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## **Multisectorial Collaboration for Organizing the "Life of Water" International Symposium in Chubu, Aiming at the 1st Asia-Pacific Water Summit 2007 in Japan**

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# MULTI-SECTORIAL COLLABORATION FOR ORGANIZING THE "LIFE OF WATER" INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM IN CHUBU, AIMING AT THE 1<sup>st</sup> ASIA-PACIFIC WATER SUMMIT 2007 IN JAPAN

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## ABSTRACT

Water problems solved demand awareness and commitment of every social sector. However, occasions of multi-sectorial collaboration are not usual. International symposium is the good chance to organize the domestic members, because the target is the universal and common issues to be solved by every sector. Discussion on earth-scale problems is good step, because consensus formation and sharing visions are easier relatively to pointed concrete backyard problems. We joined planning and organizing an international symposium in Chubu region in Japan in 2007 as water specialists. We introduce the concept and contents, and discuss the significance of the multi-sectorial collaboration in process of the symposium. Chubu Declaration was formed to propose the detail standpoint to the 1<sup>st</sup> Asia-Pacific Water Summit held in Japan, 2007.

*Keywords:* international symposium, water cycle, Chubu region, multi-sectorial collaboration

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Water issues are caused by various natural and human factors. Water problems solved demand awareness and commitment of every social sector. However, occasions of multi-sectorial collaboration are not usual. International symposium is the good chance to organize the domestic members, because the target is the universal and common issues to be solved by every sector. Discussion on earth-scale problems is good step, because consensus formation and sharing visions are easier relatively to pointed concrete backyard problems.

We joined planning and organizing an international symposium in Chubu region in Japan in 2007 as water specialists. In this paper, we introduce the concept and contents, and discuss the significance of the multi-sectorial collaboration in process of the symposium.

## 2. BACKGROUND

In the present 21st century, the environment of Earth, the watery planet, is facing a critical moment. Various phenomena such as sea-level rise, floods and droughts have appeared as threats to people's livelihood and industrial infrastructure in many different places, including Japan. These are challenges common to all humankind, and thus, there has arisen a global trend of efforts to deal with water issues, as seen in the cabinet-level World Water Forum for talks on water issues, as well as in the United Nation's measures on "water supply and sanitation."

Here in Japan, a country endowed with steep landscape and diversified environments,

Nagoya especially has developed mainly through "manufacturing industries." In its history, the city has experienced all kinds of "life of water crises," such as damage caused by Typhoon Vera and water contamination by industrial and domestic wastewater, to name a few.

However, the people of the Chubu region have overcome such difficulties by improving infrastructure and sharing water through coordinated efforts among industry, government, academia and civil society.

As a result, they have realized the miracle of having both industries equipped with world's most advanced technology side by side with healthy agriculture and fisheries. In 2005, the region organized the Exposition of Global Harmony, where it successfully transmitted information on the theme of global environment to the world.

We believe that the "integration ability" of these technologies together with coordinated effort will be the key to overcoming water-related problems and lead to sustained growth and new potential for Chubu. This is why we planned this symposium, in order to hear about many cases in different places, to have discussions, and to further encourage independent-minded action by industry, government, academia and civil society.

The symposium was successfully held with 230 participants, and the outcomes were presented at the first Asia-Pacific Water Summit (December 3 to 4, 2007 at Beppu, Oita Prefecture, Japan, a top-level forum convened to talk about water-related issues in different regions of Asia-Pacific.

The output of the international symposium is usually the operation itself. This style is hard to accumulate the discussion and thoughts in process of organizing.

Codification of the symposium is very important. We proposed to make the output summarizing the symposium, because "declaration" was considered as the good style to share the awareness and output easy to read. The process of making-up the declaration below in the course of the symposium program is illustrated following chapters.

### **3. DECLARATION FROM CHUBU REGION**

This symposium has been organized in the light of current environmental needs and the historical achievements of the Chubu region and is grounded in the awareness that building healthy water cycles in regions around the world can help bring about sustainable global development. Based on the presentations and opinions expressed by the participants of this symposium, all participants join in endorsing the following declaration.

