

**Notes of 2nd Steering Committee Meeting and Programme Meeting for
1st Asia-Pacific Water Summit**

6 August 2007

Venue: ANA Intercontinental Hotel, Japan

A) Background

1. The 1st Asia-Pacific Water Summit (APWS) will be held in Beppu, Oita Prefecture, Japan on 3-4 Dec 2007.

2. The 2nd APWS SC meeting was held in Tokyo on 6 Aug 2007. The meeting was chaired by former Prime Minister of Japan, Mr Yoshiro Mori who is the President of the Japan Water Forum as well as the President of the Asia Pacific Water Forum (APWF). Mr Mori chaired the morning segment of the meeting attended by 16 SC members, 13 special participants and 122 observers. Mr. Ravi Narayanan chaired the Programme Meeting in the afternoon. The secretariat of the meeting was the Japan Water Forum. Representatives from the diplomatic community in Japan, affiliated agencies, and the media were invited as observers. Government officials attended from 35 countries; Afghanistan, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Fiji, Georgia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Korea, Kyrgyz, Laos, Malaysia, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tuvalu and Uzbekistan.

B) Programme of the Meeting

3. The meeting on 6 Aug 07 comprised of:-

- i) 1st Steering Committee Meeting chaired by Mr Mori & a luncheon hosted by Mr Mori;
- ii) The Programme Meeting chaired by Mr Ravi Narayanan, Vice Chair of the APWF Governing Council.

C) Overall Assessment of the 2nd APWS SC Meetings

4. The mood at the meetings was very warm and substantive. The meetings were lively, constructive and focused. Many good ideas surfaced and were discussed. All the SC members expressed their commitment/support towards the organizing of the APWS.

5. The Secretariat and APWF Governing Council reported on progress of the preparatory process, on which SC members provided substantive comments. The SC members noted that preparatory process is still work-in-progress and will be finalized in the coming months.

D) Matters Discussed and Key Outcomes at the meetings of the 1st APWS 2nd SC meeting:

6. 2nd Steering Committee meeting for 1st APWS was chaired by Mr. Mori. The members were welcomed and briefed on the ongoing preparatory process and draft recommendations of the APWF. Mr. Yoshiro Mori proceeded to invite the SC members to comment on the materials presented.

7 Several members highlighted the notion that solutions to the water and sanitation issues of the Asia-Pacific region are political in nature, while sufficient technical knowledge to solve the problems already exists within the region. There was agreement among all 2nd SC members that the 1st APWS be the rallying point for all to call upon governments of the region to make these issues a critical priority in their national agendas.

8 Voicing their support, the 2nd SC members provided comments on the draft key recommendations presented by Mdm. Erna Witoelar, Vice Chair of Governing Council of Asia-Pacific Water Forum / UN Special Ambassador for Millennium Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific, on behalf of the APWF Governing Council (the highlights are below):

Priority Theme A-Water Financing:

- Mr. Karim Allaoui, Senior Water Resources Specialist at Islamic Development Bank and Mrs. Margaret Catley-Carlson, Chair of the Global Water Partnership, pointed out the need to stimulate demand for the funds that are currently available from development partners to support the water and sanitation programmes of the developing countries; a strategy that entails building governments' capacity for high priority to be given to water and sanitation challenges, to in turn increase the demand for investments in water and sanitation infrastructure.
- Emphasis on sanitation, and in this context enhanced coordination between donors under the umbrella of the APWF, were also suggested as input to this section.
- Mr. Hu Siyi, Vice Minister of Water Resources of China and Mr. Kyosuke Shinozawa, Governor of JBIC, and Mr. Ariyuki Matsumoto, Senior Vice President of JICA, also highlighted their support to this water financing theme.
- Mr. Liqun Jin, Vice President of ADB described ADB's support to the APWF and the 1st Summit process (through funding the participation of leaders at the Summit, support for the GC and the JWF, commissioning the AWDO report, support for KRA1's through a LOI between ADB, PUB Singapore and UNESCO-IHE, financing the ABU to produce a water TV documentary) as multiple efforts to enhance the commitment of the region's political leaders to the water sector issues.

Priority Theme B – Water-related disaster management

- Dr. Han Seung-Soo, President of Korea Water Forum / Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General on Climate Change, outlined the need to secure national representation at the highest level and invited APWF cooperation on the hi-expert level panel on disasters stemming from the Hashimoto action plan.
- Mr. Sulton Rahimov, Chairman of the Executive Committee of International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea, invited all to the International Conference on Water Related Disaster Reduction in 2008 to be hosted by the Government of Tajikistan.

Priority Theme C – Water for Development and Ecosystems:

- Mr. Rae Kwon Chung, Director of Environment and Sustainable Development Division at UNESCAP, Mr. Ariyuki Matsumoto, Senior Vice President of JICA, and Mr. Giasuddin Ahmed Choudhury,

Executive Director CEGIS, Bangladesh, mentioned the need to integrate the concept of IWRM to the draft of the above position paper.

