

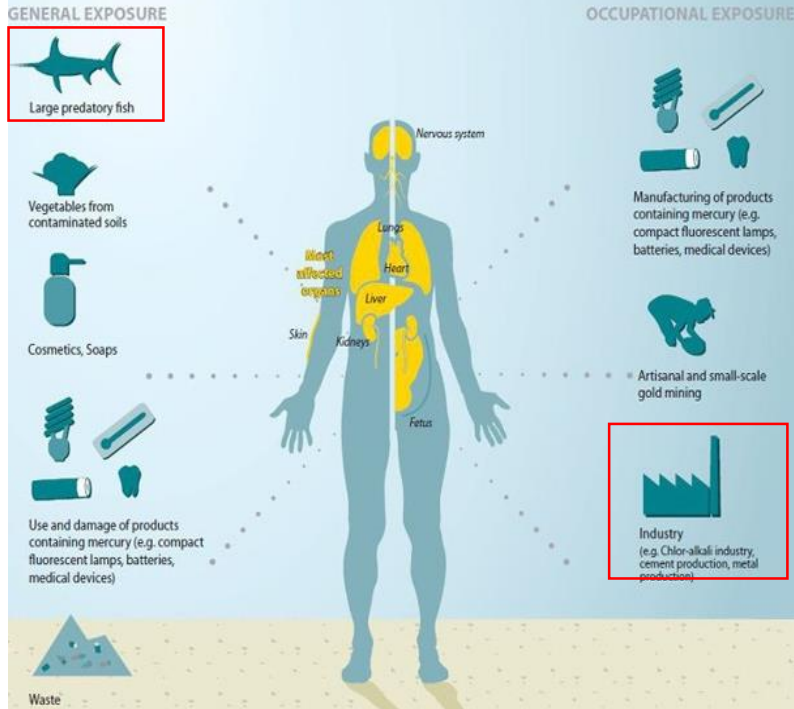
2018 APMMN meeting

# National mercury monitoring activities in Korea

Seunghee Han and Eunji Jeong  
School of Environmental Sciences and Engineering  
Gwangju Institute of Science and Technology (GIST)  
Gwangju, Korea

# 1. Introduction

## Mercury and human health

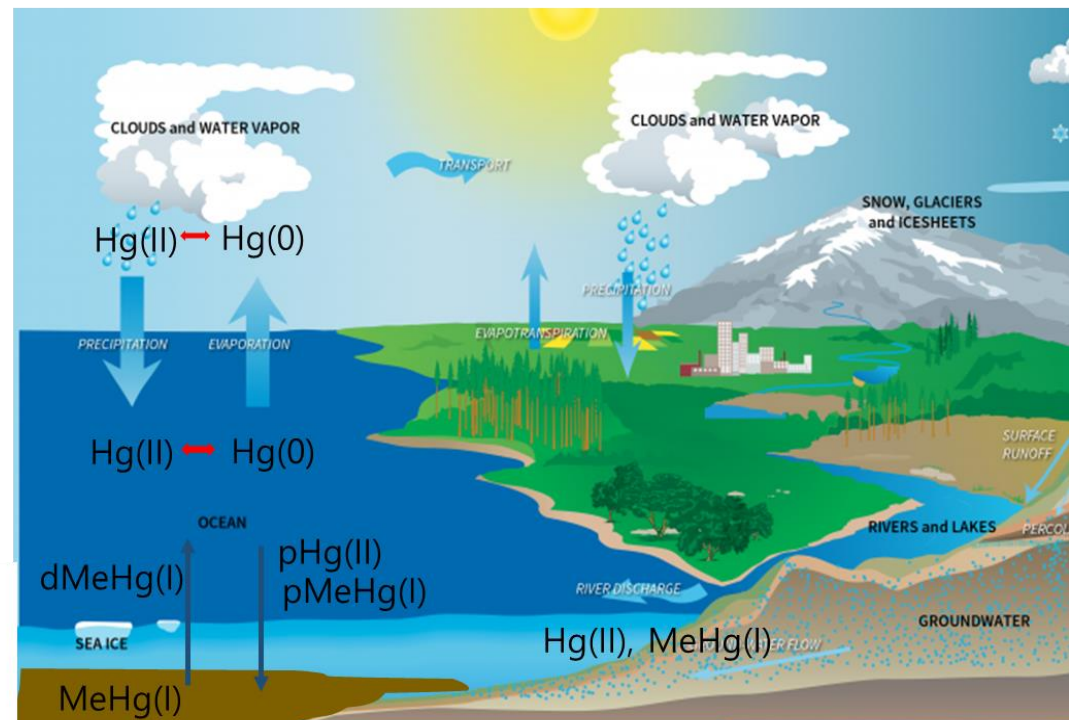


### Divalent mercury, Hg(II)

- 7–15% bioavailability after ingestion
- Kidney damage
- Renal tubule damage
- Nephritis

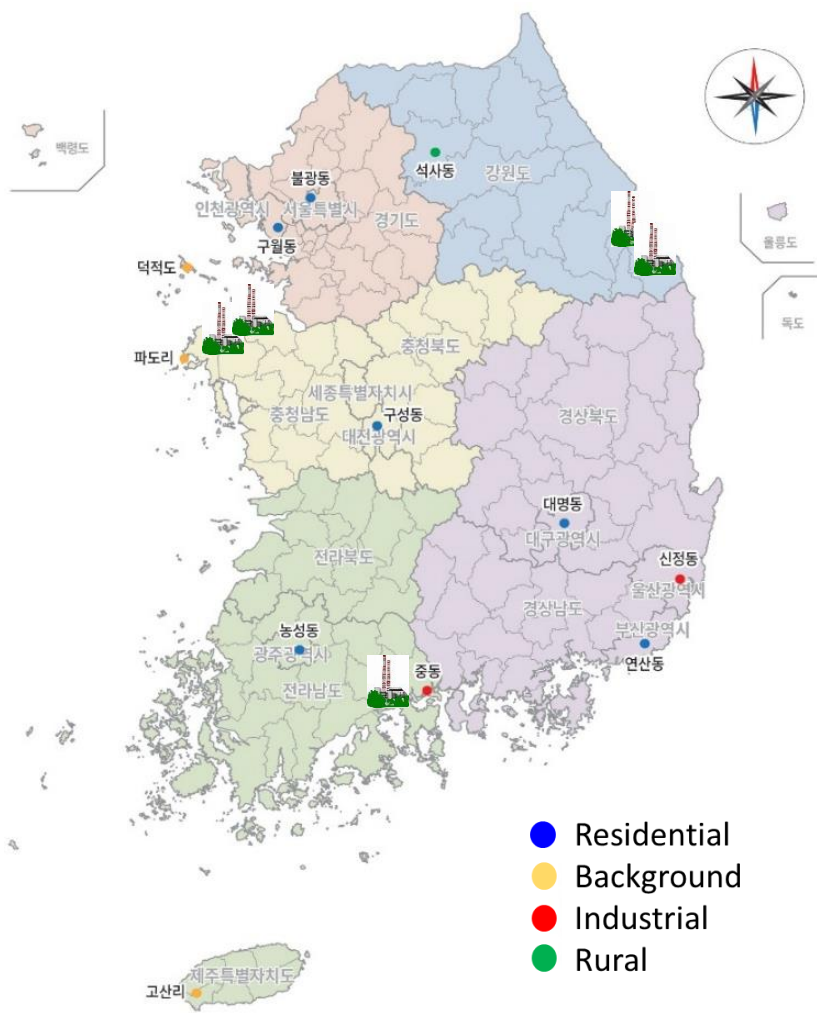
### Zero-valent mercury, Hg(0)

- <0.01% bioavailability after ingestion
- After inhalation it easily cross blood-brain barrier
- Disorder of central nervous system
- Nervousness, erethism

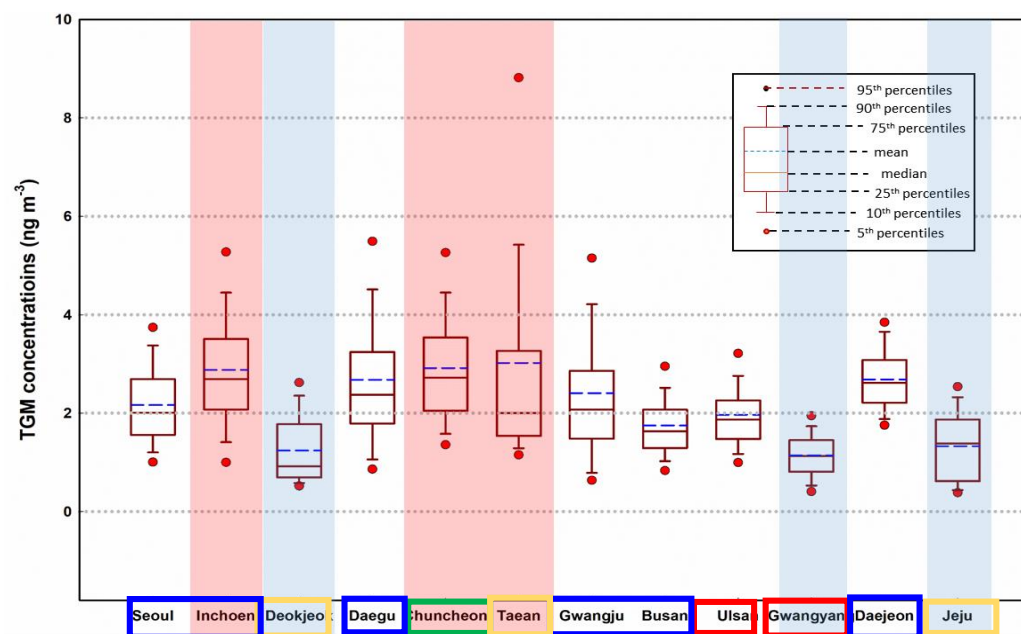


## 2. National monitoring network for TGM

- TGM has been monitored using CVAFS (Tekran system) at the 12 acid precipitation monitoring sites from 2012 (2 hr mean).



