

The Panama  
Canal - Location  
is Important!

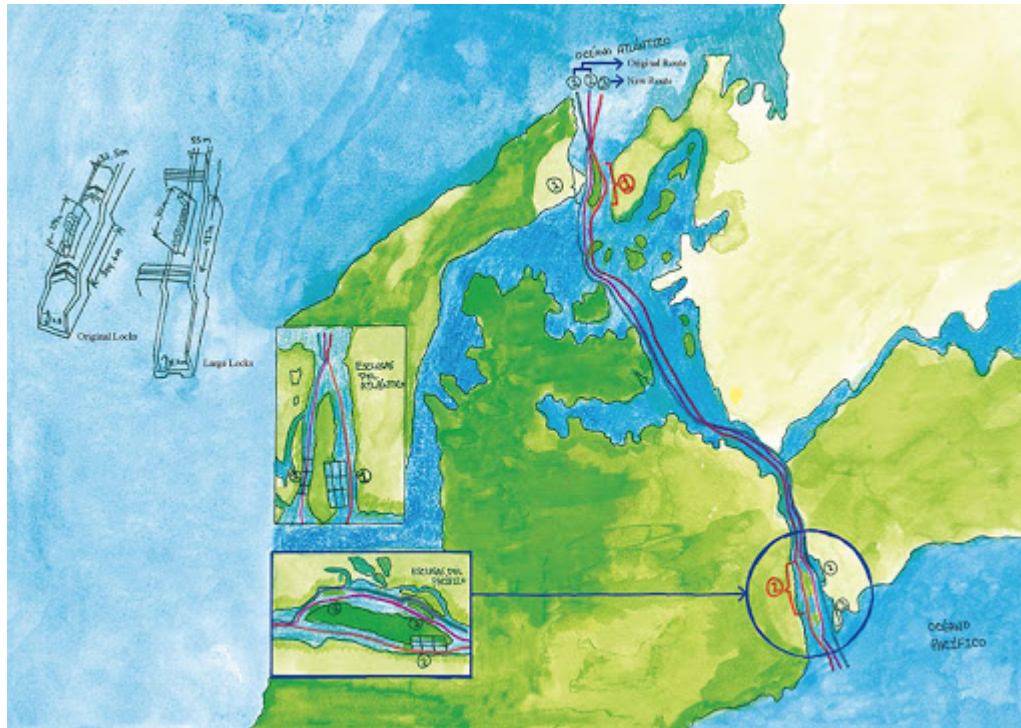


My name is Juan, and I am captain of the cargo ship Cheetah. We are going to cross the Panama Canal to bring coffee beans from Brazil, in South America, to Korea.

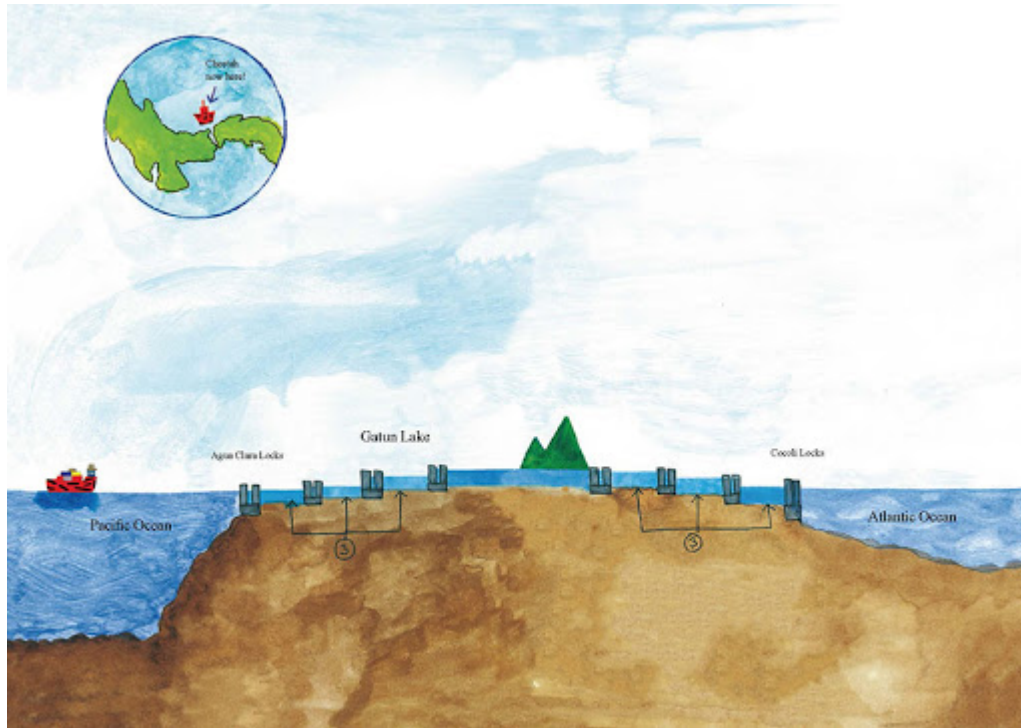


The Panama Canal is a waterway made to connect the Pacific Ocean to the Atlantic Ocean

