

## Summary of Panel Discussion

- Is the Australian government financially preparing for solving drought problems?
  - ⇒ As the government has a sufficient budget surplus, we are sure we are financially preparing. We intend to tighten regulations on water withdrawal and the ownership of water, based on scientific knowledge.
  
- Are you making efforts to promote public-private cooperation and dialogue on adaptation measures for climate change in Japan? I'd be interested to know Japan's views on assistance to developing countries in the area of water resources.
  - ⇒ We have public-private dialogue on measures for adapting to climate change. At present, Japan's assistance to developing countries is not necessarily sufficient in the field of water resources. Therefore, we know we have to enhance our efforts.
  
- I would like to know people's response to institutional changes posed by the use of recycled water and the introduction of desalination technologies in Australia.
  - ⇒ Water supply is under the control of state governments. In urban areas, including the state capitals, we must develop water resources which won't be affected by climate change, including the use of recycled water and the introduction of desalination technologies, within the next five to ten years.
  
- In the Middle East, which is rich in fiscal and energy resources and has a relatively small population, the introduction of desalination technologies is considered to be effective. However, what kind of technology does Japan think is available in other developing countries? And what kind of technology can be used to promote the efficient use of water?
  - ⇒ A wide range of skills are required. We have not only to improve infrastructure, but also combine various environmental-friendly measures, including water-saving agriculture, energy sources available within the region, and water recycling. Japan has both adaptation and mitigation technologies.
  - ⇒ It is important to gather relevant information and manage it. For example, it is crucial to create a system to control both surface water and ground water in implementing large-scale irrigation.
  - ⇒ Currently, desalination technology is available only in rich countries, as it costs a lot. We are sure we will be able to reduce the cost drastically in the future, for the cost of desalination cost was \$8/m<sup>3</sup> ten years ago and has fallen to \$0.8 to \$1/m<sup>3</sup> now. Therefore, it is expected that this technology will be available everywhere as long

as the necessary energy is available.

⇒ The amount of water used per value of industrial shipment in Japan ranks as the world's lowest. Therefore, our water-saving technologies can contribute to the efficient use of water in other countries.

➤ It is important to utilize water operators' partnerships and also to establish cooperative frameworks between water operators and policy-makers in order to address various impacts of climate change. How do you think the media should be involved in this?

⇒ Water suppliers have taken various measures, including the utilization of infrastructure to address climate change. But we need to create a new system to implement demand-side management.

⇒ I believe that our society has not fully recognized the cost of water.

⇒ We know that we cannot overcome the impacts of climate change on water if we behave as though it is business as usual. Therefore, the media should take a similar stance.

➤ I would like to know your views about how to address climate change in developing countries. In addition, please advise me on whether it is possible for the media to get ahead of the times and enlighten the public.

⇒ Though it is ideal for us to coexist harmoniously with nature, it is hard to pursue an ideal environment in urban areas. Therefore, it is essential that we aim to establish a decentralized society in the future.

⇒ It is necessary to create a new relationship between man and nature within the next ten years. We should raise awareness of the importance of investing in water and sanitation. Though researchers can offer technical solutions to the impacts presented by climate change, it is more important to show political will as well.

⇒ All the people living both in developed and developing countries will have to adapt themselves flexibly to climate change. Therefore, it is necessary to consider adaptation programs in advance.

⇒ Political will is crucial in order to change the paradigm of society.

⇒ There are two kinds of response from the media: one is the response to a specific event, and the other is the transmission of messages on a certain theme to the world. In dealing with environmental problems, the latter is more important. To deliver impressive messages to the world, the mobilization of opinion leaders such as former US vice-president Al Gore is a critical factor, as is the quality of the information.

➤ What do you expect of the 1<sup>st</sup> Asia-Pacific Water Forum?

- ⇒ Impacts of climate change usually become visible in three areas: the atmosphere, bio-diversity, and water. Water issues have been left unaddressed in comparison with the other two issues. Therefore, in the preparatory process for the Summit, we should regard water problems as one of the most important challenges in dealing with the impacts presented by climate change.
- ⇒ We hope we will be able to solve at least one of the many water problems at the Water Summit.
- ⇒ I hope the summit will contribute to the resolution of global water problems.
- ⇒ In the resolution of water problems, we need three factors: technical and software solutions; political will; and cooperation from the media. All stakeholders need to have a political forum to share information, knowledge, and technology. The coming Water Summit will be the first step towards the creation of such a forum.
- ⇒ This will be a good opportunity to raise leaders' awareness of water, increase leaders' commitment to the resolution of water problems, and encourage their joint efforts at dealing with water problems based on a common understanding.