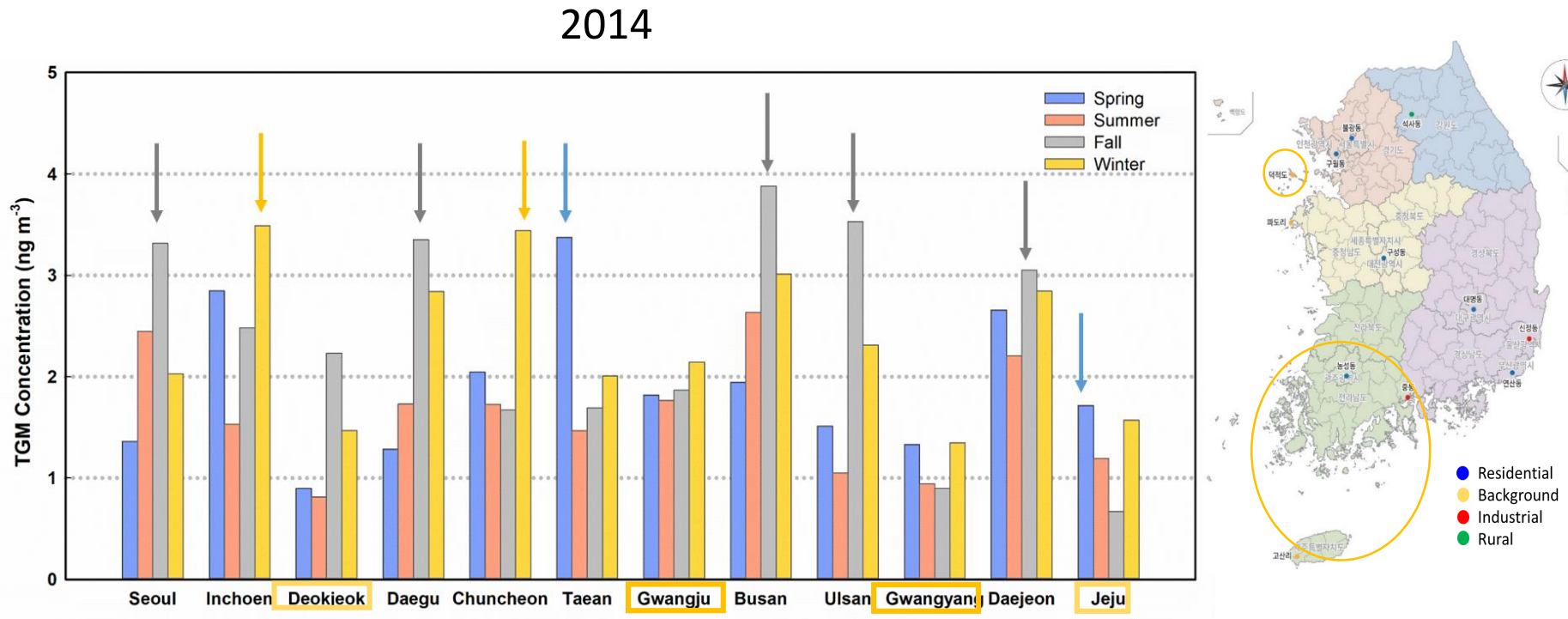
Annual mean TGM (2012-2014)



*Courtesy of Youngji Han and NIER*

## 2. National monitoring network for TGM

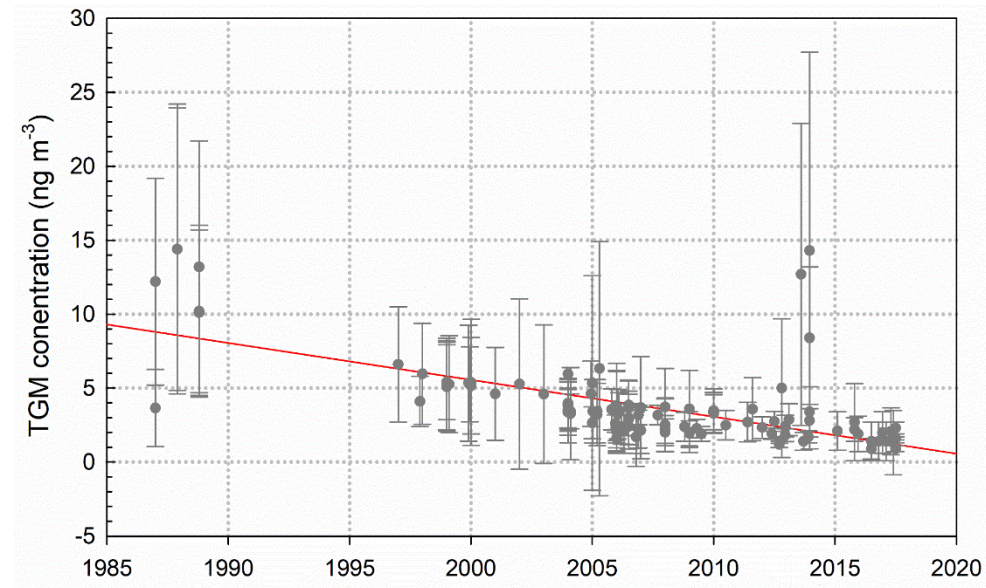
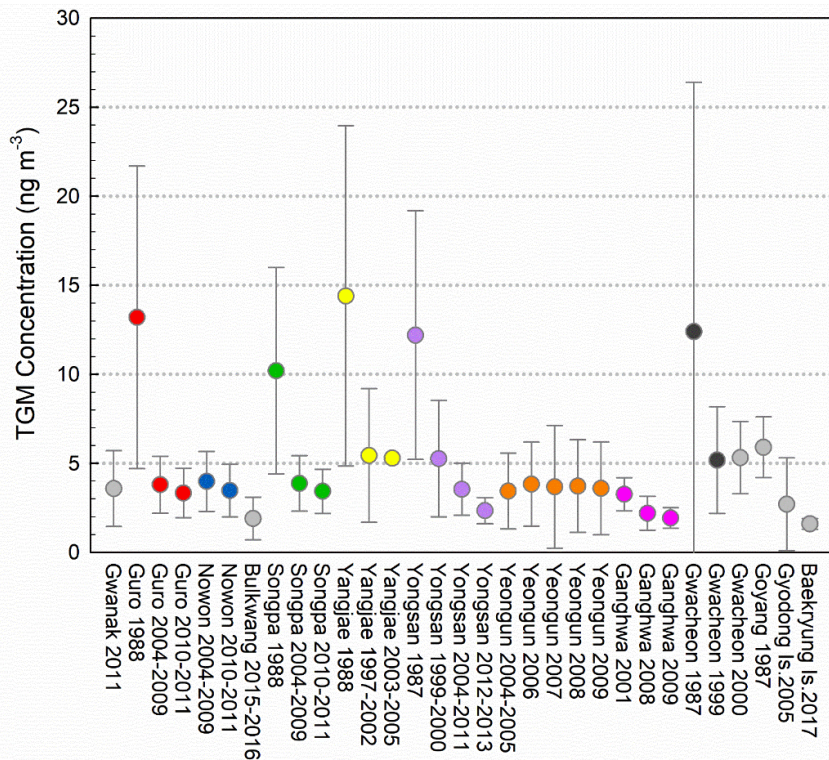
- The lowest TGM is found from the southwest area (Jeju, Gwanyang and Gwangju).
- Peak conc is commonly found in fall and winter in the other sites with large seasonal variations.