*Japan's development is supported by the resources and people of countries around the world. And as a member of the international community, Japan is responsible for helping protect the global environment.*

*Chubu announced its intentions to contribute to the world's environment by hosting the 2005 World Exposition, Aichi, Japan.*

*The responsibility of the Chubu region, as the center of Japan's manufacturing activities, is to continue conveying its experiences and technologies to the world. Such initiatives will*



Fig.1 The scene of the symposium at Nagoya Congress Center International Conference room.

*attract the latest information to the Chubu area, and the accumulation and interaction of global information flows in Chubu will lead to the birth of new technologies and knowledge that can contribute to the resolution of the world's environmental problems.*

*In the twenty-first century, the Chubu region will continue to be a source of technology and wisdom for the world. The diverse range of technologies accumulated in the region will enable it to respond quickly to environmental problems around the world and contribute to their resolution.*

*The Chubu region will also continue to closely monitor environmental changes both locally and globally and to apply this knowledge to the achievement of healthy water cycles. We believe that this will also lead to sustainable future development for the Chubu region itself.*

*For this purpose, we hereby boldly declare that the region's industry, academia, civil society, and government will develop a stronger awareness of their respective responsibilities and proactively pursue initiatives. Working closely with one another, we will also seek to actively share information and to cooperate with people around the world.*

#### **4. COMMEMORATIVE LECTURE**

Commemorative lecture was given by Mr. Emanuel Manny Mori, President of the Federated States of Micronesia.

##### **Water that unites people, and severe facts about sea-level rise**

The Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) consists of about 607 tiny islands scattered over one million square miles in the Western Pacific Ocean. The land area is merely 270 square miles made up of high volcanic islands as well as low-lying atolls. The land is endowed with nature. The founders of what is now the Federated States of Micronesia have recognized the significance of the water as the origin and starting point of our nation's unity. The water unites the people living on disperse islands in the Western Pacific ocean. It does not separate us.

However, for a small island developing state such as the FSM, and particularly for the inhabitants of our many low-lying islands and remote coastal communities, sea-level rise takes on an urgent call for national action as well as close collaboration with our development partners. And this is why I have, immediately after assuming presidency six months ago, elevated the priority of the issue of climate change as a development imperative by assigning this issue to the newly created cabinet-level Office of Environment and Emergency Management.

##### **Micronesia's Challenge, a goal toward 2020.**

Our islands, home to over 100,000 people appear to be slowly overtaken by the rising sea level. The intrusion of salt water brings forth many problems such as food security, property damage, pollution, and health hazards, just to name a few. It affects our coastal and marine resources, and our economy. We depend highly on our natural resources (such as fisheries and agriculture) to sustain the nation and its people. This is why local governments of Micronesia, in the spirit of partnership at the sub-regional level, have collectively committed to the Micronesia Challenge where we pledge to effectively conserve 20% of the forest resources across the whole Micronesian region (30% in the coastal areas) by 2020.

##### **Expectation toward Japan and other developed countries**



Fig.2 Mr. Emanuel Manny Mori (President of the FSM)

In September this year, I went to New York to attend the United Nations General Assembly, where I took an oath. I would like to appeal again to all of us that we are all obliged to be responsible stewards of this creation called Earth, and that human beings have not been doing a good job in meeting that responsibility. Taking this fact into consideration, this and the future generation will be remembered for making a historic turn in protecting Earth, and they will be rewarded with all that comes if they do the right things.

## **5. GLOBAL WATER AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES: ISSUES AND WAYS FROM TECHNOLOGY TO APPROPRIATE GOVERNANCE**

The summary of the lecture given by Mr. Laurent AUGUSTE (Representative, United Nations Global Compact Participant, Speaking in place of Dr. Loïc Fauchon, President of the World Water Council) is as follows:

### **Reality that 1 billion people lack access to safe drinking water**

Approximately 1 billion people on the earth don't have adequate access to drinking water. At the same time, over 2.5 billion people lack access to acceptable sewage and sanitary facilities. There are four major reasons for these problems.

