

From Denuded to Green

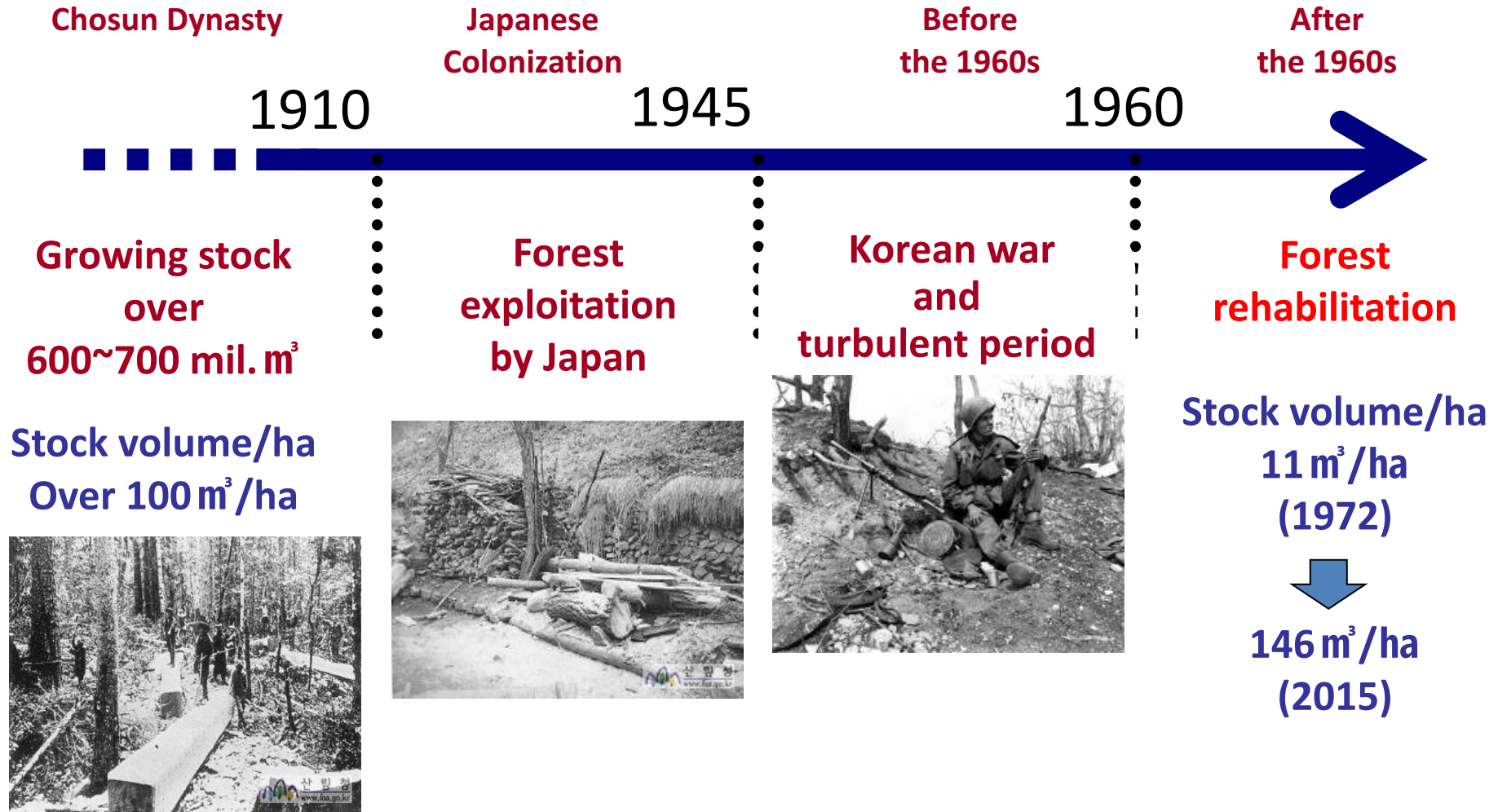
Lessons from South Korean Success

Seong-il Kim

Seoul National University



Short history



Forest degradation

- Massive land degradation caused by supplying armament material during the Japanese annexation and the Korean War in the 1950's
- Lack of management and poor administrative structure during the post-war period
- Continued land degradation caused by use of fuelwood for cooking and heating