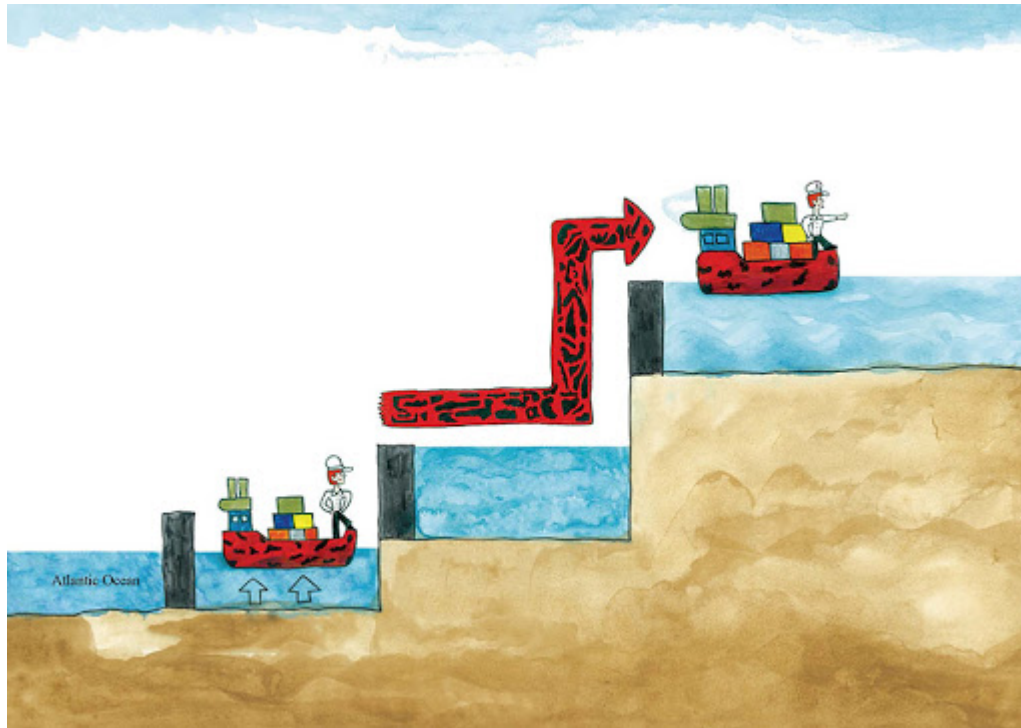
It is 82 kilometers long. and about 144 sea routes travel through it, connecting 1,700 ports in 160 countries around the world.



There are three lock sites on the Panama Canal. Two were opened in 1914, but as cargo ships got bigger it became necessary to add a larger one, which was done in 2007.



We will pass through the Panama Canal on the Cheetah. This transit lane has two locks. The Agua Clara Locks have three water tanks designed to raise the ship from the sea level of the Atlantic Ocean to the surface of Gatun Lake, while the other one, the Cocoli Locks, lower the ship from the surface of Gatun Lake to the sea level of the Pacific Ocean.



When the ship arrives, the door on the lower level opens and the ship floats in. Then the door closes and the tank is filled with water.

When the tank is full, the ship floats up, the door on the second level opens, and the ship goes in.

This way, the ship climbs up to the third level, just like it's on stairs. When the ship reaches the third level, it has arrived at Gatun Lake.



Gatun Lake is an artificial body of water at the highest point of the Panama Canal, and the ships that pass through the canal take a short break here.

