

THE NATIONAL ATLAS OF KOREA

Comprehensive Edition



Preface

The National Atlas of Korea vividly portrays the nature, economy, society, and culture of the Republic of Korea in the form of maps, diagrams, and illustrations; it is also a trusted, authoritative record that officially declares the boundaries of the territory and territorial waters of Korea. Published by the National Geographic Information Institute since 2007, *the National Atlas of Korea* is widely used in government, academia, and education, both within and outside of Korea, and has been praised for its high standard of composition and content.

In 2017, the National Geographic Information Institute published *The National Atlas of Korea: Comprehensive Edition* to help youth in other countries understand Korea more accurately. This edition of the *National Atlas of Korea* has received a great response from young people around the world. Since then, with the land and people's lives of the Republic of Korea undergoing rapid changes, there has been strong demand for the national atlas for youth to be revised using the latest data. Accordingly, the National Geographic Information Institute cooperated with the best experts in each field at home and abroad to faithfully reflect the latest information on the Korean territory and apply state-of-the-art map-making techniques and infographics techniques to publish *The National Atlas of Korea: Comprehensive Edition (2023)*, the first updated edition in five years.

The National Atlas of Korea: Comprehensive Edition (2023) consists of 7 chapters. Chapter 1 presents a composite overview of the Korean Peninsula. Chapter 2 describes the spatial extent of Korea and the history of its territory, with insights into the relationship between North and South Korea. Chapter 3 examines the physical and biological systems that characterize the beautiful landscapes of the Korean Peninsula. Chapter 4 highlights aspects of Korean culture that are gaining popularity worldwide. Chapter 5 documents Korea's remarkable transformation and economic growth that have placed it among the top nations in the world for quality of life. Chapter 6 explains how Korea monitors various environmental phenomena, maintaining its unique ecosystems and biodiversity for all to enjoy. Finally, Chapter 7 illustrates the strong international ties between Korea and the rest of the globe.

Ensuring that the people of Korea can have good lives in any of its regions and contributing globally to freedom, peace, and prosperity are key policy objectives of the Yoon Seok-yeol administration. *The National Atlas of Korea*, nicknamed the cutting-edge *Daedong yeojido* of the 21st century, is expected to be fully utilized as baseline data for establishing national land policies and balanced regional development policies, in addition to being widely used as the best educational material for national land education. I hope all members of the international community will see what Korea is all about through *The National Atlas of Korea* and love Korea more than ever. The National Geographic Information Institute promises to do its best to continue to provide the technology and data that is making everyday life more convenient for Koreans and contributing to smart planning for the 21st century that is an example for the world.

March 2023

Cho, Woosug
Director General, National Geographic Information Institute
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