

## Reply to Comment by Kang and Kim on “Estimation of Net Radiation in Three Different Plant Functional Types in Korea”

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### “한국의 세 개의 다른 식생기능형태에서의 순복사 추정”에 대한 의견의 답변

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I thank Kang and Kim (this issue) for their interests and constructive comments on Kwon (2009) in which the objectives were to find the site-specific relationship between net radiation ( $R_N$ ) and solar radiation ( $R_S$ ) in major plant functional types in Korea and to examine its applicability for estimating  $R_N$ . The authors addressed six major points requesting clarification and suggesting improvement. Below, my replies are provided.

#### I. THE USE OF DAILY INTEGRATED DATA FOR REGRESSION

Kang and Kim is correct that only the daytime data (excluding nighttime data) should be used to derive a relationship between  $R_N$  and  $R_S$ . However, the usage of daily sums to draw  $R_N$ - $R_S$  relationships can be found in the literature (e.g., Shaw, 1958; Kjaersgaard *et al.*, 2007). In addition, the daily sums are used to estimate daily  $R_N$  for further applications such as the estimation of daily evapotranspiration. Such applications motivate the use of radiation balance equation for  $R_N$  estimation (e.g., Allen *et al.*, 1998). Despite the unaccounted influence of cloud cover and albedo on  $R_N$ , based on the error assessment, the  $R_N$  estimated from a simple linear regression produced practically useful and

acceptable results. Consideration of the influence of cloud cover and albedo on  $R_N$  is an appropriate next step for further analysis and therefore Kang and Kim's efforts are appreciated.

#### II. THE USE OF THE MEASURED ALBEDO

I agree with Kang and Kim that, instead of using the observed albedo, other alternative values should be used. However, the influence of using alternative values of albedo on  $R_N$  was small. One of the alternatives was to use albedo values reported in the literature for deciduous forest (0.15-0.25), coniferous forest (0.1-0.15), and cropland (short green vegetation: 0.1-0.2, dry vegetation: 0.2-0.3) (Hartman, 1994). They indicate that actual values of albedo at each site were generally lower than those from the literature. Other literature, however, reported more comparable values of albedo: 0.10-0.20 for deciduous forests, 0.05-0.15 for coniferous forests, and 0.10-0.25 for agricultural lands (e.g., Arya, 1988).

Another alternative was to use climatological values of albedo at the sites. The monthly climatological values that Kang and Kim provided were almost identical with those observed in 2008 (e.g., the values of  $d$  index ranging from 0.98 to 1.0 and the values of RMSE rang-

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ing from 0.001 to 0.02 for the three sites). The comparison between  $R_N$  calculated with the climatological values of albedo and that with the daily values of albedo in 2008 showed good agreement as well (e.g.,  $d$  index was 1.0 and RMSE was  $0.26 \text{ MJ m}^{-2} \text{ d}^{-1}$  at the Gwangneung deciduous forest site). The negligible discrepancy was due to almost no year-to-year variation in albedo. Given that (1) the observed albedos are within the general range of the reported values and (2) the inter-annual variations of albedo at each site were negligible, the use of the observed albedo (if available) is not inappropriate.

### III. THE USE OF LINEAR COEFFICIENTS FOR WHOLE YEAR DATA

The purpose of Kwon (2009) was to estimate  $R_N$  using  $R_S$  over a yearly temporal scale and thus the error assessment was conducted over the entire year data but not over each season. The possible inaccuracy associated with the use of yearly data for the error assessment was clearly mentioned in Kwon (2009).

### IV. METHODOLOGICAL IMPROVEMENT

There may be a methodological limitation in estimating  $R_{LN}$  following Allen *et al.* (1998).

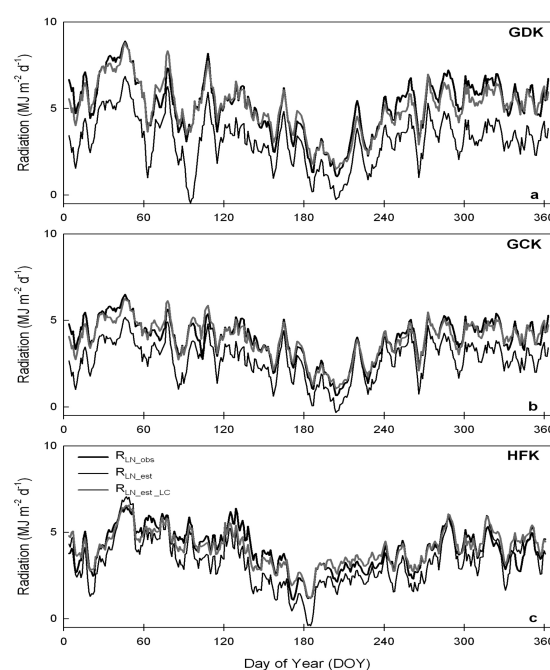
$$R_{LN} = -\sigma \left[ \frac{T_{\max}^4 + T_{\min}^4}{2} \right] (a - b\sqrt{e_a}) \left( c \frac{R_{S\downarrow}}{R_{S0}} - d \right) \quad (1)$$