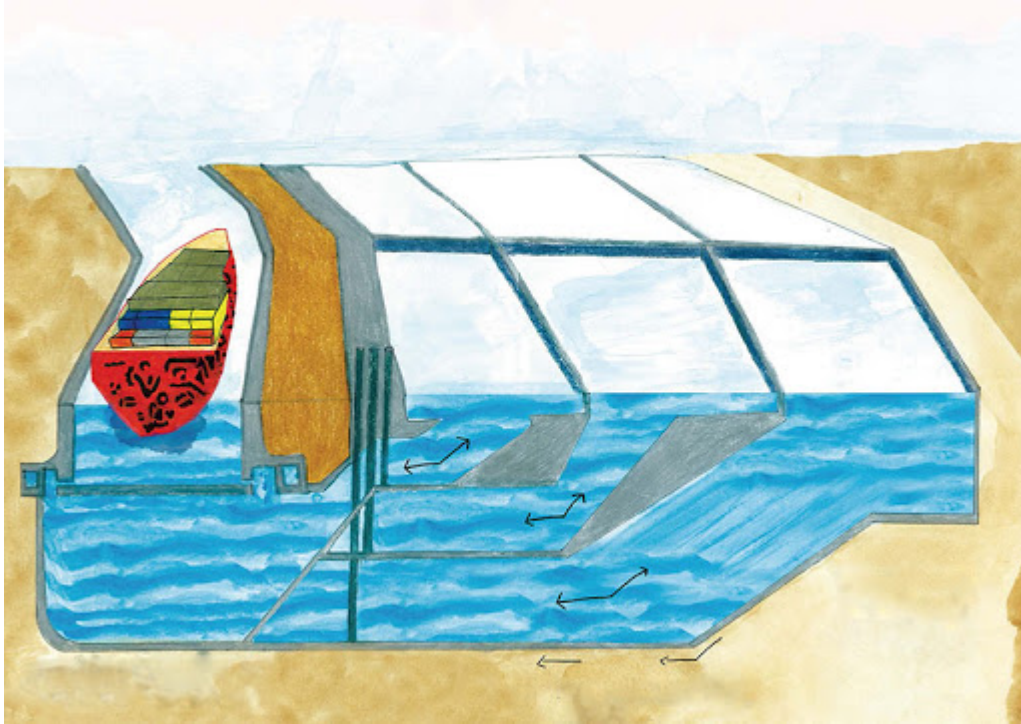


The major vessels that pass through the large transit lanes of the Panama Canal are container vessels, liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), vessels, liquefied natural gas (LNG) vessels, cargo ships, vehicle carriers and passenger ships. The main products that pass through the canal are grain, chemicals, container cargo, coal, soda, minerals, metals, and petroleum products.





Our ship is now going back down from Gatun Lake. First, the door on the third level opens and the ship moves in. When the door is closed and the water level of the tank is equal to the tank on the second level, the second level door opens and the ship moves into it. In the same way, it goes down to the first level, which is the same as the surface of the Pacific Ocean.



Where do you think the water that fills the tank comes from? It comes from where the Cheetah is, right now. Normally, water is stored in a large cistern next to the canal, and every time a ship moves to each level, the water flows out and fills the tank. There are a total of 18 large water storage areas - nine for each gate.



This bridge is called the American Bridge. It was so named because not only does it connect the capital, Panama City, with the provinces of Panama, but also North and South America, which are separated by the Panama Canal. Ships going through the Panama Canal pass under this bridge. The Panama Canal is open 24 hours a day, 365 days a

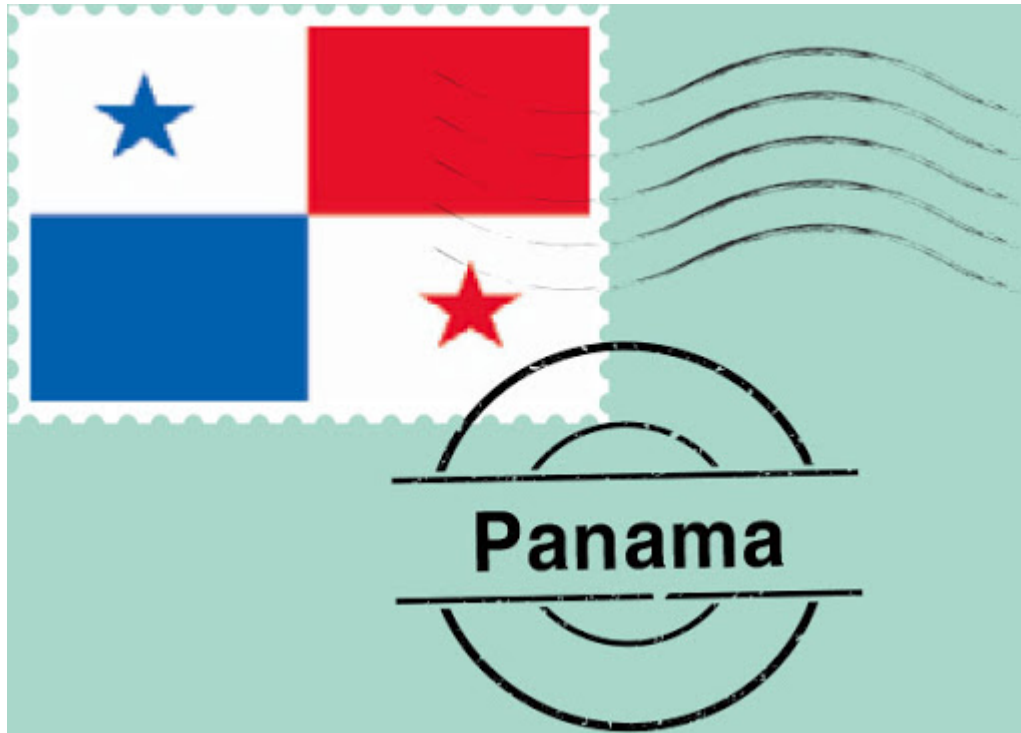


year. The average time for a ship to travel through the Panama Canal is 8 to 10 hours, but the total average stay time in the canal is 24 to 30 hours. The canal handles up to 40 ships a day.

