

Country: South Korea

Committee: ECOSOC

Agenda Item: South Korea's Eco-Friendly Economy and Ideas About Green Growth

Paragraph 1 - Country Background

Officially known as the "Republic of Korea," South Korea is located in East Asia, on the southern part of a large peninsula. This beautiful, relatively small country is renowned for its modern cities, traditional culture, advanced education system, and delicious cuisine. South Korea is also known worldwide for its technological advancements. The country's economy is largely based on exports. Sectors such as electronics, manufacturing, the automotive industry, shipbuilding, machinery, and petrochemicals make up the South Korean economy

Paragraph 2 - Historical Background and International Actions

In 2008 Korea announced 'Low Carbon, Green Growth' as its vision for mid-to long-term development (2009-2050) together with a voluntary target of 30% reduction of GHG emissions from the business as usual scenario by 2020. To implement this vision, it launched a National Green Growth Strategy in 2009 along with the country's Five Year Plan (FYP) for 2009-2013. One of the key instruments to achieve the country's new vision was the establishment of a national Emission Trading Scheme (ETS), scheduled to start from January 2015. The development of the ETS along with the implementation of the Strategy has so far had notable impacts not just on industry but the wider public too. It has led to substantial investments on green technologies and changes in public attitudes to the issue of climate change

Paragraph 3 - National Policy and Proposed Solutions

There are a variety of stakeholders involved in the ETS, including several ministries and private sector actors. Although it is too early to fully evaluate the success of the strategy and emerging ETS, consistent political commitment from the Presidency (even through a change of leadership) together with ongoing coordinated efforts among all stakeholders, provide strong indications of its success. South Korea pioneered green public procurement (GPP) in 2005 when the Ministry of Environment passed a law mandating that public institutions purchase "green products" as much as possible. Initially, the reforms focused on two key actions: public institutions were required to create an annual Green Public Procurement (GPP) implementation plan with self-defined targets and to maintain a performance record of their green procurements. Green products were largely defined as products certified under the Korean eco-label or recycled product certification (Good Recycled Mark). Progress was measured by indicators such as the number and percentage of public institutions submitting a Green Product Implementation Plan, the volume and value of green products purchased, and the share of these purchases in total purchases (in terms of volume and value).