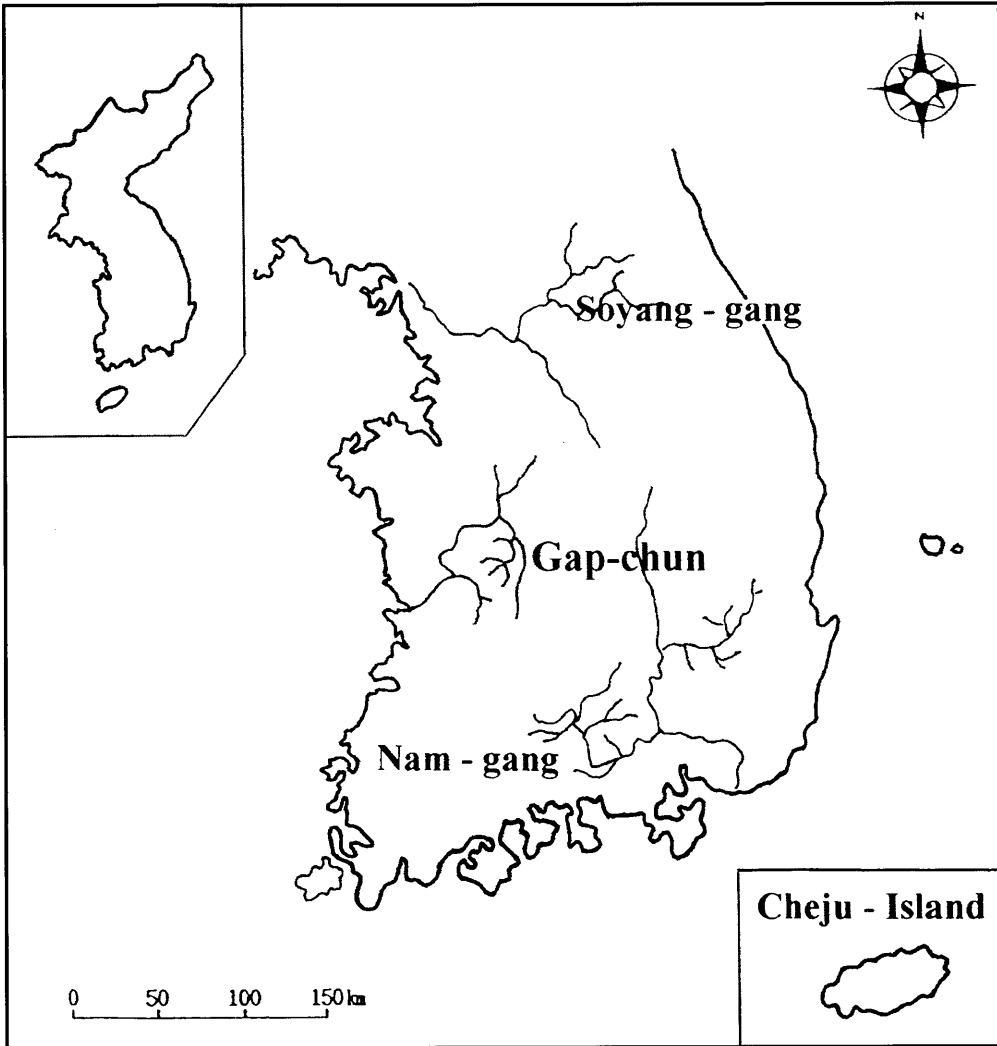


Korea (Republic of)

Korea (R. of)-4: Soyang-gang

Korea (R. of)-5: Nam-gang

Korea (R. of)-6: Gap-chun



Introduction

The Korean peninsula, about 1,300km 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 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 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 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 1,274mm, approximately 66% takes place 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 of 99,450km², farm lands occupy for 21,379km² while forest cover is about 63,762km².

The three rivers catalogued in this volume are the Soyang, the Nam and the Gap. They are also the representative rivers with the typical hydrologic characteristics in the main river basins in Korea. The Soyang River is the largest tributary of the North Han River which together with south Han River constitutes the Han River. It shows the characteristics of a typical forest basin covered by shallow well-drained soil layers. The Nam River is one of the main tributaries of the Nakdong River and is also a representative river flowing through the forest, agricultural and urbanized areas of Kyongnam Province. It shows very critical conditions in water supply as well as in water quality. The Gap River is one of the main tributaries of the Geum River and flows through the typical urban area of Taejon as well as the agricultural and forest area in the central province of Korea.

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Lee, Soontak (Chair), Yeungnam University,
Ahn, Sang-Jin, Choongbuk National University, and
Chun, Byung-Ho, Korea Military Academy.

The organizations which have contributed include:

River Planning division, Water Resources Bureau, Ministry of Construction and Transportation,
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