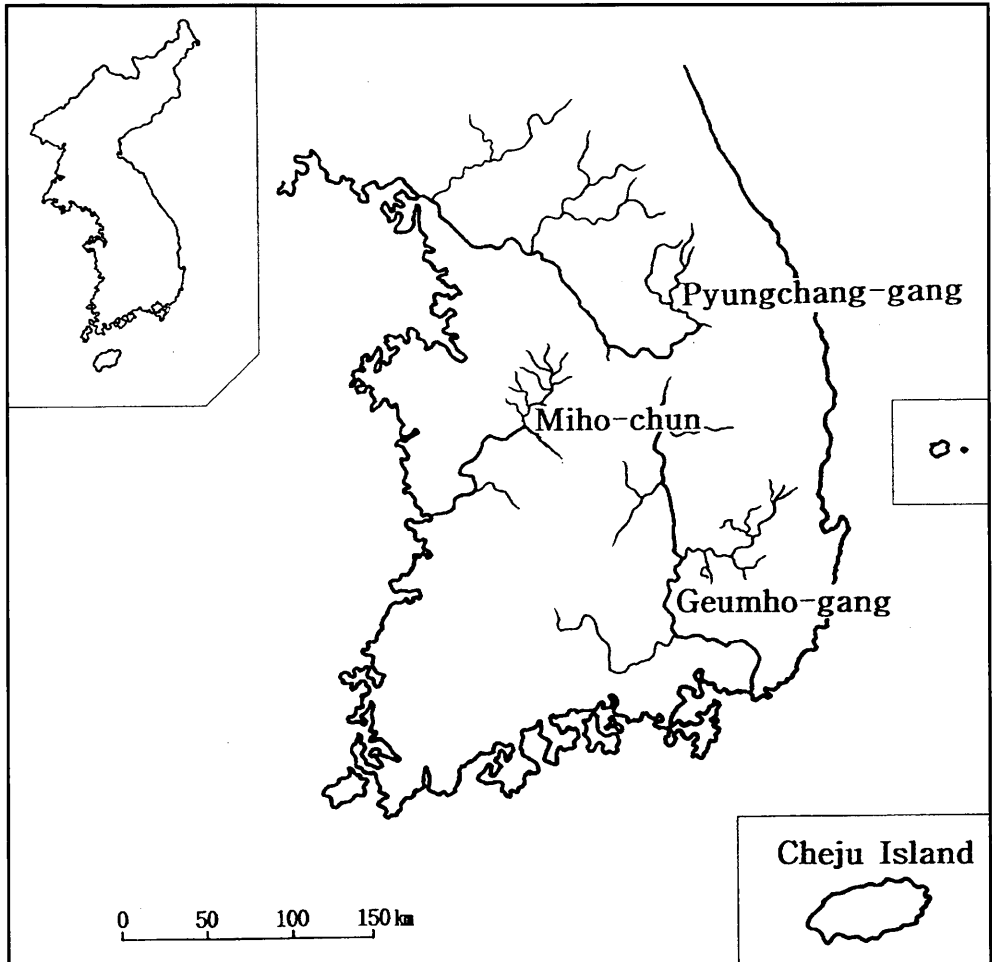


Korea (Republic of)

Korea (R. of)-1: Pyungchang-gang

Korea (R. of)-2: Geumho-gang

Korea (R. of)-3: Miho-chun



Introduction

The Korean peninsula, about 1 300 km long and 300 km wide, is located between the Yellow Sea and the East Sea on the eastern end of the Asian continent. The eastern coast line of the peninsula runs directly along the skirt of the steep mountain slope range, while the western and southern coast lines indicate curved shapes having wide alluvial plains in places. In general, rivers running to the eastern coast are short in their stretches and steep in their riverbed gradients. Long stretching rivers with gentle gradient such as the Han River, the Geum River, the Nakdong River, and the Seomjin River, discharge to the southern or western coasts.

Korea is in the moderately humid zone of medium latitude. It has a definite, seasonal climate which is greatly defined by dry, cold continental air masses during the winter, and humid warm air masses from the ocean during the summer. The average temperature throughout the year is 14°C (57°F) along the southern coast, while it drops to as low as 11°C and 8°C (52°F and 46°F), respectively, over the mid and northern climatic zones. The yearly distribution of precipitation is determined by westerly and north-westerly dry winds from the Asian continent in the winter and south-easterly winds from the Pacific Ocean in the summer. Thus the rainfall is concentrated in the summer. Of the yearly precipitation of 1 274 mm, approximately 66% occur during the rainy season from June to September, 16% during the transition period from April to May and the remaining 18% during the six months from October to March. As of 1990, the population of Korea was 42 860 000 with a population density of 432 persons/km². Of a total land area is 99 450 km², farm lands account for 21 379 km² while forest cover is about 63 762 km².

The three rivers catalogued in this volume are the Pyungchang, the Geumho and the Miho. They are the representative rivers with the typical hydrologic characteristics in the main river basins in Korea. The Pyungchang River is located within the Han River basin and has one of IHP research basins in its northern part. It also shows the characteristics of an agricultural basin, a forest basin as well as an urbanised basin. The Geumho River is one of the main tributaries of the Nakdong River and is a representative river flowing through the urbanised area of Taegu and the agricultural area of Kyongbuk Province. The basin has very critical conditions in water shortage as well as in water quality. The Miho river is located within the Geum River basin and flows through the rice paddy area as well as the urbanised and industrialised area.

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