

Welcome the 2nd Asia-Pacific Water Summit to your country

Initial expressions of interest requested by November 1st 2009

The Secretariat of the Asia-Pacific Water Forum (APWF) based in Tokyo (Japan) is currently seeking expressions of interest from the Governments of countries willing to host and organize the 2nd Asia-Pacific Water Summit in 2011-2012.

The APWF was created in 2006, under the impetus of late Prime Minister of Japan Ryutaro Hashimoto and is currently presided by the former Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori. The APWF's mission is to provide countries and organizations in the region with a common platform and voice to accelerate the process of effective integration of water resource management into the socio-economic development process of Asia and the Pacific.

In calling for the creation of the APWF at the 4th World Water Forum in Mexico in 2006, the region's water ministers sought to establish an effective mechanism to encourage more collaborative efforts on water resources management and to accelerate the process of effective integration of water resources management into the socioeconomic development process of the Asian and Pacific region. The Asia-Pacific Water Ministerial Meeting also called upon the APWF to organize **Asia-Pacific Water Summits**, to be held, once every 2–3 years.

The 1st Asia-Pacific Water Summit (1st APWS), under the theme *Water Security: Leadership and Commitment*, was held in Beppu City, Oita Prefecture in Japan, 3–4th December 2007. 10 Heads of Government in the region made keynote speeches, while a series of sessions provided participants with the opportunity to discuss in further depth some of the issues of concern.

The 1st APWS, jointly organized by the Steering Committee of the 1st APWS chaired by former Prime Minister of Japan Mr. Yoshiro Mori and the APWF, whose Governing Council is chaired by Professor Tommy Koh was the occasion for the region to focus its attention and energy on the pressing water challenges, to exchange ideas and good practices and to commit to taking action. The participants also unanimously endorsed the Message from Beppu, a call to further the water agenda in the region that offers tangible suggestions to leaders and expresses intent to heighten water issues on the agenda of major upcoming political events. Additional outcomes include the Policy Brief 2007 that outlines the key recommendations issued by the APWF's lead organizations, the Chair's Summary, and the launch of a series of concrete initiatives.

The Secretariat of the APWF has determined that the bidding process for the **2nd Asia-Pacific Water Summit** will be open to the Government of any country in the region that, together with the host city, can demonstrate its capacity to organise such an important event. In order to be considered for the next steps in the bidding procedure, a preliminary expression of interest should be received by the Secretariat of the APWF in Tokyo by November 1st 2009.

Furthermore, in order to participate in the bidding process the following application criteria should be met:

1. A host government is expected to send an invitation signed by the head of government level (President or Prime Minister) to the other 49 heads of government in the Asia-Pacific region*.
2. As far as funding is concerned, the host government is expected to bear a significant portion of the costs involved in hosting the event.
3. As a format requirement, the host government is expected to host the APWS as an independent event (not as a part of other international conference etc.)

For more detailed information on the bidding process and the Summit itself, please contact the Secretariat of the APWF, Ms. Yoshie Tonohara (2apws_host@waterforum.jp).

* The number of the countries and regions of the APWF is 50 according the criteria of the Asia-Pacific region in the preparatory process of the 5th World Water Forum; Afghanistan, Armenia, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, Cambodia, China, Cook Islands, DPR Korea, Fiji, Georgia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Israel, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Republic of Korea, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Malaysia, Maldives, Marshall Island, Federated States of Micronesia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nauru, Niue, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, East Timor, Tonga, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, and Vietnam.