



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**\*\*\*\*\*PRESS RELEASE\*\*\*\*\***

**Announcement**  
**1st Asia-Pacific Water Summit**  
**Water Security: Leadership and Commitment**  
3-4th December 2007

The 1st Asia-Pacific Water Summit (1<sup>st</sup> APWS) will be held in Beppu, Oita prefecture, on December 3 and 4, 2007, with top-level decision-makers participation from the Asia-Pacific region.

“The fact is that, at present, in Asia and the Pacific, 700 million of our citizens do not have access to safe drinking water, the region suffers disproportionately from water-related disasters and degraded land-water ecosystems significantly threaten water productivity. We can turn the situation around if we can agree to make water a high priority in our development plans, if we can improve governance, if we mobilize and allocate more financial resources to water infrastructure and if we acknowledge that the access to safe drinking water is a basic human right of our people.” – Former Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori, Chair, Steering Committee of the 1st Asia-Pacific Water Summit.

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 socio-economic 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 1<sup>st</sup> APWS is being convened by the Steering Committee for the 1<sup>st</sup> Asia-Pacific Water Summit and the Asia-Pacific Water Forum (APWF), under the chairmanship of former Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori, in collaboration with the APWF's Governing Council, chaired by Prof. Tommy Koh, Ambassador-at-large of Singapore. Heads of State and Government and ministers are expected to lead their national delegations to the Summit, in a bid to mobilize the political will and commitment required to put water high up the region's national agendas. The Summit will bring together top-level leaders from various sectors including industry, public, education, local organizations, and media from 49 countries. All in all, around 300 people are expected to participate in this Summit. The leaders of some of the region's foremost institutions and stakeholders involved in water and sanitation issues are expected to participate, namely, the Asian Development Bank, The World Conservation Union (IUCN), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, UNESCO, Singapore PUB, Streams of Knowledge,



UN-Habitat, UNESCAP, Japan Water Forum, among others.

Exchanging on the central theme of “Water Security: Leadership and Commitment,” top level dignitaries will make speeches in plenary session, while a series of thematic panel sessions are scheduled to discuss in further depth some of the issues of concern such as, climate change, water financing, water-related disaster management, water for development and ecosystems, developing knowledge and lessons, increasing local capacity, monitoring investments and results, the private sector water mandate, among others. In parallel to the 1<sup>st</sup> APWS, an Open Event forum will be held in Beppu, 1-5<sup>th</sup> December 2007 in and around the B-Con Plaza, with a broad participation from civil society stakeholders, multilateral organizations, and others.

The conclusions from the 1<sup>st</sup> APWS will be conveyed to upcoming political events in Japan, namely TICAD IV and the G8 Summit in 2008.

The 1<sup>st</sup> APWS is sponsored by Coca-Cola Company, Limited (Japan), Canon Inc., with support from The Asian Development Bank and the Government of Japan, among others.

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 press is required to pre-register for the Summit to obtain Summit accreditation. If you would like to attend the summit, please register in advance using the enclosed “Instructions for Pre-registration” document, which can also be downloaded at [www.watersummit.jp](http://www.watersummit.jp) and [www.apwf.org](http://www.apwf.org).

For detailed information on the Summit (participants list, steering committee members, programme, etc.), please see attached documents:

**Asia-Pacific Water Forum Press Desk; Convention Linkage, Inc.**  
TEL : 03-3263-8698    FAX : 03-3263-8693  
e-mail [press@waterforum.jp](mailto:press@waterforum.jp)  
URL <http://www.apwf.org/press/>