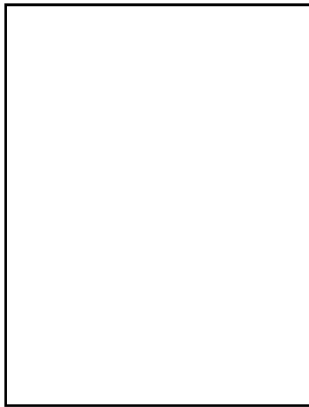


Environmentally Sound Technologies in Korea

Policies for transfer, development and application

Jee Yoon Lee

Korea has been making efforts to absorb ESTs from advanced developed countries and to export ESTs that it has domestically developed through bilateral and multilateral cooperation. Korea believes that publicly owned environmental technology should be transferred rapidly and widely, and has been preparing systems and organizations to facilitate this. This article discusses how Korea sees itself in an intermediary situation. While it imports most environmental technologies from developed countries, it finds itself in a position to transfer some technologies to developing countries.



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Introduction

Environmentally sound technologies (ESTs) are regarded as tools which enable to keep harmony between economic growth and environmental preservation. The scope of environmentally sound technology has been extended to develop clean technologies for pollution prevention which cause less pollution, procedural improvement, and energy efficiency enhancement. ESTs refer to not only each separate technique, but a comprehensive system which includes know-hows, processes, goods and services, facilities and organizations, and management processes.

Korea is currently in a transitional period in technology development. While Korea imports most environmental technologies from developed countries, it can transfer some environmen-

tal technologies to developing countries. To play the role of intermediary, Korea will have to review its current environmental technologies and prepare an effective mechanism to facilitate transfer of environmental technologies from developed countries to developing ones.

Environmental policy in Korea has been shifting from a focus on "end-of-pipe" treatment to cleaner production technology. Because of high energy consumption and a weak environmental infrastructure, more sustainable business practices, including cleaner production, have been needed.

From 29th September, 1998, to 1st October, 1998, "the Fifth International High-level Seminar on Cleaner Production (CP 5)" was held in Korea, hosted by the Korean Government and