Courtesy of Youngji Han and NIER

## 2. National monitoring network for TGM

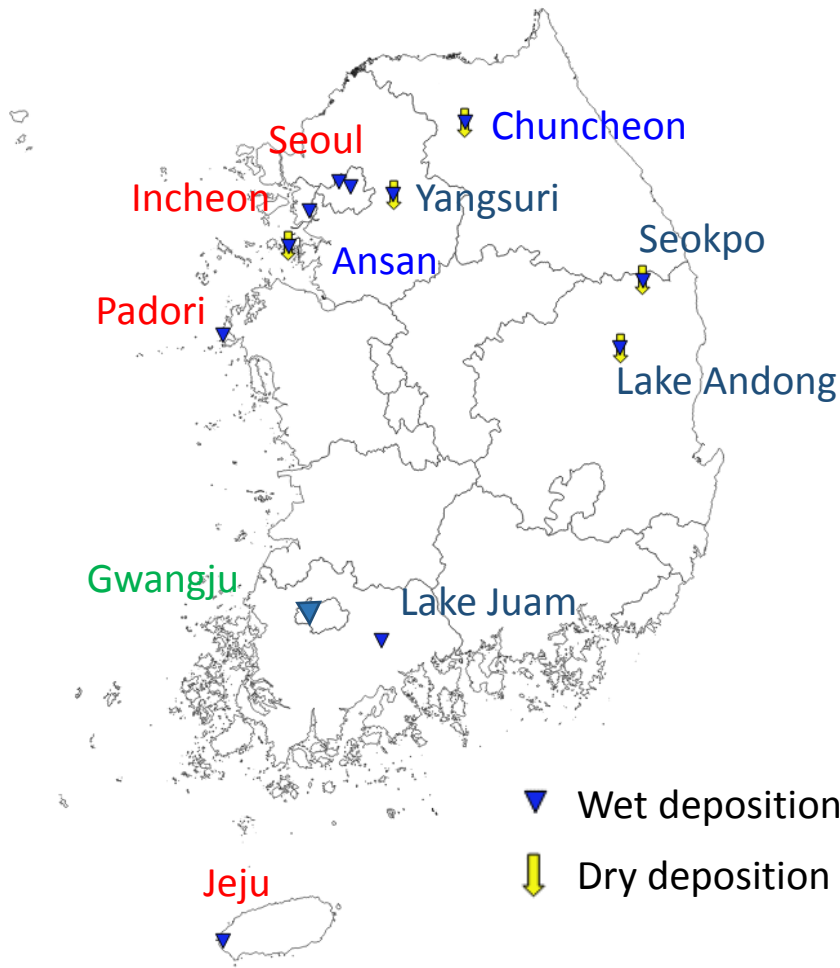
- TGM shows relatively steady trend after 2005.



*Courtesy of Youngji Han*

### 3. National monitoring network for wet deposition

- Jeju, Padori, Incheon, Seoul: national monitoring, weekly sampling, 2015-present
- Andong, Seokpo: event sampling, 2009-2011
- Ansan, chuncheon: event sampling
- Gwangju: APMMN supported, 2016-present



Ansan



Gwangju



### 3. National monitoring network for wet deposition

- Gwangju site has been operated from April 2016.
- THg is measured at the Dr Sheu's lab in Taiwan and MeHg at the GIST lab.

THg



BrCl oxidation



Reduction and sorption



CVAFS

MeHg



Distillation



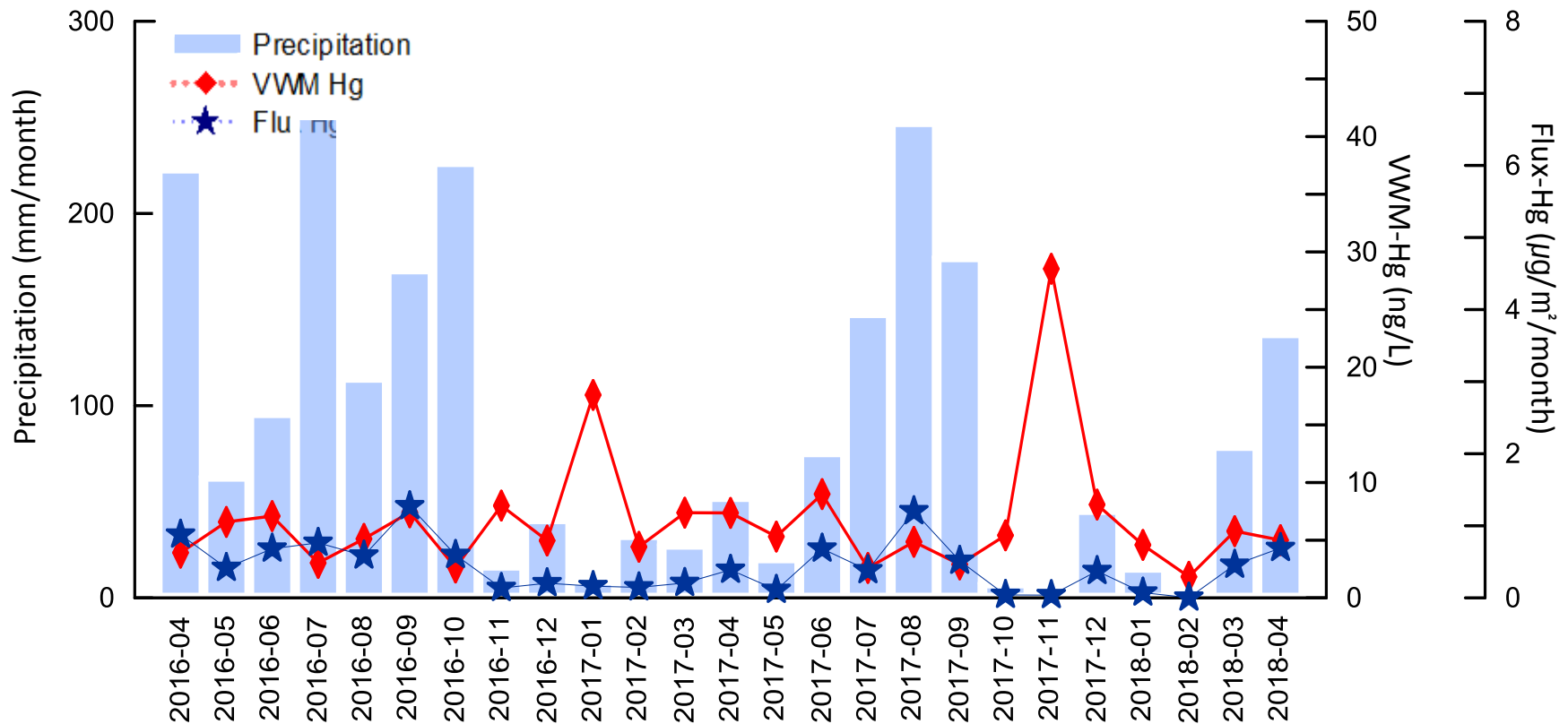
Ethylating and sorption



GC-CVAFS

### 3. National monitoring network for wet deposition

- VWM THg is peaked in winter (November and January) and wet deposition is peaked in summer (August).

