

## Results of the FY2008 Water Quality Survey of Public Water Areas

The Ministry of the Environment (MOE) has calculated and collated results of the nationwide water quality survey of public water areas implemented by the national government in FY2008, pursuant to the measurement planning which was prepared by prefectural governors on the basis of the Water Pollution Control Law.

The outline is as follows.

### 1. Health Items

Most of the monitoring points have achieved the environmental quality standards (hereinafter referred to as “the EQSs”) for the 26 human health items with the EQS compliance rate reaching 99.0%, which decreased by 0.1% compared to the previous year.

### 2. Living Environment Items

(1) In terms of the compliance with the EQSs for BOD and COD, typical indicators of water quality for organic contamination, the overall compliance rate was 87.4%, which increased by 1.6% compared to the previous year (92.3% for rivers (up 2.3%), 53.0% for lakes and reservoirs (up 2.7%) and 76.4% for sea and coastal areas (down 2.3%)).

The compliance rate of rivers maintains the same high level as in the previous year as a result of improvement efforts, while that of lakes and reservoirs remains low. As for sea and coastal areas, it generally continues to be flat.

(2) The EQS compliance rate for total nitrogen and total phosphorus in lakes and reservoirs was 50.0%, which increased by 3.6% compared to the previous year. It still remains low. As for sea and coastal areas, the EQS compliance rate for total nitrogen and phosphorus was 84.9%, which increased by 2.7% compared to the previous year.