



**Asia-Pacific  
Water Forum**

**c/o Japan Water Forum**

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**Completion Report  
on the Asia-Pacific Water Forum  
Governing Council:  
2006-2013**



**Asia-Pacific  
Water Forum**



# Completion Report on the Asia-Pacific Water Forum Governing Council: 2006-2013



## Main Contributors:

**Asian Development Bank (ADB)**

**The International Centre for Water Hazard and Risk Management (ICHARM)**

**The World Conservation Union (IUCN)**

**Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)**

**Public Utilities Board Singapore (PUB Singapore)**

**United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)**

**The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UNHABITAT)**

**UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)**

**Japan Water Forum (JWF)**

**Executive Committee of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (EC IFAS)**

**Global Water Partnership Central Asia and Caucasus (GWP CACENA)**

**Korea Water Forum (KWF)**

**Global Water Partnership South Asia (GWP South Asia)**

**Global Water Partnership Southeast Asia (GWP Southeast Asia)**

**Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SOPAC)**

<b>Foreword</b> .....	4
<b>1. Introduction</b> .....	5
1.1 Background to the Asia-Pacific Water Forum (APWF) .....	5
1.2 Objective .....	5
1.3 Guiding Principle .....	6
1.4 Governance .....	6
1.5 Approach .....	6
<b>2. The 1st Asia-Pacific Water Summit (1st APWS)</b> .....	8
2.1 Policy Brief 2007 .....	8
2.2 Message from Beppu .....	9
<b>3. Progress on Political Commitments: After the 1st APWS</b> .....	12
3.1 Ministers for Water Security Initiative in the Asia-Pacific region .....	12
3.2 2008 Toyako G8 Summit .....	12
3.3 Human Right to Water and Sanitation Resolution .....	13
3.4 Sustainable Sanitation: The Drive to 2015 .....	13
3.5 COP16 Decisions .....	14
3.6 The 2nd Asia-Pacific Water Summit (2nd APWS) .....	14
<b>4. Important Outputs</b> .....	15
4.1 Asian Water Development Outlook (AWDO) .....	15
4.2 KnowledgeHubs .....	16
4.3 Framework Document on Water and Climate Change .....	17
4.4 Asia-Pacific Regional Process for the World Water Forums .....	17
<b>5. Roadmap for Action</b> .....	19
<b>6. Conclusion</b> .....	20

# Foreword

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## The Governing Council of the Asia-Pacific Water Forum



**Chair:**  
Professor Tommy Koh,  
Ambassador-at-Large of Singapore



**Vice-Chair:**  
Ms. Erna Witoelar,  
Former UN Special Ambassador  
for the MDGs in Asia and the Pacific



**Vice-Chair:**  
Mr. Ravi Narayanan,  
Former Chief Executive  
of WaterAid



# 1. Introduction

**Water is a fundamental resource. As such, its sustainable management is at the heart of human security and the social and economic development of all nations. To this end, strong leadership and commitment from national leaders is essential.**



## **1.1 Background to the Asia-Pacific Water Forum (APWF)**

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## **1.2 Objective**

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### 1.3 Guiding Principle

The APWF is an independent, not-for-profit, non-partisan, non-political network. The APWF aims to be inclusive, open and flexible, with an appropriate governance superstructure and optimal delegation of responsibility to the contributing member organizations for the delivery of agreed products and services of high quality and practical value.

### 1.4 Governance

The governance structure of the APWF is based on a highly participatory bottom-up approach, supported by a light managerial and administrative structure responsible for coordinating APWF activities. All decisions of the APWF and the Governing Council are made by consensus. To the greatest extent possible, all groups or committees established by the APWF must be inclusive and open to any members who may wish to participate.

The strategic direction of the APWF is guided by Mr. Yoshiro Mori, who is president of both the APWF and the JWF, which hosts and staffs the Secretariat of the APWF.

