

# Restoration of Cheonggye River (South Korea)

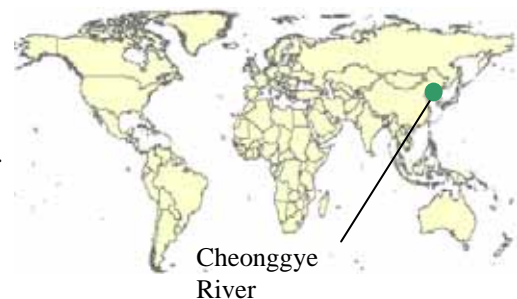
Cheonggye River used to flow between Chongro and Uruchiro, but it became an underdrain after being covered by a road, and by another elevated road. But after thirty years after construction in 1968, Cheonggye elevated road became old. In recent years measures such as reinforcement and heavy vehicle restriction were taken, but the road became dangerous for use. In 2002, Yi Myongpac, who committed to solving the problems, removing the road, and restoring the river, won the election of the mayor. Given that, Cheonggye River restoration project was rapidly put into shape. This is the world's first case of urban re-development project removing the road and restoring the river, and collects people's interest worldwide.

## ◆ Key to Restoration

- Highway Removal
- Cheonggye River restoration

## ◆ Overview of the River

Cheonggye River is an urban river flowing in the city center of Seoul. Its total length is 11 km and the basin dimension is 50 km<sup>2</sup>. It flows along the capital city of Seoul for six hundred years from the time when it was established as the capital of Korea Dynasty in 1394. It has been a symbolic boundary defining Seoul geologically, politically, culturally, and socially. The elevated road connecting the city center and the suburbs was completed in 1971, but it was damaged due to aging. The restoration project includes cultural heritages such as stone bridge as well as traditional events reproduction. Seoul City estimates the construction cost as 360 billion won.



## ◆ Project Efforts for Restoration

### [Highway Removal]

In order to restore Cheonggye River, which have flowed through the 600 years of Seoul, the road covering the river and the highway above are to be removed.

By recovering the 600-year history and by creating a culture city where tradition and modernity is harmonized, Seoul will be reborn as an environment-friendly human-centered urban space. The river's restoration and surrounding city development is underway as symbolic efforts.

### [Cheonggye River restoration]

The renewed riverbed is excavated by 2 to 2.5 meters to prevent flood; its width will be 10 to 30 meters; and the depth will be 30 cm at minimum. It requires 93700 ton of water per day; which will be prepared with underground water and Han River's water. The new river will be equipped with two walking bridges, five driving-and-walking bridges, and fourteen driving bridges (twenty one in total). The designs of the bridges have already been offered for public subscription, and the best designs were selected from 455 candidates. The stone bridge (watermark bridge) that existed over the river in Rhee dynasty is also restored. On the both side of the river, cycling roads, walking trails, and relaxation space will be created. Trees will be planted on the bank and on the paths.



Source: National Land Technology Policy Research Institute document "Toward human-nature symbiotic basin for urban restoration -- people, water, land, and environment --" Katsuhide Yoshikawa, National Land Technology Policy Research Institute

Seoul City: (<http://japanese.seoul.go.kr/chungaehome/seoul/main.htm>)