

Side Event**Pathway Forward:****Water-resilient, Sustainable, and Inclusive in Asia and the Pacific****22 March 2023****13:15-14:30****Room Trusteeship UN HQ Inside**

The Asia-Pacific region is recovering from the COVID pandemic and returning to its dynamic economic transformation. And yet, the region still needs to catch up to achieve the 2030 UN SDGs, including the SDG6 targets. The challenges are clear:

- The region continues to be the major carbon emitter, with the total GHG emissions continuing to rise, especially in major economies;
- The region is among the most disaster-prone in the world, experiencing increased frequency, intensity, and duration of heavy downpours that not only hit the majority of areas but also lead to severe losses of lives and damages to infrastructure; and the pandemic has prevented and dramatically disrupted the mobilization of resources to protect and conserve ecosystems and biodiversity.

18 Heads of State and Government (HSG) of Asia and the Pacific participated in the 4th Asia-Pacific Water Summit (APWS) and adopted the Kumamoto Declaration in April 2022 to grapple with the challenges; The HSG is determined to strengthen quality infrastructure development, integrate hard and soft components into solutions like data & information and governance, and close the finance gap.

To accelerate the implementation, representatives from Asia and the Pacific in this side event present how to put water at the core of a quality-oriented society through decisions in policy, investment, and partnership to strengthen climate resilience and socio-economic security.

► Partner organizations:

- Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport, and Tourism (MLIT), Japan
- The Secretariat of the Headquarters for Water Cycle Policy of the Cabinet Secretariat
- Tajikistan Government
- Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)
- UNESCO Regional Office in Beijing
- UN-HABITAT
- Asian Development Bank
- Asia-Pacific Water Forum (APWF) c/o Japan Water Forum
- Executive Committee of the International Fund for saving the Aral Sea (EC-IFAS)
- Global Water Partnership (GWP) Southeast Asia
- GWP South Asia
- International Water Management Institute (IWMI)

Session Agenda:

1 min	<p>Session Introduction Ms. Yumiko Asayama, APWF Secretariat c/o Chief Manager of Japan Water Forum</p>
5 mins	<p>Opening remarks Mr. Kazufumi Ohnishi, Mayor of Kumamoto City c/o host city of the 4th Asia-Pacific Water Summit</p> <p>Welcoming Remarks Mr. Sulton Rahimzoda, the Special Envoy of the President of the Republic of Tajikistan to the Water and Climate Coalition Leaders, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the International Fund for saving the Aral Sea</p>
22 mins	<p>Showcase presentations from several national governments in Asia and the Pacific & ADB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asian Development Bank: Mr. Woochong Um, Managing Director General • Japanese Government: Mr. Toshikazu TOKIOKA, Director for International Coordination of River Engineering, Water and Disaster Management Bureau, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Japan • Indonesia Government: Prof. Ir. Dwikorita Karnawati, Head of Indonesia Meteorological, Climatological, and Geophysical Agency • India Government: Mr. G. Asok Kumar, Director General, National Mission for Clean Ganga <p>Moderator: Ms. Changhua Wu, Vice Chair of the APWF Governing Council</p>
45 mins	<p>Panel discussion: What works for improvement, replication, and scale-up</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asian Development Bank: Dr. Thomas Panella, Director - Environment, Natural Resources, and Agriculture Division - East Asia Department • ESCAP: Ms. Katinka Weinberger, Chief, Environment and Development Policy • UN-HABITAT: Dr. Graham Alabaster, Chief Geneva Office, Office of The Executive Director, UN-Habitat • UNESCO: Division of Water Sciences, UNESCO HQ • IWMI: Dr. Mark Smith, Director-General • Global Water Partnership: Dr. Yumiko Yasuda, Senior Network Officer for Asia • Water Policy Group: Anthony Slatyer, Consultant on Water Policy and Governance • Singapore: Dr. Winston Tseon Loong CHOW, Associate Professor, Singapore Management University • Above Government representatives <p>Moderator: Changhua Wu, Vice Chair of the APWF Governing Council</p>
2 mins	<p>Wrap-up and Closing remarks Changhua Wu, Vice Chair of the APWF Governing Council</p>

