



# WEPA Water Environment Partnership in Asia

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*Sharing knowledge  
for improving the water environment in Asia*

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The Water Environment Partnership in Asia (WEPA) is an initiative proposed by the Japanese Ministry of the Environment at the 3<sup>rd</sup> World Water Forum. WEPA aims to create an information platform that will contribute to strengthening water governance and capacity building for a sound water environment in the Asian region.

# Water Environment Partnership in Asia

## Water Environment in Asia

The water environment in Asia has been in a serious condition for decades. Many countries in the region face serious water pollution problems that have negatively affected people and the living environment in the region. Various actors such as governments, NGOs and citizens have made substantial efforts to improve such disturbing conditions, but the water environment conditions are still under threat. Weak governance and lack of capacity are often recognised as challenges for better water environment, and therefore adequate knowledge and information on water environment management is vital to create sound water management.



## Water Environment Partnership in Asia (WEPA)

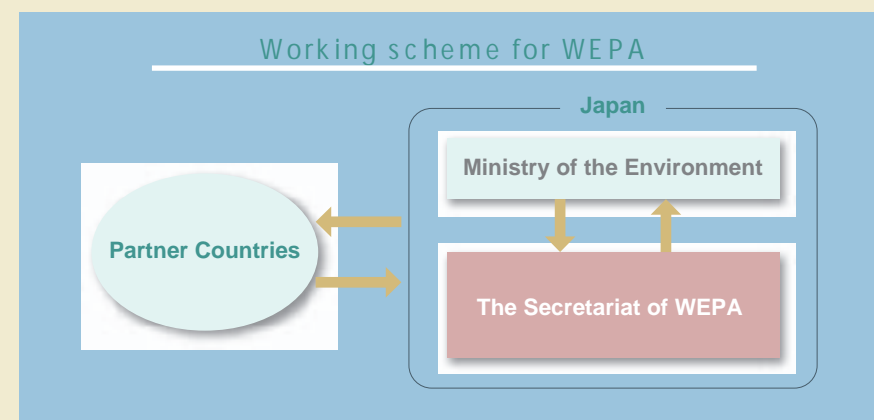
The Water Environment Partnership in Asia (WEPA) is an initiative that the Ministry of the Environment of Japan proposed on the occasion of the 3rd World Water Forum held in Kyoto in 2003. WEPA is registered as a project aimed at water pollution prevention and ecosystem conservation in the "Portfolio of Water Actions (PWA)"\*.

WEPA aims to strengthen governance and capacity building in water environmental management by providing an information platform on water environment conservation. The Japanese Ministry of the Environment is taking a leading role in the implementation of WEPA, with close collaboration with ten other WEPA partner countries and the Institute for Global Environment Strategies (IGES) which serves as the WEPA secretariat. As a common information platform on water environment conservation, the WEPA database is now being developed under the partnership of WEPA partner countries. The prototype of the database will be open to the public by the 4th World Water Forum in March 2006, and its development completed by March 2009.

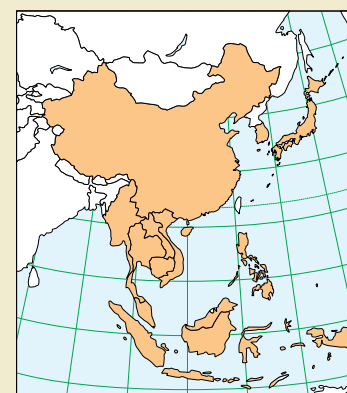
\* The Portfolio of Water Actions is one of the outcomes of the WWF3, which is a collection of contributions by various countries and international bodies towards solving water problems.

### Importance of Partnership

"Partnership" is essential in the implementation of the WEPA project. Currently 11 Asian countries including Japan are working together to implement the WEPA project, in particular for the preparation of the contents of the WEPA database. Through this kind of collaborative work, mutual understanding among partner countries and relevant stakeholders involved in the WEPA project will be developed, and it could strengthen the basis of further collaboration for water environmental conservation efforts in the region.



Partner countries



- Cambodia
- China
- Indonesia
- Republic of Korea
- Laos
- Malaysia
- Myanmar
- Philippines
- Thailand
- Viet Nam
- Japan



## WEPA Database

The WEPA database will serve as a platform for sharing knowledge and information on water environment management in Asia. Considering that governments should take a leading role in promoting water environment management in their respective countries, the database is designed for governmental officials and aid-agency staffs as primary users. The WEPA database consists of four parts, namely the Policy-related Information Database, Technologies for Water Environment Conservation Database, Activities by NGOs and Community Based Organisations (CBOs) Database, and Information Sources Database.

### Four Databases for Better Water Environment

The WEPA database consists of four parts which are inter-linked with each other.

- 1. Policy-related Information Database** provides information relating to the state of water environmental issues and the content of the water environmental policies and regulations in WEPA member countries.
- 2. Technologies for Water Environment Conservation Database** provides information on wastewater treatment technologies and systems currently in good operation, which may be useful for decision-makers to consider water environment conservation measures.
- 3. Activities by NGOs and Community Based Organisations (CBOs) Database** provides information on cases of civil activities related to water environmental problems and cases of governmental activities on education and awareness raising.
- 4. Information Sources Database** provides links to websites which contain information related to water environment, including UN agencies, governments, NGOs and other relevant institutions.



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### Principles in the construction of the WEPA Database

- a. Primary target users**  
Government officials and aid agency staffs
- b. Development of original contents**  
The WEPA database will provide substantial background information that helps policy making and implementation
- c. Enhancement of capacity through database construction**  
By closely working with each other, those involved in WEPA database development could gain knowledge and capacity for better water environment management
- d. Effective use of existing database**  
Existing information will be effectively used, for instance, by enhancing links to other relevant existing databases