The Governing Council is to be kept small. It currently consists of the chair, Mr. Tommy Koh, Ambassador-at-Large of Singapore, and two vice-chairs, Ms. Erna Witoelar, former UN Special Ambassador for Millennium Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific, and Mr. Ravi Narayanan, former Chief Executive of WaterAid. They have the power to make decisions, which are arrived at by consensus.

### 1.5 Approach

A number of key institutions from the region have committed themselves to supporting the APWF as Lead Organizations responsible for identifying strategies and initiating actions to achieve progress under a set of Priority Themes and Key Result Areas (KRAs).

The Regional Preparatory Process for the 4<sup>th</sup> WWF led to the identification of issues and challenges common to the Asia-Pacific region. Participants collectively identified targets for three *Priority Themes*: 1) Water financing and capacity development, 2) Water-related disaster management, and 3) Water for development and ecosystems.

**Table1: Targets to be achieved under each Priority Theme**

Priority Themes	Targets	Lead Organizations
A. Water Financing and Capacity Development	To increase targeted investments for water and sanitation infrastructure and for human resources development	ADB
B. Water-related Disaster Management	To drastically reduce the vulnerability of human populations to water-related disasters	ICHARM
C. Water for Development and Ecosystems	To conserve and restore land-water interfaces for the improvement of water productivity	IUCN & FAO

In order to meet its objectives, the APWF and the Lead Organizations have focused on five KRAs, each of which encompasses a specific set of distinct approaches and related activities. The KRAs are the concrete means through which the APWF and the Lead Organizations have been making progress towards achieving the regional targets under each priority theme.

**Table 2: Main activities related to each KRA**

Key Result Areas	Main Activities	Lead Organizations
1. Developing knowledge and lessons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Building a network of water knowledge hubs</li> <li>• Coordinating capacity development programs</li> <li>• Providing guidance on water policies</li> </ul>	Singapore PUB & UNESCO
2. Increasing local capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supporting peer learning (including cities/mayors)</li> <li>• Empowering civil society, gender and youth</li> <li>• Fostering (sub)regional cooperation</li> </ul>	UN-HABITAT
3. Increasing public outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developing regional water advocacy</li> <li>• Supporting in-country water awareness programs</li> <li>• Presenting regional awards for excellence</li> </ul>	ADB
4. Monitoring investments and results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitoring public and private investments</li> <li>• Monitoring reforms and trends</li> <li>• Monitoring MDG achievement</li> </ul>	UNESCAP
5. Supporting Forum and Summit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintaining an interactive website</li> <li>• Supporting the APWF Governing Council</li> <li>• Organizing the Asia-Pacific Water Summits</li> </ul>	JWF

The region encompasses five sub-regions, namely Central Asia, Northeast Asia, South Asia, Southeast Asia, Oceania and the Pacific, with 50 countries in total. The sub-regional coordinators assist in linking the various activities undertaken in the context of the five KRAs and the three priority themes with stakeholders in their sub-region, from ground level up to the level of government leaders.

**Table3: Sub-regions and countries**

Sub-regions	Countries	Sub-regional Coordinators
Central Asia	Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan	EC IFAS & GWP CACENA
Northeast Asia	Japan, Mongolia, and Republic of Korea	KWF
South Asia	Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Maldives, and Sri Lanka	GWP South Asia
Southeast Asia	Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, East Timor, and Vietnam	GWP Southeast Asia
Oceania & Pacific	Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu	SOPAC

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# The 1<sup>st</sup> Asia-Pacific Water Summit (1<sup>st</sup> APWS)

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***Water Security: Leadership and Commitment,***

***1<sup>st</sup> APWS: Policy Brief 2007 and Message from Beppu***



*Policy Brief 2007*

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*Policy Brief 2007*



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Message from Beppu

Message from Beppu

1st Asia-Pacific Water Summit  
Beppu Japan 3- 4th December 2007

## Message From Beppu

別府からのメッセージ



*We, the leaders of the Asia-Pacific, coming from all sectors of our societies and countries, meeting at the historic inaugural Asia-Pacific Water Summit, in the beautiful city of Beppu, in the hospitable Oita Prefecture of Japan, do hereby agree to:*

