

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ASIA PACIFIC WATER FORUM 2nd GOVERNING COUNCIL MEETING ON 12-13 JULY 07, SINGAPORE

Summary

- The mood of the meeting was collaborative and productive. The meeting reviewed the progress achieved under each Priority Theme and Key Result Area (KRA). While good progress has been made, it was acknowledged that more work remains to be carried out in several areas,. The members reviewed and made suggestions pertaining to the preparations for the 1st Asia-Pacific Water Summit, recommendations which will be presented at the Steering Committee for the Summit 6 August 07 in Tokyo, Japan.
- The 2nd Governing Council meeting was chaired by Prof. Tommy Koh on 12 July 07 and by Mr. Ravi Narayanan on 13 July 07, respectively.
- The Chairs stated that the 1st APWS should address real challenges in the water sector and bring tangible results in the medium term through the commitment of leaders; they expressed hope that the GC members (including the heads of the lead institutions) make efforts in lobbying national leaders and the top executives of their organizations to attend the 1st APWS, 3-4 December, in Beppu, Japan. All expressed their sincere support to make this 1st Summit successful.
- Deadlines:
 - 20 Jul 07: submit draft recommendations for each PT and KRA to the Secretariat.
 - 27 Jul 07: submit panel session proposals, concrete initiative proposals
- Representatives of Oita Prefecture (Beppu city) warmly welcomed participants to Beppu.
- Singapore PUB briefed members on the upcoming International Singapore Water Week (23-27 June 08) and the Lee Kuan Yew Water Prize.

Key points of the 2nd Governing Council Meeting of the APWF

Adoption of Agenda

- The chair thanked the Secretariat and PUB for hosting the 2nd GC meeting and the members for attending. The agenda was adopted without amendment.

Agenda Item 3: Structure of the 1st Asia-Pacific Water Summit

- The Secretariat presented the draft APWS agenda: the 1st APWS is to be chaired by former Prime Minister Mori, supported by 4 elected vice-chairs from each subregion. Speeches by Heads of Government are to be delivered in plenary sessions; and a number of thematic sessions will be organized.

- Prime Minister Abe has accepted the invitation to the event; HIH the Crown Prince of Japan has stated his intent to participate; HRH Prince Orange has been sent the invitation to make a keynote speech at the opening ceremony. Several other names were suggested for keynote speeches. Korea Water Forum, UNESCO, FAO all proposed their top executives for keynote speeches.
- The Chair invited members to provide comments on the draft 1st APWS agenda presented to them.
- The Secretariat reiterated that the 1st APWS will be limited to 300 participants (200 from governments + 100 stakeholders), so that true in-depth discussions could take place to rally for strong political commitments required to achieve tangible results in water and sanitation.
- UNESCO brought to the attention the fact that this Summit would coincide with the Bali UN Climate Change Conference - UNFCCC COP13. UNESCO offered suggestions to link with the COP13 and the Secretariat confirmed that liaising efforts had already been initiated with the organizers of the COP13.
- Much discussion centered on the fact that this is a Summit, hence the agenda and attention must cater primarily to the Heads of Governments / ministers.
- All were invited to submit their recommendations on the agenda of the 1st APWS to the Secretariat, and in return, the Secretariat promised to communicate on progress.
- The main task of the APWF members would be to provide leaders with space and incentive to come, since the primary objective is to convince them to give water and sanitation higher priority in the national development agendas of their respective governments.

Agenda Item 4: Contents of the 1st APWS Recommendations and draft Beppu Joint Message

- Members agreed that the PT and KRA recommendations be collated into the APWF Policy Brief, to be presented by the Chair of the GC at the 1st APWS.
- A draft of the Beppu Joint Message was presented, with the understanding that this message would be redrafted later, as the APWS preparatory process evolved. All agreed to draft a message which would be strong and reflect the outcomes of the Summit. The draft message will be released by the Chair of the Summit and will not be circulated as draft for comments, to avoid the time consuming diplomatic processes to seek consensus / endorsement for all countries.
- The Chair agreed to cite water and sanitation in tandem on APWF materials.
- The meeting agreed to ADB suggestion that multi-media outcome materials be also produced (video-clippings, cd-roms, etc.) to communicate to the large 1st APWS audience, which would not be in attendance.

Agenda Item 5: Priority Themes and Key Result Areas: Recommendations and Theme Panels

Key Points

Priority Theme A: Water Financing / ADB

- ADB presented progress with the Asia Water and Development Outlook (AWDO) report. The report will be launched prior to the 1st APWS, to act as a stimulant to the Summit. A final workshop to finalize the report will be held in Singapore, 23 Aug 07, to which ADB invited all members. The meeting supported ADB's proposal for a panel session at the Summit comprising a debate moderated by a television presenter on the key messages in AWDO. ADB's initiative was appreciated and members provided valuable suggestions on the contents. ADB agreed to circulate for comments the final draft to GC members prior to publishing.
- ADB, JBIC and JICA presented the Outline of Recommendations for Priority Theme A. The Chair proposed that the core messages of this paper include: a) making water and sanitation a higher priority in national agendas; b) the need to allocate more national resources to these issues; c) appeal to international donors and other donors (i.e.: private sector) to allocate more financing. The meeting requested ADB, JBIC, and JICA to jointly prepare a session on the recommendations for priority theme A.

Priority Theme B: Water-Related Disaster Management / ICHARM

- ICHARM presented its thematic recommendations. Several members offered comments on the substance of the draft recommendations.

