

# 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

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1. 18th WEPA Annual Meeting and International Workshop on 8-10 February 2023
2. Update of the WEPA Action Program in Cambodia
3. Update of the WEPA Action Program in Myanmar
4. Launch of the WEPA Action Program in Lao PDR

#### Other Topics

5. 10th International Workshop on Decentralized Domestic Wastewater Treatment in Asia

**Call for your contribution to WEPA News!**

### 1. 18th WEPA Annual Meeting and International Workshop

The WEPA Secretariat and the Ministry of the Environment, Japan, will organize the 18th WEPA Annual Meeting and International Workshop on 8-10 February 2023 in Siem Reap, Cambodia. These events will be held as in-person meetings, but on-line participations will be arranged at the same time.

The Annual Meeting will aim to share the progress and future plans of overall WEPA activities among WEPA partner countries. In addition, the meeting, as well as the International Workshop, will be organized to discuss current issues and challenges on industrial wastewater management in WEPA partner countries.

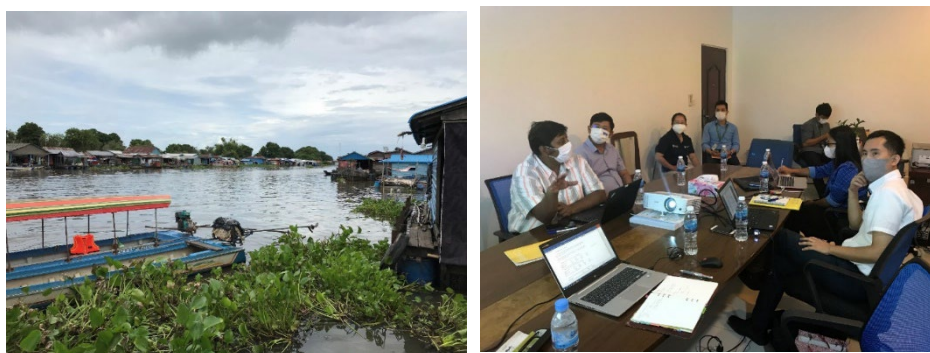
The agenda and other details of the meeting will be announced in due course.

### 2. Update of the WEPA Action Program in Cambodia

The WEPA Action Program in Cambodia aims to support capacity building activities of the Ministry of Environment, Cambodia (MOEC), for officers at sub-national level on identifying major pollution sources and estimating pollution in Tonle Sap Lake (TSL). The program is implementing

activities to develop a guidebook for local environmental staff on estimating pollution loads from major sources, and to facilitate formulation of draft strategies for water quality management of TSL. This is being carried out using a co-design/co-production approach and capacity building training programs.

On 5 July 2022, a Kick-off Meeting for FY2022 activities was held on-line. From 19 to 25 August 2022, staff from the WEPA Secretariat visited Cambodia and discussed with the Cambodian team about the progress of activities, including a field visit to the TSL area. The guidebook will be completed after receiving comments from related central/local ministries and other stakeholders at a Stakeholder Consultation Meeting, scheduled for 28 November 2022. A Capacity Building Workshop for related central and local government officers will be held in the afternoon on 10 February 2023, in conjunction with the 18th WEPA Annual Meeting and International Workshop.



### **3. Update of the WEPA Action Program in Myanmar**

The WEPA Action Program in Myanmar supports activities of the Environmental Conservation Department (ECD), Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, Myanmar, stipulating the National Surface Water Quality Standards, as well as enhancing the capacity of the ECD for water quality monitoring and assessment.

On 20 July 2022, a Kick-off Meeting for FY2022 activities was held on-line to discuss plans to finalize the National Surface Water Quality Standards (NSWQS). Interim activity outputs take the form of revised proposals for NSWQS to be submitted to the Environmental Quality Standards Technical Development Sub-Committee. In addition, guidelines are being developed to ensure harmonized and adequate classification and monitoring of the water environment. Based on the guidelines, a series of tailored training sessions for state/region ECD officers will be organized from 31 October 2022.

### **4. Launch of the WEPA Action Program in Lao PDR**

The WEPA action program in Lao PDR supports the Ministry of National Resources and Environment, Lao PDR to collect baseline data on water quality from septic tanks and decentralized waste water treatment facilities, develop training materials for maintenance and operation of septic tanks and decentralized wastewater systems, and strengthen the capacity of officers from relevant agencies for the purpose of law enforcement.

Following a visit to Lao PDR by WEPA Secretariat staff from 8 to 13 July 2022, a Kick-off Meeting was held on 30 August 2022, to discuss and agree upon an implementation plan of the program. The program has thus been officially launched and has begun implementing its activities. In FY2022, the program is undertaking a literature review on legal, institutional, financial and technical issues on wastewater management in Lao PDR, as well as a survey to gather information on domestic wastewater in public canals and existing decentralized waste

water treatment facilities. In addition, an annual workshop and a stakeholder meeting will be organized to exchange the results of FY2022 activities.



## 5. 10th International Workshop on Decentralized Domestic Wastewater Treatment in Asia

The Ministry of the Environment, Japan will organize a webinar for the 10th International Workshop on Decentralized Domestic Wastewater Treatment in Asia on 4 November 2022, 15:00 -18:00 (Japan Standard Time). The workshop will focus on 'Graywater treatment by the Johkasou and its social benefit' and will discuss the social benefit derived from graywater, with the example of Johkasou in Japan. In addition, there are various benefits to the public through treating graywater, as well as regulations/subsidies provided by the central/local government to conserve a good water environment, and the workshop will introduce relevant cases in Japan and Viet Nam.



- Please register your participation in the Workshop at:  
[https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_3Jlful-UQmiA4za-DARiSg](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_3Jlful-UQmiA4za-DARiSg)

### 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](mailto:WEPA-secretariat@iges.or.jp) >.

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*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.