-  *Recognise the people's right to safe drinking water and basic sanitation as a basic human right and a fundamental aspect of human security;*
-  *Reduce by half the number of people who do not have access to safe drinking water by 2015 and aim to reduce that number to zero by 2025;*
-  *Reduce by half the number of people who do not have access to basic sanitation in our region by 2015 and aim to reduce that number to zero by 2025, through the adoption of new and innovative sanitation systems that are not as water reliant as current methods;*
-  *Accord the highest priority to water and sanitation in our economic and development plans and agendas and to increase substantially our allocation of resources to the water and sanitation sectors;*
-  *Improve governance, efficiency, transparency and equity in all aspects related to the management of water, particularly as it impacts on poor communities. We recognise that while women are particularly vulnerable, they are also resilient and entrepreneurial, hence, should be empowered in all water-related activities;*
-  *Take urgent and effective action to prevent and reduce the risks of flood, drought and other water-related disasters and to bring timely relief and assistance to their victims;*
-  *Support the region's vulnerable small island states in their efforts to protect lives and livelihoods from the impacts of climate change;*
-  *Exhort the Bali Conference to take into account the relationship between water and climate change, such as the melting of snowcaps and glaciers in the Himalayas and the Pamirs, and rising sea levels, which are already having an impact on some countries in the region;*

*Message From Beppu*



**Table 4: Concrete Initiatives launched by the 1<sup>st</sup> APWS**

Concrete Initiative	Implementing Organizations
Water Financing and Sanitation and Capacity Development	ADB & JICA
Water-related Disaster Management	ICHARM
Climate Change, Glaciers, and Water Resources in the Himalayan Region	ICIMOD
Pacific IWRM Resource Centre	SOPAC
Community of Practice in Asai-Pacific: Environmental Flows for Water Resources Management	IUCN
Re-inventing Irrigation and Agricultural Water Governance in the Asia Pacific to Meet the Millennium Development Goals	FAO, IWMI
Developing Knowledge and Lessons -Establishment of Network of Knowledge Hubs	PUB Singapore & UNESCO
Asia-Pacific Water Museum	NSM of Thailand, UNESCO & JWF
Increasing Local Capacities for Bridging the Divides in the Region	UN-HABITAT
Asian Water & Development Outlook (AWDO)	ADB
TV Documentary Co-Production on Water	ABU, ADB & JWF
Ministers for Water Security Initiative in the Asia-Pacific	UNESCAP, ADB, NARBO & JWF
Implementation of the International Year of Sanitation-2008 and follow-up	UNESCAP, JICA, WHO, UNICEF & ADB
Sanimap (Water Web Project on Google Map/ Earth)	JWF & Water Web Alliance
Central Asian IWRM Resource Center	GWP CACENA, ICWC, ICSD & ES IFAS
The CEO Water Mandate	UN Global Compact
Leadership Group on Water Security in Asia	Asia Society
Guidelines for IWRM at the River Basin level (IRBM)	UN-Water & UNESCO
SWITCH - Integrated Programme for Asia (SWITCH-IPA)	UNESCO Jakarta Office
APWF Steering Group on Water and Climate Change	ADB
Sanitation and Water for All: A Global Framework for Action (GF4A)	WHO

# 3. Progress on Political Commitments: After the 1<sup>st</sup> APWS

The 1<sup>st</sup> APWS underlined the need for leadership and commitment in order to achieve water security. The region's recognized that water security involves satisfying basic needs for water and sanitation in households, as well as the needs of cities, agriculture, industries and the environment. However, poor access to water and sanitation for many, the toll of water-related disasters, degraded ecosystems, and inefficient irrigation practices remain serious barriers to human health and dignity and to economic development. This highlights the fact that though progress has been made, water insecurity in the region is still widespread. The *Message from Beppu* promotes progress on both regional and international political commitments. In the years since the 1<sup>st</sup> APWS, the APWF has been actively following up on the *Message from Beppu*.

