

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 (<https://wepa-db.net>).

Topics

WEPA Topics

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2. WEPA website renewal
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5. 10th World Water Forum
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1. 19th WEPA Annual Meeting and International Workshop

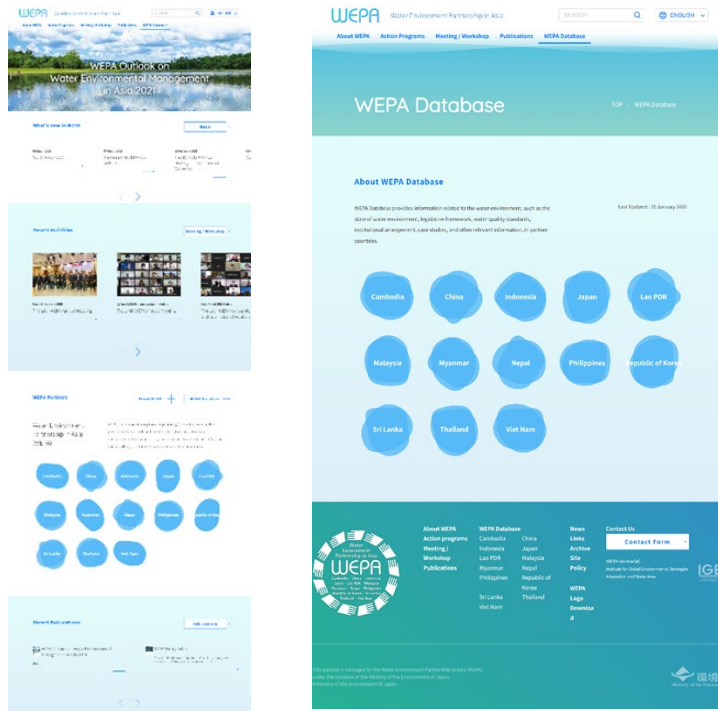
The WEPA Secretariat and the Ministry of the Environment, Japan, will organize the 19th WEPA Annual Meeting and International Workshop on 30 January and 1 February 2024 in Hayama, Kanagawa, Japan. These events will be held as in-person meetings, but on-line participations will be arranged at the same time.

The Annual Meeting aims to share the progress and future plans of overall WEPA activities with WEPA partner countries, in addition to providing updates on water environmental governance in the partner countries. The International Workshop will be organized to share practical information on addressing emerging issues. Since this is the 20th year of WEPA, we would like to look back at the past two decades of WEPA and note any changes in the water environmental governance in member countries, in addition to discussing the importance of the PDCA cycle.

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

2. Renewal of the WEPA website

Our website was renewed on 8 March, 2023. This renewal makes it much easier to navigate our website even with mobile devices, and we are aiming to provide the latest information from our partners to facilitate knowledge exchange. You can still see the old database in the archives, but we will transfer some useful and relevant content to the new database. We keep working on the website to provide valuable information on water environmental governance in WEPA member countries. Please visit our website at <https://wepa-db.net/>.



3. WEPA Action Program in Lao PDR



The WEPA action program in Lao PDR started in FY2022 to support the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Inspection (DNREI) and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE) to conserve valuable water resources. During the first year, analysis was carried out targeting the influent and effluent water quality of septic tanks and decentralized waste water treatment facilities, and an outline was developed for the training materials that will be used for operation and maintenance (O&M) of septic tanks and decentralized wastewater systems. This year, the action program plans to analyze the water quality at the same locations in the wet season, complete the publication of training materials, and organize a training workshop for government officials to strengthen the law enforcement capacity. The training materials will be handed over to the Lao government who will continue to disseminate the appropriate O&M of septic tanks and decentralized wastewater systems.

4. Water Environment in Nepal

Nepal is blessed with natural beauty, particularly in its water environment which has remarkable features that make it truly exceptional.

Nepal boasts around 6000 rivers and rivulutes accompanied by numerous waterfalls that enhance the country's scenic charm. These rivers, including the Koshi, Gandaki, and Karnali, flow through deep gorges, cutting through mountains and creating breathtaking landscapes. Additionally, the country is the location of some stunning waterfalls like Hyatung, Devi's Fall, and Panchpokhari Fall (Figure 1).



Nepal is home to several lakes, both natural and man-made. Rara Lake, Phewa Lake, and Gosaikunda are pristine lakes nestled amidst lush greenery, mountains, and serene surroundings. Nepal is renowned for its glacial lakes too, formed by the melting glaciers in the Himalayas. Gokyo Lakes in the Everest region and Tilicho Lake in the Annapurna region exemplify these ethereal glacial lakes (Figure 2).



Natural hot springs dot the landscape of Nepal, offering a soothing and therapeutic experience. Hot springs (locally "Tatopani") in the Langtang region and Ridi in the Palpa district are among some popular destinations for relaxation and rejuvenation.

Nepal is home to diverse wetlands and marshes that provide vital habitats for a variety of plant and animal species. Wetlands like Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve, Ghodaghodi Lake, and Jagdishpur Reservoir not only offer visual appeal but also support rich biodiversity and attract migratory birds.

Nepal's rivers serve multiple purposes and offer habitats for aquatic organisms. Unfortunately, pollution from industrial discharge, agricultural runoff, habitat degradation, climate change, and unsustainable resource use and improper waste management has greatly affected water quality, endangering both aquatic life and human health.

The Nepalese government has implemented measures to address these challenges, including stricter regulations on industrial pollution, promoting wastewater treatment, and raising awareness of responsible waste disposal. River clean-up efforts and the establishment of protected areas are crucial for conserving and restoring river biodiversity. Recognizing the threat of climate change, Nepal actively participates in international efforts. Rising temperatures, changing precipitation patterns, and glacier melt impact water availability and quality. Sustainable and integrated water resource management and conservation are prioritized to mitigate these effects.

In conclusion, Nepal's water environment reflects the country's natural beauty, offering diverse landscapes. Protecting this environment is crucial, and Nepal is taking initiatives and collaborating to address pollution, habitat degradation, and climate change challenges.

Surya Dev Gupta (SDE WECS, Singhdarbar, Kathmandu, Nepal, 3 June, 2023)

5. 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 sessions and inputting recent outcomes of WEPA activities. We provide details in the next WEPA News in November, 2023.



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

6. Greetings from new member in the WEPA Secretariat

We are pleased to introduce a new member who has joined the WEPA Secretariat recently:

Sui Kanazawa: I studied civil engineering and environmental engineering at KOSEN (National College of Technology in Japan) with international students from Asian countries. Through this experience, it has been my dream to contribute to the preservation of wastewater environment in Asia. For that, I dedicated myself to studying about wastewater treatment at graduate school. Upon completing my PhD, I started working as an industrial engineer for a plant engineering company to gain practical knowledge and experience. I worked on the design of facilities for wastewater treatment for the last four years. It is my pleasure to join the WEPA secretariat at IGES. I am looking forward to work with you all!



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.