

Public Lecture by SFU Visiting Fellow  
in Urban Sustainable Development



**Dr. Kee Yeon (Keith) Hwang**  
President  
Korea Transport Institute

**The Cheonggye Stream Revitalization Project:  
An Urban Transport Revolution in Seoul**

Tuesday, March 29, 2011, 7:00 p.m.  
Room 1400, Harbour Centre  
SFU Vancouver  
515 W. Hastings Street, Vancouver

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## **About the Talk:**

To restore the Cheonggye stream and renew the surrounding area of downtown Seoul, an 8 kilometre long elevated expressway constructed over the stream was demolished and the street below it was narrowed from 4 to 2 lanes. The expressway was a major traffic artery connecting Central Seoul to the eastern part of Seoul. This presentation will share the lessons of the Cheonggye revitalization project with urban researchers and practitioners by examining the effects of replacing an expressway with a clear stream in the city centre, and analyzing the traffic impacts of demolishing an urban expressway.

Restoring the stream has brought a new urban paradigm to Seoul that places more emphasis on sustainability and the pedestrian environment than on economic growth through vehicular movement. The transformative effects of this project were mostly positive and wide ranging and included an expanded pedestrianization and better quality of life in the downtown. Traffic monitoring following the reduced road capacity shows that the average travel speed during the morning peak in the Seoul metro area improved to a small extent. However, the speed of motorized movement in the downtown area directly affected by the construction was reduced slightly. Despite these inconsistent traffic outcomes following the Cheonggye stream restoration, it is clear from a citizen's survey that residents of central Seoul love living without this urban expressway.

## **About the Speaker:**

Hwang Kee Yeon (Keith) is the President of the Korea Transport Institute (KOTI). Dr. Hwang obtained his Bachelor in Social Science from Yonsei University, Seoul, Korea, his Master in Science in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Oregon, USA and his PhD in Urban and Regional Planning majoring in Transportation from the University of Southern California, USA.

For his contributions, Dr. Hwang received the 1st Seoul Citizen's Award on Transportation in 2003, the 2nd Seoul Policy Award in 2004 and the Order of Merit in 2005. He has published 2 books in Korean: *Transportation Demand Management: Policy and Analysis Method* in 2001, and *Project Cheonggyecheon: Conflict Management Strategies for Public Project* in 2005.

Prior to his tenure as President, KOTI, since 2005, Dr. Hwang was a Professor in the Department of Urban Planning & Design in Hongik University, Seoul, Korea, from 2005 to 2008. From 1992 to 2005, Dr. Hwang was Director, Research Center for Cheonggye Stream Restoration at the Seoul Development Institute under the Seoul Metro Government, and was seconded to the Presidential Office on Competitiveness from 1994 to 1995.