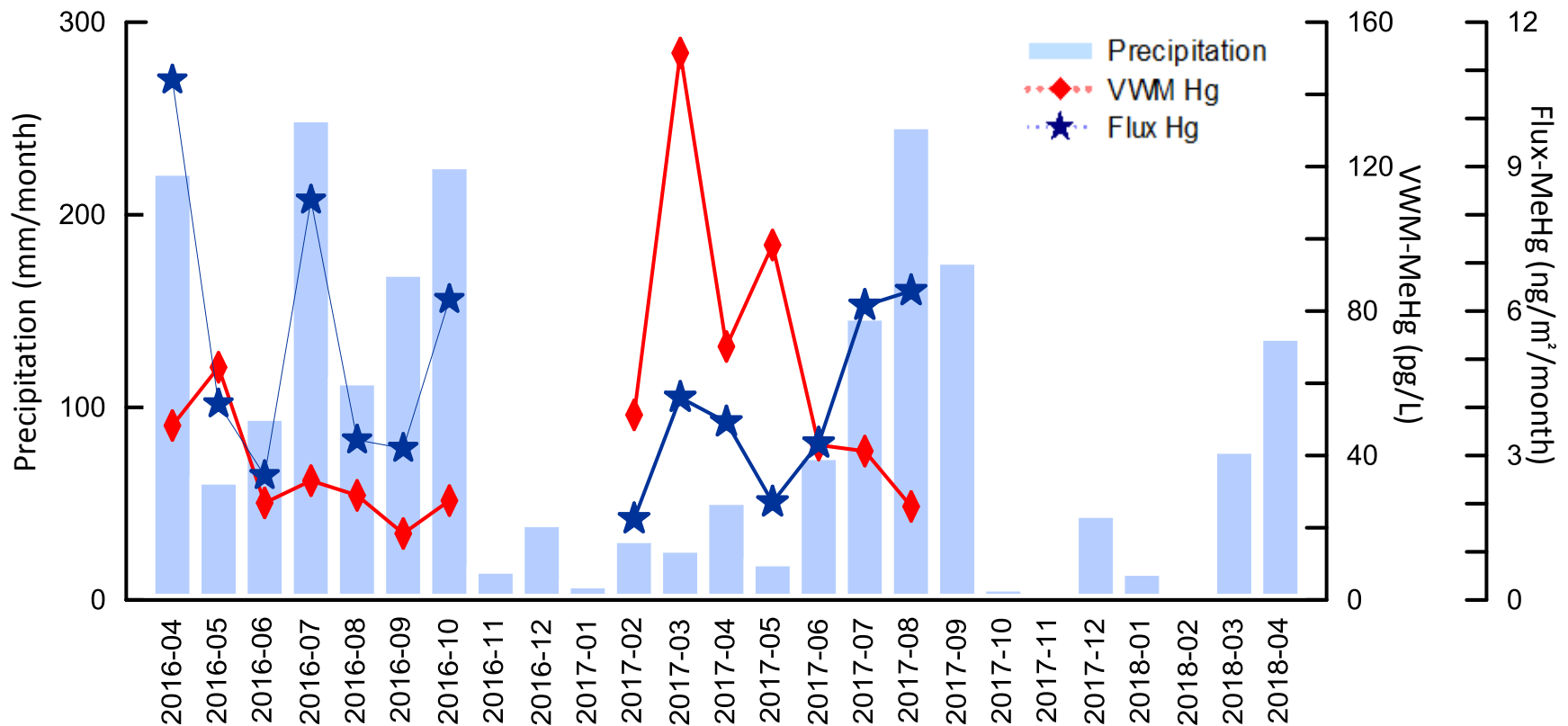


April 2016-March 2017, VWM THg: 4.7 ng/L, THg flux: 6.0  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^2/\text{yr}$

April 2017-March 2018, VWM THg: 4.9 ng/L, THg flux: 4.3  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^2/\text{yr}$

### 3. National monitoring network for wet deposition

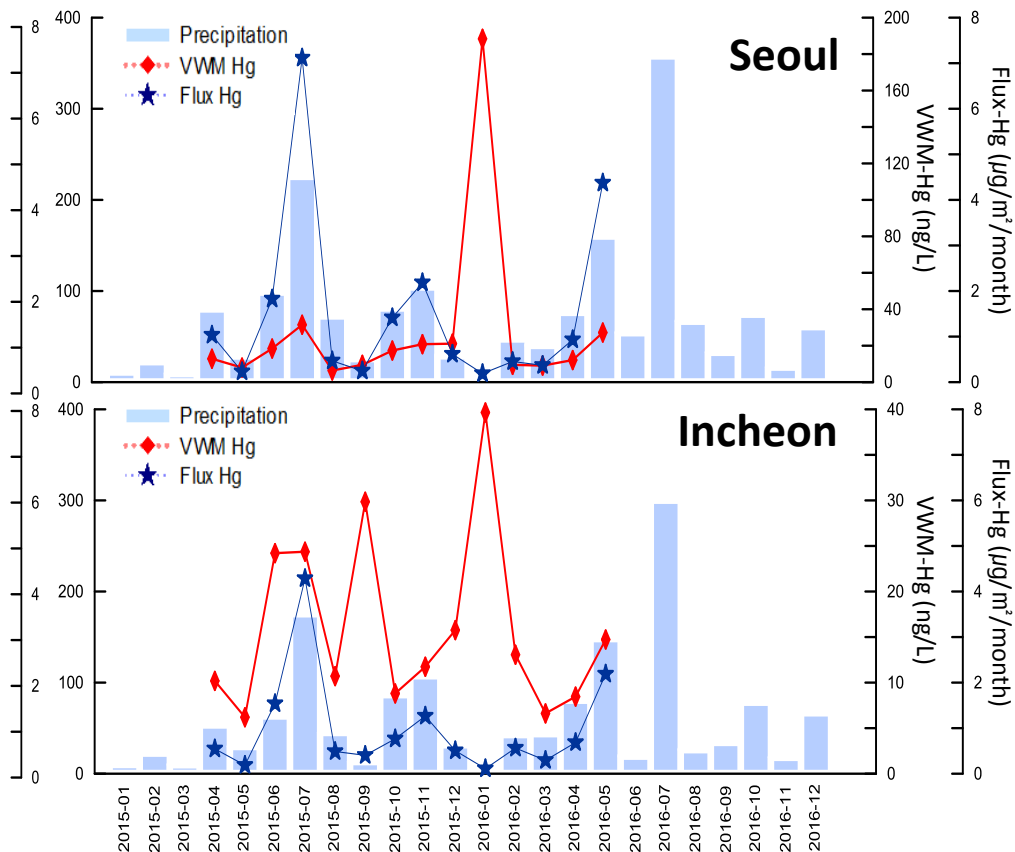
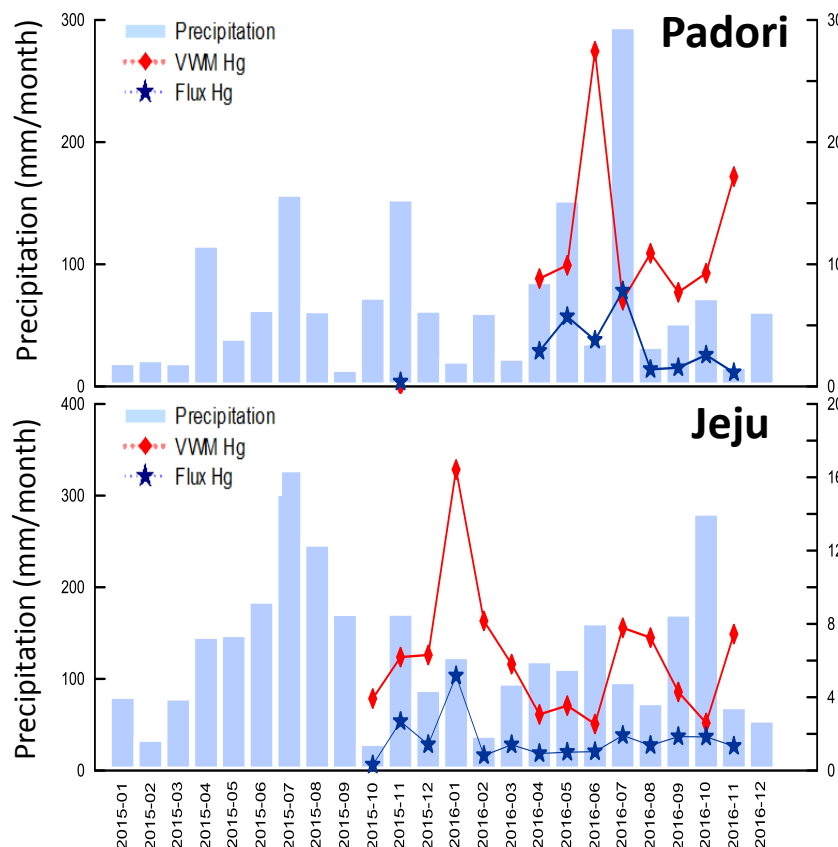
- VWM MeHg is highest in spring (March) and wet deposition follows the precipitation trend.



April 2016-March 2017, VWM MeHg: 31 pg/L, MeHg flux: 40 ng/m²/yr (0.67% of THg)

### 3. National monitoring network for wet deposition

- VWM is highest in January and wet deposition is highest in July except Jeju.



