

## **The Kitakyushu Statement on the Asia Wastewater Management Partnership (AWaP)**

### **Background**

1. In response to the set of the SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) in 2015, and to achieve the Target 6.3, which aims to "halve the proportion of untreated wastewater by 2030 ", further efforts in the sector are necessary in Southeast Asia where wastewater treatment rate is low.
2. Japan's Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT) proposed the establishment of the Asia Wastewater Management Partnership (AWaP) as the first partnership focusing on wastewater management in The Third Asia-Pacific Water Summit (December 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017 in Yangon, Myanmar). Based on this proposal, the necessity of establishing a regional network for knowledge sharing was stated in the Yangon Declaration.
3. Following up on this announcement in the Yangon Declaration, MLIT and the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) jointly held the "Preparation Workshop of Asia Wastewater Management Partnership (AWaP)". In this workshop, each participant country agreed to establish a multilateral partnership.
4. In order to achieve the SDGs Target 6.3, AWaP aims to mainstream wastewater management in the partner countries, by sharing good practices and excellent technologies/knowledge on wastewater policies with government officials. It is also aimed that the partner countries work in cooperation on the issues commonly shared by them.
5. This first general meeting was held in Kitakyushu City, Fukuoka Prefecture, Japan on July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018. The participants included members from five countries (Cambodia, Indonesia, Myanmar, Vietnam and Japan), and concerned organizations (the World Health Organization-WHO; video presentation, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific-UNESCAP, the Asian Development Bank-ADB; as observer, the Japan International Cooperation Agency-JICA, the Water Environment Partnership in Asia-WEPA, the Japan Sewage Works Agency-JS, and the Japan Sanitation Consortium-JSC). The aim of the meeting was to discuss on the work plan for the following five years.
6. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Taku Fujiwara (Professor, Research and Education Faculty, Natural Sciences Cluster, Agriculture Unit, Kochi University), based on a preliminary approval of the AWaP Operations Committee.

## **Opening of the Meeting**

7. Mr. Yasuhiro Morioka, Director-General of Sewerage and Wastewater Management Department, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, Japan made the opening remarks. He expressed his expectation that the partner countries work together as one entity through AWaP to achieve the SDG Goal 6 (“Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all”) by raising awareness on wastewater management, sharing the necessary knowledge for spreading wastewater treatment, and resolving common challenges.

## **Session1: Discussion on the Implementation Guidelines and Work Plan**

8. The AWaP Secretariat introduced and explained the outline of the implementation guidelines and work plan for the next five years.
9. Following this explanation, inputs regarding the work plan were made from the partner countries.

### **i. Comments on Work Plan 1: “Raising Awareness on Wastewater Management”**

10. To raise awareness, it is crucial to appeal to both the government and the citizens.
11. As for the government, it is important to raise the awareness of not only central government officials but also local government officials. Training and educating them about wastewater management would be effective as the local staff is engaged in the work at wastewater treatment facilities and is strongly connected with local communities.
12. As for the citizens, it is important to create opportunities to convey the environmental impacts caused by the discharge of untreated wastewater in a comprehensible manner.
13. When working to raise awareness at all level, particularly for community involvement, serious mutual-cooperation among different sectors such as the government, citizens, NGOs, private companies, media, etc., is essential.

### **ii. Comments on Work Plan 2 “Monitoring of Wastewater Management”**

14. To understand the situation of wastewater management in each country, AWaP will create a common monitoring framework.
15. For the establishment of a monitoring scheme in each country, it is essential to clarify the roles and responsibilities of regulatory authorities monitoring water quality and that of the organizations responsible for the construction and management of wastewater treatment systems and to cooperate with one another.
16. To implement monitoring, it is necessary to collaborate with not only government agencies

but also with influential NGOs.

17. To collect data efficiently, it is important to make the indicators used for monitoring simple and easily understandable for local residents.

**iii. Comments on Work Plan 3 “Resolving Common Challenges”**

18. Through the monitoring activities in work plan 2, common issues among partner countries are identified, and partner countries will formulate cooperation projects to resolve common challenges.
19. On the other hand, the partner countries have already recognized issues related to wastewater management such as: the capacity development of central and local government officials, the development/improvement of legislation and organizations, the introduction of suitable technologies and finance.
20. In order to tackle the issues pointed out above and the issues to be grasped through monitoring activities, the partner countries and supporting organizations will share knowledge and formulate cooperation projects for resolving the challenges.
21. Furthermore, as for the wastewater-related technologies targeted in the cooperation projects, it is important that these technologies are easy to operate and affordable for local governments while meeting the wastewater regulations of each country.
22. In the work plan, the launch of projects is scheduled from 2020, but it is necessary to tackle as soon as possible the issues that each country is currently facing.

**iv. Overall Comments on AWaP Work Plan**

23. The activities of AWaP will be an important foundation to identify the efforts required for the partner countries by sharing each country’s challenges through opinion exchange and analyzing the issues. On the other hand, through the meeting presentations, it became clear that each country is at a different starting stage concerning wastewater management.
24. The solution for the common problems in work plan 3 requires considering that each country starts from a different stage and that cooperation among ministries as well as coordination between central and local governments are essential for addressing these issues.
25. It is important to collaborate with other partnerships and platforms for implementing AWaP activities.
26. Specifically, UNESCAP has scheduled to host the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development in 2019, which will provide a possibility for collaboration in the field of wastewater management.

## **Session2: How to Carry Out Wastewater Management Monitoring ?**

27. Regarding the monitoring of wastewater management in work plan 2, each partner country is required to submit an annual report. It is important that these reports are consistent with the SDGs monitoring indicators and methodologies prepared by the United Nations.
28. In this session, WHO, the custodian agency for the indicator 6.3.1 under the UN framework, and JICA, which conducted the pilot study in Vietnam about this indicator, made a presentation and shared knowledge that will be useful for the start of the AWaP monitoring activities.
29. In addition, the Japan Sewage Works Agency (JS) made a presentation on the formulation of wastewater management plans, which is assumed as the step after monitoring.
30. Partner countries have agreed that during this year, they will focus on preparing an annual report in a format that will share the situation/plan for wastewater management and identify common issues.
31. Japan announced that experience from Japan will be shared to raise awareness of each partner country's domestic government officials and citizens, while preparing the annual report.
32. Some participants have pointed out that analyzing data, setting up a strategic plan, and considering the overall solutions is necessary aside from obtaining information, since data analysis is crucial.

## **Discussion on Future Schedule**

33. The participants agreed to continue the discussion among partner countries and concerned organizations for implementation of the work plan.
34. The participants confirmed their intention to actively engage in the activities of AWaP based on the work plan revised by the Secretariat, which originates from the discussions of this first general meeting.

Asia Wastewater Management Partnership (AWaP)

The First General Meeting

Chairperson

Taku Fujiwara