

DFG/KOSEF International Research Training Group
Workshop
Complex **Terrain** and **Ecological** Heterogeneity

April 11 - 14, 2010

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**THE POLITICAL ECOLOGY OF „CLIMATE
CHANGE“ IN SOUTH KOREA**

APRIL 12

Outline

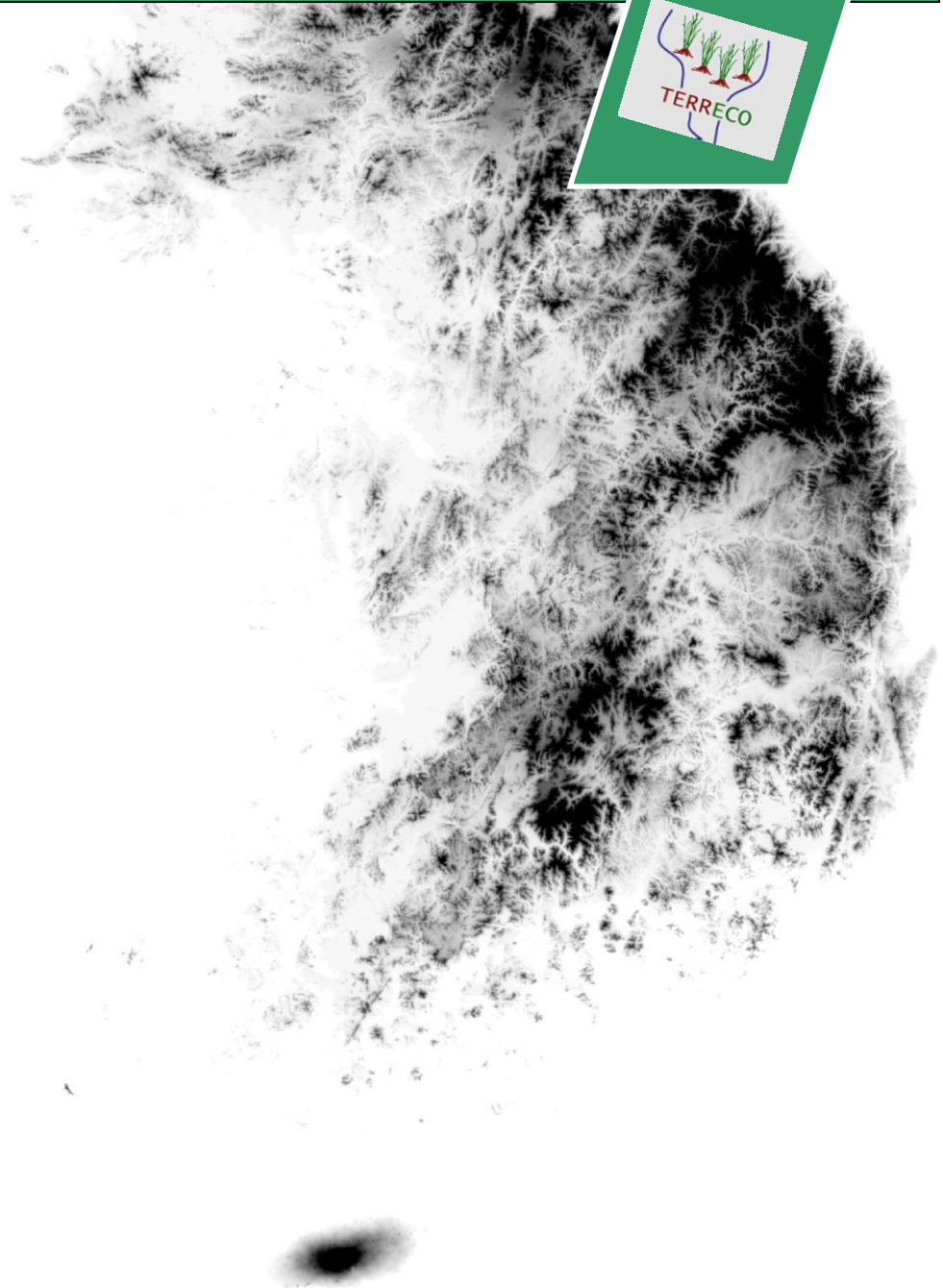
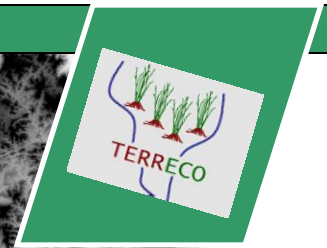
Focus of Study

