

The 8th Ministers' Forum on Infrastructure Development in the Asia-Pacific Region  
Ministers' Declaration

We, the Ministers, who participated in the Eighth Ministers' Forum on Infrastructure Development in the Asia-Pacific Region held on October 9th, 2010 in Tokyo, Japan, shared our knowledge and experiences from the member states/regions addressing this year's theme of the "Adaptation of Infrastructure to Increasing Water-related Risks under the Influence of Climate Change." We reached the following common understanding:

1. Water is the source of all life. It is one of the vital resources for maintaining human life and health. At the same time, water negatively impacts human life and the ecosystem through floods, landslides, storm surges, droughts as well as the deterioration of water quality. Resolving these various water-related issues is essential for sustainable development and preservation of the environment and the ecosystem. Furthermore, it would also help us eradicate poverty and famine given that the impoverished are the most notably affected by these issues.
2. Floods, landslides, storm surges, drought and the deterioration of water quality have caused serious impacts on the lives and property of the human beings in the Asia-Pacific region. It is feared that water-related risks will increase in the future as a result of climate change. These include higher risks of flooding, tidal waves, and seacoast erosion due to more frequent and heavy precipitation, stronger storms and typhoons and sea level rise; more frequent and serious droughts due to larger fluctuations in rainfall and decreased snowfall; and deterioration in water quality.
3. Climate change may negatively affect sustainable development in the region, combined with the pressure on natural resources and the environment by rapid urbanization, industrialization and economic growth.
4. The mitigation of global warming should be promoted primarily through the reduction of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide. In parallel, adaptation

measures should be taken to avoid and reduce the negative impacts of climate change.

5. Governments should take the lead in implementing adaptation measures in an immediate, proactive and planned manner. It may be too late to start adaptation efforts when the effects of climate change have already become apparent.
6. Future projections of climate change, demography, and urbanization involve uncertainty. Based on a long-range perspective to advance effective adaptation measures, technology related to these projections should be developed further so that it can properly handle diverse topographical and meteorological conditions of the Asia-Pacific region. Advancement of technology for adaptation measures is indispensable.
7. Appropriate measures against water-related risks are essential for ensuring sustainable development. Governments of the member states/regions should take the approach as an important policy based on cooperation at all levels.

Sharing the above-mentioned understanding, we hereby declare that:

1. We will strongly promote mitigation and adaptation measures for water-related risks which will increase due to the effects of climate change.
2. We will promote integrated adaptation measures combining physical and non-physical action. Those to alleviate flood damage include development and effective use of flood control systems; integration of flood protection and community development through, *inter alia*, land use regulation; and crisis management. It is highly recommended to use advanced technology, such as a satellite-based flood forecasting system in the areas where meteorological and hydrological information is not readily available.
3. We will continue to develop our water resources management capabilities in

accordance with demographic and socio-economic changes in order to mitigate drought damage. For this point, we should continue to pursue effective, extended, networked, and optimized use of existing facilities.

4. We will develop our sewerage systems in accordance with the advancement of urbanization and industrialization in order to reduce the deterioration of water quality. In addition, reuse of treated wastewater also should be explored to ensure effective use of water resources. It is recognized that advancing technologies and developing appropriate water quality standards for treated wastewater are keys to success for this purpose.
5. We will adopt a flexible approach to formulating adaptation measures that will sufficiently reflect the results of monitoring and predictions of global warming, given the uncertainty in the future evolution of climate change and socio-economic development.
6. We will strengthen measuring systems of precipitation, river flow regime, sea levels and others to accurately grasp climate change impacts. On the basis of the measurements taken by these systems, we will accumulate basic information for better understanding water-related risks, enhance projection and assessment technologies through the development and improvement of forecasting models, and strive to exchange and share knowledge, experiences and data among the member states/regions.
7. We will promote integrated water resources management in our states/regions. For the purpose, we will address various water issues such as dependable and efficient water use as well as ground water conservation and sustainable use through, *inter alia*, collaboration among national and local interest groups through multi-sector coordination in an integrated manner.
8. We will set forward the development of technologies for alleviating damages caused by water-related risks as well as capacity building of human resources in the related fields in each member state/region. We will aim to conduct joint research through collaboration among the industry, academy and

administration and carry out training programs relevant to capacity building for water-related disaster management.

9. We will strengthen the network of member states/regions and promote international cooperation towards solving water and sanitation issues in the world. We will share technologies, information and experiences of the member states/regions on flood, landslide and drought management and water quality problems. We will build a database on sanitation-related legal and administrative systems, technologies and other related subjects.
10. We will participate actively in the Asia-Pacific Water Summit and other international conferences, as well as various water forums and related events in which we will share our best practices.
11. We will effectively use the network established at the Ministers' Forum on Infrastructure Development in the Asia-Pacific Region in order to promote further sharing of information and strengthen collaborative relationships. We will continue discussing the issues related to water and climate change at future meetings of the Ministers' Forum.

We look forward to the discussion and outcomes on adaptation measures to climate change at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) meetings to be held in November, 2010 in Yokohama, Japan.

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