

Securing Water Source of Nampho and Pyongyang through ICM Scaling up to Taedong River Basin

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Rapid growth of world's population, continuous economic development, increase of water consumption due to the improvement of living standard, daily-worsening global warming and water pollution accelerate lack of water and deteriorate the global water crisis, which is one of three major crises of the world.

Major source of water for Pyongyang, the national capitol of DPRK, is the Taedong River. The river is over 450km in length with about 600 tributaries and runs through Pyongyang to Nampho city in the west coast. Protecting and improving water quality and eco-environment of Taedong River becomes a fundamental guarantee for providing the residents of Pyongyang and other areas along the river with safe drinking water, clean living environment and conditions and for protecting the Korean West Sea and ultimately Seas of East Asia.

In recent years, water pollution of Taedong River exceeds the Standards of the State Environmental Protection in various indexes due to the rapid industrial development and growth of population in the area.

To arrest the deteriorating trend of the river, DPRK put forward the policy of conserving forests and water resources and has waged a mass campaign for the implementation of the policy. Among the policies, the Cabinet of DPRK approved the "Master plan for Land and Environment of Taedong River" in 2007 which was developed through rigorous stakeholders' consultation for more than two years.

The long-term (15 years) plan is focusing on: i) increasing water resources of Taedong River by improving water control; ii) purifying urban domestic sewage and wastewater discharged from factories and enterprises; iii) preventing oil pollution by removing fuel tanks and fuel landing docks; and iv) afforestation. Various activities have been also undertaking to increase the amount of water of rivers including Taedong River and prevent soil erosion by dredging river-beds, reinforcing river banks and planting forests along the upper stream and coast of rivers.



The successful implementation of the long-term management plan is highly dependent on the solidity of the implementation framework and the capacity of human resources. In this realization, the government is planning to scale up the ICM programme to include the Taedong River basin based on the successes of ICM implementation at Nampho city. The success at Nampho proved the government an assurance of successful implementation of the integrated Taedong River management plan, as a part of ICM scaling up programme.