

THE OPEN EVENT RELATING TO THEME C “SYMPOSIUM ON RIVER ENVIRONMENT AND WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT”

Leading organizations: Symposium Committee of River Environment and Water Resources Management
Time & Date: 9:00 to 12:00, 2 December 2007
Venue: Social Welfare Hall (Shakai Fukushi Kaikan), Beppu City

Activities in management of water resources and the river environment in Japan could be advanced attempts and important experiences in the Asia-Pacific region. In order to effectively adopt such experiences to other countries in the region, relevant experts from Japan and the Asia-Pacific region were brought together and discussed on the river environment and water resources management.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Since water resources development requires time and cost, this should not be adopted as an ad-hoc strategy, aiming at short term gains in water demand, but as a long term national strategy enabling sustainable use of water resources. At the same time, water resources development, which requires dam construction, has various impacts on the river environment. Therefore, in the case dam development is needed, environmental assessment must be appropriately carried out. In water resources development, effective use of stock in existing works should also be considered.
- Considering various impacts of existing works on the river environment, there is a need for establishing a new framework for environmental river flows, which is applicable to Japan with its natural and social conditions. Developing flexible operation of dams could be one of the effective tools in order to put such framework into practice.
- Japan has been implementing nature friendly river management to improve environment of river channels, which aims at balancing flood management, water resources management and the environment. Toward its successful goals, extensive and continuous efforts are required.
- Challenges of the river environment management, including ecosystem management, are to address the river channel as well as river flows and water quality. And management of the river environment with a perspective of river basins is important.
- In the Asia-Pacific region, which has the large population and metropolises with rapid growth rate of the population, water resources development still remains required. However, environmental issues also need to be addressed. Even though lessons learned and experiences gained in Japan in balancing water resources development and the river environment are evaluated as advanced attempts, they could not be directly applied to other Asia-Pacific region because of differences in geology and climate. In order to apply them to other countries, further cooperation and implementation are required among countries in the Asia-Pacific region including Japan.

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Partner organizations: Committee on Hydrosience and Hydraulic Engineering; Ecology and Civil Engineering Society; Japan Society of Hydrology and Water Resources; Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport; Japan Water Agency; Water Resources Environment Technology Center; Foundation for Riverfront Improvement and Restoration; and Foundation of River & Watershed Environment Management