

Overview of the 4th Asia-Pacific Water Summit (APWS)

Date	23-24 April 2022
Venue	Kumamoto Jo Hall, Kumamoto City, Japan (Physical conference combined with hybrid arrangement*) <small>* The format of the Summit will be finalized in January based on the COVID-19 situation.</small>
Co-organizers	the Asia-Pacific Water Forum (APWF) and the City of Kumamoto <small>* Cooperation of the Government of Japan to conduct the necessary cooperation under the Cabinet approval by ministers concerned to implement the 4th APWS.</small>
Targeted countries	Countries of Asia and the Pacific
Participants	Heads of State and Government , Ministers and high-level government representatives, heads of the UN and International Organizations, research institutions, NGOs, and others
Theme	"Water for Sustainable Development - Best Practices and the Next Generation"
Structure of the Summit	9 parallel thematic and 4 integration sessions, adoption of the declaration, and high-level leaders' statements
Outcome document	Kumamoto Declaration, chair's summary, the collection of showcases, and final reports

APWS is the largest summit-level conference focusing on water and development in the region. At the 4th World Water Forum in Mexico in 2006, the region's water ministers agreed to establish the Summit among others to encourage more collaborative efforts on water resources management and accelerate integrating water resources management into the socio-economic development process.

The Summits, organized three times to date, bring together leaders of Asia and Pacific countries. The Summits showcase leadership in decision-making, excellence in practice, and innovation to translate it into concrete actions in each country by pushing the issues towards the top of their political agendas.

Background

The COVID-19 pandemic has severely impacted countries' socio-economies worldwide, disrupting efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development including SDGs. The Asia-Pacific region is no exception. On the other hand, the pandemic has enhanced our recognition that securing clean water and safe sanitation are fundamental elements for our livelihood, tackling any risks and impacts of multi-hazards. Water genuinely contributes to a resilient, sustainable, and inclusive society and helps build peace and maintain regional stability. It is thus fundamental to mainstream water resilience into political and development agendas towards quality growth in post-Covid-19 societies in Asia and the Pacific. Governance, finance, and science & technology are crucial elements to enhancing water security and achieving water-related SDGs.

The objectives of the 4th APWS are to:

- Share forward-looking solutions and practices with Heads of State and Government and support their policy decisions to accelerate actions to realize quality growth towards a resilient, inclusive, and sustainable society by resolving various water-related issues in the recovery of COVID-19 in Asia and the Pacific, and
- Encourage further collaborations and partnerships to deploy quality infrastructure to support quality growth

The outputs of the 4th APWS:

- Contribute to the 2023 UN conference on the midterm review of the Water Action Decade (2018-2028) by providing the action proposals to promote quality growth in Asia and the Pacific, and
- Support the achievement of water-related SDGs and other international targets, such as the Paris Agreement of the UNFCCC and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

The dialogues between various leaders will facilitate finding a shared direction for the region's future actions to address the growing water crisis.

We very much look forward to your county's participation in the 4th APWS!

The topics of parallel thematic sessions and integrated process sessions of the 4th APWS

Nine parallel thematic sessions

- Water and Disasters / Climate Change
- Water and Food
- Achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all
- Access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene facilities and improvement of water quality
- Water and the Environment
- Water, Culture, and Peace
- Water and Poverty / Gender Issues
- Sound Water Cycle Management
- Leadership by youth & inter-generational collaboration through the innovation by youth

Four integrated process sessions

- Governance
- Finance
- Science & Technologies
- Water-related SDGs and Post- COVID-19

Countries in Asia and the Pacific

Afghanistan, Armenia, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, Cambodia, China, Cook Islands, Fiji, Georgia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Israel, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Republic of Korea, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Malaysia, Maldives, Marshall Islands, 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, Vietnam, and Japan

Overview of Kumamoto City

The host city of the 4th APWS, Kumamoto City, supplies drinking water for its 740,000 citizens entirely from groundwater, which is quite a rarity in the world. The city manages a sound water cycle in cooperation with its residents, businesses, government agencies, and other stakeholders to conserve its precious groundwater resources for the next generation. The city is conducting innovative recovery from the devastating Kumamoto Earthquake in April of 2016. Kumamoto City and its efforts embody the critical message we would like to disseminate through the Summit: ensuring a sound water cycle while building a resilient country.

Reference: Previous Summits



The 1st APWS, hosted by Japan in 2007, was attended by 10 Heads of State/Government, 32 Ministers, and the leaders of international/regional organizations and local government agencies in this region to examine "Water Security: Leadership and Commitment." It endorsed the "Message from Beppu" and set up a target to achieve universal access to safe water and sanitation by 2025. It was also the first water summit that highlighted the necessity to address water-related disasters as the higher priority of the global development agenda.



The 2nd APWS, hosted by Thailand in 2013, gathered 19 Heads of State/Government, 16 Ministers, and the representatives of international/regional organizations, private companies, and civil societies to address "Water Security and Water-Related Challenges: Leadership and Commitment." It endorsed the "Chiang Mai Declaration," which integrated the first quantitative and comprehensive research outcomes of water security in the countries of this region. Moreover, the discussion results about the risk reduction of water disasters brought some targets' development in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



Photo by IISD



The 3rd APWS, hosted by Myanmar in 2017, was attended by 23 country delegations of the Asia-Pacific region including 20 heads of country & ministerial-level. The government leaders unanimously adopted the "Yangon Declaration," which showed their voluntary action pledge to achieve water security for sustainable development through four pillars: sound water cycle management; governance and inclusive development; financing the implementation of water-related SDGs, and water cooperation at all levels.



Photo by Myanmar News Agency

International organizations and other entities which cooperate with the APWF activities (co-host)

- Asian Development Bank (ADB)
- United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- United Nations- Human Settlement Programme (UN-HABITAT)
- Executive Committee of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (EC-IFAS)
- Global Water Partnership (GWP)
- GWP China
- GWP CACENA
- GWP South Asia
- GWP Southeast Asia
- High-level Experts and Leaders Panel on Water and Disasters (HELP)
- International Centre for Water Hazard and Risk Management under the auspices of UNESCO (ICHARM)
- International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)
- International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Asia
- International Water Management Institute (IWMI)
- International WaterCentre (IWC)
- Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
- Japan Sanitation Consortium (JSC)
- Japan Water Agency (JWA)
- Korea Water Forum (KWF)
- PUB, Singapore's National Water Agency (PUB)
- Secretariat of Pacific Community (SPC)
- World Toilet Organization,
- Alliance for Water Stewardship Asia-Pacific,
- European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) Representative Office Japan
- Freshwater Action Partnership for South Asia
- Global Water Institute University of NSW, Australia
- WaterEd Australia
- Water Integrity Network (WIN)
- United Nations Centre for Regional Development, (UNCRD)
- Asian Institute of Technology (AIT)

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