



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
2. Update of the WEPA Action Program in Cambodia
3. Update of the WEPA Action Program in Myanmar
4. Update of the WEPA Action Program in Lao PDR
5. Renewal of the WEPA website
6. 10th World Water Forum

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1. 18th WEPA Annual Meeting and International Workshop

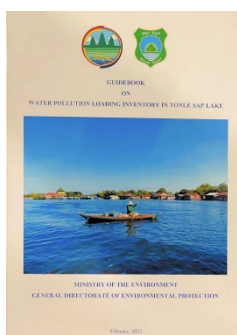


The 18th WEPA Annual Meeting and International Workshop were held in Siem Reap, Cambodia, on 8-10 February, 2023, jointly hosted by the Ministry of the Environment, Japan and the Ministry of Environment, Cambodia (MOEC). At the annual meeting on the first day, WEPA partner countries made presentations on the progress of water environmental governance focusing on industrial wastewater.

It is understood that countries would work on water environmental governance with a focus on "compliance with the law" in WEPA's fourth phase. The international workshop was for sharing information on the current status, challenges, and solutions for industrial wastewater management in WEPA partner countries. The information was gathered via a questionnaire survey conducted at the end of 2022. The workshop began with a keynote speech by Prof. Motoyuki Suzuki, WEPA advisor, followed by reports of the initiatives in WEPA partner countries and a major beverage company. Of the 13 countries scheduled to participate in the meetings, 10 countries participated in Siem Reap, two countries participated online, and one country did not participate.

- Meeting report including program and presentation materials is now available on the WEPA website <http://wepa-db.net/en/meeting/202302/index.html>

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.

The Guidebook was completed by incorporating comments from related central/local ministries and other stakeholders and the launching ceremony of the Guidebook was held at the opening session of the 18th WEPA Annual Meeting. Following that, a Capacity Building Workshop on "Water Pollution Loading Inventory in Tonle Sap Lake" was held in Siem Reap, Cambodia, in the afternoon on 10 February 2023, in conjunction with the 18th WEPA Annual Meeting and International Workshop. Participants in the Capacity Building Workshop were related central and local government officers, and they learned about the simplified methodological approaches of pollution load inventory from major identified sectors in the TSL area through a series of lectures, discussions, and debates.

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 (MONREC), Myanmar, stipulating the National Surface Water Quality Standards (NSWQS), as well as enhancing the capacity of the ECD for water quality monitoring and assessment.

On 15 February 2023, an Environmental Quality Standards Technical Development Sub-Committee Meeting of MONREC was held to discuss the form of proposals for NSWQS. The proposals for NSWQS will be finalized for stipulation after incorporating suggestions from the Sub-Committee.

Instruction training sessions on surface water quality monitoring were conducted in October and November 2022, and training sessions for surface water use classification were conducted in December 2022 and January 2023. The training helped to improve the capacity of EQSD-ECD officers who carry out regular surface water quality monitoring. The trainings sessions included on-line general theoretical instruction training and on-the-job (OJT) training at Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, and Yangon ECD offices.

4. Update of the WEPA Action Program in Lao PDR



The WEPA action program in Lao PDR supports the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Inspection (DNREI), the Ministry of National Resources and Environment (MONRE), 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.

On 3 February 2023, a Stakeholder Consultation Meeting on the Action Program was held in Vientiane, with on-site and online participation from relevant ministries, universities, and public sectors in Lao PDR and Japan, in addition to the implementation team of Action Program. The meeting aimed to share the results from a field survey, listen to comments on draft training material for domestic wastewater management, and exchange information among stakeholders to facilitate implementing the WEPA Action Program on “Development of an Appropriate Domestic Wastewater Management System in Lao PDR”. After the meeting, the on-site participants visited a Johkasou wastewater treatment facility at the Watty international Airport.

5. Renewal of the WEPA website

We are pleased to announce the renewal of our website next month. This renewal is to make our website easy to navigate even with mobile devices and aims to provide the latest information from our partners to facilitate knowledge exchange. You can still obtain information on the old website using the archives. Please be sure to check it out next month!

6. 10th World Water Forum

The 10th World Water Forum (WWF10) will take place in Bali, Indonesia, 18-22 May 2024, under the main theme of Water for Shared Prosperity. The WEPA Secretariat is planning to contribute to WWF10 by participating in activities and inputting recent outcomes of WEPA activities.



➤ More information at <https://worldwaterforum.org/>

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 >.

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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.