



# REPUBLIC OF KOREA

## Water and Waste Water Market Brief 2009

### Korea: Important Links & Contacts for further information

Ministry of Knowledge Economy - <http://www.mke.go.kr/language/eng/index.jsp>  
Korea Water Resource Management Corporation - <http://english.kwater.or.kr/>  
Environmental Management Corporation - <http://www.emc.or.kr/eng/front.asp>  
Ministry of Construction and Transportation - <http://english.mltm.go.kr/intro.do>  
Korean Ministry of Environment - <http://www.me.go.kr/> (in Korean)

### Market Overview

Korea's water and waste water market is estimated to be worth USD 10 billion and is steadily growing, according to the Korean Ministry of Environment (MOE). In 2009, the government spent an estimated USD 2.1 billion on water management projects. This accounts for 62 percent of the entire environmental market, which is assessed at about USD 3.4 billion.

Korea is classified as a water-stressed nation with a water rate intake of 36 percent. Furthermore, in recent years the water usage of Korea has become increasingly vulnerable due to climate change. As a response to these problems, the Korean government is promoting water management, including a large-scale restoration project of its four main rivers, as the core component of its "Green New Deal" plan. The goal of the overall plan is to achieve eco-friendly economic growth via substantial injections of public funds.

Under this plan, the Korean government will invest a combined USD 17.8 billion by 2012 to improve water quality and prevent natural disasters from impacting the nation's four major rivers. The government plans to remove mud from the bottom of the rivers, build two small and medium-sized dams, and create sixteen reservoirs to secure 1.3 billion tons of fresh water. As a result, the water quality will advance up to "Grade 2", a level at which most aquatic life can be sustained. The construction work is set to begin in October 2009.

Korea's plans numerous water management projects that will focus on enhancing water quality, water supplies, and sewage services. This will involve retrofitting sewer pipelines in conjunction with constructing and developing municipal, livestock, and industrial wastewater treatment plants under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Environment (MOE). Supply side improvements including multi-purpose dam construction, flood prevention management and water supply development for industry, agriculture and drinking purposes will be under the authority of the Ministry of Knowledge Economy (MKE).

Companies and local communities operate the sewage services, including wastewater reclamation-and-reuse systems, drainage facilities, and sewage processing plants. Currently, there are 403 municipal sewage treatment factories nationwide, and the Korean government constructs over 30 new sewage treatment plants every year. Additionally, as Korean environmental regulations are strengthened, the Korean government is upgrading existing sewage treatment plants to install tertiary processes such as activated carbon filtering and advanced disinfection processes. For these purposes, the Korean government allocated a budget of USD 1.2 billion in 2008.



### Competition

- According to data from the Bank of Korea, the Korean Ministry of Environment, and the US-Asia Environmental Partnership, the import market is estimated to cover about 10 percent of the overall market for water pollution control equipment.
- Thanks to its lengthy commercial experience in Korea and its attractive financial packages, Japan has been the principal foreign provider with about 40 to 50 percent of the market share, followed by the U.S. and Germany with market shares of 20 and 19 percent respectively.

### For More Information

U.S Embassy of Korea  
U.S Commercial Service

Young Wan Park

Phone: +82-2-397-4535

Fax: +82-2-739-1628

E-mail: [young.park@mail.doc.gov](mailto:young.park@mail.doc.gov)

Website: [www.buyusa.gov/korea/en](http://www.buyusa.gov/korea/en)