

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



**Mr. Yoshiro Mori**  
**Chair of the Steering Committee of the**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Asia-Pacific Water Summit**  
**President of the Asia-Pacific Water Forum**  
**Former Prime Minister of Japan**

The 1<sup>st</sup> Asia-Pacific Water Summit was held on December 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> in Beppu, Japan. It focused on the theme “*Water Security: Leadership and Commitment*”. Heads of state and government, and other national leaders from Asia and the Pacific gathered to raise awareness of water issues and to share in a determination to take concrete actions towards the resolution of water issues.

The opening ceremony was graced by the presence of His Imperial Highness the Crown Prince of Japan and His Royal Highness Prince Willem-Alexander of The Netherlands, Chairman of the UN Secretary-General’s Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation. H.E. Mr. Emomali Rahmon, President of the Republic of Tajikistan; H.E. Mr. Tommy Remengesau Jr., President of the Republic of Palau; H.E. Mr. Anote Tong, President of the Republic of Kiribati; H.E. Mr. Ludwig Scotty, President of the Republic of Nauru; H.E. Mr. Emanuel Mori, President of the Federated States of Micronesia; H.E. Mr. Mititaigimene Vivian, Premier of Niue; H.E. Mr. Apisai Ielemia, Prime Minister of Tuvalu; H.E. Mr. Kinzang Dorji, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Bhutan; H.E. Mr. Dosbol Nur ulu, Vice Prime Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic and H.E. Mr. Yasuo Fukuda, Prime Minister of Japan also attended the opening ceremony. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, delivered a message.

After two days of enthusiastic discussions among heads of state and government and other multistakeholder leaders, the world’s first summit on water ended with great success.

During the summit, I reaffirmed that sanitation issues, especially those related to toilets, posed a particular challenge to human dignity. In order to save as many children as possible from water-related diseases, it is critical to develop and improve

innovative sanitation systems, in addition to conventional ones, based on the new idea of sustainable and recyclable resource management of human waste.

Climate change has become a major topic of discussion. Its most serious impacts are revealed to us through water. While damage caused by water-related disasters such as floods will increase, it is predicted that desertification and water shortages will become more serious. We have come to share a common understanding that, in addition to the reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, we should focus on adaptive measures toward these problems, since we cannot avoid the negative impacts of climate change.

The heads of state and government, and other multistakeholder leaders pursued their lively discussions over the two days of the summit. Their determination was embodied in the *Message from Beppu*. Based on the recognition that access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation is a basic human right and a basis of human security, it sets new goals to be met by 2025. These goals are one step ahead of the Millennium Development Goals of 2015, and are unprecedented anywhere in the world. They are:

*To reduce by half the number of people who do not have access to safe drinking water by 2015 and reduce the number to zero by 2025;*

*To reduce the number of people who do not have access to basic sanitation by 2015 and reduce the number to zero by 2025, through the adoption of new and innovative sanitation systems that are not as water reliant as current methods.*

The true success of the summit, however, depends on how we take specific actions towards the resolution of water issues. In that sense, further efforts are required of us.

In the *Message from Beppu*, Japan made a commitment to provide necessary assistance to the region's vulnerable small island states, in order to protect lives and livelihoods from the impacts of climate change. In line with this, Mr. Ichiro Kamoshita, Minister of the Environment visited Tuvalu earlier this year by request of Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda. We have already initiated a program and experts have been sent by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to investigate the current situation in Tuvalu.

I sincerely hope that all participants of the 1<sup>st</sup> APWS, taking home what they gained there, will initiate real actions. As an organizer of the 1<sup>st</sup> APWS and a global citizen,

I have reaffirmed my commitment to making an all-out effort, together with the people of the international community, to hand over a rich and beautiful planet to our children.

Lastly, I am deeply grateful to all those involved for their efforts and cooperation towards the success of the summit. I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the session conveners, the local people of Oita, the organizers of open events held across Japan, the members of the Oita Prefectural Committee for the 1<sup>st</sup> APWS, the more than 300 volunteers who supported the summit at the site and at the airport, the officials of the local and central governments, the interpreters who helped to overcome language barriers, and the police and security staff who worked hard to ensure our safety. More than anything else, I would like to express my profound gratitude to all the participants from home and abroad.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the next Asia-Pacific Water Summit.

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**Professor Tommy Koh**  
**Chair of the Governing Council of the**  
**Asia-Pacific Water Forum**  
**Ambassador-at-Large, Republic of Singapore**

Since its inception in March 2006, the Asia-Pacific Water Forum has actively sought to generate meaningful progress in solving our region's most critical water challenges by uniting a great number of the region's top water-related organizations.

The challenges are complex, but the underlying message is simple: *We have the will and courage to realize our vision.*

This message was unanimously endorsed by the participants of the 1<sup>st</sup> Asia-Pacific Water Summit as part of the "Message from Beppu", which, along with the "Policy Brief" and the "Chair's Summary", provide a roadmap for achieving significant progress.

But the 1<sup>st</sup> Asia-Pacific Water Summit is not an end unto itself. Rather, it is a beginning. The Summit is a critical stepping-stone towards improving the life and livelihoods of our regions people, not least the 700 million still without access to safe and affordable water and the over 1.9 billion people who have no access to safe sanitation.

Specifically, the APWF will build upon the outstanding work already underway under its initial three Priority Themes (Water Financing and Capacity Development, Water-related Disaster Management and Water for Development and Ecosystems) and five Key Result Areas, and will expand its scope of activities to cover even more issues in order to generate new and innovative approaches to solving our region's water problems. The APWF will also continue to raise these water issues to the level of the highest governmental authorities, so that water issues could be ranked high on their national agenda.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Asia-Pacific Water Summit was a truly historic event. It was a first in a series of events which will continue to bring together political leaders in Asia and the

Pacific to make commitments allowing for more attention to water and more attention to finding solutions. The Summit would not have been possible without the tireless work of a number of people from all across our vast and culturally diverse region. It is our sincerest hope that this momentum will continue to grow and lead to even greater success at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Asia-Pacific Water Summit.