature of Korea's Green Growth Policy

- Korea, a Non-Annex1 party , intends to not only **implement low carbon measures**, but also **utilize technological breakthrough** by implementing the measures as a **new national growth engine**.
- Priority fields as growth engine
 - Secondary cell
 - Smart grid
 - Nuclear power plants
 - etc.



Uljin Nuclear Power Plant

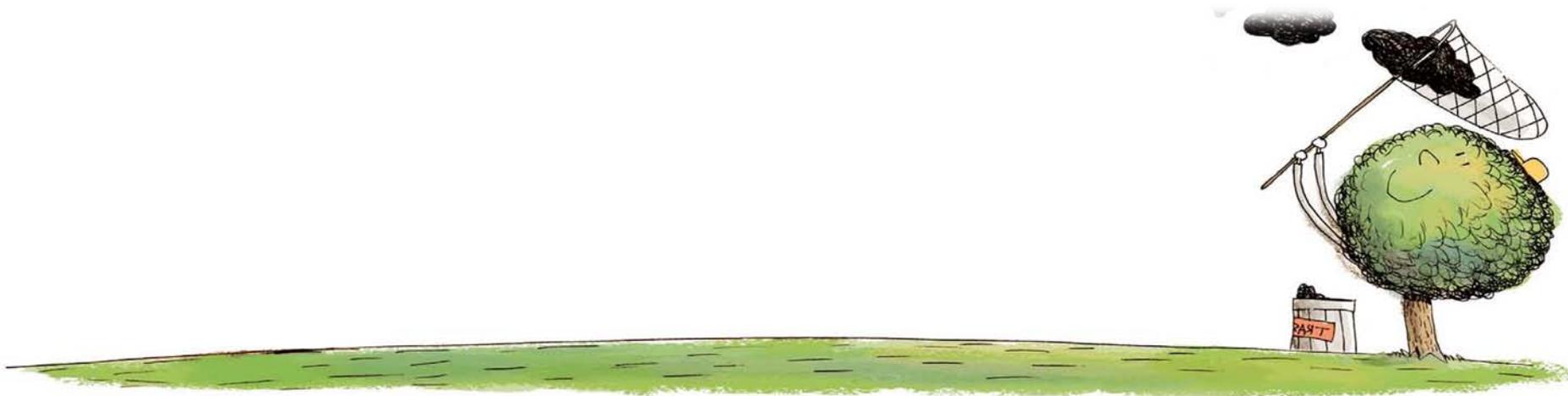
VI. Korean Society's Acceptance of the Green Growth Policy

- Korea is not an exception to the so-called **Giddens' dilemma**.
- However, the National Assembly passed the “**Framework Act on Green Growth**” with bipartisan agreement at the end of 2009.
- There seems to be high expectation that green growth will become the **future industry in the private sector**.
 - We need to overcome problems that high expectation are sure to accompany.
 - “**Greenwash**” and “**Green Divide**”.



VII. Possibility of Successful Green Growth in Korea

- Since **eco-modernization** is an **unprecedented paradigm**, it is not easy to estimate the chances of success or the socio-economic costs.
- Looking back to seek the counsel of history, Korea's past indicates that the nation has already successfully completed **two green revolutions**.
 - Achieved **self-sufficiency in rice**, the principal grain crop of Korea
 - Succeeded in **restoring forests and mountains** ravaged by colonization and war



VIII. National Tasks which Appeal to Korean Citizens

- In order to establish green growth as a national task, we need to embrace the **expectation of the people**.
- Now, people are starting to perceive the “low carbon green growth” policy as **the solution to break the standstill of GDP per capita**.
- President Lee’s administration focuses on (i) recovery of economy, (ii) securing clean water, and (iii) **rehabilitation of the four major rivers** to implement the “low carbon green growth”.
- Recalling the afforestation led by the 3rd Republic era(1961-1979) which ignited industrial modernization,
- currently focusing on “**clean water**” which is believed to become a symbol of the successful green growth.





Thank you