

DRAFT CONCEPT PAPER FOR THE 1ST ASIA-PACIFIC WATER SUMMIT

Background (on Asia and Pacific's water challenges)

Water is crucial to life and all forms of social, economic, and environmental development. According to the UN Task Force on Water and Sanitation (2005), safe water and sanitation is a prerequisite for achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and for sustaining good health and quality of life.

At Fourth World Water Forum (4th WWF), regional documents coordinated by Japan Water Forum (JWF) and 5 sub-regional coordinators (Korea Water Forum, Global Water Partnership (GWP) South East Asia, GWP South Asia, GWP CACENA and the Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC)) together with regional water stakeholders reported on the Asia-Pacific region's formidable water related challenges. These include the need for increased access to improved water supplies and sanitation¹ through investments in infrastructure and capacity building, the protection and restoration of river basins as the fundamental provider of freshwater resources through Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), and the need to drastically reduce the vulnerability of human populations to water-related disasters².

Why an APWF?

The Asia-Pacific Water Forum (APWF) was initially proposed by the participants during the 4WWF Regional Preparatory Process that was coordinated by the Japan Water Forum (JWF). During the Ministerial Meeting that led to the Joint Declaration, the establishment of the APWF was supported by several agencies in the region, including ADB, UNESCAP, GWP, KWF, SOPAC, JBIC, MRC, FAO, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNISDR and IUCN.

In calling for the creation of the APWF, the region's water ministers sought to establish an effective mechanism to encourage more collaborative efforts on water resources management and to accelerate the process of effective integration of water resources management into the socio-economic development process of the Asian and Pacific region. On the Asia-Pacific Day at the 4WWF, the establishment of the APWF was announced by the late Mr. Ryutaro Hashimoto, then President of Japan Water Forum.

The APWF was officially launched on the 27th of September 2006 at the headquarters of the Asian Development Bank, in the presence of former Prime Minister of Japan Yoshihiro Mori, who succeeded Mr. Hashimoto as the President of Japan Water Forum.

What the APWF is about

The APWF is an independent, not-for-profit, non-partisan, non-political network. APWF will be inclusive, open and flexible, with an appropriate governance superstructure and an optimal delegation of responsibility to the contributing member organizations for the delivery of agreed products and services of high quality and practical value.

¹ In 2002, approximately 669 million people in the region were still without access to safe drinking water and 2 billion people still lacked access to improved sanitation facilities.

² The Asian and Pacific region accounted for 91% cent of the world's total deaths due to natural disasters and 49% of the world's total damage due to natural disasters in the last century.

The goal of the APWF is to contribute to sustainable water management in order to achieve the targets of the MDGs in Asia and the Pacific by capitalizing on the region's diversity and rich history of experience in dealing with water as a fundamental part of the human existence. Specifically, the APWF shall champion efforts aimed at boosting investments, building capacity, and enhancing cooperation in the water sector at the regional level and beyond.

To achieve this goal, APWF will provide countries and organizations in the Asia-Pacific region with a common platform and voice in articulating the region's strategies and promoting its achievements in solving water problems, including meeting the necessary investment requirements. For this purpose, APWF will comprise a well-coordinated network of member organizations that are able and willing to voluntarily commit their resources in order to deliver high quality products and services that meet the priority needs of policy and decision-makers and practitioners in the water sector. APWF will add value to the ongoing work of organizations and initiatives in the water sector in terms of investment, optimizing implementation arrangements, achieving economies of scale, and developing unified approaches to water policies and programs.

A number of key institutions from the region have committed themselves to supporting the APWF as "lead organizations" responsible for identifying strategies and initiating actions to achieve progress under each of the *Priority Themes* and *Key Result Areas* (KRAs).

Priority Theme	Targets	Lead Organization
1. Water Financing	To increase targeted investments for water and sanitation infrastructure and for human resources development	ADB
2. Water-related Disaster Management	To drastically reduce the vulnerability of human populations to water-related disasters	ICHARM
3. Water for Development and Ecosystems	To conserve and restore land-water interfaces for the improvement of water productivity	IUCN, FAO

Key Result Areas	Main Activities	Lead Organization
1. Developing knowledge and lessons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Building a network of water knowledge hubs ▪ Coordinating capacity development programs ▪ Providing guidance on water policies 	Singapore PUB, UNESCO
2. Increasing local capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Supporting peer learning (including cities/mayors) ▪ Empowering civil society, gender and youth ▪ Fostering (sub)regional cooperation 	Streams of Knowledge, UNHABITAT

3. Increasing public outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Developing regional water advocacy ▪ Supporting in-country water awareness programs ▪ Presenting regional awards for excellence 	ADB
4. Monitoring investments and results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Monitoring public and private investments ▪ Monitoring reforms and trends ▪ Monitoring MDG achievement 	UNESCAP
5. Supporting Forum and Summit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maintaining an interactive website ▪ Supporting the APWF Governing Council ▪ Organizing/supporting the Asia-Pacific Water Summits 	JWF

Achieving progress under each of the *Priority Themes* will be the driving force behind APWF's activities, as these will provide direction for the KRAs. APWF will monitor and report regularly the progress made towards each of the *Targets*, along with a roadmap for the way forward.

