



## **Testing Governance – New River Basin Management in South Korea**

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The purpose of this study is to explore a Korean style river basin management by evaluating the current river basin management system since the 1990s and taking lessons from the British and French cases. The case studies on the British and French river basin management provide sound examples that could benefit a new Korean style river basin management system. The British case emphasizes the importance of regulatory framework and limitations of public participation. The French experience portrays that the key to a successful river basin management system is to empower river basin authorities. The new system in South Korea includes an enactment of water law, and a set-up of the National Water Council, the River Basin Authorities and the River Basin Committees. The new form of river basin management in South Korea will not be established soon but need to take a step-by-step approach to minimize social conflicts, accommodate diverse opinions in society, and satisfy a variety of demands.