

**The 1st Joint Executive Committee Meeting
of the 4th Asia-Pacific Water Summit
Summary of Proceedings**

[Outline of the Meeting]

Date and time: Tuesday, June 4 2019 from 16:30 to 18:00

Location: First Members' Office Building of the House of Representatives
International Conference Hall

[Summary of Comments by Committee Members]

- The preamble of the Yangon Declaration lacks a sense of danger concerning future water demand and supply. (Committee Member Oki)
- When we implement the sustainable development goals (SDGs), it is important to have cooperation with stakeholders from a variety of related sectors including but not limited to water. The success of the 4th Asia-Pacific Water Summit (4th APWS) will depend on how involved citizens are. It should be a festival that shows that the citizens and companies are proactively protecting water and that the public and private sectors are cooperating. This point is also important in terms of calling for sponsorship. (Committee Member Oki)
- Following Prof. Oki's comment, I think that if the initiatives addressing water issues become more popular among the citizens, it will be a step up from the Yangon Declaration. We would like to make a proposal on how we involve the citizens in the 4th Summit. (Vice-Chair Onishi)
- The SDGs are set to be achieved by 2030, but around 2050-2060, we will completely run out of fossil fuels. It will bring substantial changes to our civilization. It is high time we started discussions on how human-induced water cycle and natural hydrological cycle can coexist 50 years later when there is no fossil fuel. I hope that Japan will lead this discussion based on the previous studies looking to the future from a broad range of perspectives. (Vice-Chair Tambo)
- The overarching theme of the 4th APWS is the water for sustainable development and connecting to the next generation. There has been a discussion on the participation of civil society, and the engagement with youth who will lead this field in Asian countries in the future is important. Accordingly, it would be beneficial if the Summit could have an explicit program or session(s) that involve youth with the Summit. (Committee Member Panella)
- In developed countries, among others, advance investments from private companies in

the environment and sustainable development are an essential factor towards achieving the SDGs. It is important that the industries and private companies tackle water issues not as their burdens but as the opportunities for their future development, which will bring more participation of private companies and increase sponsorship from the private sector. We should show the direction to comprehend water issues as a guiding principle so that we can decide how we develop our society and what private companies should do for the future. (Committee Member Imai)

- If we are to focus on sustainable development, we should be thinking based on the best practices. It is very important to collect actual solutions through the Joint Steering Committee, the Asia-Pacific Water Forum (APWF), and United Nations organizations to draft the declaration. (Committee Member Khan)
- To showcase the citizen's partnership in Kumamoto, I suggest that we should consider holding a special session led by the municipal government. Furthermore, to garner the interest of private companies towards finance sessions, we should invite participants who need solutions to the Summit and share Japanese technologies with them. JICA plays a vital role in the fields of disasters and sustainable water management. In terms of the water management culture, we can emphasize that participants will be able to learn the close relationship between water and all life and livelihood in Japan. (Committee Member Khan)
- It is important to have high-level participation in the 4th APWS and to have it be more than just discussions. We, GWP would like to propose that we establish the Asia-Pacific ministerial council for water. By doing so, the APWS will be able to have a high-level political status in the Asia-Pacific region and be continuous and sustainable to take the summit outcomes forward. (Alternate Committee Member Yasuda)
- Regarding the idea of establishing a ministerial council and deciding the agenda of this council at the summit, I think it is inadvisable and redundant based on the concept of the APWS. I suggest that we should think about this idea carefully before making a decision. (Chair Mori)
- It is necessary to link the 4th APWS with other related initiatives. For example, the World Water Forum, which will be held after the 4th APWS, will cover regional matters. The Asia Water Council (AWC) will also hold the international water week in October 2020, the same month as the 4th APWS. (Alternate Committee Member Yasuda)
- Cooperation is extremely important. It is valuable that we work cooperatively with other initiatives such as the water week rather than proceed arbitrarily. The fact that so many conferences on water are held in the world is an indication of a heightened sense of crisis and interest in water. (Chair Mori)

- In the thematic sessions, we need to discuss the ways of multi-stakeholder approach to water management. Other current topics such as water and climate change and transboundary water are also important. (Alternate Committee Member Yasuda)
- Compared to the previous summit in 2017, the SDGs themselves have been permeated as a common word to local governments and private companies in the world. I think that tackling water problems is key to advancing the SDGs. Furthermore, in relation to businesses, it is important to discuss innovation as well as best practices with the focus on ICT (information and communication technology) and legislation. The heads of state and government may have a little chance to see exhibitions, but we should create opportunities for them to visit exhibition booths and prepare other occasions to create businesses opportunities such as luncheon meetings and site visits. (Committee Member Koresawa)
- In the process of the 4th APWS, it is important to announce the 4th APWS at various international conferences to increase momentum for the 4th APWS. The Asia Focus Sessions at the World Water Week in Stockholm are planned in this coming August. The Asia-Pacific Urban Forum, organized by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the UN-HABITAT will take place in October of this year in Penang, Malaysia. The World Urban Forum, one of the world's largest conferences on urban issues, is planned for next February in Abu Dhabi, and there should be some discussions about water issues. There is also the United Nations Climate Action Summit in this September. (Committee Member Koresawa)
- Solving water issues can help to achieve the SDGs. We should put two points into the core sentences of the Kumamoto Declaration. One is that dealing with water can accelerate the achievement of the SDGs and the second is that water is related to a broad range of sustainable development. (Alternate Committee Member Zahedi)
- The Asia-Pacific region is the most at-risk area of the world in terms of water-related disasters. Even though people and communities in developing countries make efforts for economic growth, the next disaster will sweep out all properties of the afflicted country and will bring poverty again. Effective use of resources may become one of the main themes for discussions. Japan has many experiences and advanced technologies in this field, but other countries do not. Industrial water pollution and inefficient usage of water are also important themes. (Alternate Committee Member Zahedi)
- Regarding the outreach activities for the 4th APWS, we should make use of all possible platforms and meetings we have in the preceding stages. Afterwards, in order to turn the messages of the summit declaration into action and to reflect them in the policies and the political processes in the Asia-Pacific region, I suggest that we should also

utilize these platforms. (Alternate Committee Member Zahedi)

- In terms of water cycle, it is important to consider not only the amount of water but also the quality. We should consider the social soundness in terms of the way of investment and local people's activities from the point of view of a sound water cycle. (Committee Member Sato)
- A feature of Kumamoto is its appropriate usage and management of groundwater. This is important when considering the next step in water cycle management. Groundwater covers a much larger water storage area than rivers, lakes, and reservoirs. Therefore it is important to make groundwater more visible for its management. (Committee Member Narayanan)
- At the Kumamoto Earthquake in 2016, all households suffered water outages. This incident renewed people's appreciation for the value of water and increased momentum in making hard efforts to manage groundwater. I also think that making groundwater more visible is important for the management purpose. Kumamoto City will host the Olympics and the Rugby World Cup and many people will visit Kumamoto from the world. We hope to leverage these opportunities, spreading information regarding water issues, to create a synergy effect. (Vice-Chair Onishi)

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