## 3.1 “Ministers for Water Security” Initiative in the Asia-Pacific region

the development of a *Ministers for Water Security* Initiative in the Asia-Pacific region, and exploring support for its implementation through in-country and regional activities, with the involvement of members and stakeholders of the APWF, as well as leaders who participated in the 1<sup>st</sup> APWS. At the 5<sup>th</sup> March 2009, the initiative won strong approval from many participating regional leaders. The initiative has played a significant role in raising awareness, influencing policies, and boosting *Water Financing Program and Water Operational Plan 2011-2020*

While our inter-regional water collaboration efforts were progressing, the Asia-Pacific Water ministers and leaders from 15 countries, was another opportunity to join hands, listen and learn from each other across the region, commit to action, and shine a bright light on solutions. In part of an initiative emerging from Stockholm World Water Week 2009, with the participation of ministers and leaders from the Asia-Pacific region.

## 3.2 2008 Toyako G8 Summit

Following up on the encouraging results of the 1<sup>st</sup> APWS, the APWF has continued its work in bringing together leaders of government, private sector and civil society to promote policies and investments that increase water security in the region. One point of agreement among regional leaders in the *Message from Beppu* was to “establish concrete goals for the 2008 Hokkaido Toyako G8 Summit” .



of the G8 countries called “upon national governments, in this International Year of Sanitation, to prioritize access to sanitation, building on the initiatives agreed at conferences on sanitation in Asia-Pacific and Africa” , and made a commitment to reviewing the Evian Water Action Plan made at the 2009 G8 Summit. In response, the *Progress Report on the implementation of the G8 Water Action Plan* was prepared by the G8 Water Experts Group. Moreover, the G8 confirmed that “good water cycle management is crucial in order to address the issue of water, which has a cross-sector nature” .



### 3.3 Human Right to Water and Sanitation resolution

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The *Message from Beppu* endorsed at the 1<sup>st</sup> APWS in 2007 was farsighted in that it

and international organizations, in scaling up efforts to provide safe, clean, accessible and affordable drinking water and sanitation for all, to provide financial resources, build capacity, and transfer technology, particularly to developing countries. Prior to this resolution, the *Message from Beppu*

and a fundamental aspect of human security” , endorsing a political commitment to:

2015 and aim to reduce that number to zero by 2025;

and aim to reduce that number to zero by 2025, through the adoption of new and innovative sanitation systems that are not as water-reliant as current methods;

agendas and to increase substantially our allocation of resources to the water and sanitation sectors.



### 3.4 Sustainable Sanitation: The Drive to 2015

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Another highly effective contribution that the APWF made was to “redouble efforts to close the

in Asia and the Pacific. As noted above, in the *Message from Beppu*, regional leaders committed to achieving significant progress in extending basic sanitation services. At the 1<sup>st</sup> APWS, IYS 2008 was launched in the region, and was identified in the *Asia-Pacific Regional Document for the 5<sup>th</sup> WWF, IYS 2008* and its follow-up as a concrete initiative for the APWF and the region.

various regional and international partners to promote the implementation of IYS 2008 in Asia and the Pacific.

states to redouble efforts to close the sanitation gap. The resolution established a global push under the banner *Sustainable Sanitation: The Drive to 2015*, to focus attention on the sanitation target and to mobilize political will, as well as financial and technical resources. The resolution also made history by calling for an end to open defecation, the sanitation practice most dangerous to public health. The creation of *Sustainable Sanitation: The Drive to 2015* was originally

the APWF. In its *Water Financing Program and Water Operational Plan 2011-2020* expects to divert at least 25% of its total water lending to sanitation, wastewater management and river clean ups. This is a major increase from the previous level of less than 15%.