On the Summits

The 4WWF ministerial meeting also called upon the APWF to organize *Asia-Pacific Water Summits (APWS)*, to be held, once every 2-3 years. It was agreed that first Summit would be held in Japan in 2007 and that subsequent Summits are to be organized in other countries of the Asia Pacific region through an open proposal process.

The Summits will bring together leaders of the region and showcase leadership in decision-making, excellence in practice and innovation, and concrete results that have had substantial impacts at the policy down through the grassroots levels.

Each APWS will target top-level policy and decision-makers beyond the water sector, such as heads of governments and ministers of finance and planning, as well as leaders from the private sector, local governments, civil society and media in the region.

The primary objective of the Summits is to create the opportunity for the political leaders of the region to recognize the significance of the water issues for achieving MDGs. The dialogue with other water stakeholders at the Summits will facilitate this recognition, which is expected to be translated into concrete actions in each country by pushing the issue towards the top of their political agendas.

The First Summit

The first summit will be held in Oita Prefecture, Japan, on December 3 and 4, 2007. The Government of Japan will support the summit with cabinet approval.³ The Summit shall be organized by the Asia-Pacific Water Forum and the *Steering Committee of the 1st Asia-Pacific Water Summit* consisting of eminent persons from Japan and other countries in the region.

The first Summit will focus on the three priority themes which were identified in the regional document for the 4th World Water Forum as the first important steps towards progress: Water Financing, Water-related Disaster Management, and Water for Development and Ecosystems.

For the theme “Water Financing,” the Summit will rally for political support, show case success stories and institutional frameworks for financing water related infrastructure and human capacity development. The Summit will show case evidence based success stories on how the unanticipated economic growth in the region can be translated into better life style and opportunities for the people, through investments in water infrastructure. It is expected that the Summit will bring commitment by leaders on concrete programs to also invest in capacity development for people and institutions that build self-reliance.

The Summit will also facilitate dialogue between leaders from the region, and partner organizations to tap new sources and to develop innovative financial mechanisms. In this regard, the Summit will create incentives for leaders to showcase tangible water

³ The number of the target countries and regions for the First Summit is 49 according to the criteria of the Asia-Pacific region in the preparatory process of the 4th World Water Forum; Afghanistan, Armenia, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, Cambodia, China, Cook Islands, Fiji, Georgia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Israel, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Korea, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Malaysia, Maldives, Marshall Island, Federated States of Micronesia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nauru, Niue, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, East Timor, Tonga, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, and Vietnam.

sector results in their respective countries, as reflected by increased water investments, adoption and implementation of strategic reforms, improved water governance at all levels, and significant progress in reaching the MDGs.

For the second theme “Water-related Disaster Management,” Water-related disasters triggered by too much water or too little water are major challenges that our nations need to promptly overcome in order to ensure human security and poverty alleviation as well as for economic development. In this direction, it is expected that the summit will create the adequate platform in the Asia Pacific region to share knowledge and experiences for effective and sustainable implementation of the objectives and goals adopted by the Millennium development Goals, the Hashimoto Action Plan and the Hyogo Framework for Action.

The Summit will introduce good practices and successful disaster mitigation actions to serve as momentum to appeal for political commitment to set clear targets and strategies to achieve effective disaster reduction in the Asia Pacific region acknowledge as the most vulnerable region to water disaster in the world. The summit will also create a new conducive environment and opportunity for dialogue between leaders and disaster managers in the region as well as to create a critical awareness towards the shared role of governments and international institutions, such as the United Nations and International Funding agencies, in meeting the adopted goals and initiatives.

