**THE**

**NATIONAL**

**ATLAS**

**OF KOREA**

**Ⅰ**

**MINISTRY OF LAND, INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORT**

**NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION INSTITUTE**

**Foreword to The National Atlas of Korea**

Remembrances of our lives can be preserved in various ways: a song, a painting, or a novel can capture a moment or event well. Map making is another good means of preserving our experiences and history. I assume that Kim Jeongho, the author of the treasured national map, Daedong yeojido, devoted his whole life to commemorating the life of ordinary Korean people in a map.

Presented here is the newly revised edition of The National Atlas of Korea. The National Atlas of Korea documents the current state of Korea, her land and her people, along several humanistic-social dimensions. These include territory and territorial water; government and local autonomy; national economy, industry, and spatial planning; Korea in the world; and more. Thus, The National Atlas of Korea is a precious national record.

In the few short years since the first edition of The National Atlas of Korea (2007), our land and lifestyle have experienced rapid transformation. Comprehending and recording such changes precisely and creatively, therefore, is crucial to the historical record. The purpose of such documentation, beyond simple record-keeping, is to strengthen our love for our land and to confi rm our value system and Korean identity.

I expect this newly revised edition of The National Atlas of Korea will be the keystone for disseminating information about the physical, social, economic, and cultural changes in our land and people’s lives. In this era of globalization and unlimited international competition, this precious national archive will contribute greatly to promoting Korea’s territorial sovereignty and national status throughout the world.

My sincere gratitude is extended to everyone involved in this edition of The National Atlas of Korea. Special thanks are due to the scholars at the Korean Geographical Society and offi cials of the National Geographic Information Institute for selecting, writing, and editing contents; and also to the officials at the central and local governments and public institutions for providing and reviewing the valuable information at their disposal.

**Suh, Seoung-hwan**

**Minister, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport**

**Preface**

***Our nation’s land consists of diverse landscapes. Panoramic views of our land best refl ect our people’s struggles and*** triumphs. To this end, the National Geographic Information Institute (NGII) hereby publishes The National Atlas of Korea, which captures the rich heritage of Korea’s land and the joys and sorrows of her people.

In 2007, The National Atlas of Korea was published for the first time. Since then, some locales have maintained essentially the same character, while many others have experienced signifi cant changes. In particular, the relocation of the central government to Sejong Special Self-governing City, and of major public institutions to several newly developed special administrative districts around the country, has substantially transformed our land. This edition of The National Atlas of Korea results from our endeavor to understand these changes from various perspectives and document them in an easily accessible fashion.

Beginning this year and extending over the next three years, the National Geographic Information Institute plans to publish one atlas annually (in Korean and English), focusing on different topics. In addition, The National Atlas of Korea for Young Readers and the United Nations’ official language edition of The National Atlas of Korea are planned for publication. Thus, this 2014 National Atlas of Korea is the fi rst publication of this three-year venture.

The National Atlas of Korea, 2014 has four major sections. The first chapter, Territory, is a precise cartographic description of Korea’s territory and territorial waters from historical viewpoints. The second chapter, Government and Local Autonomy, uses maps to comprehensively cover the national assembly, executive government, judiciary process, and local autonomy structure. The third chapter, The Transformation and Development of the Land, describes the transformation of the national territory and its human settlements, national and regional territorial planning, economy, and industrial activities. Lastly, the fourth chapter, Korea in the World, discusses our diplomacy, international trade and investment, and our international development and cooperation as well as the recent Korean Wave.

A national atlas is an offi cial reference for a nation regarding its territory and the economic, social, and cultural activities of its people. As an offi cial 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 physical and 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 fi lled with Korea’s most updated physical and cultural data.

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