### 3.5 COP16 Decisions

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The United Nations Climate Change Conference, held in Mexico in December 2010, resulted in the adoption of the Cancun Agreements. Paragraph 14a of the COP16 Agreements makes specific reference to water resources, freshwater, marine ecosystems and coastal zones when it refers to “Planning, prioritizing and implementing adaptation actions, including projects and programmes” . Again, leaders from the Asia-Pacific region had foreseen the significance of the relationship between water and climate change in the *Message from Beppu* which includes commitments to:

water-related disasters and to bring timely relief and assistance to victims;

livelihoods from the impacts of climate change;

change, such as the melting of snowcaps and glaciers in the Himalayas and the Pamirs, and rising sea levels, which are already having an impact on some countries in the region.



### 3.6 The 2<sup>nd</sup> Asia-Pacific Water Summit (2<sup>nd</sup> APWS)

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More than five years have passed since the 1<sup>st</sup> APWS. Japan, and the Government of Thailand are set to host the 2<sup>nd</sup> Asia-Pacific Water Summit (2<sup>nd</sup> APWS) in collaboration with the APWF and supporting regional and international organizations. The 2<sup>nd</sup> APWS will be held in Chiang Mai, Thailand on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> of May, 2013.

Water is a fundamental resource and, as such, its sustainable management is at the heart of human security and the social and economic development of nations. To this end, strong leadership and commitment by national leaders is essential. Continuing to build on the guiding theme of the 1<sup>st</sup> APWS, the 2<sup>nd</sup> APWS will be organized under the theme *Water Security and Water-related Disaster Challenges: Leadership and Commitment*, with three policy priority areas for commitment and change: *Development, Shocks and Resilience*, and *Well-being*. Under this guiding theme, seven thematic focus sessions will be held during the 2<sup>nd</sup> APWS: *Household Water Security; Economic, Food and Water Security; Urban Water Security; Environmental Water Security; Water Risks and Resilience; IWRM Process for a Water Secure World*, and *Water-related Disasters in a Changing World: Thailand's Experiences*.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> APWS will showcase leadership in decision-making, excellence in practice and innovation, and concrete results that have had substantial impacts, ranging from policies to quality of life at the grassroots level. At the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> APWS, a synthesis of key messages will be presented and commitment to change sought from heads of government from throughout the Asia-Pacific region. The political commitments made at the 2<sup>nd</sup> APWS will provide a basis for forthcoming important regional and international events.

## 4. Important Outputs

Through its **Governing Council** which meets twice a year, the **APWF network** is dynamically implementing projects and constantly working towards the next steps in reaching its goals. The network remains committed to moving the water security agenda forward with vigour and intent and in complete solidarity.

### 4.1 Asian Water Development Outlook (AWDO)

*The Asian Water Development Outlook (AWDO)* was created by the APWF and ADB to highlight important water management issues. The first edition of AWDO was published in 2007 to inform leaders attending the 1<sup>st</sup> APWS in Beppu, Japan. The inaugural edition underlined the need to address water security with a broader perspective than traditional sector-focused approaches. AWDO 2007 highlighted governance as a common factor that has constrained efforts to increase water security in Asia and the Pacific. The 2007 report was well received by leaders, practitioners, and the media. It is available in four languages. In response to the two key messages of AWDO 2007 and the 1<sup>st</sup> APWS, the APWF and ADB set out to prepare a second edition of AWDO to answer the implicit problem facing leaders at the 2<sup>nd</sup> APWS: that we cannot manage what we do not measure.

