



ADBI-JSWA-JSC Regional Workshop on Sanitation (Wastewater and Sludge Management) in the Asia-Pacific: Content and Outcomes

The workshop content and outcomes can be summarized as follows:

- (1) Policy makers from the Asia-Pacific, officials from sanitation related administrations in Malaysia, Vietnam and Indonesia participated and presented the current sanitation policy in their country. Academics from Japan and Korea introduced an analysis of the sanitation policy developed in their respective country. In the case of Japan, sanitation issues were solved by an appropriate combination of off-site (sewerage) and on-site sanitation systems. Both Japan and Korea's key success factor for the rapid development of nationwide sewerage was the strong financial support from the central government. Malaysia has been successful in increasing sewerage coverage by adopting a policy which requires housing developers to implement wastewater treatment facilities for areas gathering more than 30 households. These facilities are since 1994 being transferred to the government for operation and maintenance.

A common issue found in Korea, Malaysia and Vietnam concerns sewerage tariffs, remaining too low to enable the recovery of the capital cost or the cost for operation and maintenance of sewerage facilities. The representative from Indonesia presented the nationwide community sanitation program – SANIMAS – as a policy measure to improve sanitation. This program focuses on raising public awareness and attention on sanitation issues through community participation.

Participants questioned and answered to each other, resulting in a constructive debate in which the audience got also involved.

- (2) In the wastewater sludge reuse theme, the case of Tadotsu Town (Kagawa Prefecture, Japan), in which reclaimed water from wastewater treatment is reused as stream water and for agricultural purpose, has been presented in addition to the advanced cases of Tokyo, Kobe, Beijing, Singapore, and Brisbane, among others. The ADB representative introduced a case in the Pacific South Island countries generating carbon credits under the CDM scheme. These credits are obtained by the recovery of methane gas through wastewater treatment.
- (3) The outcomes of the ADBI-JSWA-JSC workshop were extremely positive. The combination of two different themes – sanitation policy and the reuse of treated wastewater sludge – in addition to the presentation of an increased number of concrete cases proved to be successful. The attention and the number of participants as well as the audience did not decrease throughout the Workshop. This will surely encourage our organizations to repeat this experience in the near future.