

Basic Policy for “Blueprint for Action (tentative)”

Introduction

During the 3rd World Water Forum in 2003, Japanese government will organize the Ministerial Conference. At the conference, the following outputs are expected:

1. Ministerial Declaration
2. A document of voluntary concrete actions of various governments and international organizations

For the later document, individual papers submitted by governments and international organizations outlining immediate actions to be taken to solve water problems will be compiled. This compilation will be known as the “Blueprint for Action (tentative title).”

For this document, each government or international organization is called upon to clearly details when outlining outcome-oriented actions specifically catered to help solve water issues.

The following information outlines information regarding the submission of the “Blueprint for Action (tentative title).”

Background

At the 2nd World Water Forum held in 2000, the “World Water Vision” was developed to raise awareness for water issues in the 21st century and the “Ministerial Declaration of the Hague” that specified main challenges in water sector to be addressed was adopted. As following developments, the UN Millennium Summit and the International Conference on Freshwater among other conferences, proposals were made to establish concrete goals for actions in the water sector. At the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in 2002, the “Plan of Implementation” and “Partnership Initiatives” were prepared.

However, although the “Plan of Implementation” clarifies future action for further implementation of AGENDA 21, it may need to further clarify the specifics of desired actions.

Also, although “Partnership Initiatives” is a good approach to clarify specific steps toward taking initiative, various countries and regions are yet to submit concrete proposals. Also, according to the nature of partnership, it is limited to various coordinating measures, making it hard to realize the primary role and independence of

each country involved.

Therefore, in order to promote actions by various national governments and international organizations in the water sector based on their role in international community, voluntary action plans that take into account the primary role and independence of various national governments and international organizations is necessary.

Objective

This voluntary action plans aims to contribute to further actions for the achievement of targets set by AGENDA 21 and UN Millennium Development Goals for measures toward the resolution of water issues in the spirit of “Ownership and Partnership” of the Ministerial Conference, by having various governments and international organizations take initiative in declaring specific action plans in the water sector.

Voluntary Principle

To respect the initiative of governments and international organizations, the contents of specific action plans submitted will not be negotiated. The announcement of governments will serve as National Statements of specific actions. However, as will be noted later, it will not restrict systematic coordination with the plans and statements of various sectors and various regions.

The documents submitted by governments and international organizations will be compiled as the “Blueprint for Action (tentative).”

Realization of the Plan and Clarification of Goals

In order to guarantee the realization of the action plan, we will aim to clarify the details (Ex. Who, What, When Where, Why, and How) of the content. Also, specific outcomes will be kept in mind, with particular concern for “what actual contribution to the solution of water issues” will be achieved.

(The format is as attached.)

Systematic Coordination with Sectoral/Regional Plans and Statements

Water is a resource with strongly regional characteristics and water issues contain many problems that are crosscutting across various specific fields. So actions toward the resolution for water issues will require systematic coordination among various

sectors and will need to be actively linked to the plans, initiatives and proposals of various regions.

Submission Process

The process of voluntary submission of the papers from each government and international organization is scheduled as follows:

(November 25th, 2002	First IAM)
Middle December, 2002	Distribute overview of “Blueprint for Action”, format, process, etc to invited governments and international organizations to which Japanese government has sent “Outline of the Ministerial Conference” this October through diplomatic channel.
(January 30-31st, 2003	Second IAM)
Beginning February, 2003	Re-confirmation of the deadline and the progress of the governments & international organizations, information provision on submitted countries/organizations through diplomatic channel.
Beginning March, 2003	Deadline of submission
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March 22 or 23rd, 2003	Announcement of “Blueprint for Action” at the Ministerial Conference

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