

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **World Wetlands Day to be the Premier Environmental Event of 2010!** *“Caring for Wetlands – an answer to climate change”*

SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA - The Korea Marine Environment Management Corporation (KOEM) joins thousands of individuals across the nation celebrating World Wetlands Day. KOEM will carry this message to the South Korean communities through events aimed at demonstrating the importance of wetlands in Korea and renewing their perception within the community in an effort to make wetlands a part of everyone's life. World Wetlands Day will be held at the National Museum of Korea in Seoul, during the week of February 2, 2010

Community members are encouraged to participate in the weeklong event by attending festivals within their region as well in partaking in wetland tours, lectures, forums and other activities. Attached is a list of some of the special events planned for World Wetlands Day.

World Wetlands Day is celebrated internationally each year on 2 February, marking the anniversary of the signing of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance in Ramsar, Iran, on 2 February 1971, which is commonly referred to as the Ramsar Convention. Since the inception of World Wetlands Day in 1997, government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and groups of citizens have taken advantage of the opportunity to undertake actions aimed at raising public awareness of wetland values and benefits.

The World Wetlands Day theme for this year is on wetlands, biodiversity and climate change, which seems apropos due to the likely impact of climate change on wetland ecosystems as well as the fact that wetland species and ecosystems are under continuing threat from unsustainable human practices.

More information about World Wetlands Day is available online at <http://www.koem.or.kr/> or <http://www.tidalflat.go.kr/>.

KOEM was established in January, 2008, with the main purpose of providing a comprehensive and systematic preservation and management tool for Korea's marine environment. Through developing core technologies regarding the marine environment and cultivating human resources, the KOEM will take the lead in the sustainable development of the marine environment in the future.

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