

Integrated Water Resources Management and Revitalization of River Structure in Korea

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In Korea, the Ministry of Environment(MOE) and the Ministry of Land and Infrastructure and Transportation (MOLIT) have divided water management. Over the past 20 years. However, Water management transferred from MOLIT to MOE in June 2018. Quantity, water quality as well as disaster prevention need to be reorganized into one consistent system, so called Integrated Water Resources Management(IWRM).

The goal of IWRM in Korea is to achieve 1) Efficient management of water resources instead of water resources development, 2) Unified system establishment of Water quantity and quality, 3) Resilience of climate change against drought, flood and disasters, 4) Governance establishment based on participation cooperation.

One of the main tasks under IWRM was to re-evaluate the 4 river projects completed during the regime of President LEE Myung-bak. Results were released with recommendations, however there are still on-going conflicts between government and some residents.