The second edition of AWDO provides the first quantitative and comprehensive view of water security in the countries of Asia and the Pacific. Written for leaders and policy makers of finance and planning departments, AWDO 2013 introduces a comprehensive framework to measure water security as a foundation for creating a water-secure future for the people of Asia and the Pacific. AWDO 2013 was prepared by a team of ten leading water knowledge organizations in the region, guided by specialists drawn from all five sub-regions. Part I introduces the five key dimensions of water security and presents indicators for assessment of national water security. Part II demonstrates how countries measure up against the AWDO vision of water security, discusses what is at stake, and introduces policy levers to increase security. Part III presents key messages for political, water sector, and civil society leaders to guide actions on water security nationally, in river basins, and in communities.

## 4.2 KnowledgeHubs

The social, economic, and environmental future of the Asia-Pacific region hinges largely on how well water is managed in the coming years. Economic development, rural-to-urban migration, greater industrial demand for and pollution of water and other changes have led to increased competition for clean water in the region. Meanwhile, however, climate change has made rainfall harder to predict, and floods and droughts are on the increase. The region is in urgent need of updated solutions and more water professionals to implement them.

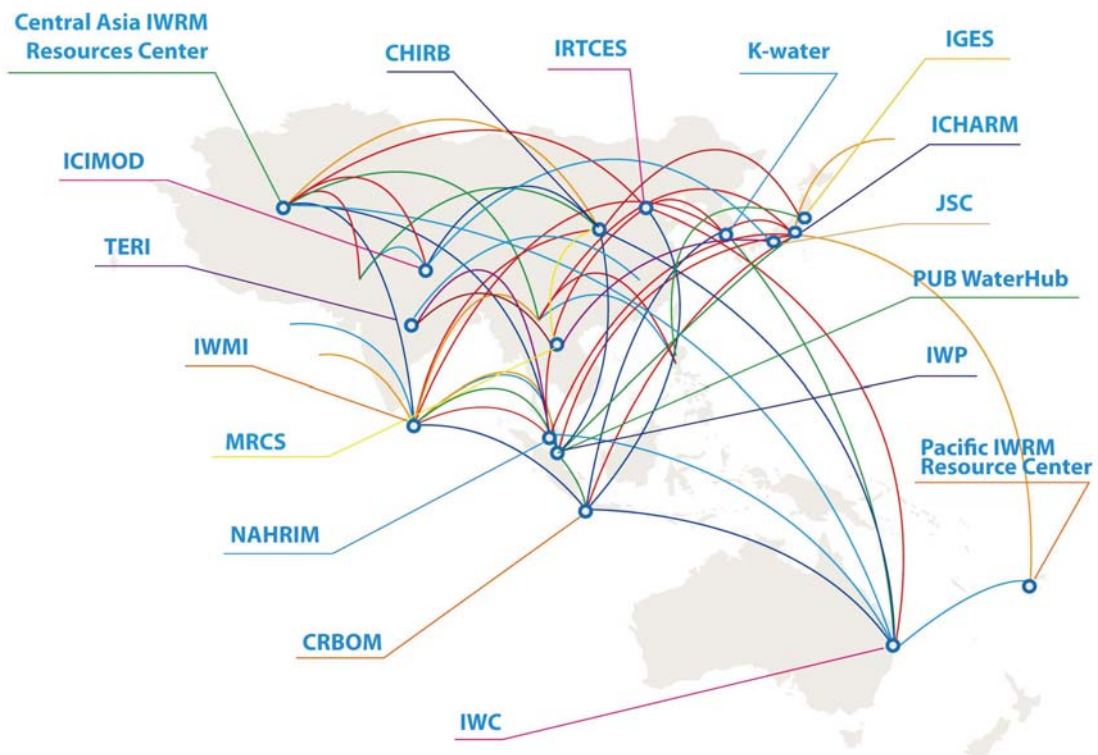
### *KnowledgeHubs*

center of excellence committed to improving water security in the Asia-Pacific region by

through a peer review procedure that considers the relevance of their proposed topic, their *KnowledgeHubs*

accountable for its own services and resources.