Theoretical Frame

Research perspective

Survey

Outlook



Hypothesis



**Adaptation to Climate Change is not only a
“response to climatic stimuli” (IPCC 2007) but
it depends on**

- ***Adaptive Governance***
- ***Environmental perception***
 - ***Capacities***
 - ***Knowledge***

Focus of study



- General:** Analysis of the reactions to Climate Change in the *political system* of South Korea, regarding how it developed and spread, what role it plays and what influences it has;
- Specific:** Analysis of effects that the policy has on farmers in Inje County

The idea behind



- Emergence of Climate Change requires an examination in the social sciences
- Climate Change as a challenge to humanity and particular social groups
- Importance of focusing on political and cultural conditions
- Traveling of the concept as well as the capability to serve as a legitimation of change

(Latour 1991, 2005, Callon 1986)

Theoretical Frame



Adaptive Governance

- Mechanisms and criteria of (political) decision making

Blue House, Presidential Committee on Green Growth, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Knowledge and Economy, Ministry of Construction, KREI, KACCC, RDA

- Implementation on regional and local levels

Regional and local governments and administration

ATC, RDA, extension services

Aspects of adaptive governance



- **Problem of measurement**
(„scientific problem“)
- Standardized methods to approve objective data
- Scale differences in approaches complicate the convergence of data results
- Example from TERRECO:
Hae-an – Yanggu – Soyang Watershed – Inje – Kangwon > not the same spatial units
- **Problem of governance**
(„societal problem“)
- Question of relevance for political decision makers (scale and time frame)
- Patchwork of regulatory regimes and institutional structure of adaptive governance (Robertson 2004)
- Dynamics of contradictory, and perhaps cyclic, policy impulses
- Aspects of “justice” and fair treatment