*Courtesy of Youngji Han and NIER*

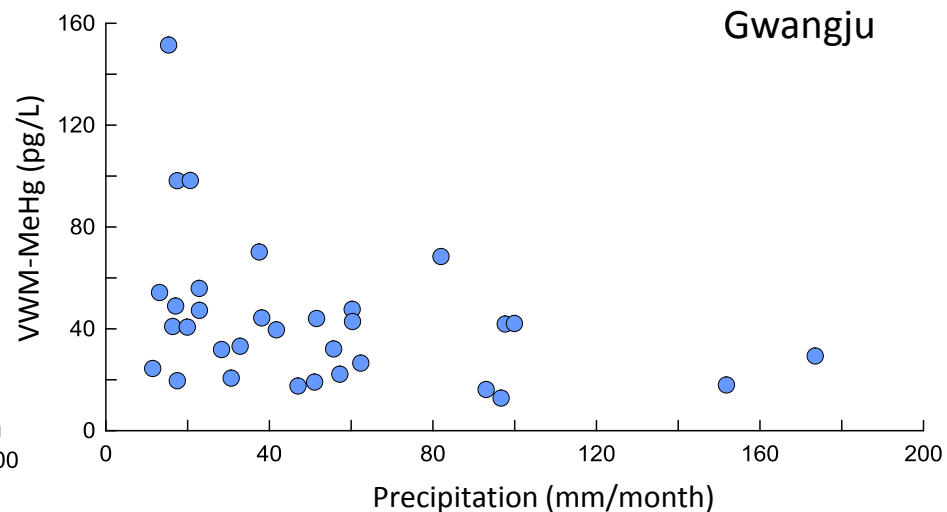
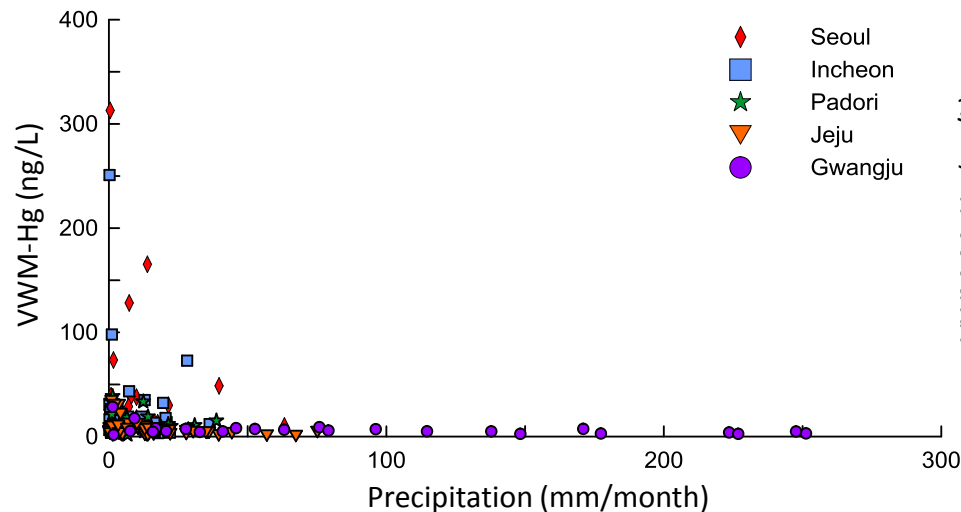
Jeju Oct 2015 – Sep 2016, VWM THg: 4.5 ng/L, THg flux: 8.0  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^2/\text{yr}$

Seoul April 2015 – March 2016, VWM THg: 21.1 ng/L, THg flux: 16.1  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^2/\text{yr}$

Incheon April 2015 – March 2016, VWM THg: 13.9 ng/L, THg flux: 11.0  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^2/\text{yr}$

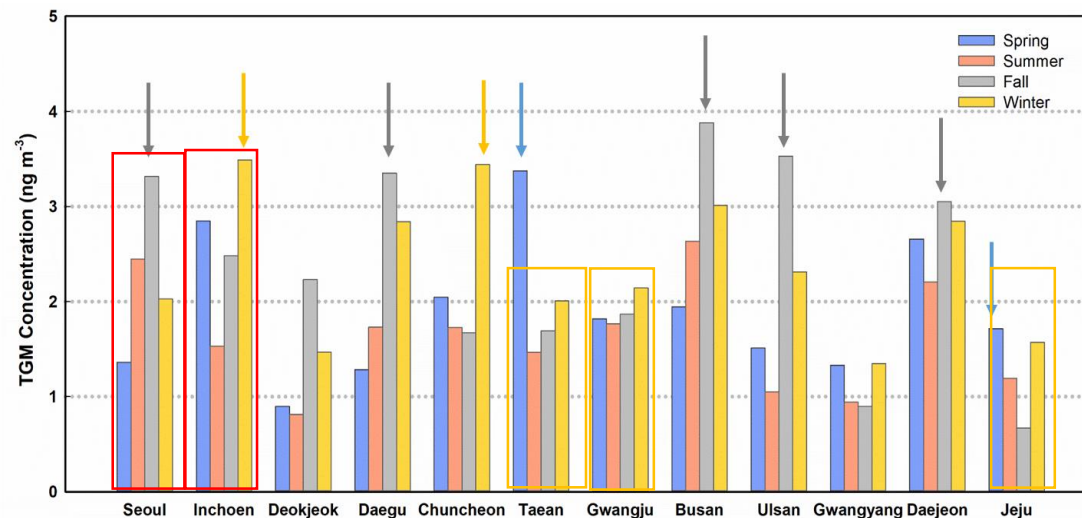
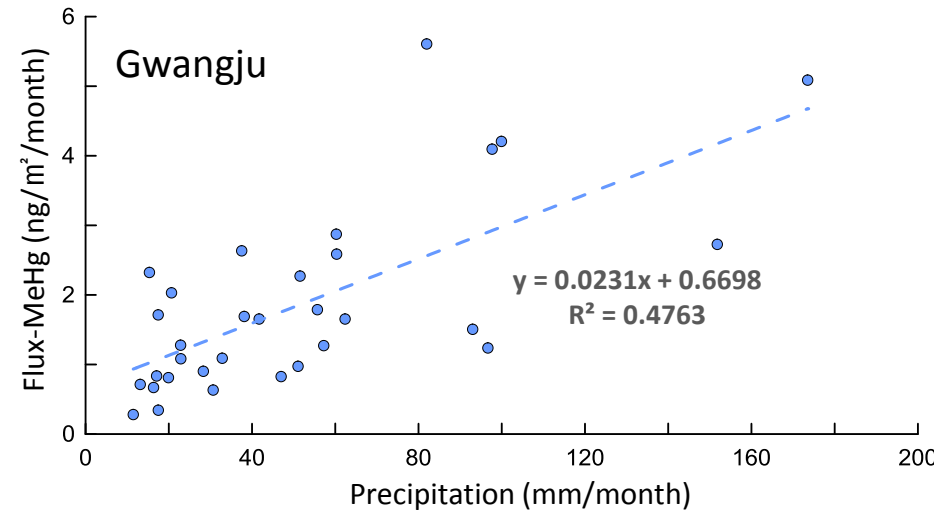
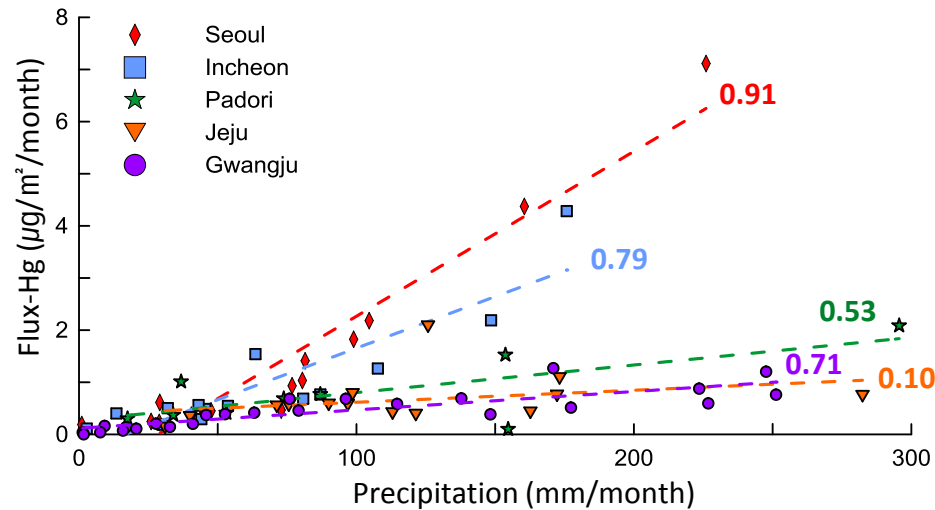
### 3. National monitoring network for wet deposition

- VWM concentrations of THg and MeHg were negatively correlated to precipitation.

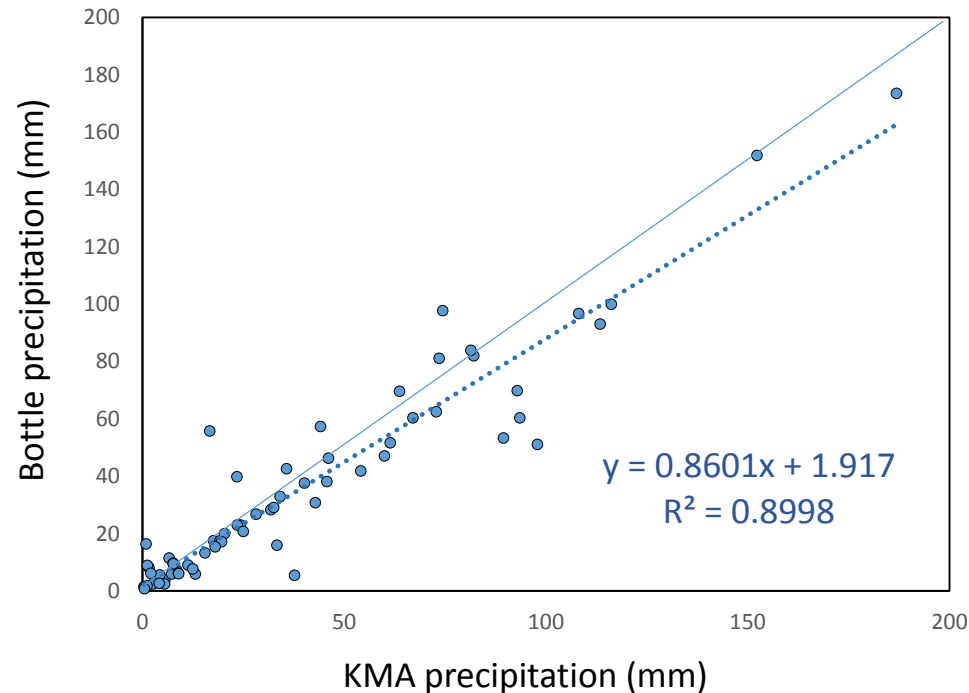


### 3. National monitoring network for wet deposition

- Wet deposition/precipitation: Seoul > Incheon > Padori > Gwangju, Jeju



### 3. National monitoring network for wet deposition



- Hg and MeHg deposition fluxes of Gwangju site might be underestimated by ~14%.

