

Launching of Future Earth in Korea

Soon-Chang Yoon

Chair, Future Earth Korea National Committee
Vice President for External Relations, Korean Institute of Science and Technology
Professor Emeritus, School of Earth and Environmental Sciences, Seoul National University
E-mail: yoon@snu.ac.kr

Future Earth Korea (FEK): history, current status and future plan

The National Academy of Sciences (NAS), ROK, which is the national member of ICSU in Korea, is the only official window to the International Science Council in Korea. Accordingly, NAS was supposed to promote or initiate Future Earth in Korea. However it was not until July 2015 when the President of NAS requested the author and the Korean Academy of Science and Technology (KAST) to initiate Future Earth in Korea. Immediately I submitted a short proposal for Future Earth Korea (FEK) program to the KAST and the Ministry of Science, ICT and Future Planning (MSIP), ROK. The KAST, founded in 1994, is the academy of sciences in Korea with nearly five hundreds elected fellows from natural science, engineering, medical science, agricultural and fishery sciences, and science policy. The Academy works closely with the Ministry (MSIP) in science policies of the government and urgent scientific issues of the society.

Prof. Myung Cheol Lee, next president elect of the KAST then, made a strong drive for the promotion of Future Earth Korea, as one of his major agenda during his 3-year term of presidency that began on March 1st 2016. He requested and managed the Ministry to support FEK financially. With the full support of the KAST and the Ministry, we could publish a guide book of Future Earth in Korean, *pp.*115, in March 2016, and convene an International Symposium on Future Earth and Inauguration of FEK National Committee (NC) on April 25th 2016.

At present about 25 members of FEK NC are appointed for a term of one year. They consist of two categories: 1) researchers such as atmospheric scientists, oceanographer, geologist, ecologist, life scientist, medical scientist, forestry scientist, energy and water engineers, and social scientists of green economy, 2) societal stakeholders such as government agencies, NGOs, priest and journalists (reporters). We need to invite more NC members, especially from education, business and industries.

We plan to have monthly FEK co-plan workshop in order to draw FEK strategic research agenda for Korea and Asia at the end of 2016, which will be transferred to the Ministry/government for research funding next year.