

PLANNING AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES IN KOREA'S
EMERGING INTEGRATED COASTAL MANAGEMENT

Kang, Jung-Woon

Changwon National University, Changwon, Korea

The purpose of this study is to introduce the emergence, development, and current state of Korea's integrated coastal management (ICM). The study briefly outlines coastal management initiative of the national government and recent development of ICM system. Korea, recently, has enacted a national framework of ICM and is preparing coastal management plans at local and regional level. The national ICM framework includes the Coastal Management Act(CMA) in 1999 and the national Integrated Coastal Management Plan(ICMP). which was born last year. Currently, making regional coastal management plan is under way according to planning guidelines by a national agency to help subnational governments creating local and regional coastal management plan.

Coastal management plans at local and regional level are critical components of implementation strategy for the national government. However, activities in recent years are not so considerable. Moreover, local and provincial efforts seems to be in a state of confusion and irresponsibility, especially in urban areas at enclosed coastal sea. Uniformed format of planning as directed, without strong incentives, in the national guideline also is a critical barrier of creating local and regional plan.

The analysis of Korean ICM points to the utility of clarifying following planning and governance issues as important factors. One key issue in Korean ICM is to overcome integration crisis. The national plan defines itself as planning control. The scope of regional coastal management plans which are currently being developed are more local than regional as most of these plans are made at the local level. As the viability of local and regional coastal management can be enhanced through better management capacity of subnational governments, organized and coordinated planning efforts at regional level are critical determinants of successful ICM.

The question of scale in the design of the subnational components of an ICM system, which is a decisive factor in the implementation of ICM, does not receive explicit attention. The ICMP as a national plan divides national coast in accordance to provincial boundaries without giving serious consideration to trans-boundary ecological and economic condition.

Development and environment issues have been in the center of coastal management in Korea. National government and coastal municipalities seek to promote more land-consumptive development patterns although sustainable coastal development is the

primary goal of every level of government in Korea. Social equity is also an important issue in coastal management.

Intergovernmental integration as well as the fragmentation of legal framework is typical governance issues in coastal management. Integration of government decision-making at all levels and regional and inter-local cooperation and coordination are barriers in making and implementing ICM. The role of provincial government is not active. Institutional fragmentation is one of major barriers to achieving effective ICM. In Korea, as in many countries, fragmentation of coastal responsibilities presents problems for inter-agency integration. Public participation, public finance and strategic coastal planning issues are another major issues. With effective dealing with above planning and governance issues, ICM can be a working mechanism based upon effective formulation and implementation of coastal development and environmental planning. Creating a evaluation mechanism is proposed. The author finally proposes a vision for a new institutional structure within which subnational initiative is possible.