Key Result Areas

- Mr. Hu Siyi, Vice-Minister of Water Resources of China suggested it might be unwise to press for a single policy framework and suggested regional ministerial councils, as opposed to a WaMCAP, to enhance communication among neighbouring countries and exchange experiences. Mr. James Horne, Deputy Secretary of the Department of the Environment and Water Resources of Australia called for further discussions on the WaMCAP proposition.
- Mr. Saif-ud-Din Soz, Minister of Water Resources of India, offered India's experience on the establishment of a clean development mechanism within their country's means and extended a gracious invitation to Mr. Mori to come witness their work.
- Mr. Rae Kwon Chung, Director of Environment and Sustainable Development Division at UNESCAP offered new recommendations to integrate into the document on IWRM, promotion of national policies through establishment of a permanent exchange mechanism at the ministerial level, and the suggestion of creating a prize for local initiatives in Asia-Pacific, as a dissemination strategy of good practices.
- Several members suggested the opportunity provided by the 1st APWS to rally media and launch awareness campaigns on issues of water and sanitation. Mr. Imai, Executive Editor of NHK Japan Broadcasting Corporation, expressly highlighted the role to be played by media, urging the members to consider them as a partner in the APWS process to heighten the level of the discussions at the 1st APWS.
- Mrs. Masako Uemoto, Vice President of Japanese Trade Union Confederation, called upon the SC members to consider in some way opening access to the 1st APWS venue to all interested stakeholders.
- Mr. Loïc Fauchon, President of World Water Council, highlighted the fact that the 1st APWS was to signify a new era in water diplomacy in the region and would provide an unprecedented opportunity to find acceptable strategies for the dissemination of solutions, which ought to center on making water use & sanitation efficient and to favour regional and local actions.
- Mr. Hiroaki Taniguchi, Vice-Minister for Engineering Affairs at the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport of Japan expressed support for the APWS process and hope that the governments would adopt the recommendations.

Topic Sessions

Mr. Kyosuke Shinozawa, Governor of JBIC, made an offer to co-sponsor the International Year of Sanitation launch event at the 1st APWS.

Mr. Sulton Rahimov, Chairman of the Executive Committee of International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea, proposed organizing a topic session on the Aral Sea Basin. Mr. Rahimov also mentions that the President of the Republic of Tajikistan H.E. Mr. Emomali Rahmon announced the establishment of a coordination mechanism between the international organizations and donors under the auspices of the United Nations for finding solutions to the Aral Sea Basin problems that is now considered a priority pilot project in the region for

achievement of MDGs; and suggests it might be considered as an additional item in the APWS list of initiatives.

9. Mdm. Erna Witoelar expressed gratitude on behalf of the APWF Governing Council, taking due note of all inputs which were to be integrated into the ongoing preparatory process.

10. At the Programme meeting, chaired by Mr. Ravi Narayanan, Vice Chair of the APWF Governing Council, Mr. Narayanan noted the effort put in by JWF in preparing the 2nd SC meeting. It was agreed that the preparatory process was still at a flexible stage, and warranting all members' input. The meeting was constructive and substantive.

11. Proposed Invitees to the 1st APWS. Several members offered suggestions for the lists submitted by the Secretariat. It was agreed that all members render their nominations to the Secretariat by 13th August. The nominations would then be compiled and a new list submitted to SC members for approval. Mr. Sulton Rahimov, Chairman of the Executive Committee of International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea proposed that political persons be included in the list of stakeholders' invitees (due to limited access to Summit), to which the Secretariat answered that officials should be included within their government's delegation, hence would not be eligible for nomination to the stakeholders' invitees list. As the 1st APWS is to be a political forum, there was agreement that the event would remain restricted to participants with specific experience in the water and sanitation sector, in order to create the atmosphere required for governments to discuss, commit and take actions on the issues before them. It was agreed that a balanced representation of invitees from all regions would be pursued.

12. Proposed Structure of the 1st APWS. The Chair thanked all members for their suggestions on the draft programme of the 1st APWS. A new draft program would be resubmitted to the SC members in due course, as confirmations of government delegations were received. The Chair stated that the programme would seek to balance time constraints with the space for political statements.

13. The Chair mentioned that outcome documents would be redrafted and refined in view of the targeted audiences.

14. It was suggested to prioritize the launch of concrete initiatives at the 1st APWS that were at a mature stage of development and support. It was also suggested to consolidate some sessions and concrete initiatives.

15. The Secretariat called on all members to help secure their heads of government's attendance to the 1st APWS, or alternatively the heads of governments' deputies.

16. The Chair thanked all members for their attendance and input, reminding all that the 1st APWS was an exciting opportunity to set an example for the region and to make progress in the critical issue of water and sanitation, with the eyes of the world watching.

E) Press Interview

17. Several members were interviewed by the press and good coverage of the 2nd SC meeting of the 1st APWS was reported in the press.

To Do List

Follow-ups by the Secretariat of the APWS for the 1st APWS Steering Committee meetings and sideline discussions

- Coordinate invitees' nominations from SC members (SC members to submit their nominations by 13th August), compile and submit list to SC for approval
- Propose a new Summit Program following confirmed attendance of government delegations
- Redraft the APWF recommendations with the assistance of the APWF lead organizations, identifying and focusing to target audiences, calling upon governments to take on concrete actions
- Compile and sort the concrete initiatives, according to their level of development and maturity
- JWF with assistance from ADB develop a media strategy for the 1st APWS
- Consider revising the name and provide background justification for the WaMCAP proposal