where  $\sigma$  is the Stefan-Boltzmann constant,  $T_{\max}$  and  $T_{\min}$  are the maximum and minimum air temperatures (in K),  $e_a$  is actual vapor pressure (in kPa),  $R_{S\downarrow}$  is short-wave radiation,  $R_{S0}$  is clear-sky solar radiation, and  $a$ ,  $b$ ,  $c$ , and  $d$  are the calibration coefficients. These coefficients are subject to local calibration. Eq. (1) is the equation used for  $R_{LN}$  calculation in conjunction with FAO-56 evapotranspiration (Allen *et al.*, 1998). And many applications use Eq. (1) without modification of the calibration coefficients (e.g., Zhang *et al.*, 2008). Kwon (2009) also used the coefficients given by Allen *et al.* (1998), which were empirically calibrated for cropland (Brunt, 1932). This was one of the reasons of an overestimation of the daily  $R_N$  especially in the winter.

The daily data for the entire year of 2008 were used to draw the calibration coefficients for each site using curve fitting function with MATLAB (Version 7.7).

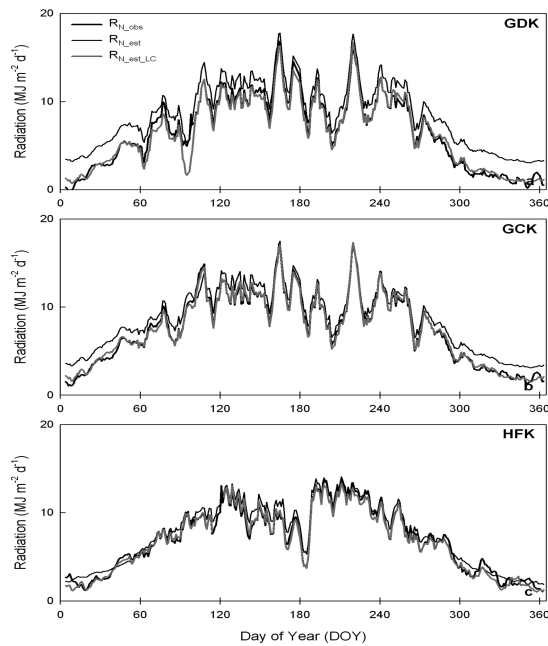
**Table 1.** Comparison of calibration coefficients given in Allen *et al.* (1998) with the local calibration coefficients for each site. GDK, GCK, and HFK indicate Gwangneung deciduous forest, Gwangneung coniferous forest, and Haenam cropland, respectively

	Brunt (1932)	GDK	GCK	HFK
a	0.34	0.20	0.44	0.17
b	0.14	0.09	0.22	0.06
c	1.35	1.96	0.90	1.64
d	0.35	-0.20	-0.01	-0.09



**Fig. 1.** Comparison of net longwave radiation.  $R_{LN,obs}$  is the observed net longwave radiation,  $R_{LN,est}$  is the estimated net longwave radiation with calibration coefficients given by Allen *et al.* (1998), and  $R_{LN,est-LC}$  is the estimated net longwave radiation with locally calibrated coefficients for each site.

The locally calibrated empirical coefficients and the estimated  $R_{LN}$  using those values are shown in Table 1 and Fig. 1, respectively. Comparing against the observed  $R_{LN}$ , the estimated  $R_{LN}$  with the coefficients by Allen *et al.* (1998) showed much larger discrepancy than that with the local coefficients for the sites used in Kwon (2009). At the Haenam cropland site, the degree of the discrepancy between the observed  $R_{LN}$  and the estimated  $R_{LN}$  with the coefficients by Allen *et al.* (1998) was relatively smaller likely because the coeffi-



**Fig. 2.** Comparison of net radiation.  $R_{N\_obs}$  is the observed net radiation,  $R_{N\_est}$  is the estimated net radiation with calibration coefficients given by Allen *et al.* (1998), and  $R_{N\_est\_LC}$  is the estimated net radiation with locally calibrated coefficients for each site.

cients by Allen *et al.* (1998) were calibrated for cropland. The improved  $R_{LN}$  estimation with the local coefficients produced a better agreement between the observed and the estimated in  $R_N$  for all three sites (Fig. 2). This confirms that 1) the coefficients given by Allen *et al.* (1998) is not proper to apply for forest sites and 2) an overestimation of  $R_{LN}$  can induce substantial errors in  $R_N$  estimation.

Finally, for the other two additional comments, (i.e., the use of sunshine duration, the error assessment), I applaud the efforts of Kang and Kim in taking advantage of the existing database of sunshine duration to approximate  $R_{S\downarrow}$  and the validation of such an approach in the estimation of  $R_N$ .

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