(1) Imbalanced distribution of water resources. (Global warming and climate changes are further deteriorating the situation.), (2) Increased urban development and consumption. (Two third of the world population will live in cities in 2025.), (3) Problem of wastewater treatment. (At times, more than 50% of the water leaks. ), (4) Lack of appropriate wastewater treatment. (Wastewater damage nature and drinking water.)

In response to these problems, we will need to consider sanitation, food, poverty, education, gender, environment, geopolitical risks and other factors.

The Millennium Development Goals aim to increase the number of people with access to adequate drinking water by averaged 82 million every year for the next several years, while 120 million people annually need to be newly supplied with sewage and sanitary services. To achieve these goals, it is estimated to cost about 10 billion US dollars every year.

### **Pursuit of "sustainability of systems" by means of appropriate management**

The private sector can make contributions in providing its conventional technologies, such as water distribution, water supply, treatment, and facility designing. It can also provide most advanced technologies, including seawater desalination and energy generation from wastewater treatment. However, what may be more important is to secure "appropriate management." Some of experiences developed by the industrialized countries are essentially important, such as how we have assured speed and efficiency and how we have leveraged maximum financial resources in building up appropriate water supply and wastewater treatment system here in Chubu area. And our challenge includes not only the technological aspects, but also the "sustainability of systems." Water leakage is a grave issue. This is a long-term goal at which we should aim.

One common method to secure financial resources and achieve appropriate operations and management is "to combine." This is a method of management where two or more resources, including water distribution services, financial resources and electric power, are managed in combination. This method is sustainable and can also accelerate the speed of development.

### **Necessity of the right governance involving all parties**

In conclusion, I would like to stress that tackling these challenges will eventually result in increase of water supply and will contribute to solution to the global warning problem, and what is important in this process is if it is possible that all the stakeholders can participate and make contributions. In order to make this happen, the process needs to be maintained in a

way to assure the right governance. It is important for all parties to share the endorsement of efficiency through management of resources and financial treatment, as well as spirit of innovation and problem-solving ability. In this way, we will be able to have very clear, forward-looking and sufficient feeling of security and necessary abilities.

## **6. REPORTS ON THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT**

Target issues of this symposium were distributed from local to global scales. China and Australia were selected as the representative countries where the water problems to be solved occurred and various technical and political treatments were operated. Consuls introduced the status and opinions.

### **CHINA - THE STATE OF CHINA'S WATER PROBLEM AND TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION BETWEEN CHINA AND JAPAN**

Mr. Li Tianran (Consul General, Consulate General of the People's Republic of China in Nagoya) gave the lecture as follows:

With a large population and little water, the temporal and spatial distribution of water resources in China is uneven. In addition to this, the distribution of water resources does not necessarily go hand in hand with economic and social developments, a reality which has become the basic state of China's water situation. Looking ahead, damage from flooding and droughts will intensify, and supplying water will become increasingly difficult in the years to come. Compounding this, it is feared that the speed with which water ecosystems are repaired will not keep pace with that of social and economic development, leaving little hope for an increase in useable water and spawning other problems.

For this reason, the Chinese government is firmly adhering to its "sensible water development" plan. Based on the establishment of a water-conserving society, it is strictly enforcing laws against water pollution, ensuring water quality and the safety of water environments, and making expansive developments in alternative water resources. These measures will establish a water supply system that is attuned with market realities.

Situated on opposite shores of a body of water and economically dependent on each another, China and Japan are easily influenced by one another's environment. Having learned great lessons in its decades-long struggle with water problems, Japan has achieved great success and amassed a wealth of experience and enormous technological capabilities along the way. Chubu region and their commendable experience and technology, we hope to increase exchanges with this region in fields related to water, thus enabling our nations to develop with one another in a win-win situation.

### **AUSTRALIA - MAJOR DROUGHT AND OUR NATIONAL RESPONSE**

Mr. Christopher Wood (Australian Consul, Australian Consulate, Nagoya) gave the lecture as follows:

The impacts of climate change and growing demand for water are of particular significance for Australia, because it is a naturally dry continent and water is essential for our communities, economy and environment. One of the biggest challenges is that water moves across state and territory borders, where there are many vested and competing interests, as well as different social, economic and environmental objectives. In Australia, the states have responsibility for daily management of water resources, while the Federal Government provides national leadership and a coordination role.

