

## Characteristics of Climate over Korea in Recent Decade

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To understand the climate change over Korea, it is very important to assess the historical data and develop relevant methodologies. As a pilot study, we have analyzed various meteorological variables in Korea, special emphasis on the 1990s. The mean temperature of 1990s is warmer than the other decades. Urbanization effect can account for 20-30% of warming for the second half of the 20th century. The fixed as well as variable threshold values are used to understand the characteristics of temperature change. It is clear that the warm extremes become more frequent and vice versa. The warming rate is largest in winter and small in summer. The minimum temperature in winter shows most distinctive warming. As a result the length of winter season is shortened by about one month, that is, spring and summer season starts earlier and autumn and winter starts later than before. The precipitation records indicate then the number of rainy days tends to decrease while the amount tends to increase, because of significant trend of frequency and amount of heavy rainfall events, possibly related to global warming.