

**Declaration of the
7th Ministers' Forum on Infrastructure Development in the
Asia - Pacific Region**

WE, the Ministers attending the **Seventh Ministers' Forum on Infrastructure Development in the Asia-Pacific Region**, held in Singapore;

Recognising that it is necessary to promote Integrated Water Resource Management for sustainable urban development;

Being aware that with population growth and urbanisation, there is a need to improve the conditions of the environment, drainage and sanitation in urban areas to ensure water for drinking, daily use/consumption and recreational purposes is not polluted;

Recognising the need, when planning for sustainable urban development, for a long-term perspective and to reduce water disaster risk due to population growth and climate change;

Acknowledging the merits of working together to share experience and expertise due to different stages of development and capacities of member states/economies;

Understanding the benefits of developing water infrastructure that can serve multiple functions for water supply, irrigation and recreational purpose;

Noting that in spite of the current economic crisis and the ongoing global changes in the financial landscape, the member states/economies are committed to work together to overcome the challenges and issues of water infrastructure planning and urban development;

Hereby declare:

1. **To integrate** water infrastructure planning with sustainable urban development in view of Integrated Water Resource Management by:
 - (a) **Adopting** strategic and long-term approaches to water infrastructure planning to achieve sustainable urban growth and integrated management of water resources; as well as to reduce water disaster risks arising from population growth and climate change;

- (b) **Leveraging** on technologies for water recycling and other sustainable water solutions to reduce dependency on primary water sources and enhance our capabilities to address the challenges of developing and maintaining water infrastructure in urban areas;
 - (c) **Fostering** partnerships and collaboration between the governments, academia, research institutions, learned societies, financial institutions, and other public and private parties to facilitate the implementation of water infrastructure projects;
 - (d) **Creating** awareness amongst stakeholders to keep our environment and waterways clean by engaging in campaigns, working with schools and conducting public education and community empowerment programmes;
 - (e) **Sharing** knowledge, information and experiences among member states/economies including the exchanges of visits and personnel for capacity-building programmes;
2. **To provide** the governmental lead in supporting and funding water infrastructure projects given the current economic environment;
 3. **To utilize** capacity building and research-and-development funds within our own member states/economies to strengthen research and development capabilities in water infrastructure technologies;
 4. **To support and encourage** active participation in international water forums and related activities in the Asia-Pacific Region such as the IWA-ASPIRE Convention and Exhibition, the Singapore International Water Week, the Asia-Pacific Water Summit, the Water Malaysia Conference and the 2nd IWA Development Congress to share best practices and case studies of successful programmes in this Region;
 5. **To ride** on the excellent network established under the “Ministers’ Forum on Infrastructure Development in the Asia-Pacific Region” for further collaboration and sharing of best practices.

We express our deepest gratitude to the people and the Government of Singapore for their generous hospitality and the excellent arrangements made at the Seventh Ministers’ Forum on Infrastructure Development in the Asia-Pacific Region.

ISSUED in Singapore, this Twenty-second Day of June, Two Thousand and Nine.