Starting from 1994, National Water Policy Reform has attempted to deal with these issues through the National Water Initiative, and recently, the National Plan for Water

Security. Implemented in Jan 2007, the NPWS is an integrated package to address water scarcity, environmental sustainability, information needs, and promote new investments (AUD \$10 billion over 10 years) to ensure the long term productivity of our industries.

The NPWS sets sustainable limits on extraction, taking into account future risks of climate change, invests in water infrastructure upgrades to enhance the efficiency of our irrigation systems, promotes water trading and greater water efficiency by putting in place market mechanisms, and ensures that water resources are managed as a whole.

Stakeholder engagement and market based approaches have been a vital part of the process, but water reform is not yet over. The Water Act 2007 and its regulations have given the NPWS effect and substance, but it will still be important to get the governance arrangements right. Difficult policy decisions about who should bear the brunt of reduced water resources, be it the government, industry, communities or the environment must be made. Australia can then become a good example to other countries with similar challenges, as all governments will need to assess their water supplies and ensure water quality, and determine the best ways to meet their needs under increased climate change.

## **7. CHALLENGES CHUBU HAS OVERCOME AND FUTURE TASKS**

We tried to integrate both of local and global aspects. Therefore we focused on the representative local activities in Chubu area in Japan, where this symposium was organized. Prefectural governments who are the member of organizing committee recommended community-based organizations, a high school students group and a municipal government in each prefecture.

### **GIFU Pref. : Care for Water**

Mr. Shuichi Amano / Chairman, Sogisui-hosankai

Sogisui and other spring waters in the Hachiman-cho district were formerly used for drinking water and for washing vegetables. After tap water infrastructure was completed in the early 1960s, these spring waters lost their roles as domestic water and rather become a sightseeing monument. The Sogisui-hosankai took over the activities of the Sogi Club, which was established in 1920 with the belief that wasting water and contaminating rivers will damage our own livelihood, and continues to clean up the area around Sogisui.

We would like to maintain the spirit of "care for water," by living with Sogisui and making careful use of it, and we shall continue our efforts to conserve clean water.

### **MIE Pref. : Environment Research on the Suzuka River System**

Suzuka High School Natural Science Club

Suzuka High School Natural Science Club members have been engaging in field research in the area around the Suzuka River, which runs beside their school. They are conducting water quality chemical analyses and research on water creatures in the Suzuka R. system. The results of the past five years show that there is no doubt that the contamination of the river is becoming more serious. We would like to continue our research and report the outcomes to local residents, while assessing what we can do and taking action.

### **SHIZUOKA Pref. : Crystal Waters for the Future -Conservation Collaboration between Community, Academia, and Government-**

Mr. Hiroshi Hanaeda / Chairman, Toshinden Community Improvement Association

The Abe River, originating from the Otani kuzure landslide area, is one of the nation's steepest flowing rivers. The river has given people affluence and energy, and has nurtured

the livelihood and culture of the area. In consideration of the Abe River as the community's environmental asset, we are conducting ground water quality analyses and cleaning up the Abe River, in collaboration with the City of Shizuoka and Shizuoka University. In this modern society, it is essentially necessary that various environmental problems be addressed through the initiatives of local communities. Isn't it possible to realize more effective activities by establishing a structure of collaboration where the community, academia and government can take actions in their respective spheres?

**City of NAGOYA : Making the Horikawa River a clear stream -A partnership project for cleaning up and purifying the urban river.**

Mr. Hiroshi Hattori / Secretariat, Horikawa 1000 citizens' cheering groups "2010"

"Horikawa 1000 - citizens' cheering groups," a scheme proposed by some citizens, was adopted as a "National Urban Renaissance Model Research Project" in 2003. Since then, we have been working on regeneration of the Horikawa River, which was so polluted people used to call it a sewage canal. Our achievements so far include the increase of water transmissions from the Shonai River and experimental high-speed processing of discharged water as a further water source, which have been achieved through working with the river management administration. Currently, more than 3000 members who love the Horikawa River observe the river and gather information on a regular basis. These members now have the feeling that the water quality of the Horikawa River is steadily improving.

