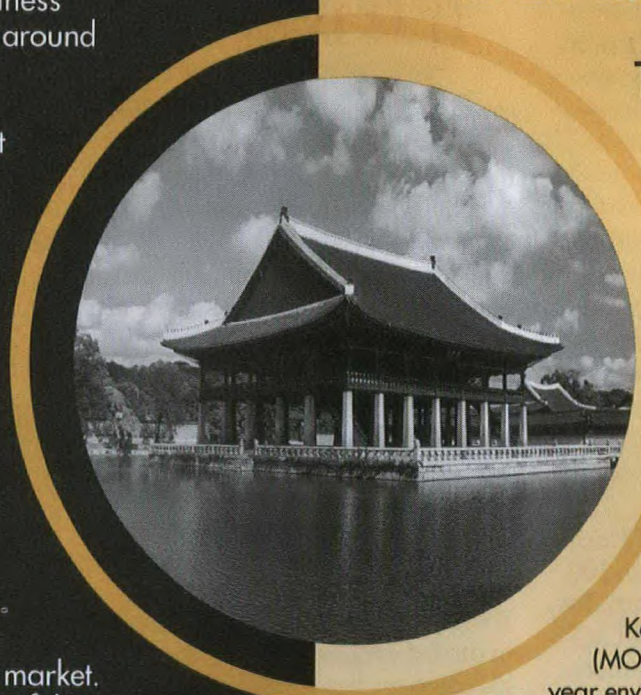


## REPUBLIC OF KOREA

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# The Environmental Industries Market

The Republic of Korea is currently developing its environmental infrastructure, which was neglected during the country's rapid economic expansion phases. Between 2000 and 2005, the Korean government plans to spend \$98 billion on environmental projects, with half this amount earmarked to build 600 environmental facilities.

### Market Overview

In response to deteriorating environmental conditions, the Korean Ministry of Environment (MOE) announced its second five-year environmental plan. The Ministry's priorities are water quality, solid waste management, and air quality. Korea is currently 55% short of its need for sewage treatment plants and 90% short for waste incineration plants.

Canadian companies presently supply approximately 1% of Korea's import market for environmental equipment, while 90% of Canadian environmental firms in Korea

are involved in water and wastewater treatment. Canadian exporters face competition from Europe, the United States and Japan.

### Air Quality

Volatile organic compounds (VOC) and urban ozone are the main air quality concerns, although higher

opportunities for Canadian environmental technologies exist in the following areas:

- dioxin-free municipal waste incinerators
- advanced wastewater treatment technologies
- landfill gas treatment/re-utilization technologies
- VOC control technologies
- soil decontamination technologies
- oil-spill response equipment/technologies

### See Potential?

To learn more about this market, read *The Environmental Industries Market in Korea*, prepared by the Market Research Centre of the Trade Commissioner Service. This report and hundreds of others are available on-line at [www.infoexport.gc.ca](http://www.infoexport.gc.ca)

### Korean Environmental Market (estimated), 2000-2003 (\$ millions)

Year	Air	Water/Soil	Waste	Others	Total	Change
2000	1,836	5,735	4,172	351	12,094	-
2001	2,168	6,767	4,922	415	14,272	18%
2002	2,493	7,782	5,661	475	16,411	15%
2003	2,792	8,717	6,340	533	18,382	12%

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce. *Korea-U.S. Environmental Business Opportunities*, April 3, 2000.

### Water Quality

Water quality is especially critical because of the deterioration of drinking water sources for some major cities, including Seoul. The MOE plans to bring the wastewater treatment ratio up to 80% by 2005 (from 70% in 2000). To reach this goal, close to \$22 billion will be spent on water quality projects, including the construction of 320 wastewater treatment plants.

environmental standards and rigorous enforcement have resulted in a reduction in air pollution in Korea's major cities. While industrial facilities used to be the primary contributors to air pollution, increasingly strict regulations have led to a reduction in pollutants.

Automobiles are now the principle source of urban air pollution.

### Opportunities

Korea has liberalized its rules regarding foreign investment in environmental infrastructure. Opportunities may arise in this sector for Canadian engineering companies that have good access to capital and technology. Specific

### Waste Management

The solid waste management issue becomes more pressing each day as existing landfill sites fill up. The government's policy is to maximize waste reduction and recycling and to favour incineration of other waste. With a 35% decrease since 1995, Korea has already achieved a high rate of municipal solid waste reduction.

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