

Our “Decade for Action”: Resolving Water Issues through Inter-generational Cooperation

We have come to recognize the importance of the participation of young people in every aspect of society and are now seeing various efforts to change society through inter-generational cooperation.

The Youth Water Forum was launched in Japan following the 4th Asia-Pacific Water Summit, held in April, 2022. It was aimed at creating a “sustainable society” in terms of water. Its main activities are calling on young people of high-school age (aged 15-18) to submit three-minute English-language videos related to water and holding information and opinion exchanges centered around these videos. In February, Water Conference for Future, 2023 was held. This was a symposium for open dialogue between selected applicants as well as representatives from the public and private sectors, academia, and politicians.

Water Conference for Future, 2023 highlighted a couple of findings. Firstly, young people eagerly hope to resolve problems, from the local to global level. Secondly, the older generation, which worked hard on such problems in its younger days, still retains a passion for creating a better society. All participants frankly exchanged views and realized the importance of learning from other generations.

It is obvious that the prospects may be bleak for the next twenty, thirty, or more years. We will have to address a variety of environmental, economic and social problems, including new infectious diseases, environmental pollution, rapid climate change, food and energy shortages, poverty, and inequalities. These problems are intertwined and, in many cases, revealed in the realm of water. Therefore, it is important for young people to produce videos related to water and deliver them to the international community now. These videos provide a path to social change by encouraging us to empathize with each other and learn from other generations about the depth and width of water issues, as well as the diversity of geographical, historical, and cultural factors behind them.

We would like to call on all people across Japan, the Asia-Pacific region, and the world to join us. The youth of today, who will lead our society in the next twenty or thirty years, are the most important partners in creating a sustainable society. I believe that this decade is the moment of truth. Water will become the medium of cooperation and transformation. Let us work together to improve the future of water.

Symposium: Water Conference for Future, 2023, *Cross-Generational Efforts for the Future of Water*

Organizer: Japan Water Forum

Time & Date: 15:00 – 18:00, Saturday, 4 February, 2023

Venue: 「“UBIQUITOUS PLACE” for Innovation」, located at
Shinkawa Headquarters of Uchida Yoko Co. Ltd., Tokyo



Youth Water Forum
YouTube Channel