

**River Rehabilitation Towards Preserving the Coastal Areas in Marikina-Pasig River Metro  
Manila: South Korean Benchmark**

**Alberto P. Mandanas Jr., BSCE, MBA**

<https://orcid.org/0009-0000-3781-5033>

albertomandanas23@gmail.com

Philippine Christian University

Department of Public Works and Highways, Philippines

**Abstract**

This study intended to compare Cheonggyecheon Stream Restoration Project in Seoul River and Marikina-Pasig River approaches and strategies for flood mitigation and river improvement initiatives. It employed comparative research. The respondents were stakeholders involved in river management, urban planning, disaster risk reduction, environmental protection, conservation, community leadership, and economic activities within Metro Manila. The study compares the effectiveness and perceptions of flood mitigation strategies in the Marikina-Pasig River Metro Manila and the Cheonggyecheon Stream Restoration Project in Seoul River. Respondents generally perceive structural, non-structural, technological solutions, community engagement, and policy governance interventions as effective in both locations, albeit with slight variations in effectiveness scores. However, significant differences emerge in perceptions of best practices, technologies, policies, and community engagement strategies between the two areas, highlighting distinct local contexts and priorities in river improvement initiatives. Overall, the findings underscore the need for tailored strategies and policy frameworks to address specific challenges in each river basin, informing future research and guiding policy recommendations for sustainable river preservation in urban settings like Metro Manila. The study concludes that respondents perceive structural, non-structural, technological, community engagement, and policy governance strategies as similarly effective for river improvement and flood mitigation in both the Marikina-Pasig River Metro Manila and Cheonggyecheon Stream Restoration Project in Seoul River. However, significant differences in perceptions of best practices, technologies, policies, and community engagement exist between the two locations. Moreover, there are statistically significant variations in the effectiveness of flood mitigation strategies overall, emphasizing unique outcomes and approaches. Demographic factors like age, sex, and educational attainment significantly influence perceptions of river improvement efforts. These findings provide essential insights for proposing tailored policy recommendations for preserving the Marikina-Pasig River, advocating for educational campaigns, robust community engagement, gender-sensitive strategies, green infrastructure integration, and ongoing evaluation to ensure sustainable river management. Government and policymakers should prioritize structural and non-structural flood interventions for sustainability. Local communities should engage in river preservation through education and capacity-building, enhancing resilience. Environmental groups should advocate best practices and sustainable policies. Planners should integrate green infrastructure for urban flood resilience. Businesses should recognize the economic benefits in river restoration. Future research should explore demographics in river management and innovate climate resilience solutions.

*Keywords: Comparative research, flood mitigation, river improvement, Marikina-Pasig River, Cheonggyecheon Stream Restoration Project, stakeholders*