**KnowledgeHubs Map**





### 4.3 Framework Document on Water and Climate Change

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scientists, experts from international organizations, governments, civil society, and

climate change adaptation in the Asia-Pacific region, leading to the 2<sup>nd</sup> APWS.



### 4.4 Asia-Pacific Regional Process for the World Water Forums

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The 5<sup>th</sup> WWF provided an opportunity for the APWF to monitor and follow up on initiatives and commitments made at the 1<sup>st</sup>

variety of sectors, including finance, planning, public health, disaster prevention, infrastructure, agriculture, energy, water, and others, and is used as a platform for dialogue with social leaders in various sectors.

The Asia-Pacific regional process for the 6<sup>th</sup> <sup>th</sup> place in Marseille, France in 2012, was initiated by the APWF Secretariat in January 2011. In commitment to water security in the Asia-Pacific region, several organizations of the

organisations on water security challenges and our commitment to advancing the vision of a water secure Asia-Pacific region. Target action plans, solutions and commitments for each

<sup>th</sup> WWF, and discussed recommendations for heads of government and leaders who will assemble at the 2<sup>nd</sup> APWS.

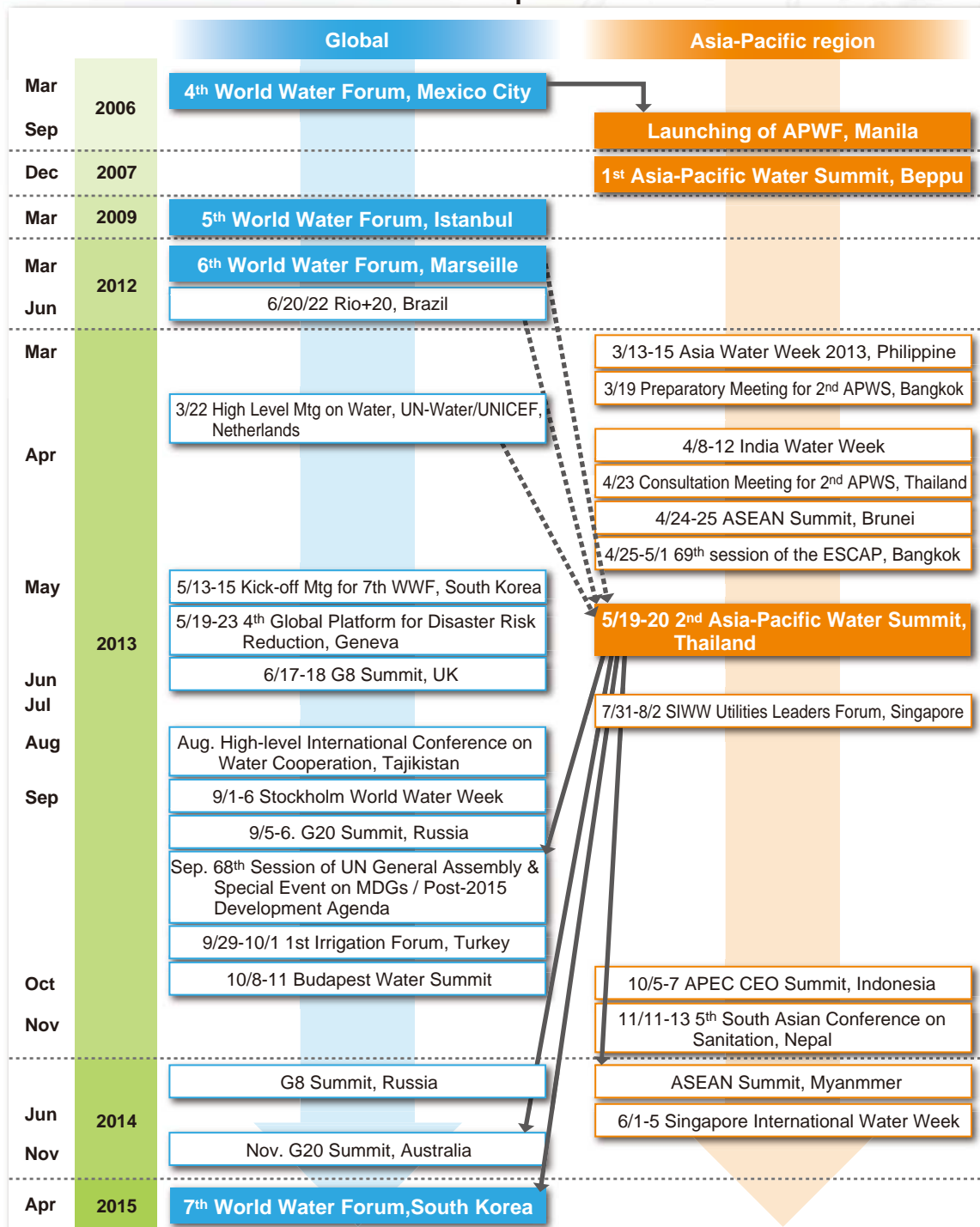
**Table 5: Targets from the Asia-Pacific regional process for the 6<sup>th</sup> WWF**

