

The logo for WEPA (Water Environment Partnership in Asia) features the acronym 'WEPA' in a large, white, sans-serif font against a blue background with a subtle pattern of water ripples.

Water Environment Partnership in Asia

WEPA News

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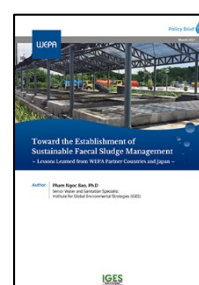
The Water Environment Partnership in Asia (WEPA) is an initiative proposed by the Japanese Ministry of the Environment. It aims to strengthen water environmental governance and capacity building in Asia. For further information, please visit the WEPA web site (<http://wepa-db.net/en/index.html>).

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1. Latest WEPA Policy Brief

A new WEPA Policy Brief entitled “Toward the Establishment of Sustainable Faecal Sludge Management - Lessons Learned from WEPA Partner Countries and Japan -”, by Dr. Pham Ngoc Bao of IGES was published on the WEPA web site in March 2021. This Policy Brief has been developed with the aim of: (i) investigating the existing situation and challenges on faecal sludge management in WEPA countries; (ii) identifying enabling factors for introducing and implementing appropriate business models for sustainable faecal sludge management, through selected case studies in WEPA countries; and (iii) initiating discussions on how lessons learned from Japan’s experiences in using Johkasou systems for human waste and faecal sludge management can be introduced to improve the situation in WEPA partner countries.



➤ Available at http://wepa-db.net/jp/publication/2021_policybrief/WEPA_policy_brief_web.pdf

2. Consultation Meeting for the WEPA Action Program in Cambodia

On 6 September 2021, a Consultation Meeting to discuss the implementation plan for the WEPA Action Program in Cambodia was held on line. Following suggestions from a WEPA advisor and

other participants at the meeting, the WEPA action program on “Capacity building of the officers at Sub-national level on identifying major pollution sources and estimate pollution in Tonle Sap Lake” was officially launched. The Ministry of Environment, Cambodia, will conduct activities to improve the water quality management of Tonle Sap Lake by enhancing the capacity of government officials so that they can better understand the pollution load from the surrounding area. WEPA secretariat will provide assistance in this regard.

3. Preparation of the proposal for the WEPA Action Program in Lao PDR

Based on outcomes from the preliminary discussion and field visit conducted in early 2020, the WEPA Secretariat provided support for the launch of a new Action Program to develop an appropriate domestic wastewater management system in Lao PDR. The program plans to provide a scientific basis to develop standard designs and guidelines for operation and to maintenance of septic tank and decentralized wastewater treatment systems, and to strengthen the capacity of officers from the relevant agencies to enable water environment improvement. The Ministry of National Resources and Environment, Lao PDR, is preparing a proposal for the Action Program.

4. WEPA participation in an action group for the 9th World Water Forum (WWF9)

The 9th World Water Forum (WWF9) will take place in Dakar from 21st to 26th March 2022. The ambition of Senegal and the World Water Council is to organize a different forum, at the social, political and economic levels. It is hope that the forum will be a catalyst for action to accelerate universal access to water and sanitation, thereby making connections with global agendas and commitments relating to SDGs, including the Sendai Agreement on natural risks and disasters, the Paris Agreement on climate, and Africa's Agenda 2063, etc.



The WEPA Secretariat is participating in an Action Group on Water Quality Improvement (1.B. Improve water quality and waste management) to discuss plans for individual sessions at WWF9 and seeks ways to introduce WEPA activities. WEPA is also planning to hold an exhibition to showcase its activities.

➤ More information at <https://www.worldwaterforum.org/e>

5. The 17th WEPA Annual Meeting to be held in conjunction to the 4th APWS

The WEPA Secretariat and the Ministry of the Environment, Japan will organize the 17th WEPA Annual Meeting in conjunction with the 4th Asia-Pacific Water Summit (APWS) which will be held on 23rd and 24th April 2022 in Kumamoto City, Japan. The date, venue, and style (on site, on line, or hybrid) is now under consideration, and will be announced in November 2021.



6. Greetings from new members in the WEPA Secretariat

We are pleased to introduce two new members who have joined the WEPA Secretariat recently:

Kazuyuki YAGI: I was appointed as a programme manager of the WEPA Secretariat last April, as the successor of Dr. Noriaki MURASE. My academic background is biogeochemistry and soil science. I have worked at the Institute for Agro-Environmental Sciences (NIAES), National Agriculture and Food Research Organization (NARO), and the Japan International Research Center for Agricultural Sciences (JIRCAS), both of which are located in Tsukuba, Japan. In addition, I had a position as a senior researcher at the Joint Graduate School of Energy and Environment (JGSEE), King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi (KMUTT), Bangkok, Thailand, from 2018 to 2020. It is my great pleasure to tell you that I am excited about the challenges ahead in my new role and I am looking forward to working with you all.



Yukako INAMURA: I am Yukako INAMURA, and I recently joined the WEPA Secretariat at IGES. I previously worked at several research institutes in USA, France, and Japan and participated in projects on water degradation in rural and urban areas as well as exploring amenity/disamenity values of the water environment. I am very excited to be involved in WEPA because I can now learn how the water environment in Asia has been changing and affecting our daily lives. I look forward to working with you and discussing issues in Asia for a better future!



7. Your contribution to the WEPA News is welcome! (Please send us any updated information)

We are searching for a cooperative agenda with partners. To ensure smooth progress, we welcome information on any new developments on water environmental governance in your country. If you have any related information, please send it to the Secretariat by email < WEPA-secretariat@iges.or.jp >.

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WEPA NEWS aims to disseminate the updated information on WEPA activities. It also aims to exchange information among those who are interested in WEPA, including the focal persons of the partner countries, experts who give advice to the WEPA activities, and the participants of the WEPA related meetings in the past.

* If you would rather not receive future newsletters, please contact us.