

# THE NATIONAL ATLAS OF KOREA

## III

MINISTRY OF LAND, INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORT  
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION INSTITUTE





# Foreword to The National Atlas of Korea

Through our rich cultural heritage, we can feel our ancestors’ interest in and love of the land as we continue to celebrate our land and history today. In particular, our ancestors put great effort into recording and documenting information about our land by making maps, atlases, and geography books for future generations. During the Joseon Dynasty, large-scale publication projects such as Daedong yeojido, Sejong sillok jiriji, and Paldo jiriji not only documented natural and cultural phenomena of the time in great detail, but also helped officials determine main policies for national defense and administration. Thus, it is important to continue the tradition of accurately documenting our land by publishing maps, atlases, and geography books, and to reinterpret traditions for modern times.

As a national record, The National Atlas of Korea is an official reference for understanding the current state of and changes in Korea, her land, and her people. In 2007, The National Atlas of Korea was published for the first time. Revisions to the Atlas began in 2014. The new edition has been expanded to three volumes: Territory (Volume 1), Physical Geography (Volume 2), and Human Geography (Volume 3). In 2014, Volume 1 of the second edition was published, reflecting the rapid transformation and changes to our land and lifestyle that have occurred over a relatively short period. Presented here are volumes 2 and 3. Each volume meticulously documents and illustrates the details of Korea’s physical and human environments.

I expect these newly published volumes of the second edition of The National Atlas of Korea can serve not only as important official records portraying the changes in our land, but also as useful references internationally to Korea’s stance on the issues of national defense, diplomacy, and culture.

My sincere gratitude is extended to everyone involved in the newly revised edition of The National Atlas of Korea. Special thanks are due to the scholars at the Korean Geographical Society, officials of the National Geographic Information Institute, and also to the officials at the central governments and public institutions for providing and reviewing the valuable information in their repositories.



Kang, Hoin

Minister, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport

## Preface

Our nation's land has unique human geographical features that have been created by our people's struggles for survival in the harsh physical environments of the Korean Peninsula. Despite its relatively small size, the Peninsula consists of very diverse human geographical landscapes due to the historical and geographical accumulation of a wide range of human activities and civilizations on our nation's land. The National Geographic Information Institute publishes The National Atlas of Korea to capture the rich heritage of Korea's land and her people.

The NGII published The National Atlas of Korea for the first time in 2007. In order to reflect recent changes to our land, in 2014 revisions of the Atlas began, and Volume 1 of the second edition, The National Atlas of Korea: Our Territory and History, was published that same year. Volume 1, a comprehensive volume dealing with both physical and human geographical features, includes four major sections: The Territory of Korea, Government and Local Autonomy, The Transformation and Development of the Land, and Korea in the World.

Presented here is Volume 3 of the newly revised edition of the Atlas. Volume 3, The National Atlas of Korea: Human Geography, focuses on human geographical features. In particular, this volume addresses diverse issues related to the transformation and sustainable development of our national territory and human life. The first chapter, National Territory and Places of Life, provides various maps showing how our people have used and developed our national territory by focusing on urbanization, housing, and sustainable land development. The second chapter, Population and Living, describes the transformation of our national territory by showing maps on the growth, changes, and spatial movements and distribution of populations and households. The third chapter, Industrial Activities, addresses the geographical distribution of and changes in industrial and economic activities, and the spatial features of employment and labor. The fourth chapter, Society and Culture, describes our people's lifestyles and civic frameworks, including such aspects as food, clothing, leisure, sports, social relations, religion, politics, public health and welfare, and education.

The National Atlas of Korea is an official reference on Korean territory and the economic, social, and cultural activities of Korean people. As an official record, The National Atlas of Korea certainly will be the most appropriate educational guide to promote an accurate understanding of our land to future generations. Moreover, I expect that The National Atlas of Korea, with names of localities in the indigenous language, will circulate a truthful understanding of Korea's human environments internationally. To international scholars of Korean studies, this publication certainly will provide abundant and invaluable research material. To further this end, the National Geographic Information Institute pledges to continuously provide national atlases filled with Korea's most updated cultural data.



Choe, Byong-Nam

Director General, National Geographic Information Institute

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