For the third theme “Water for Development and Ecosystem,” over the last decade, more emphasis has been placed on establishing sustainable water management practices. Healthy aquatic ecosystems provide tangible economic and social benefits. Protecting zones at the land-water interface such as mangroves, paddy fields, wetlands, forests not only increase ecosystem health, but may also provide extra protection against some disasters and saline intrusion, aide groundwater recharge and improve overall quality of life. Understanding the drivers and status of ecosystem degradation and the need for watershed restoration in order to improve water productivity across the Asia-Pacific region is an important component of this theme. Another key element to this theme is the concept of environmental flows which refer to water provided within a river, wetland or coastal zone to main ecosystems and their benefits where there are competing water uses. In most river basins the natural flows have been modified to some extent, to meet the needs of human settlement, irrigation, flood control or energy generation.

The Summit will showcase the status of the key issues and success stories within this theme. A synthesis of key messages along with policy recommendations will be presented and commitment will be sought among government leaders and partner organizations to move forward a water agenda for the Asia-Pacific region.

The APWF lead institutions will also report on the cutting-edge information and key findings on the Key Results Areas (KRAs), and Priority Themes to the top-level leaders at the Summit.

Appendix:

Outline of the First Summit

1. Organizers

- Asia-Pacific Water Forum
- Steering Committee of the 1st Asia-Pacific Water Summit

2. Dates:

December 3 and 4, 2007

3. Venue:

B-con plaza (Beppu Convention Center), Oita Prefecture, Japan

<http://www.b-conplaza.jp/>

4. Expected Outcome Documents:

- Leaders' Declaration
- APWS Recommendation

5. Members of Steering Committee:

- Chair: Yoshiro Mori, President of Asia-Pacific Water Forum/ President of Japan Water Forum/Former Prime Minister of Japan
- International board members
 - ✚ Margaret Catley-Carlson, Chair of Global Water Partnership (GWP)
 - ✚ Nino Chkhobadze, Former Minister of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia, Chair of GWP CACENA
 - ✚ Akhmetjan Esimov, Minister of Agriculture of Kazakhstan
 - ✚ Loïc Fauchon, President of World Water Council (WWC)
 - ✚ Angel Gurría, Secretary-General of Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
 - ✚ Han Seung-Soo, President of Korea Water Forum, Chairman of the 56th UN General Assembly, Former Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance
 - ✚ James Horne, Deputy Secretary, Department of the Environment and Water Resources, Australia
 - ✚ Kim Hak-Su, Executive Secretary of United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)
 - ✚ Tommy Koh, Chair of Governing Council of Asia-Pacific Water Forum / Ambassador- At-Large of Singapore
 - ✚ Haruhiko Kuroda, President of Asian Development Bank (ADB)
 - ✚ Cristelle Pratt, Director Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC)
 - ✚ Sulton Rahimov, Chairman of the Executive Committee of International Fund for saving the Aral Sea (IFAS)
 - ✚ Quamrul Islam Siddique, President of Bangladesh Water Partnership
- Japanese board members
 - ✚ Katsusada Hirose, Governor of Oita Prefecture
 - ✚ Yoshinori Imai, Executive Editor, NHK Japan Broadcasting Corporation
 - ✚ Yoshihito Karasawa, President of Japan Medical Association
 - ✚ Fujio Mitarai, Chairman of Nippon Keidanren (VP of JWF)
 - ✚ Norio Murakami, President, Google Japan Inc.
 - ✚ Ken Noguchi, Alpinist
 - ✚ Sadako Ogata, President, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

- 🇯🇵 Kyosuke Shinozawa, Governor of Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC)
- 🇯🇵 Norihito Tambo, President of the University of the Air, Japan (VP of JWF)
- 🇯🇵 Masako Uemoto, Vice President of Japanese Trade Union Confederation
- 🇯🇵 Masae Wada, Councilor of Housewives Association (VP of JWF)

6. Expected participants:

- Heads of governments: Leaders of the 49 countries and regions in the Asia Pacific region
- Representatives of stakeholders: Representatives of parliaments, local governments, private sectors, academics, civil societies and media
- Government officials: Representatives from water ministries of the 49 countries and regions in the Asia Pacific region
- Resource Persons: Representatives from the lead organizations, selected member organizations and development agencies

7. Draft agenda (this needs to be discussed again and annotated):

🇯🇵 **1st day**

- Opening ceremony
- Memorial speech
- Plenary session 1
- Priority thematic meeting

🇯🇵 **2nd day**

- Plenary session 2
- Priority thematic meeting
- Closing ceremony

8. Open event

There is a series of events which will be organized by the host local government(s)/regional offices of the Japanese Governments, CSOs in cooperation with the Summit SC in Oita Prefecture as well as in any other places in Japan on the occasion of the 1st Summit. The events will include: public symposium, seminars and workshops, exhibitions, and technical visits and excursions.