### 3. National monitoring network for wet deposition

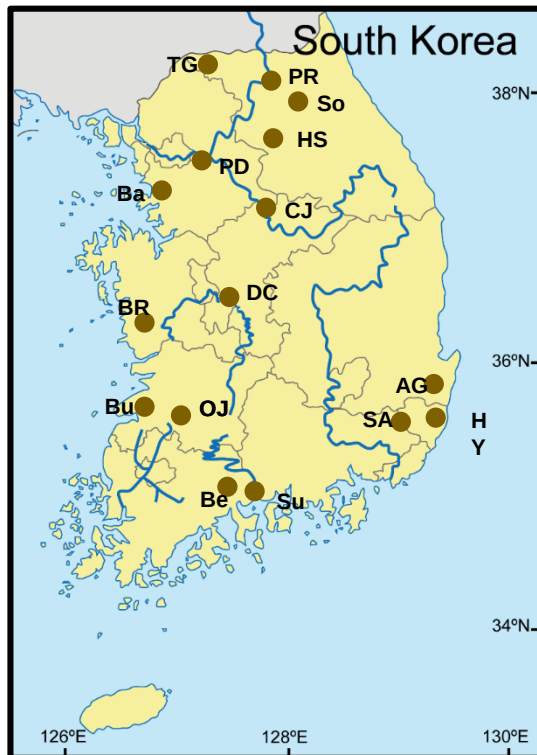
| Site                          | Type       | Sampling period       | Annual prec (mm) | VWM (ng/L) |       | Wet deposition ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^2/\text{yr}$ ) |       | Reference                    |
|-------------------------------|------------|-----------------------|------------------|------------|-------|-------------------------------------------------------|-------|------------------------------|
|                               |            |                       |                  | THg        | MeHg  | THg                                                   | MeHg  |                              |
| Chongqing China               | Industrial | Dec 2010-Nov 2014     | 1104.4           | 34.3       | 0.48  | 37.8                                                  | 0.53  | Qin et al., 2016             |
| Chongqing China               | Urban      | Jul 2010-Jun 2011     | 921              | 30.7       | 0.31  | -                                                     | -     | Wang et al., 2012            |
| Lhasa, Tibetan, China         | Urban      | Jan-Dec 2009          | 359              | 24.8       | -     | 8.2                                                   | -     | Huang et al., 2013           |
| Seoul Korea                   | Urban      | April 2015-March 2016 | 766              | 21.1       | -     | 16.1                                                  | -     | This study                   |
| Three Gorges Reservoir, China | Rural      | Nov 2012-Oct 2013     | 743              | 18.0       | 0.23  | 13.0                                                  | 0.17  | Zhao et al., 2015            |
| Xiamen, China                 | Suburban   | Jun 2012-May 2013     | 1137             | 12.3       | 0.053 | 14.0                                                  | 0.058 | Xu et al., 2014              |
| Pengjiayu Taiwan              | Remote     | Jan-Dec 2009          | 1438             | 8.8        | -     | 10.2                                                  | -     | Sheu and Lin, 2013           |
| Minamata Bay Japan            | Costal     | Sep 2009-Aug 2010     | -                | 5.9        | 0.061 | 13.7                                                  | 0.14  | Marumoto and Matsuyama, 2014 |
| Gwangju Korea                 | Urban      | April 2016-March 2017 | 1274             | 4.7        | 0.031 | 6.0                                                   | 0.040 | <sup>14</sup><br>This study  |
| Tibetan Plateau, China        | Alpine     | May 2010-Oct 2012     | 978              | 4.0        | 0.11  | 3.9                                                   | 0.11  | Huang et al., 2015           |

- The median TGM concentration of each monitoring site ranged from 1.0 to 2.8 ng m<sup>-3</sup> and peak concentrations were found in fall and winter (national network, 2012-2014).
- The concentration range of TGM was low and seasonal variation was small in the southwest part Korea including Jeju island (Seoul, Busan and Incheon) (national network, 2012-2014).
- The wet deposition of THg normalized to precipitation (Seoul > Incheon > Padori > Gwangju, Jeju) follows the trend of TGM (national network 2015-2016 and Gwangju 2016-2017).
- VWM of THg and MeHg was highest in winter and spring, respectively. MeHg production and scavenging should be better understood with extensive data collection (Gwangju, 2016-2017).

# 5. What happens after deposition?

## Pilot project for the comprehensive mercury monitoring network in Korea

- (1) Preliminary study (2013-2015)
- (2) Pilot project (2016-2020)
- (3) Operation of the national monitoring network (2021- )

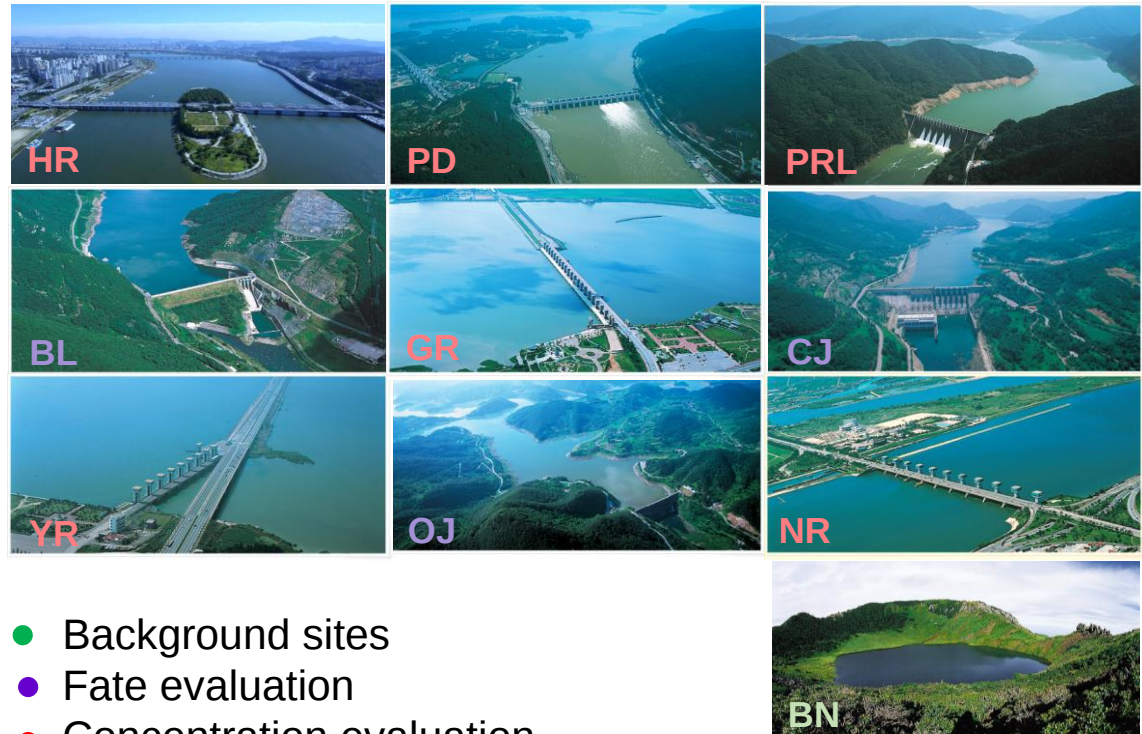
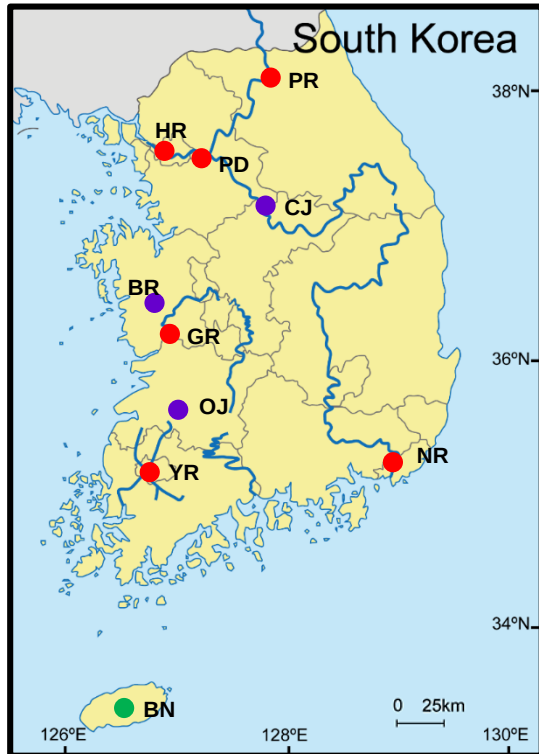


