



2nd APWF Governing Council Meeting: Mr. Ravi Narayanan, Vice Chair (on the left) and Prof Tommy Koh, Chair (on the right)
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Professor Tommy Koh Chairs the 2nd Asia Pacific Water Forum (APWF) Governing Council Meeting in Singapore (12-13 July 2007)

Over two days (12-13 Jul 07), Professor Tommy Koh, Ambassador-at-Large of Singapore, chaired the Asia Pacific Water Forum's (APWF) 2nd Governing Council meeting at Waterhub, Singapore's Public Utilities Board centre for technology, learning and networking. Attended by senior specialists from the four corners of the region, the meeting convened the lead organizations of the APWF, such as the Asian Development Bank (ADB), ICHARM, The World Conservation Union (IUCN), FAO, PUB, UNESCO, UNESCAP, UN-HABITAT, Japan Water Forum, Korea Water Forum, Streams of Knowledge and the Global Water Partnership.

The Asia-Pacific Water Forum (APWF) is working to increase the region's access to improved water supplies and sanitation, protect and restore river basins, and reduce people's vulnerability to water disasters. The APWF champions efforts aimed at boosting investments, building capacity, increasing public outreach and enhancing cooperation in the water sector at the regional level.

The 2nd Governing Council meeting of the APWF canvassed the APWF's preparatory work in view of the upcoming 1st Asia Pacific Water Summit, scheduled to assemble the region's Heads of Government and leading stakeholders on water, 3-4 December 2007 in Beppu, Japan. To be attended by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan, the 1st Asia-Pacific Water Summit will provide the region's leaders with the opportunity to exert leadership in decision-making, showcase innovations, and commit their countries to concrete actions in the realm of water and sanitation. His Imperial Highness the Crown

Prince of Japan has stated his intent to participate and contribute to the Summit's success.

Building water security for all people is a matter of critical importance to the region. Professor Koh insists, "water needs to be made a great national priority in each Asia Pacific country for the well-being and prosperity of our region."

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About APWF <http://www.apwf.org/index.html>

APWF is an independent, non-profit, non-political network set up to encourage collaborative efforts on water resources management and to accelerate the effective integration of water resources management with the socio-economic development process of the Asia and Pacific region.

Outline of the 1st Asia-Pacific Water Summit

<http://www.apwf.org/project/Outline.html>

- **Theme:**
Water Security: Leadership and Commitment
- **Organizers:**
Asia-Pacific Water Forum
Steering Committee of the 1st Asia-Pacific Water Summit
- **Dates:**
December 3 and 4, 2007
- **Venue:**
B-con plaza (Beppu Convention Center), Oita Prefecture, Japan
<http://www.b-conplaza.jp/>

Facts

- The Asian continent supports 60% of the world's population with only 36% of the world's water resources.¹
- 655 million people are still without safe drinking water and 1.9 billion without access to basic water sanitation in our region.²
- The Asia-Pacific region accounted for 80% of the world's total deaths due to water-related disasters (for the period 2001-2005).³

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¹ The United Nations World Development Report

² Meeting the MDG Drinking Water and Sanitation Target: The Urban and Rural Challenge of the Decade

³ EM-DAT: The OFDA/CRED International Database Created on : Jan 14 2006. – Data version: v06.01.