

## Chuncheon Water Forum



Since 1990's, water disputes in Korea have been caused through various issues, such as construction of water intake structures, water quality conservation at water supply source, water allocation and water cost, and conflict between water development and conservation. According to the survey conducted by Korea Local Autonomy Research Institute, most of the disputes reported during 10 months after quickening of the local autonomy were concerned with water problems (7 out of 27 events). In addition, according to the Ministry of Environment, from 1990 to 1996, 30 of the 34 environmental disputes between local autonomies were concerned with water problems. Thus, it can be seen that the preservation and use of water is a sensitive issue which often causes conflicts among different interest groups.

Recently, diverse efforts to resolve these water disputes have been tried between local autonomies involved. One of these efforts is "Chuncheon water forum" which was established in 2003 to recognize the importance of water and to efficiently resolve water-related problems. The major goals of this forum are 1) to promote the extension and exchange of our recognition on the pending water-related social problems with water resources experts, decision makers, public services specialists, and civil movement leaders, 2) to concentrate our knowledge and potentials on mitigating water

conflict problems by developing the national tasks to invoke people's interest on the water right, 3) to contribute to establishment of the water governance and realization of the 'water democracy' by presenting general principles along with active tasks in order to resolve regional water conflicts through extensive investigations and discussions, and finally to encourage Kangwon province and Chuncheon city to serve as a core member in resolving today's nationwide water-related problems and in meeting the regional requests in harmony with the national goals.

In the Chuncheon Water Forum 2003, which was held with the theme of "Water Democracy Realization," civilian movement leaders and water specialists exchanged their different insights and opinions about water-related issues. In "Chuncheon water forum 2004" which was held with the theme of 'Water and Conflict', the following subjects were reevaluated: 1) development and discussion about causes of and settlement schemes for conflicts between nature & people, people & people, and district & district, 2) enlargement of the ranges of understanding and corporation among civilian movement leaders, administrators, researchers, business persons, and journalists, and deduction of peaceful conflict resolution schemes. In addition, the thesis of civilian awareness about "water right" was tried. Overall, the forum was very successful as water conflicts that our society has been encountering were evaluated and alternative solution measures were presented to parties involved in water conflicts. The representative of UNDP Seoul Office attended at the Forum and gave a keynote speech. Table 1 shows the schedule to the Chuncheon Water Forum 2004.

Table 1. Schedule of Chuncheon Water Forum 2004.

Time	Oct. 11			Oct. 12		
09:00	Registration			Registration		
10:00				Opening Ceremony		
11:00	(80 min)			Lunch		
12:00	Keynote Speech 1					
	Keynote Speech 2					
	Lunch					
13:00						
	(100 min)					
14:00	Invited Foreign Speecher 1 Invited Foreign Speecher 2			Pollutant Load Management	Drinking Water	Remediation of Urban Rivers
15:00	Break					
16:00	Conflict Resolution among concerned parties	Water Right	Allocation of Water Quality Improvement Charge	Selection of 「Chuncheon Water Declaration」		
17:00				Chuncheon Water Forum Network Discussion (Development Direction of Chuncheon Water Forum)		
18:00	Arrangement of Settings					
19:00	Welcome Speech by Governor of Kangwon Province					
20:00						