

# **Outreach activity for freshwater conservation in South Korea - the case of Lake Soyang**

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# Lake Soyang

- Largest reservoir in Korea
- 60 km long
- Maximum depth 110m
- Well-known for clear water

# Water quality problem in 1990s

- Fish farms were popular in most of large reservoir in Korea.
- Eutrophication was ubiquitous.
- Toxic cyanobacterial blooms were common
- Environmental scientist proposed to remove fish farms.
- Severe conflict followed.



# Action team

1. Scientist – Bomchul KIM, professor of freshwater ecology
2. Activist – Jangchul JIN, professor of political science
3. A NGO – Citizen's Coalition for Economic Justice

# Fish farms removed

- All fish farms' license expired in 1989
- After several years' debate, government decided not to extend license
- All fish farms were removed from all reservoirs in Korea
- Water quality improved much

# Turbidity problem since 1999

- Change of agricultural practice caused soil erosion and turbid water problem.



## **Turbid water**

of the Soyang River on flood days that flows into Lake S



**Prolonged turbid  
water discharge  
from the reservoir**







# Change of turbidity in Lake Soyang

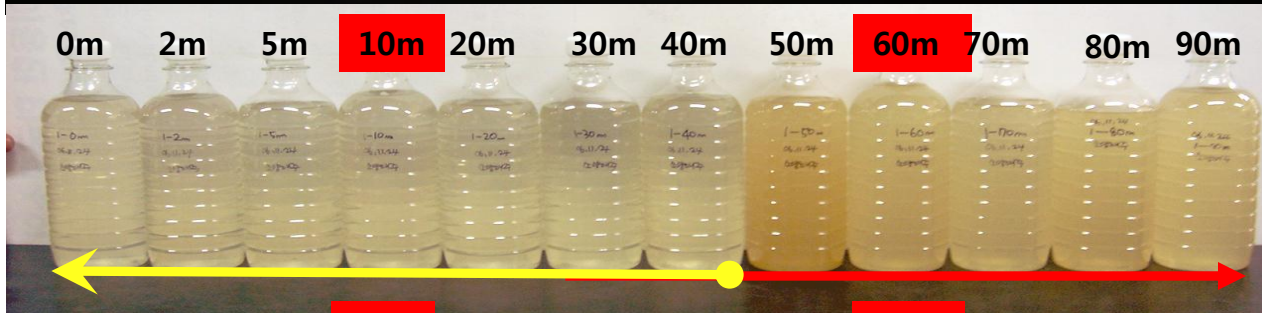
- 2006. 7.24



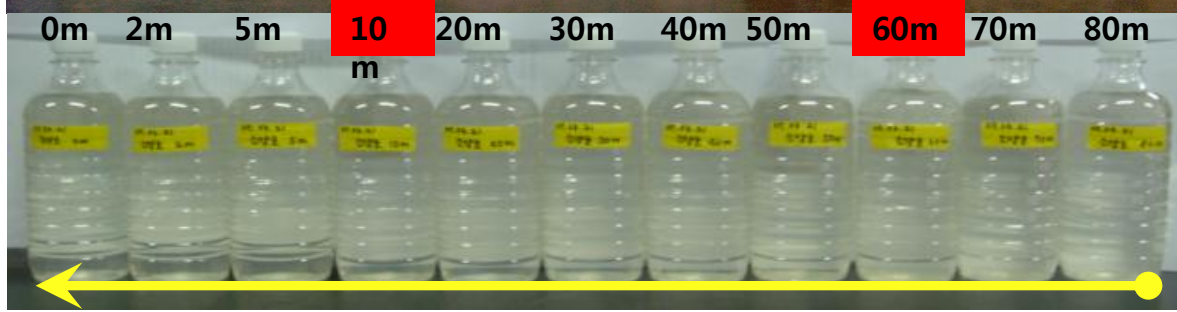
2006. 8.10



- 2006. 9. 8



- 2006.11.24



- 2007. 3. 21



# More Food vs. Better Water ?

- Conflict between agriculture and environment



# Action

- Pled to improve turbid water
- Government established a 10 year plan to reduce turbidity.
- Fund; 200 million \$ for 10 years  
to reduce soil erosion  
to build selective withdrawal intake

# Water Forum Activity

- Lake Soyang conservation action team initiated a water forum.
- Chuncheon Water Forum
- Annual forum since 2004
- Dealing with diverse water issue
  - Water right
  - Conflict for water
  - Aquatic ecosystem conservation
  - Securing water supply in water-deficient countries

# Chuncheon Global Water Forum

500 attendee

Since 2004

Most well-organized in Korea,

With the longest history in Korea

<http://www.waterforum.or.kr/ko/>

Suggest water-related policy

Enlightening citizen





- Prof. Yves Prairie attended as the invited speaker in 2014.



*Thank you*

한국수자원공사  
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