Water Action Agenda of our session partners

- ▶ **Japanese Government:** Kumamoto Initiative for Water - Promoting both climate change adaptation and mitigation measures and measures to improve people's basic living environment – ([#SDGAction50308](#))
- ▶ **Tajikistan:** Leadership in the promotion of glaciers' preservation issues at the global level including through the platform of Water and Climate Coalition Leaders (WCCL) and the activities within the International Year of Glaciers' Preservation, 2025.
Hosting an International Conference dedicated to Glaciers' Preservation in Tajikistan in 2025.
Leadership in future contribution to implementing the objectives of International Decade for Action "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018-2028 through the Dushanbe water process and using this platform as a follow-up mechanism for Water Action Agenda.
Completion of the Water Sector Reform in the Republic of Tajikistan by 2025
- ▶ **APWF:** Enhance political leaders' awareness and their political will to address water challenges in Asia and the Pacific ([#SDGAction50021](#))
- ▶ **Asian Development Bank:** Mobilize at least \$200 million in internal and external grant resources 2021-2025 to leverage \$10 billion in climate change financing for the water sector by 2030
Ensure that at least 90% of its annual committed financing for water sector operations promotes gender mainstreaming up to 2030
To deliver on these commitments in the water sector, ADB is supporting capacity building and knowledge sharing through the Asia Pacific Water Resilience Hub
- ▶ **UN-HABITAT:** UN-Habitat has a \$100 million portfolio in the Asia-Pacific region with a key focus on building climate resilience and sustainability in the water sector. This includes work such as the Adaptation Fund-funded project in Lao PDR, which builds Resilience in small-scale water infrastructure in 189 villages, or work ensuring climate-resilient water infrastructure along the economic corridors of the Greater Mekong region. UN-Habitat works with a community-based approach and builds capacity in entities from the regional and national to the local levels.
- ▶ **UNESCO:** UNESCO Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme (IHP) Phase IX (2022-2029)
[IHP-IX: Strategic Plan of the Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme: Science for a Water Secure World in a Changing Environment, ninth phase 2022-2029 - UNESCO Digital Library](#)
- ▶ **GWP Southeast Asia:** Integrated Water Security Open Program ([#SDGAction50408](#))
In addition, GWP SEA is currently engaging all of its 250-300 partners to create joint projects that will contribute to the achievement of water security both at catchment and national level.
- ▶ **IWMI:** Water Action Agenda will be on the website soon.

About the APWF

- **The APWF** is an independent non-profit multi-stakeholder network launched in September 2006. The mission of the APWF is to seek political commitment at the highest level in the region to the cause of water security and to promote the active exchange of information, knowledge, and skills across institutions and people in the region in the pursuance of water security as an indispensable part of the sustainable development process.
- For this purpose, The APWF emphasizes bringing water to the forefront of the development and political agenda by championing best practices, boosting investments, building capacity, and enhancing regional cooperation.
- The APWF has then provided government officials of the 49 countries and organizations in Asia and the Pacific with a common platform to learn and deep-dive into the water and water-related issues and voice to accelerate the effective integration of water resources management into the socio-economic development process.
- It works collaboratively with various water-related organizations to build capacity and enhance cooperation while boosting regional and international investment.

Governance Structure of the APWF



Yoshiro Mori

President

H.E. Mr. Yoshiro Mori

Former Prime Minister of Japan / President of Japan Water Forum

Governing Council

APWF Governing Council

- Ms. Changhua Wu, Chair of China Redesign Hub, Office of Jeremy Rifkin
- Prof. Eduardo Araral, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore



Changhua Wu



Eduardo Araral

Key Member Organizations

Asian Development Bank, UNESCAP, FAO, UNESCO, UN-HABITAT, Executive Committee of the International Fund for saving the Aral Sea (EC-IFAS), Freshwater Action Partnership for South Asia, Global Water Institute UNSW, Global Water Partnership, GWP China, GWP CACENA, GWP South Asia, GWP Southeast Asia, ICHARM, ICIMOD, IUCN Asia, IWMI, International WaterCentre, Japan Sanitation Consortium, NARBO/JWA, Korea Water Forum, Secretariat of Pacific Community, Singapore PUB, World Toilet Organization, WaterEd Australia, Water Stewardship Asia-Pacific, Water Integrity Network, etc

Secretariat: Japan Water Forum

Contact: Ms. Yumiko Asayama, Chief manager, Japan Water Forum c/o APWF Secretariat