

보도시점

2026. 9. 15.(화) (배포 후 즉시)

배포 2026. 9. 15.(화)

International Cooperation in Climate, Energy, and Environment Expands into Central Asia

- MOUs signed on water resources management, clean energy transition, and nuclear energy cooperation during Korea-Central Asia Summit

The Ministry of Climate, Energy and Environment (MCEE, Minister Kim Sungwhan) announced that it signed memoranda of understanding (MOUs) to expand intergovernmental cooperation in climate, energy, and environment sectors at summits with Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan held at the Cheong Wa Dae on September 15.

A total of three MOUs were signed on the occasion of the summits with these Central Asian countries, all in the presence of the heads of state.

First, on the morning of September 15, the MCEE and the Water Resources Committee of Turkmenistan signed the “MOU on Cooperation in Water Resources Management.” Under the MOU, the two countries agreed to cooperate to ensure more sustainable management of Turkmenistan’s water resources, which are vulnerable due to its arid climate and the impacts of climate change.

In particular, the signing of the Korea-Turkmenistan MOU is significant in that it lays the groundwork for expanding opportunities for Korean water companies to enter the local market through the modernization of the Karakum

Canal, a major canal in Turkmenistan that runs through the capital, Ashgabat. Based on this MOU, the two countries plan to actively identify specific cooperation projects, including an AI-based flood forecasting system and a three-dimensional water management platform utilizing digital twins*, areas in which Korea has strong capabilities.

* A system that creates a virtual digital world replicating the real world to support water management decision-making before floods, droughts, and other events occur.

On the afternoon of September 15, the MCEE and the Ministry of Energy of Kazakhstan signed the “MOU on Cooperation in Renewable Energy and the Transition to Clean Energy.”

Kazakhstan is pursuing the expansion of renewable energy and power grids with the goal of achieving carbon neutrality by 2060. In particular, the MOU establishes a foundation for cooperation that combines Kazakhstan’s abundant renewable energy potential in wind, hydropower, and solar power with Korea’s technological and industrial capabilities in renewable energy systems and energy storage.

In addition, the MOU is significant in that it institutionalizes cooperation between the two countries in the clean energy sector, including through high-level policy dialogues, and lays the groundwork for establishing a hub for clean energy cooperation in Central Asia. Going forward, the two countries will discuss specific cooperation projects through a working-level consultative body, including the exchange of technical information and best practices, the organization of business exhibitions, and support for feasibility studies of promising cooperation projects.

The MCEE also signed the “MOU on Nuclear Energy Cooperation” with the Atomic Energy Agency of Kazakhstan.

The MOU establishes a basic framework for nuclear energy cooperation between the two countries and is expected to expand bilateral cooperation across a range of areas, including nuclear energy policy, workforce development, research and development, and radioactive waste management.

As the world's largest uranium producer, Kazakhstan is expected to play a significant role in strengthening Korea's nuclear fuel supply chain and enhancing energy security through this MOU.

※ Share of global uranium production (2024): Kazakhstan (38.6%) > Canada (23.7%) > Namibia (12.2%)

Minister Kim Sungwhan said, "As demonstrated by the recent catastrophic floods in Nepal, addressing climate change has become an urgent challenge of our time." He added, "We hope the signing of these three MOUs will serve as an opportunity to strengthen mutually beneficial cooperation in responding to the climate crisis and accelerating the transition to a decarbonized, green economy."