

Chair's Summary of the Third Meeting of the Asia Wastewater Management Partnership (AWaP).

background

1. following the 2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Target 6.3, which set out to 'Halving the proportion of untreated wastewater by 2030', further efforts in South-East Asia, where the proportion of treated wastewater is low, are needed to achieve the goal.
2. to achieve this goal, six Asian countries (the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Federal Republic of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and Japan) agreed to launch the Asia Wastewater Management Partnership (AWaP). They held the first AWaP General Meeting in Kitakyushu on 25 July 2018. The second General Meeting was held online on 18 August 2021.
3. AWaP aims to mainstream sewage management in each country to achieve SDG 6.3 by sharing good practices, excellent technologies and knowledge among sewage policymakers in each government and working together to solve common problems.
4. The 3rd AWaP General Meeting was held in Sapporo on 1 August 2023 with the participation of five countries (the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, Japan, the Republic of the Philippines and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam excluding the Federal Republic of Myanmar) and relevant domestic organizations (JS, JSC, JICA and IGES). The meeting was held as a forum for sharing the activities of AWaP participating countries from the inception of the AWaP to date and discussing the action plan up to 2030, the SDGs goal.
5. the meeting was chaired by Professor Taku Fujiwara of Kyoto University and facilitated by Dr Pierre Flamand of the Japan Sanitation Consortium.

opening address

6. in his opening remarks, Masaki Numata, Director of the Johkasou Office, Ministry of the Environment, Japan, expressed his hope that the solution being considered by AWaP to combine centralized treatment by sewerage system and decentralized treatment by Johkasou system as a package would improve the sewerage treatment coverage rate.
7. the Chair, Prof. Fujiwara, explained the purpose of the meeting, and Mr. Kudo, Director for Overseas Projects of Sewerage, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, reported on the concept and purpose of the AWaP.

Session 1: Report on AWaP activities

8. All partner countries (Cambodia, Indonesia, Philippines, Viet Nam, and Japan) reported on AWaP activities such as raising awareness of sewage management in 2018 and beyond. During the discussion, participants exchanged comments on the Progress Report of each country.

Session 2: Proposed AWaP New Work Plan to 2030

9. IGES and the Ministry of Environment reported on the overview and activities of WEPA.

10. the AWaP Secretariat proposed a summary of AWaP activities to date and a New Work Plan for AWaP activities up to 2030. The main proposals were as follows

- To horizontally develop in each country the awareness-raising activities on sewage management for citizens and decision-makers that each country has been working on so far.
- To report on the results and outcomes of their activities in an annual report.
- Progressing on the path to achieving SGD 6.3.
- Consider making annual reports available to the public and collaborating with the WEPA database.
- Establish an AWaP policy on the criteria for a decentralized and centralized wastewater treatment system
- Promote research and information sharing on effective techniques such as quick projects in untreated areas.
- Continuous improvement of national technical standards for trenchless sewer pipe construction methods.
- To compile information on regional issues, particularly the financial problems of sewerage projects.

11. in response to the Secretariat's proposal, the participant countries commented that they were basically in favor of the proposal, as well as the following comments and questions.

- In response to a question from Cambodia: The proposed Action (Work) Plans is for 2023-30, but it may be more appropriate to call it "The 2nd Work Plan" rather than "New Work Plan".

· Definitions of centralized and decentralized treatment systems need to be clarified. The section defining an optimized sewage treatment system should clearly explain centralized and decentralized treatment systems.

12. the AWaP Secretariat proposed a future AWaP schedule. It was proposed that the next Operation Committee meeting be held in August 2024 and the next General Meeting between July and September 2025.

13. it was proposed that the fourth General Meeting should be held in an AWaP partner country other than Japan, in line with the decision of the previous General Meeting.

Chair, Asia Wastewater Management Partnership 3rd General Meeting

Taku Fujiwara