Timber harvest from in early 1940's by Japanese



Seoul suburb in early 1960's

Forest rehabilitation policy

- Early “Provisional Forest Protection Law” and “Erosion Control Plan” failed due to lack of funding, technology, driving factor
- “Forest Law”(1961), “Act on Erosion Control”(1962), and establishment of Korea Forest Service (1967) effectively worked
- Extensive forest rehabilitation activities were undertaken through the First and Second National Forest Plan(1973-87) and 2.1 million ha were restored



Pohang area in the 1960s / 1980s

National Forest Plan

1st and 2nd National Forest Plans (1973~87)

- Successful rehabilitation in 2.1 million ha of degraded forests
- Planting Campaign in March and April
- Creation of fuel forests for rural and mountain villagers



National Forest Plan

3rd National Forest Plan (1988~97)

- Plantation and Tending
 - Creating 0.32 million ha of commercial plantation
 - Tending 3.03 million ha of forests
- Infrastructure
 - Forest road construction
 - Mechanized forestry system
 - Education and training program for regional (local) foresters



National Forest Plan

4th National Forest Plan (1998~2007)

- Introduction SFM as principle Planting Campaign in March and April
- More focus on economic values
 - Promoting multi-valued aspects of forest : ecosystem, environment, recreation, urban forests, economy, etc.
- Government-led forest management
 - Private-oriented activities

5th National Forest Plan (2008~2017)

- To realize a green nation with sustainable welfare and growth

Success factor 1

- Strong leadership and momentum under President Park Chunghee's administration
 - Illegal logging was one of the crimes subject to immediate eradication under Park administration
 - Forest administration was transferred under the Ministry of Internal Affairs which was in charge of police forces and provincial governments
- Leader's awareness and vision on forest environment and landscape
 - Believed that the state of forest reflect the nation's strength, and barren lands are embarrassment
 - Highly interested in cultural heritage and landscape
 - Introduced nature conservation campaigns, management systems on national parks and greenbelt