|                                           |                                           |                                           |                                         |                                          |                                         |                                           |                                          |
|-------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
|                                           |                                           |                                           |                                         |                                          |                                         |                                           |                                          |
| DC<br>(1981)                              | So<br>(1973)                              | PR<br>(1944)                              | OJ<br>(1965)                            | BR<br>(1996)                             | TG<br>(1976)                            | Bu<br>(1996)                              | HY<br>(1986)                             |
| Forest: 66%<br>Agricul:15%<br>Urban:17%   | Forest: 80%<br>Agricul:4.1%<br>Urban:14%  | Forest: 79%<br>Agricul:8.0%<br>Urban:9.9% | Forest: 64%<br>Agricul:13%<br>Urban:23% | Forest: 80%<br>Agricul:11%<br>Urban:6.6% | Forest: 42%<br>Agricul:39%<br>Urban:15% | Forest: 89%<br>Agricul:2.8%<br>Urban:6.8% | Forest: 67%<br>Agricul:19%<br>Urban:8.7% |
|                                           |                                           |                                           |                                         |                                          |                                         |                                           |                                          |
| Su<br>(1978)                              | Ba<br>(1957)                              | Be<br>(1967)                              | PD<br>(1973)                            | CJ<br>(1985)                             | AG<br>(1971)                            | SA<br>(1962)                              | HS<br>(2000)                             |
| Forest: 87%<br>Agricul:8.0%<br>Urban:3.2% | Forest: 18%<br>Agricul: 43%<br>Urban: 39% | Forest: 8.2%<br>Agricul:86%<br>Urban:5.3% | Forest: 25%<br>Agricul:60%<br>Urban:15% | Forest: 10%<br>Agricul:81%<br>Urban:9.0% | Forest: 18%<br>Agricul:57%<br>Urban:25% | Forest: 7.5%<br>Agricul:53%<br>Urban:39%  | Forest: 12%<br>Agricul:80%<br>Urban:8.0% |

**Preliminary study sites (2013 - 2015)**

# 5. What happens after deposition?

## Pilot project (2016 - 2020)

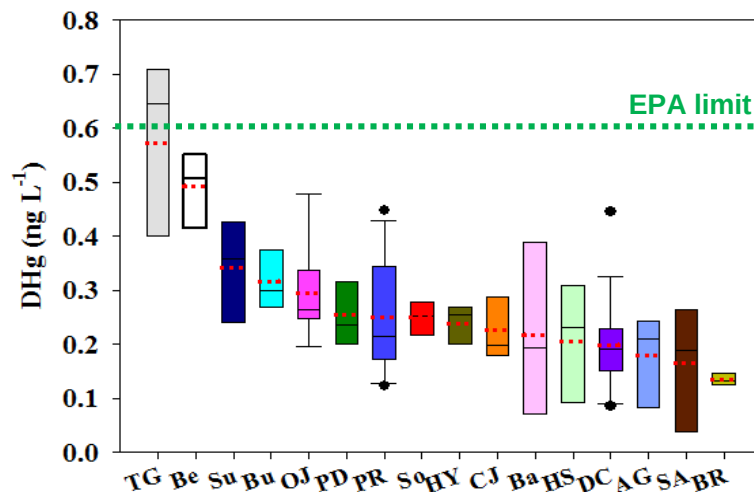


- Background sites
- Fate evaluation
- Concentration evaluation

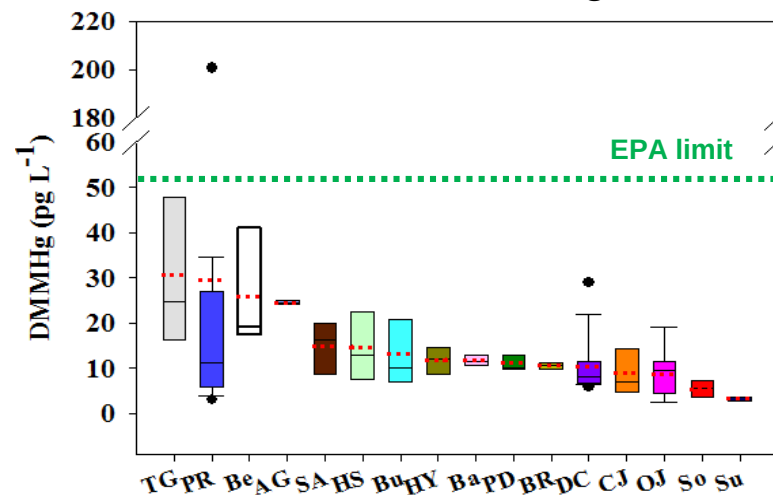
# 5. What happens after deposition?

