

1st Asia Pacific Water Summit Open Event

Event Title: Beautiful Forests, Beautiful Water
Organizer: Japan Forest Conservation and Flood Control Association
Format: Symposium
Date: Saturday, December 1, 2007
Time: 14:30 - 17:40
Venue: B-con Plaza

1. The Concept and Purpose of the Symposium

The title of this event, "Beautiful Forest, Beautiful Water," embodied the basic concept of this event that growing and conserving healthy, beautiful forests brings our society safe and good water resources. The purpose of the event was to disseminate the concept both domestically and internationally by presenting recent research results and introducing case studies of good practices.

2. Program

- 14:30 Opening of the Symposium
- 14:30-14:40 Opening Addresses
Mr. Shouji Fukuda, *Japan Forest Conservation and Flood Control Association*
Mr. Hisao Harihara, Guest, *Director General, Private Forest Department, Forestry Agency, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries*
- 14:40-15:20 Keynote Presentation
"Impacts of Degradation of Planted Forests on Runoff and Outflow of Soil"
Dr. Yuichi Onda, Associate Professor, *Department of Integrative Environmental Sciences, Graduate School of Life and Environmental Sciences, University of Tsukuba*
- 15:20-16:55 Case Studies
"Revitalizing the Ocean and the Earth—To Protect the Headwater Areas of Chikugo River"
Mr. Yuichi Mae, *Nakatsue Village Earth Foundation*
"Diagnosing Forests—Watershed Conservation with Public Participation"
Mr. Kenji Niwa, *Yahagi River Forest Volunteers Association*
"Forest Environment Tax—A New Forest Management Movement"
Mr. Takamasa Kondo, *Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Oita Prefecture*
"Overseas Cooperation—The Forest Management and Community Support Program in Lao P.D.R." (JICA Technical Cooperation)
Mr. Kazuhiro Goseki, *Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries*
- 16:55-17:35 Special Presentation
"A New Forest Management for Water Conservation"

Dr. Takehiko Ohta, Professor, *Department of Forest Science, Tokyo University of Agriculture*

17:35-17:40 Closing Address

Mr. Shouji Fukuda, *Japan Forest Conservation and Flood Control Association*

17:40 Closing of the Symposium

3. Outline

- About 150 people with various backgrounds attended the symposium.
- Representing the organizer, Mr. Shouji Fukuda declared the opening of the symposium and thanked the participants for their attendance.
- The special guest, Mr. Hisao Harihara of Forestry Agency, saluted the people of Oita and the symposium organizer for their efforts in preparing for the 1st APWS and the symposium respectively.
- Dr. Yuichi Onda, associate professor of Tsukuba University and a leading forest hydrologist, gave the keynote presentation in which he introduced his up-to-date research results. From his field studies and analyses, Dr. Onda suggested that high-ratio thinning is needed to recover the public functions of degraded planted forests.
- Four representatives from various organizations gave case studies about their activities to conserve forests and nurture water resources.
- Mr. Yuichi Mae presented a case of *Nakatsue*, a mountain village in Oita Prefecture where villagers, downstream city residents, and various organizations such as municipalities, corporations, schools, and NPOs gather regularly to grow forests for water and fishery resources. The movement has gained momentum with the increase of the number of participants.
- Mr. Kenji Niwa, an acknowledged leader of forest volunteer groups, advocated a new method of forest inventory which was specially devised so that amateur volunteers can enjoyably take part in the field work of forest inventory and yet contribute to professional forest analyses for better forest management.
- Mr. Takamasa Kondo of Oita Prefecture described the background and the system of a special tax called forest environment tax that Oita Pref. recently introduced. In consultation with citizens, the tax revenue is expended on projects related to forests such as public works of forest conservation, forest products promotion, and forest education for children and adults.
- Mr. Kazuhiro Goseki presented his experience as a Japan International Corporation Agency (JICA) professional dedicated to the forest conservation and afforestation project in Vientiane Province, Lao P.D.R. The community-based skill transfer approach of the project established participatory forest management and income generation methods for villagers.
- Dr. Takehiko Ohta elaborated the headwater conservation function of forests in the light of human's forest utilization and management history. Dr. Ohta propounded that forest management from now on should well consider the characteristics of multifunctional roles of forests and plan forest conservation according to the expected main function of each forest.
- On closing, Mr. Fukuda expressed his appreciation to all the people involved.

*This event is partly sponsored by the National Fund for Forest Greenery and Water of Japan.