⇒ WP I-III

⇒ WP IV

Actor-Network-Theory

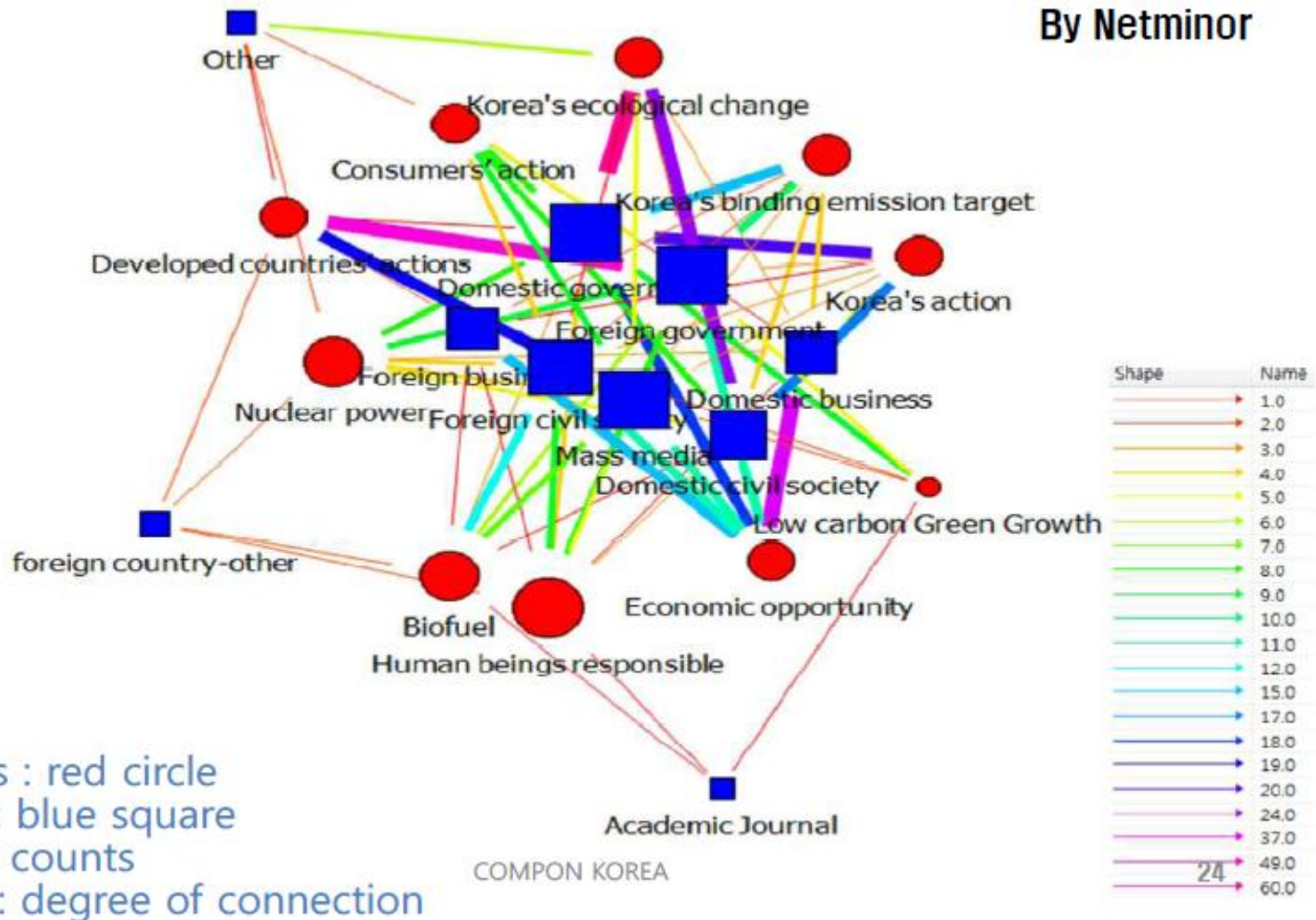


- (Political) systems not seen as aggregation of objects but as interrelated, interconnecting parts of actors
- Production of new properties through interaction in the network
- Examples: Laws and regulations, institutions, ideas and concepts