Priority Theme C: Water for Development and Ecosystems / IUCN & FAO

- Since the participatory process of consultation is still ongoing on this theme, recommendations were not yet available. However, it was agreed that tentative recommendations be provided to the APWF Secretariat by 20 Jul 07 to be presented to the 2nd SC meeting in August.

Key Result Area 1: Developing Knowledge and Lessons / PUB & UNESCO

- On capacity development, PUB reported that they had conducted 10 workshops for more than 270 participants from 45 countries. More than half of these countries were from the Asia Pacific region.
- UNESCO-IHE/PUB/ADB recently signed a cooperation agreement on developing water knowledge and lessons in June 07. It was agreed that KRA1 would submit recommendations by 20 Jul 07 to the Secretariat. Several members stated their intent to collaborate to KRA1. The Secretariat recognized that there were indeed many capacity building centres in the region, and suggested that one powerful and useful recommendation from this paper could be to bring these knowledge centres together in a strong network of partnerships.

Key Result Area 2: Local Capacity / Streams of Knowledge & UN-HABITAT

- UN-HABITAT presented a draft of the "Local Actions for Sustainable Development" Report. Streams of Knowledge presented the key messages to be delivered in the KRA2 recommendations: 1) decentralization and empowerment; 2) good governance and local development; 3) building the case for capacity development; 4) scaling up from innovative pilot projects; 5) partnership building. Several members offered input into KRA2. The

Secretariat offered to invite a few inspiring local representatives to 1st APWS, with help from KRA2 organizations.

Key Result Area 3: ADB

- ADB presented the media strategy for the launch of the AWDO (to be released in embargo version prior to the 1st APWS), which focused, among other strategies, on outreach to local communities in view of instigating attitudinal change, through a radio media strategy.
- The Secretariat presented media coordination efforts for the 1st APWS. With support from ADB, it was reported that a 52minute documentary was currently in production, by the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union and to be broadcast at the time of the Summit.
- The Chair advised that ADB and Secretariat coordinate on the media strategy for the Summit; the Secretariat was suggested to assign a media coordinator who could be a senior spokesperson for the 1st APWS.

Key Result Area 4: Monitoring of Investments and Reforms / UNESCAP

- UNESCAP reported that a 2-day session on this KRA4 is going to be held at the SouthEast Asia Water Forum in October, Kuala Lumpur with the establishment of a larger core working group to work on these issues. For the 1st APWS the thrust would be to launch a monitoring mechanism, which, ideally would feed into a higher-level ministerial entity to support decision-making.

Agenda Item 6: Outline of Concrete Initiatives

- Asia-Pacific Water Museum: presented by the Secretariat. An MOU was signed between the Japan Water Forum and the National Science Museum of Thailand to explore the possibility of establishing this museum in Thailand. UNESCO assigned an officer to support this initiative and plans to officially announce this initiative at the 1st APWS. Several offered input into the draft project. All agreed that the APWF Knowledge Hubs needed to be tied into this initiative.
- Water Ministers Council of Asia-Pacific (WaMCAP): to be agreed to by the APWS participants. It was agreed to study this idea further, possibly initiating a subregional ministerial council or initially convening a reduced selection of the region's water ministers in a first phase. A status of existing subregional networks might be drawn up for further clarity on the need to create these ministerial level water councils, to support the Steering Committee's decision to present it at the Summit.
- The meeting advised ADB to consider a concrete initiative of preparing AWDOs prior to each Summit. ADB accepted this proposal in principle.
- It was agreed that the Knowledge Hubs needed to be included as a 1st APWS concrete initiative.
- Lead Organizations were invited to submit their concrete initiatives in the form of a proposal (background, objective, to be presented or announced at the APWS, etc.). Note was also made that not all initiatives needed to be presented at this 1st APWS.

Agenda Item 7: Future Schedule

- All members of the GC were invited to the APWF luncheon event to be held at the World Water Week in Stockholm, 15 Aug 07.
- It was stated that the SouthEast Asia Water Forum would be the opportunity to finalize the APWF outcome documents for presentation at the 1st APWS (to be attended by both APWF vice-chairs):
 - 21 Oct 07: 3-6:30PM
 - 25 Oct 07: 9AM-12:30PM

Agenda Item 8: Other Matters

- The Secretariat reported it had sent invitations to the 1st APWS to heads of government of 49 countries. Other invitations to the 1st APWS would be sent in August once the invitees' list was approved by the Steering Committee members.
- The Secretariat agreed to keep all Governing Council members informed in real-time on the status of invitations.
- The Steering Committee would endorse the suggested strategy for sponsoring developing country invitees, the details of which would be communicated to embassies in Japan.
- All applications to become APWF members were accepted and all members of the GC are to be automatically considered members of the APWF. It was agreed to streamline the application process.

Follow-Up / Action Items

	Action	Taken By
1.	Lobby national leaders to attend the 1 st APWS	Secretariat, Governing Council, Lead Organizations
2.	Draft recommendations on PTs and KRAs, by 20 Jul 07	Lead Organizations
3.	Proposals for panel sessions & concrete initiative proposals, by 27 Jul 07	APWF members
4.	Proposition of local leaders to be invited to 1 st APWS	KRA2 Lead Organizations
5.	Explore the opportunity to open the weblog to journalists	Secretariat
6.	Devise the 1 st APWS media strategy	ADB, Secretariat
7.	WaMCAP background research	UNESCAP, Secretariat
8.	APWF Policy Brief draft to be finalized at the SEAWF in Kuala Lumpur, Oct 07	Governing Council, Lead Organizations
9.	Suggestions for participants to 1 st APWS	APWF members
10.	Information feed to GC members on the status of participants to the 1 st APWS	Secretariat

2007/08/10