

WEPA

Water Environment Partnership in Asia

WEPA News

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The Water Environment Partnership in Asia (WEPA) is an initiative proposed by the Japanese Ministry of the Environment. It aims to strengthen water environmental governance and capacity building in Asia. For further information, please visit the WEPA website (<http://wepa-db.net/en/index.html>).

Topics

WEPA Topics

1. 17th WEPA Annual Meeting on 22 April 2022
2. 4th Asia-Pacific Water Summit (4th APWS) on 23 and 24 April 2022

Other Topics

3. Launch of a new ASEAN Cooperation Project 'PoDIUM-2'

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1. 17th WEPA Annual Meeting

On 22 April 2022, the 17th WEPA Annual Meeting was held in Kumamoto City, Japan by the WEPA Secretariat and the Ministry of the Environment, Japan, using a hybrid in-person and online style. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, participants from the WEPA partner countries attended the meeting remotely. In total, 52 participants from 13 WEPA member states, including WEPA focal points, WEPA advisory board members, as well as experts and stakeholders, attended the meeting.



In addition to reporting activities that were carried out in FY2021, the annual meeting featured two sessions to discuss current issues and challenges on domestic wastewater management in WEPA partner countries. In the first session, case studies on improving water quality through establishing domestic wastewater governance were reported from Japan (Lake Teganuma), Republic of Korea (Han River), and the Philippines (Bacuit Bay, Palawan). In the second session, the current status and issues related to the introduction of decentralized wastewater treatment systems were reported from the WEPA Secretariat, Lao PDR, and Prof. Thammarat Koottatep of the Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand. At the close of the meeting, the WEPA Secretariat announced that the next WEPA Annual Meeting is scheduled to be held in early 2023.

- Meeting report including program and presentation materials available at the WEPA website <http://wepa-db.net/en/meeting/20220422/index.html>

2. 4th Asia-Pacific Water Summit (4th APWS)

The 4th Asia-Pacific Water Summit (4th APWS) was held in Kumamoto City, Japan, on 23 and 24 April 2022. The Summit convened under the theme, “Water for Sustainable Development–Best Practices and the Next Generation,” and brought together, among others, high-level delegates including heads of states and representatives from international organizations in the Asia-Pacific region to discuss various water-related issues. The Summit featured nine Parallel Thematic Sessions, four Integration Sessions, and two Special Sessions, organized with the cooperation and collaboration of many experts and practitioners. The “Kumamoto Declaration,” the outcome of the 4th APWS, was adopted at the closing session.



WEPA participated in Parallel Thematic Session No. 5, entitled “Toward the realization of appropriate wastewater management to contribute to sustainable development”. This session focused on wastewater management to contribute to sustainable development and move towards achieving the SDGs by 2030, taking into account climate change and recent transitions internationally, and more specifically in Asia, due to the global COVID-19 pandemic. The WEPA Secretariat contributed to the outcomes of the session by joining the panel discussion.

- For more information, visit the website <https://www.4apws-kumamoto2022.jp/>

3. Launch of a new ASEAN Cooperation Project ‘PoDIUM-2’

A new ASEAN Cooperation Project entitled ‘Strengthening Capacity Development for Local Governments in ASEAN to Tackle Microplastics and Water Pollution through Decentralised Domestic Wastewater Management Approach (PoDIUM-2)’ launched its two-year program by organizing an online Inception Workshop on 17 June 2022. The project has been designed to address the needs and existing challenges when using a decentralised wastewater management approach for reducing both water quality and microplastics pollution in ASEAN countries. The National Water Resources Board in the Philippines will be the main project proponent. The Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), Japan will act as the Implementing Agency, coordinating, leading and managing the project activities. Government officials from wastewater management related agencies, institutions, and companies as well as the relevant ministries at national and city/provincial level in all 10 ASEAN countries will be beneficiaries of this project.

Call for your contribution to WEPA News! (Please send us any updated information)

We are seeking a cooperative agenda with partners. To ensure smooth progress, we welcome information on any new developments on water environmental governance in your country. If you have any related information, please send it to the WEPA Secretariat by email < WEPA-secretariat@iges.or.jp >.

Distributed by the WEPA Secretariat
c/o Institute for Global Environmental Strategies
2108-11 Kamiyamaguchi, Hayama, Kanagawa
240-0115 Japan
Email: WEPA-secretariat@iges.or.jp

<http://wepa-db.net/en/index.html>



WEPA NEWS aims to disseminate the updated information on WEPA activities. It also aims to exchange information among those who are interested in WEPA, including the focal persons in partner countries, experts with advice on WEPA activities, and participants of past WEPA-related meetings.

* If you would rather not receive future newsletters, please contact us.