Targets	Coordinators
Reduce by half the number of people who do not have access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation in the Asia Pacific region by 2015 and to reduce that number to achieve universal and sustainable access by 2025.	ESCAP
By 2012, to propose a framework for action on water in green growth in support of economic, food and water security, that addresses local, national and regional action and, by 2014, to initiate the implementation of key support components of the framework for action.	FAO ESCAP
Improving financial flows to the local level by reinforcing existing and creating innovative new mechanisms in Asia and the Pacific.	UN Habitat
Reduce by half the number of people who do not have access to safe drinking water by 2015 and aim to reach universal and sustainable access to water and sanitation in the Asia-Pacific region by 2025.	UN Habitat
To develop, by 2015, a strategic flood risk management framework that engages emerging technologies and strengthens regional information systems for enhanced community resilience through appropriate policies and practices in the Himalayan region.	ICIMOD
By 2018, Northeast Asia countries will have committed to establish and manage a training centre in North East Asia responsive to water and climate change, which serves the purpose of research, education, and teacher training in North East Asia.	KWF
Enhance capacity of River Basin Organizations to implement IWRM including adaptation to climate change.	UNESCO

# 5. Roadmap for Action

The APWF recognizes that the 2<sup>nd</sup> APWS is an important political event prior to the 7<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum, taking place in Korea in 2015. Since 2013 is the United Nations International Year of Water Cooperation, several international conferences on the water sector will be held in addition to the 68<sup>th</sup> session of United Nations General Assembly and special events on the MDGs. The political commitments made at the 2<sup>nd</sup> APWS will be worked toward those important international events.

APWF Roadmap for Action





## 6. Conclusions

In the first six years of its operation, the APWF has proven to be highly relevant to the task of comprehensively promoting water policy in the region, as it is the only regional organization related to water that engages with heads of government and with ministries outside the water domain. Under the guidance of

APWS, demonstrates the APWF's key role as a strong common platform and as a

The APWF is independent and not-for-profit, and thus has limited funding.

effective. The APWF, consistent with its mandate to be inclusive, open and flexible, has successfully convinced various organizations to launch a range of innovative initiatives, effective resolutions, ministerial level forums, and grass-root level actions. All these achievements have been possible due to the generous contributions and strong commitment of all the APWF's founders, members and partners.

In its initial years, the APWF has been highly successful in mobilizing strong support from various stakeholders, and has evolved into a robust team with the

face future challenges and develop opportunities will depend on the continued financial support and sustained commitment of its founders, members and partners. Moving forward, with new leadership at the APWF Governing Council, the APWF expects to serve as a valuable platform for promoting leadership and commitment in order to build a more water-secure future for the Asia-Pacific region.

