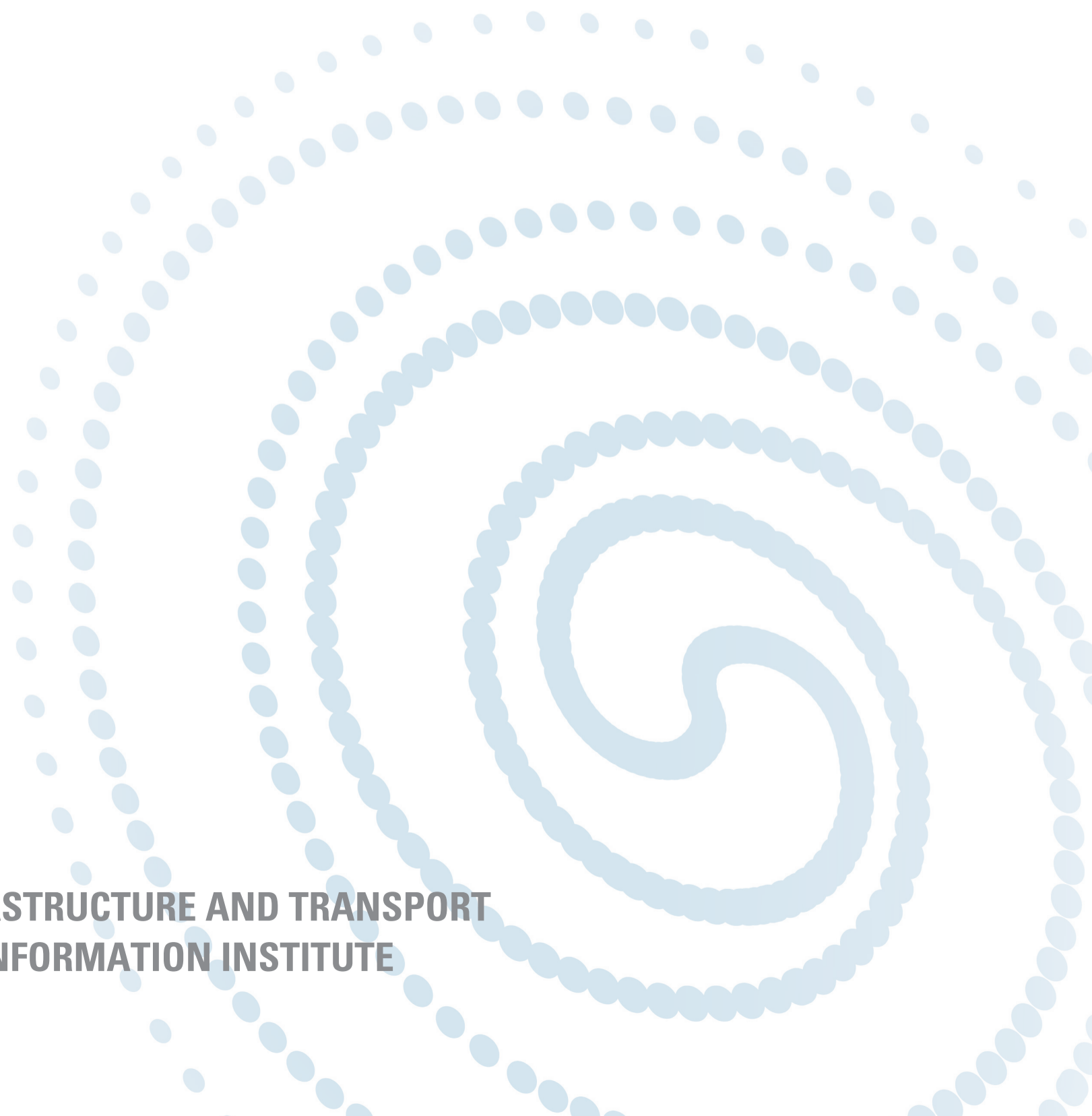


THE NATIONAL ATLAS OF KOREA I 2019

MINISTRY OF LAND, INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORT
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION INSTITUTE



Foreword to The National Atlas of Korea

A national atlas, which depicts not only the land, but also the political, economic, social, and cultural activities of a country, is an official document of national power. Nations with strong economic status and great achievements in science and technology consistently publish more accurate and reliable collections of their national atlases.