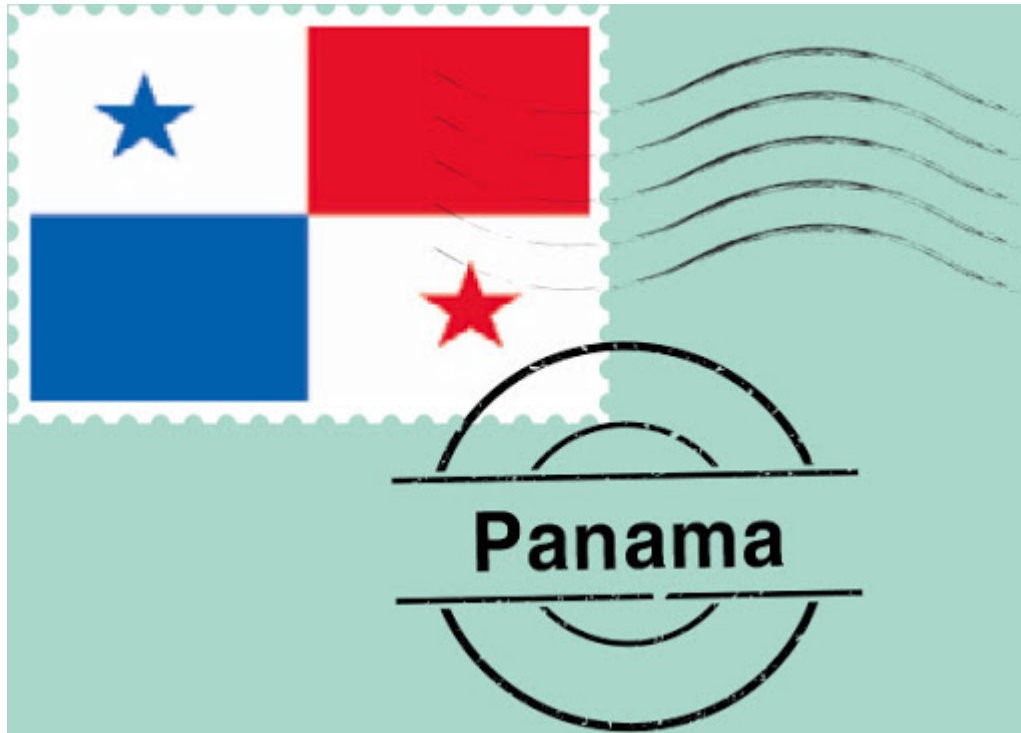
A bird's eye view of a ship passing through the Panama Canal. A ship going from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific passes



Panama is small, but its geographic location makes it important to the world. Location is important! Find your location and make the best use of it, just as has been done with the Panama Canal!



I was born on October 7, 1996 in the warm, beautiful, mysterious country of Panama. It is in Central America and is home to the Panama Canal, which connects the Pacific and Atlantic oceans. I left Panama and now live in Korea, and realize how precious Panama is. I wrote and drew about the Panama Canal to show its value to other people. Panama's



location is important because it is how the canal can accomplish its purpose. There is an important location in everyone's life. If you look at that location from the right angle, I believe you can make your life successful.



Scientists are still using their knowledge, wisdom and advanced technology to search for another 'Earth' in the universe where humans can live. There are too many planets in the universe to count. But surprisingly, only the Earth is uninhabitable for humans.

This fact gives us special impressions and enlightenment. I am even more impressed with





those women from other countries who came to Korea to work together to write. We live in one world. We are a 'global family' from many countries.

A family must trust each other, rely on each other, and care for each other. A family should offer a hug first, smile first, and give kindness first. A family must be together in pain, overcome suffering



together, and walk together. I admire all those who wrote great stories in these 'Multi-value, Multi-together' children's books. Because all of them, despite being tired from working, child-rearing, housekeeping, and caring for the elderly, were still able to finish their work. And it must have been even more difficult for them to write in Korean. But then, it is an astonishing power they



have, that writing one time can't compare to speaking hundred times.

The power to express one's thoughts more clearly. The power to communicate more politely with other people. The power to educate their children more fairly. They have this power.

I recommend that this project should be continued in the future, giving pride and hope to many



immigrant women and their families.

Kyung-sil Roh Writer



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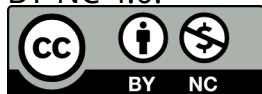
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Original Story

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