## Preliminary study (2013 - 2015)

Dissolved Hg

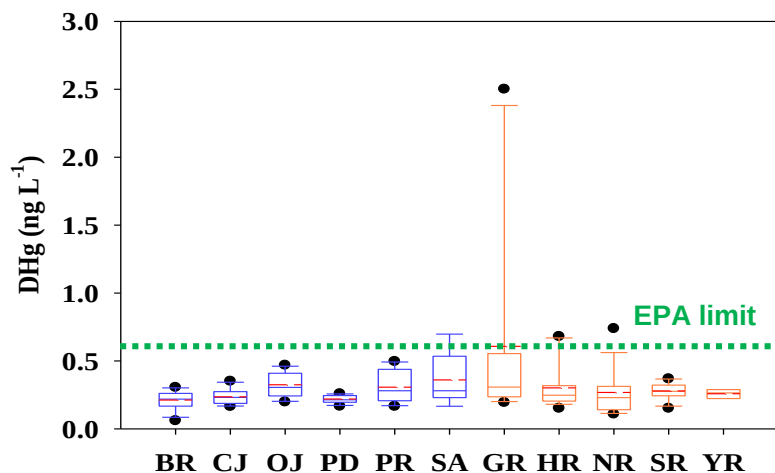


Dissolved MMHg

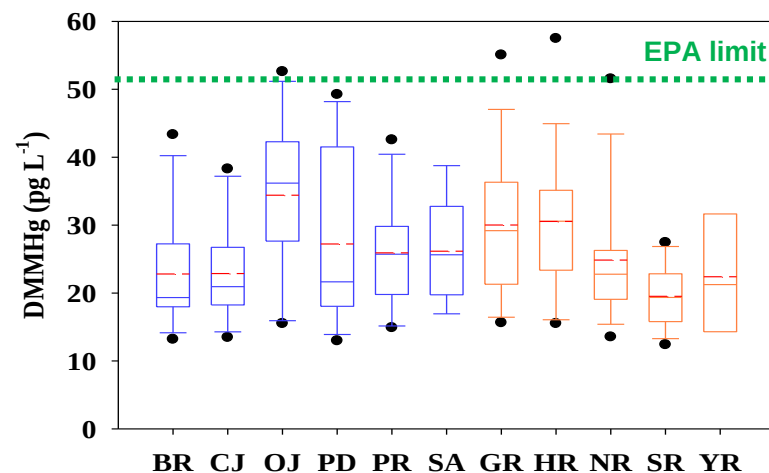


## Pilot project (2016 - 2020)

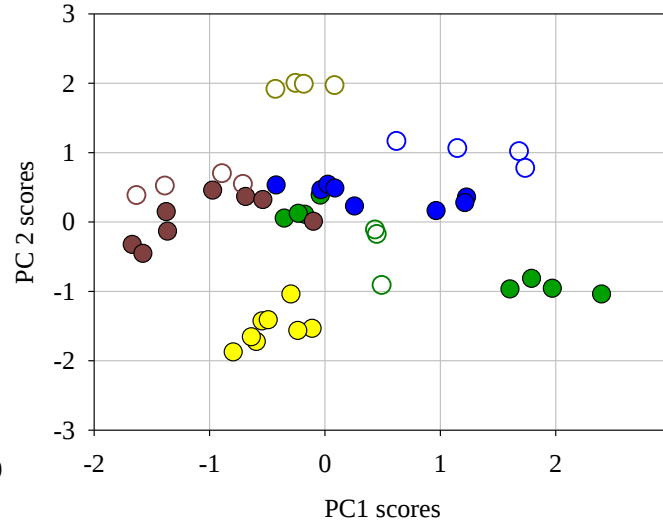
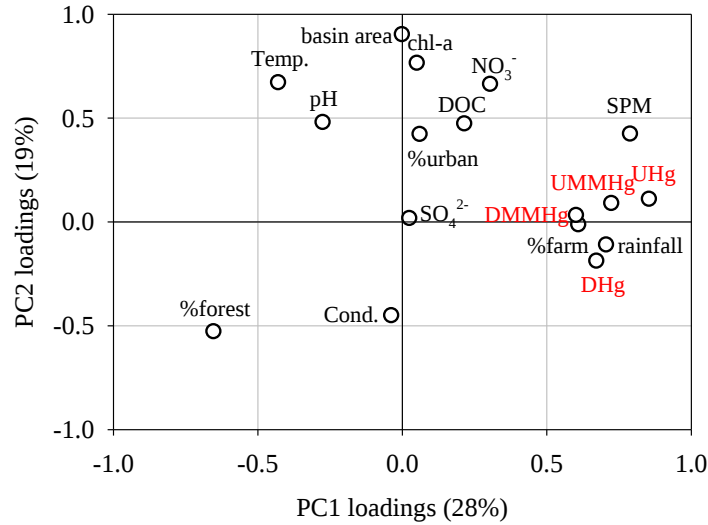
Dissolved Hg



Dissolved MMHg

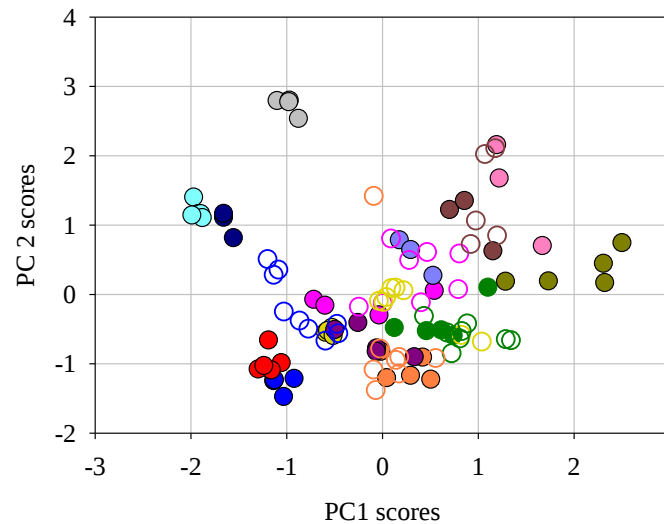
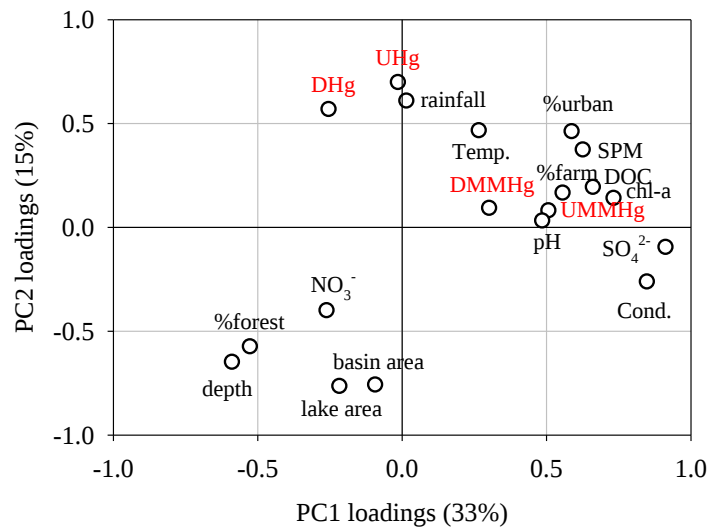


# 5. What happens after deposition?



2016-2017 rivers  
(excluding winter, n=48)

- 16 GR ○ 17 GR
- 16 HR ○ 17 HR
- 16 NR ○ 17 NR
- 16 SR ○ 17 YR

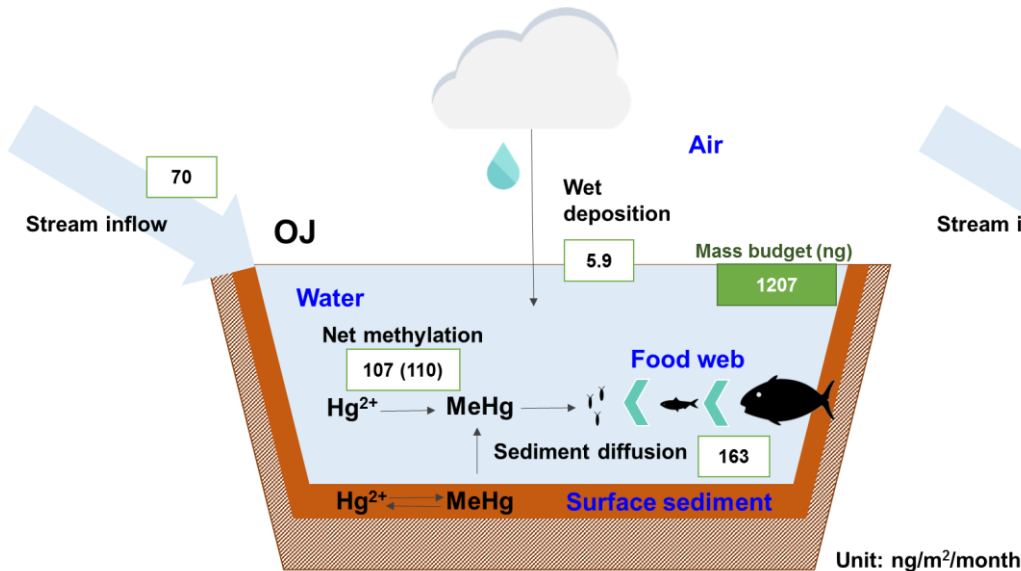


2013-2017 lakes  
(excluding winter, n=112)

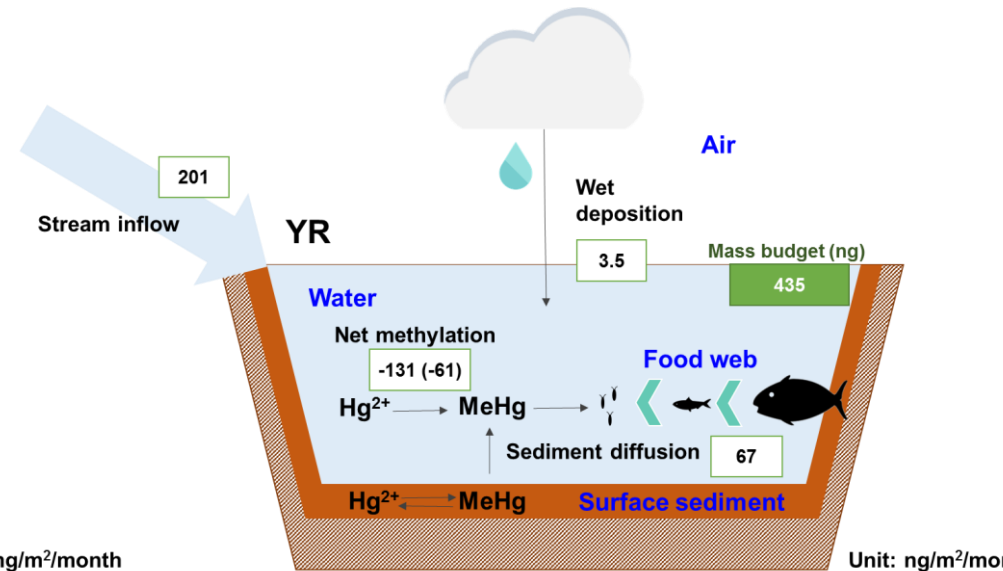
- 13-15 So ● 13-15 OJ ○ 16-17 OJ
- 13-15 DC ● 13-15 PR ○ 16-17 PR
- 13-15 TG ● 13-15 BR ○ 16-17 BR
- 13-15 Su ● 13-15 PD ○ 16-17 PD
- 13-15 Bu ● 13-15 CJ ○ 16-17 CJ
- 13-15 HY ● 13-15 SA ○ 16 SA
- 13-15 Ba
- 13-15 AG

# 5. What happens after deposition?

Okjeong Lake



Yeongsan River



Okjeong Lake: sediment diffusion > in-situ methylation > stream

Yeongsan River: stream > sediment diffusion > wet deposition



국립환경과학원



환경부