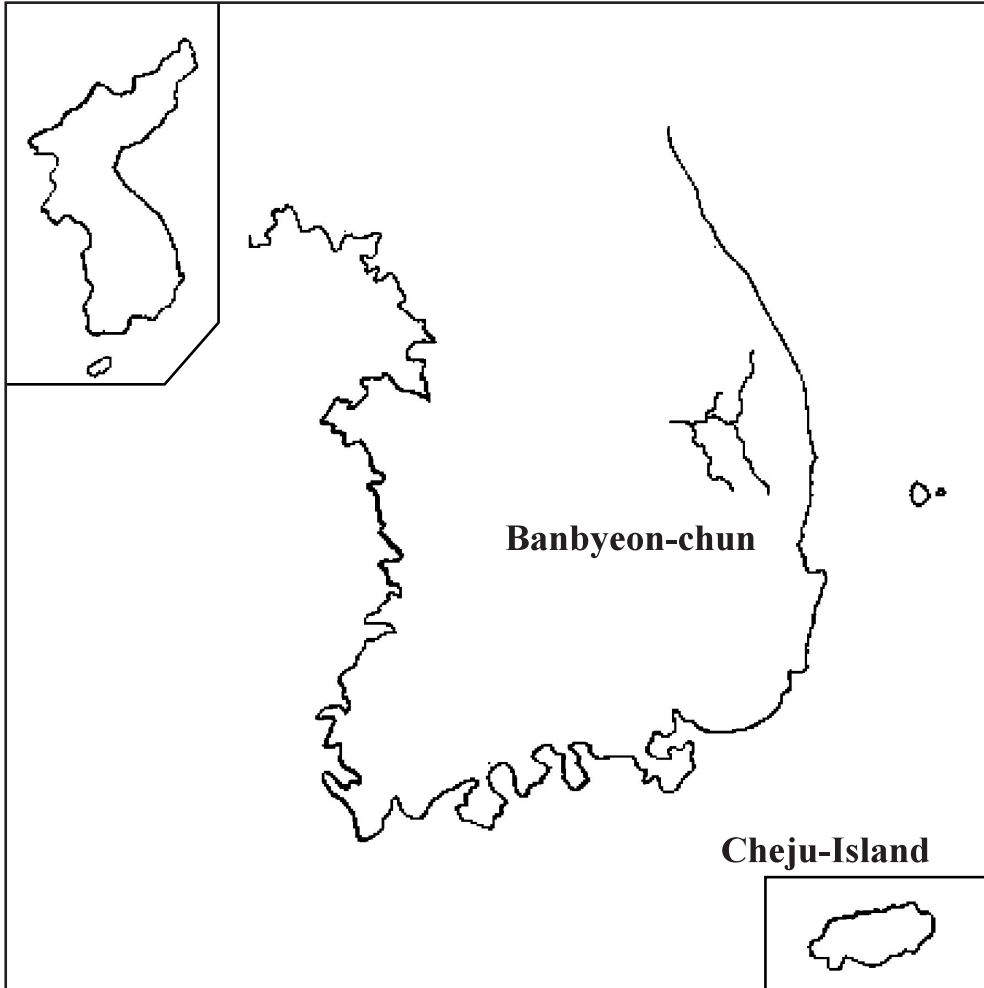


Republic of Korea

Korea-13: Banbyeon-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 and steep in their riverbed gradients. Long stretching rivers with gentle slopes 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 latitudes. 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 annual 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 annual 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 2000, the population of Korea was 46,136,000 with a population density of 462 person/km². Of a total land area 99,450 km², farm lands account for 21,379 km² while forest cover is about 63,762 km².

The river catalogued in this volume is the Banbyeon-chun. The Banbyeon-chun is one of the main tributaries of the Nakdong river which flows through the north-eastern part of the Nakdong river in the Korean peninsula. The Imha Dam located in this river plays very important roles to control floods and to provide various water uses to nearby and downstream areas in the Nakdong river.

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