Korea has succeeded in commercializing the world's first 5th generation mobile communication in 2019 and leads the era of the Fourth Industrial Revolution by ranking as number one in the fields of macroeconomic stability and information and communications technology, according to the National Competitiveness Assessment conducted by the World Economic Forum (WEF) in 2019.

This new edition of *The National Atlas of Korea* is an encyclopedia of the land that contains the latest developments and the latest information on Korean territory and its people's lives.

This atlas will be a beneficial and essential resource in realizing the vision of the Fifth Comprehensive National Territorial Plan, which will guide the next 20 years of our nation. In addition, this atlas will make it easier for people to acquire and use information about our nation and will be an excellent reference for scholars at home and abroad who are studying Korea. This atlas will also serve as a textbook to properly teach future generations about our land and heritage, and as promotional material to publicize territorial sovereignty and the status of Korea in the world to the international community.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the scholars at the Korean Geographical Society and the officials of the National Geographic Information Institute involved in the publication of *The National Atlas of Korea*. Special thanks go to the officials of the central and local governments and public institutions who provided valuable data and carefully reviewed the atlas.

I hope that *The National Atlas of Korea* will fulfill its role as a historical record representing the identity of the Republic of Korea and will become a comprehensive geography book that is beloved by the people.

December 2019

Kim, Hyun-mee

Minister, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kim Hyun Mee". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style. It is placed on a light gray rectangular background.

Preface

The National Geographic Information Institute of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport produced and distributed three National Atlases of Korea (Territory and History, Physical Geography, and Human Geography) at home and abroad over the three years from 2014 to 2016. *The National Atlas of Korea*, which illustrates Korea's territory, economy, society, culture, and history in charts and maps, has been widely used in various fields. *The National Atlas of Korea* is a world-class atlas that won the Grand Prize of the national atlas division in the 29th International Cartographic Association in 2017.

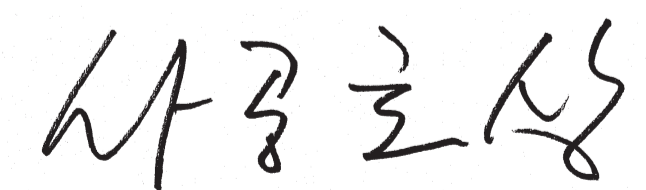
With the recent development of technology and economic growth, the land and people's life of Korea has changed very rapidly. There has been an increasing demand for updating national atlases in a timely manner. Accordingly, the National Geographic Information Institute has published *The National Atlas of Korea 2019*, Volume I (Territory and History) as a revised edition of *The National Atlas of Korea*, Volume I, published in 2014. Following the revision of Volume I, the National Geographic Information Institute will publish the revisions of Volume II (Physical Environment) and Volume III (Human Environment) to provide the latest information on Korean territory and people more accurately and promptly.

The National Atlas of Korea, called *Daedong yeojido* of the 21st century, is the official reference on Korea, produced using state-of-the-art cartographic and infographics techniques, in collaboration with leading domestic and international experts. I expect that *The National Atlas of Korea* will be actively used as a resource for national development policymaking and widely used as a textbook for territorial education. I also look forward to the international community broadening and deepening its understanding of Korea and thereby developing an affinity for our nation through these national atlases. Toward this end, the National Geographic Information Institute pledges to continue disseminating the most up-to-date editions of *The National Atlas of Korea*.

December 2019

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Director General, National Geographic Information Institute



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