治水山治

一九七七年四月五日

大統領 朴正熙 

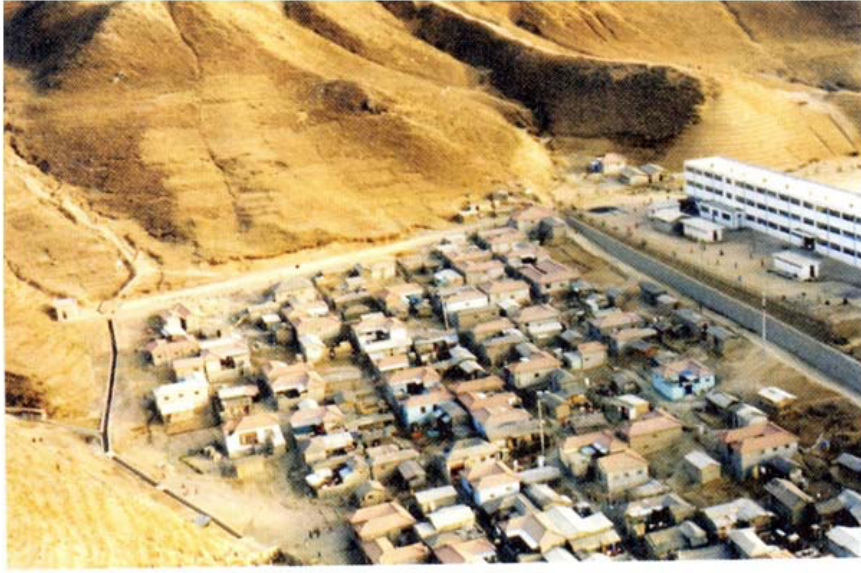
Stewardship of mountains and waters



April 5, 1977

Success factor 2

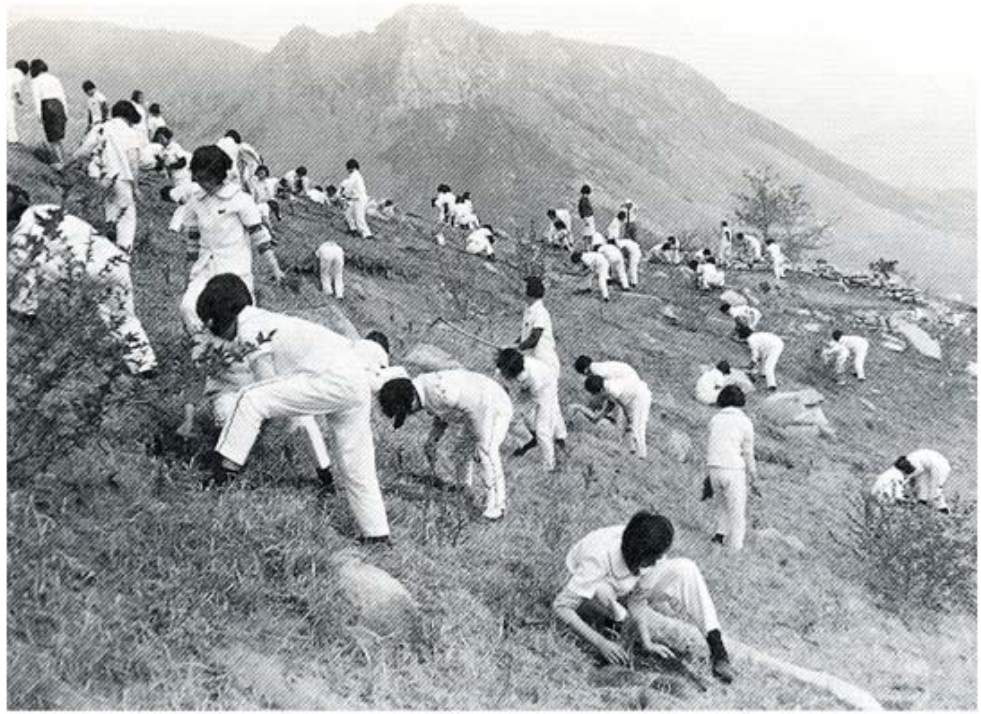
- Introduction of coal briquettes to substitute fuelwood
- Decrease of slash-and-burn farmers and illegal logging caused by continued economic growth and increase of income of rural households
- Clearing of Slash-and-Burn Farms (1974 ~ 1978)
 - 204,000 households, 75,000ha of slash-and-burn farms (statistics of 1975)
 - Removal of farming households in areas with slope higher than 20 degrees and reforesting the area
 - Providing support for settlement in sub-urban areas and creating job opportunities
 - Monitoring through aerial photos



Stop slash-and-burn farms and establishment of new settlement villages

Success factor 3

- Saemaeul Undong and Public Participation
- Fostering active participation in tree planting through linking Saemaeul Undong (New Village Movement, 1971) under the slogan “Let’s Live Well”
- Encouraging to abide by regulations and promote participation by linking with poverty and livelihood
 - Establishment of fuelwood plantation and substituting fuelwood with coal briquette for heating and cooking
 - Clearing of slash-and-burn farms through providing livelihood measures such as housing support, etc.
 - Providing incentives for nursery and plantation, and generating income by planting chestnut trees, pseudo acacia, etc.



Tree planting by local women and high school students

Forests now: volume

- Forests cover 6.4 million ha, 64% of the land
- Forest resources have increased up to 15 times from 1970s
 - $10\text{m}^3/\text{ha} \rightarrow 145\text{m}^3/\text{ha}$
- Foundation for green growth as renewable energy resources

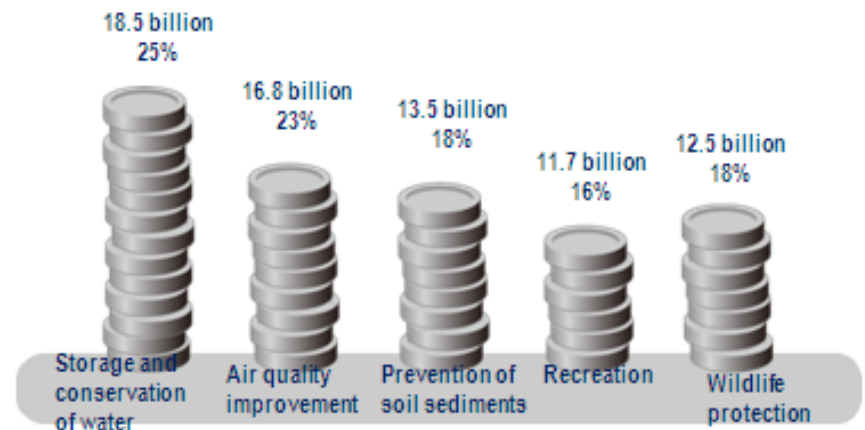


Forests now: welfare

- Public benefit worth of USD 120 billion per year
- Healthy forests reduce the risks of landslide and flood, promoting biodiversity, water quality improvement, carbon sink
- Creating opportunities for green jobs, providing forest for healing and recreation



Public Benefits of Forest (US\$ 73 billion)



Some Progresses since 1970

Forest Stock: 15 times

Income: 250 times

Export: 10000 times

7th 30-50 Club Member

Thank you