**AICHI Pref. : Shonai, the Mother River -Water environment suffering and commitment to overcoming it.**

Mr. Futoshi Ito / Mayor of the City of Kasugai

The region where the City of Kasugai is located has long benefited from the Shonai River. Since then, along with the region's dramatic urbanization, contamination of its rivers became worse. Recently, however, in tandem with the efforts of individuals and private companies, the official side is also working positively to improve public sewage systems and discharges into rivers. Owing to such efforts, water quality has improved and, in addition, the river has been restored to its former landscape, where various fish, insects and plants can be observed. We will continue to work so that this invaluable asset will be passed to future generations.

**Comments and summarization: The water issue starts from each person's immediate environment and reaches the whole globe - Sprouting hints of solutions seen in the Chubu region -**

Dr. Satoquo Seino / Assistant Professor, The University of Tokyo

Community-based activities that can eventually connect to global water issues start at each person's own ground. Approaches taken by the Chubu region are characterized by a number of steady, stable and day-to-day activities that start from local communities and connect to the earth. Sprouting hints of solutions to water-related problems were also seen in today's talks by speakers from this region; four basic points were made: "Observation and surveillance" are the basis for rational judgment, and people in the Chubu region excel in these skills. "Activities of the civil society" create an atmosphere open for free discussions by people from different spheres or positions. "Continuing engagement" creates the grounds for identifying changes and making forward-looking decisions. "Integration" is the ability to organize various opinions and information through discussions. We should become consciously aware of the potential abilities of the Chubu region by learning from specific cases, and need to clarify the connection between the local level and the global level. Today, I felt we have great potential.



## 8. PANEL DISCUSSION

Panel discussion drew together former presentations to make up the declaration. Members, contents and key phrases summarized are as follows:

Coordinator: Mr.Nobuaki KOIDE (Managing Director, The Chunichi Shimbun)

Panelist: Dr.Michiko IMAI (Doctor, Mountaineer) / Dr. Tetsuro TSUJIMOTO (Professor, Nagoya University Graduate School) / Dr.Michio KANAI (Director-General, Chubu Regional Bureau, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport) / Mr.Fumio KAWAGUCHI (Chairman, Chubu Economic Federation)

### **How to perceive water, limit of environmental burden**

Imai: Deforestation and melting of glacier cause rapid accumulation of heat of the land surface.

Tsujimoto: The basis for thinking of global-level issues is knowledge of the capacities of watersheds

Kanai: Sustained development through technology and exchanges beyond individual positions

Kawaguchi: Dependence on water and sustainability

### **How can we make use of the “Chubu Method?”**

Koide: The global environment is important, but the first step toward it must be taken in the small community around each one of us. I was deeply impressed by the reports from different places in the Chubu region. In this regard, Chubu is truly down-to-earth and there seems to be an invisible community as a political culture. I am wondering how this will work to respond to water and environmental issues.

Kawaguchi: Coordination technology cultivation of awareness of coordinated society.

I think this was why the "awareness of a coordinated society" was cultivated in the Chubu region. This mental climate should be transmitted to the world and it should be made good use of. It is an important concept especially for maintaining the earth in a sustainable manner.

Kanai: Utilizing the Chubu Method in creating a vision for wider areas.

The term "Chubu Method" is often referred to, and the "Yahagi River Method" is especially well known. In the era of high economic growth, there were many problems arising from uncoordinated water utilization. Partly owing to the expected expansion of expressway coverage, an era of wider-area cooperation will come soon. It is important to utilize such ideas of Chubu's in area-wide vision creation and community building.

Tsujimoto: Archiving Chubu's characteristics and experiences from the viewpoints of natural science and sociology.

