

# **Chair's Summary of the Fourth AWaP General Meeting (Draft)**

## **Background**

1. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), established in 2015, include Target 6.3, which aims to halve the amount of untreated wastewater by 2030. Countries in Southeast Asia, particularly those with low access to public wastewater treatment services, must intensify their efforts to achieve this target.
2. To advance this goal, six Asian countries—the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, and Japan—have agreed to establish the Asia Wastewater Partnership (AWaP). AWaP has held three General Meetings in the past: in Kitakyushu on July 25, 2018, online on August 18, 2021, and in Sapporo on August 1, 2023.
3. The fifth Operations Committee meeting, held in Tokyo on September 24, 2024, agreed to welcome the People's Republic of Bangladesh and the Kingdom of Thailand as new members of AWaP.
4. The Fourth AWaP General Meeting was held on November 18, 2025, in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, the Philippines, Vietnam, and related organizations, including JS, JSC, and JICA, joined the meeting. During the Fourth General Meeting, the activities of each member country for the ten years following its establishment were shared, and the activity plans were discussed to achieve SDG Goal 6 by 2030.

5. Professor Taku Fujiwara of Kyoto University chaired the 4th General Meeting, with Dr. Pierre Flamand of the Japan Sanitation Consortium serving as facilitator.

## **Opening Remarks**

6. Mr. Matsubara, the Assistant Vice-Minister for Water Supply and Sewerage, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport, and Tourism of Japan, delivered the opening remarks. Following this, H.E. Ros Vanna, Secretary of State, Ministry of Public Works and Transport of Cambodia provided a welcome speech, expressing the expectations for the AWaP activities.
7. The Chair, Professor Fujiwara, outlined the purpose of the General Meeting, after which the AWaP Secretariat presented an overview of the AWaP concept and its achievements.

## **Session 1: Report on AWaP Activities**

8. Each member country provided an update on the current status of wastewater management. Kitakyushu City, Japan, also presented its activities for wastewater management in Cambodia. During the discussion, participants exchanged views on the initiatives undertaken by each country.

## **Session 2: Determining Policy Based on AWaP**

### **Activity Plan**

9. The AWaP activities from 2023 to date were reported.
10. The AWaP policy approach for mainstreaming wastewater

management and securing funding was established. Partner countries shared each finance initiative and confirmed that prioritizing wastewater management and ensuring sustainable funding sources align with the AWaP policy approach.

11. An additional measure in the AWaP policy approach was proposed for optimal wastewater treatment. Specifically, developing plans for the diffusion of centralized and decentralized treatment systems, adopting the City-Wide Inclusive Sanitation (CWIS) approach, and implementing them in a phased manner as quickly as possible. Partner countries agreed on the policy approach.
12. Good examples and initiatives based on the above proposed policy shall be discussed at the next Operations Committee.
13. An update on the progress of the compilation of technical and policy case studies was provided. The case study compilation shall continue to be processed.
14. A draft update of the AWaP activity plan through 2030 has been proposed. Key updates include the following:
  - We have updated the schedule for the international conference we will attend to introduce AWaP activities.
  - Activity durations were revised according to the Work Plan to reflect current conditions.
  - At the 2027 General Meeting, we will summarize AWaP's achievements through its 2030 conclusion.
15. The proposal for the next General Meeting and Operations Committee was presented.
  - The Sixth Operations Committee, scheduled for August to October 2026 in Tokyo, Japan, will make a concrete discussion leading up to the Fifth General Meeting.

- The Fifth General Meeting is proposed to take place from August to October 2027 in Indonesia.
- The Secretariat will coordinate with partner countries regarding the timing.

Taku Fujiwara

Chair of the 4th General Meeting for the Asia Wastewater Partnership