Actor-Network

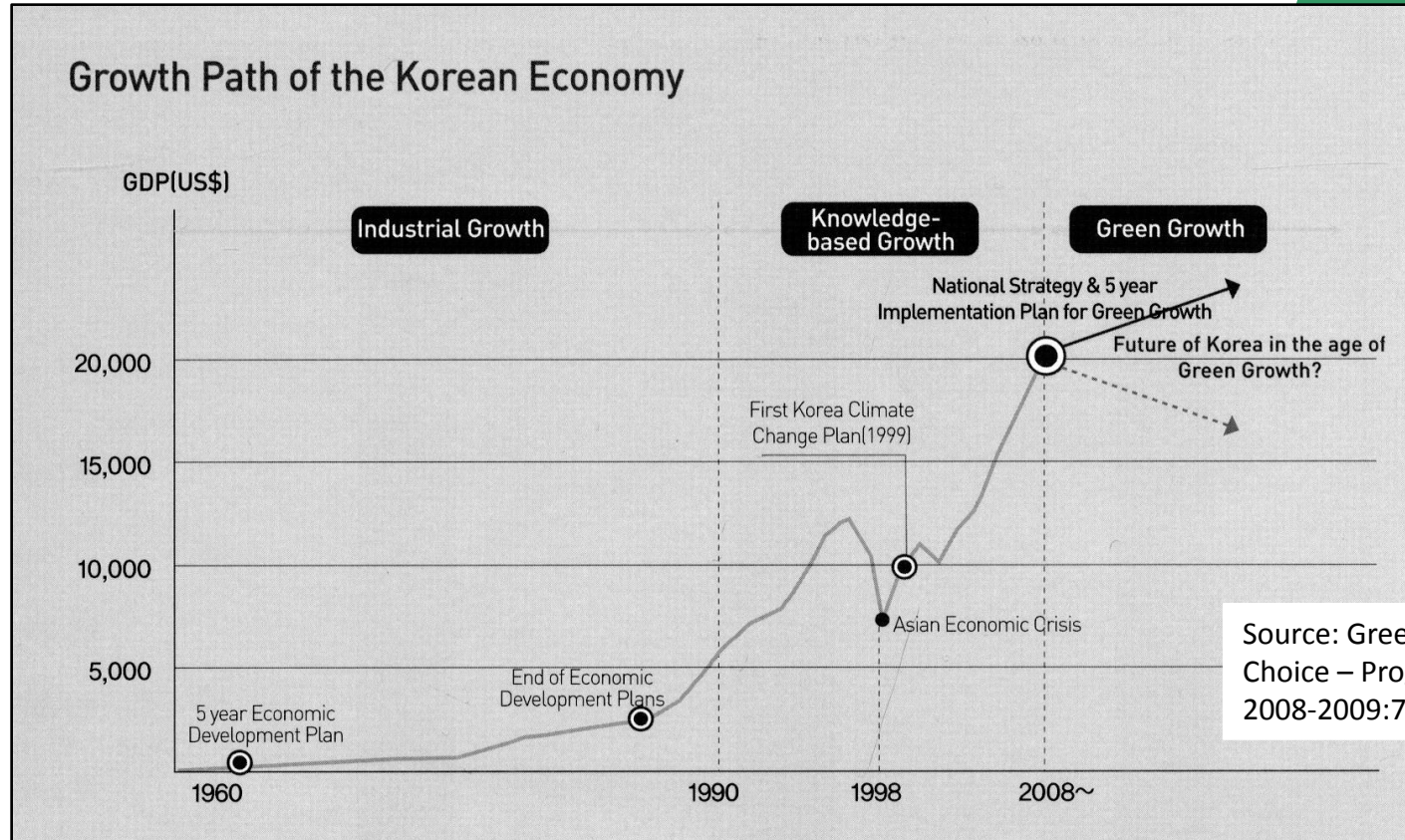


By Netminor



Source: Compon Korea, SNU

Green Growth Strategy



Source: Green Growth: Korea's Choice – Progress Report 2008-2009:7

“Low Carbon Green Growth is the best solution to overcome the challenges of climate change and achieve common prosperity.”

President Lee Myung-bak (Nov 4, 2009)

Green Growth Strategy



- Emphasis on sustainable growth while reducing greenhouse gas emissions
- Key Policy Agenda Items
 - Mitigation of Climate Change & energy independence
 - Creating new engines for economic growth
 - Improvement in quality of life and enhanced international standing
- Investment Plan: 2% of GDP annually, total 86 billion USD 2009-2013
- Self-conception: model strategy to face climate change
(several initiatives, offensive behaviour)



Critical Assessment: Green Growth



Korea's Green Growth = Extraordinary “Green Wash” (Green Korea United)

1. Low GHG reduction target
2. Supply-centered energy policy
3. Expansion of nuclear power
4. “The 4 Rivers Project”: water pollution and ecosystem degradation
5. Overseas food supply projects (Madagascar, Manchuria)
6. Water privatization

Research perspective

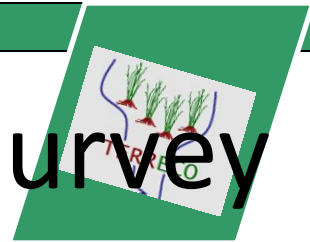


- Actor-Network on the national, regional and local scale
- Implementation of national plans on regional and local level
- Emphasis on qualitative aspects: information flow, mode of implementation
- Quantitative aspects will be included by a Netminder analysis of Kangwon Newspapers
 - Context to regional political decision making
 - Comparison to national discourse and local perception of Climate Change
- Survey in 3-4 villages in Inje County (chosen by dominance of agricultural crops, sample size 100-150 households)

Map of Inje



Objectives & Questions for survey



Political Programs

- What programs exist for farmers in Inje and how's the acceptance?

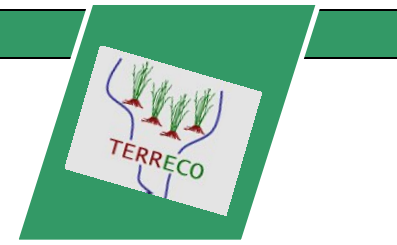
Perception of Climate Change

- How do farmers perceive “climate” and its variability?
- How is this perception interrelated with policies and change (economic, demographic) within the social groups?

Influence of Climate Change in the agricultural sector

- What will be the driving factors of farming in Inje County in the future? (labor, price fluctuation, market, etc.)
- Will climate change play a significant role?

Outlook



Upcoming:

- Research trips May-June and in fall 2010
- Dialogue with stakeholder during June Workshop
- Eventually Master thesis on water governance systems in the Soyang Water Shed (spring 2011) by a Korean student

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COMMENDS & QUESTIONS...