Chubu is characterized by large rivers coming from the central part of the Japanese Alps, and also by Ise Bay and Mikawa Bay, while it lacks a large lake like Lake Biwa and holds the large metropolitan area of Nagoya. In this region, major damage to the environment has occurred as observed in rivers turned white by contamination, but as seen in the efforts around the Yahagi River watershed, damage was contained at the last moment. As seen from these examples, some efforts appeared to be successful. Chubu is also characterized by a variety of industries: Its agriculture and fisheries are among the best in the nation, and there is a wide range of manufacturing in the region, and all these businesses are related to "water."



Fig.3 Panel Discussion.

How will that water be shared in the future? This region has a culture of sharing benefits among all in the spirit of mutual benefit. I think it is important to archive those experiences for the future from both the viewpoints of natural science and sociology.

Imai: The greatness of what forests give us.

Water issues cannot be addressed appropriately unless we are well aware that the global environment itself has largely changed. Here, I would like to stress the effect of forests. I have seen somewhere that broadleaf trees were planted on a steep slope beside a dam. Only 6 years had past since they were planted but they had grown quite large. In fact, I believe that only Japan is taking this kind of approach. This benefit of forests should be communicated to the world from forest-rich Chubu, Japan, to attract international attention to forests; then, the Chubu Method will be internationally appreciated as an excellent approach.

**For collaboration among industry, government, academia and civil society and individual efforts by each sector - Towards the Chubu Declaration -**

Kawaguchi: Keys and outline of the Chubu Declaration.

Imai: Responding to global environment issues and the water environment by means of forests, a global trend.

Tsujimoto: Transmission of information inside and outside Japan, and participation of industry, government, academia and civil society from the initial design stage.

Kanai: Concern about devastation of non-flat land areas.

Kawaguchi: A strong transmission of Chubu's implicit knowledge.

## **9. EXHIBITION AND PRESENTATION**

Exhibition at the conference hall was the important part of the symposium. The organizing committee proposed to organizations, groups in every scale of multi-sectors. Opportunities of exchanging thoughts and discussion were prepared at the site.

### **Government, academia and civil society exhibition:**

A panel exhibition by government, academia and civil society was held at the entrance of the symposium site. Through the cooperation of symposium executive committee members, namely, the Chubu Regional Development Bureau of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, Aichi, Gifu, Mie and Shizuoka Prefectures, the City of Nagoya, Nagoya University, the Japan Water Agency (incorporated administrative agency), civil groups and others, 58 panels, pamphlets and observation equipments were exhibited and local specialties were distributed. A variety of water- or environment-related activities in the region were presented, which included: overcoming disasters in the past, information about wildlife in the watershed, environmental conservation activities in collaboration with schools, activities of citizens' groups, measures and approaches for water circulation, introduction of facilities, to name a few.

### **Corporate exhibitions:**

In the vicinity of the symposium site, exhibitions under the themes of water and global environment were held by corporations. Along with presentations of water processing and other directly water-related technologies, exhibitions related to efforts on global environment problems were presented from the viewpoint that "Problems of global environment are reflected in water." Six companies (Ebara Corporation, Chubu Electric Power Co., Inc., NGK Insulators, Ltd., Toray Industries, Inc., Mizkan Group Co. Ltd., and Toyota Motor Corporation) held exhibitions, and exchanges and discussion sessions were held with participants of the symposium at each booth.

### **1st Asia-Pacific Water Summit:**

The outcomes of the symposium were presented at "the first Asia-Pacific Water Summit" held in Beppu City, Oita Prefecture on December 3 and 4. In the "CEO Conference," a session organized by the UN Global Compact and held at the Water Summit, Prof. Tetsuro Tsujimoto of Nagoya University, a panelist of this symposium, introduced the Chubu Declaration. In the exhibition booth of the open event, the Chubu Declaration, along with a concept panel showing the water cycle, publications of the executive committee members and other items were exhibited. We received a variety of responses from visitors, including questions about the organizers, the meaning and purpose of the symposium, and impression on the title "Life of Water."

### **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

We would like to express our deepest gratitude to His Majesty Emanuel Mori, President of the Federated States of Micronesia, and all our other distinguished guests and supporters. Chubu Economic Federation, organizing committee, national and local governmental organizations, private companies, citizens, academics and staffs are illustrated in the report published by Executive Committee of the "Life of Water" International Symposium in Japanese.

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