During her visit to UNESCO headquarters on 1 December 2015, President Park Geun-hye announced that the Republic of Korea would be partnering with UNESCO in implementing the new 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Korean government has been championing green growth for years. Within its Low Carbon, Green Growth policy (adopted in 2008), the government doubled its investment in green technology between 2008 and 2012, according to the UNESCO Science Report: towards 2030, published in November 2015. A new government-funded think tank, the Green Technology Center Korea, followed in 2013. The government plans to commercialize carbon capture sequestration technology by 2020. It has also identified five strategic areas for national technological development between 2013 and 2017 (see figure).

Meanwhile, the top 30 private enterprises invested KRW 22.4 trillion (circa US$26.2 billion) in green technologies between 2011 and 2013. On the international front, the country has hosted the Green Climate Fund since 2012 in the city of Incheon; this fund was established by the United Nations’ conference on climate held in Copenhagen in 2009. The Republic of Korea also established the Global Green Growth Institute in Incheon in 2010; this institute works with public and private partners in developing countries and emerging economies to put green growth at the heart of economic development.

Source: UNESCO Science Report: towards 2030