

KOREAN INDUSTRY AND THE ENVIRONMENT **IMPLICATIONS FOR CANADA**

BACKGROUND

Both domestic and international pressures are causing Korean government and business to give greater weight to the environment in their decision making. Domestic pressures are arising from the advanced state of environmental degradation in major industrial centres, attendant with recent rapid industrialization and ever-increasing democratization, allowing the public to register its growing concern. Internationally, binding conventions on the reduction of greenhouse and ozone depleting gases, handling of toxic waste and a myriad of other issues have unavoidable implications for Korean industry. These pressures have caused Korean business and government leaders to reconsider the growth-first policies that paced the recent economic boom.

HISTORY OF DEVELOPMENT

The first stirrings of environmental awareness date back to 1978, when an environmental preservation law was passed. This was followed two years later by the formation of the Environment Administration, which carried out largely ineffective environmental impact assessments on specified projects. A full-fledged Ministry of the Environment (MOE) was formed in January of 1990, headed by a highly competent minister, complete with six regional offices and a national research institute.

RECENT LEGISLATION

Much progress has been made by the MOE since its inception, despite considerable opposition from other economic ministries and industry. First, the 1978 legislation was strengthened and subdivided to address the three domestic policy priorities for pollution control: air, water and toxic waste. These priorities are also reflected in the spending allocations set out in the five year "Clean Plan", finalized in early 1991:

<u>Program</u>	<u>\$Cdn (millions)</u>
Air Pollution	7,670
Drinking Water Pollution	7,120
Waste Management	3,980
Maritime Conservation	120
Environmental R&D	61
Conservation of Nature	6