

Paradigm Shift for Ecological Governance and the Conditions of Korea

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The Biden government of the United States rejoined the Paris Agreement and initiated a New Climatic Regime adaptation policy, which also influenced Korea. The Carbon Neutral Committee is scheduled to be launched on May 29, and the Green New Deal policy is also underway. In particular, the economic system is heavily impacted by the US government. ESG (Environment-Social Governance) is becoming a trend in Korea. However, we are concerned that these important issues of the times are affected by the elections in the United States. Although the New Climate Regime is an unprecedented crisis that all countries must overcome, the politics, economics, and cultural conditions of the 20th century, such as hegemony between the United States and China, elections and political situations in each country, economic polarization and unresolved human rights issues, etc., are hindering us from moving forward. It will not be easy to change the paradigm in near future.

However, research about the framework of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of Nature has been published to cope with the climate crisis within the European Union. In particular, on April 29, the German Constitutional Court ruled that the Climate Change Response Act was insufficient to respond to the climate crisis and that it violated the constitution that was introduced to Korean society. In Korea, the Youth Climate Litigation Group in 2020 filed a constitutional petition at the Constitutional Court saying that Korea's carbon reduction plan was insufficient. Due to the recent influence of the New Climate Regime, there is a high possibility of a ruling that this lawsuit violates the constitution in Korea.

With the start of the New Climate Regime, the global situation of the COVID19 is drawing public attention to the climate crisis and ecological destruction problem. Raising public awareness and continuing to raise issues in civil society play significant roles in changing laws and the governance system. In Korea, since the early 2000s, the animal rights movement mainly focused on pets has grown. As a result of that, the Ministry of Justice announced this year that it will enforce legislation to strengthen the protection of rights by excluding animals from the provisions of objects (all organisms, inorganic objects other than humans) stipulated by the Civil Act. Earth Jurisprudence to recognize the rights of nature in the legal system began to be introduced to Korea in 2015, and it has attracted a lot of attention after the Earth Jurisprudence book was published in 2020.

We are already living in a world of solidarity where the world is connected in real time, and we are making a global community. Respecting the planet and aiming for a global community to accept and protect all life on the planet will bring a paradigm shift. We are all in that process, and it is what we have to work on together and it becomes our common destiny. I would like to emphasize the fact that all people together, sharing mutual interests in their fields, and doing their best, is our driving force and the best path towards the new era.