

SUMMARY REPORT

8th Asian Wetland Symposium 2017
— *Wetlands for Sustainable Life* —



Asian Wetland Symposium 2017 Executive Committee
October 2018

Summary Report, 8th Asian Wetland Symposium 2017

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Foreword

Masaru Horikami

Director, Wildlife Division, Nature Conservation Bureau, Ministry of the Environment, Japan

Wetlands are habitats for flora and fauna, and they support our life through their ecosystem services. On the other hand, wetlands are sensitive to the impacts of human activities and the degradation and loss of wetlands has continued. The Asian Wetland Symposium (AWS) is an international symposium about wetlands in the region and it provides opportunities to learn and share knowledge, wisdom and experience among various actors. The 8th AWS was held in Saga, Japan in November 2017. Participants held discussions regarding the review of conservation and wise use of wetlands in Asia over the past quarter century, evaluation of the current status, and ways to achieve sustainable management of wetland ecosystems in the future. The Saga Statement was adopted as its action plan. I hope this booklet will allow the results of this symposium to be shared widely and will help to support the realization of the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands.

Message

Yukihiro Shimatani

Chair, Asian Wetland Symposium 2017 Executive Committee
President, Japan Wetland Society

The Asian Wetland Symposium 2017 was held in Saga City from 7 to 11 November 2017 with 470 participants from 27 countries and regions on the theme of “Wetlands for Sustainable Life”. In 2017, in Fukuoka Prefecture, which neighbors the host area, a large-scale flood caused more than 40 deaths. The symposium was held under such circumstances where people were concerned that the impact of climate change had appeared.

In the symposium, nine oral presentation sessions and participatory poster discussions were organized. Beyond the boundaries of generations, borders and sectors, we discussed the conservation and wise use of wetlands from diverse perspectives. It is notable that there were discussions on Eco-DRR and youth leadership. These results were summarized as the Saga Statement.

This booklet is a summary of the results of this symposium and I believe it can contribute to the sustainable conservation and use of wetlands in the world.

Organization of AWS2017

Title

8th Asian Wetland Symposium (AWS2017) —Wetlands for Sustainable Life—

Date

7–11 November 2017

Venue

Hotel Grande Hagakure, Saga, Japan

Organizers

Ministry of the Environment of Japan / Wetlands International Japan / Ramsar Center Japan / Japan Wetland Society

Co-organizers

Saga Prefecture / Kumamoto Prefecture / Saga City / Kashima City / Arao City / Ramsar Regional Center - East Asia / International Lake Environment Committee Foundation / Wetland Link International Asia

Supporters

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan / Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan / Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Japan

Collaborators

Ramsar Convention Secretariat / UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific / IUCN Asia Regional Office / Keidanren Committee on Nature Conservation / Domestic Committee for Ramsar Sites related Municipalities in Japan / Youth Ramsar Japan / Institute of Decision Science for a Sustainable Society of Kyushu University

Sponsors

Sekisui Chemical Co.Ltd. / Sompo Japan Nipponkoa Insurance Inc./ Maple Tours Travel Agency / INTEM Consulting, Inc. / TOKEN C. E. E Consultants Co., Ltd.
CTI Engineering Co. Ltd. / Asia Air Survey Co., Ltd. / Civil Engineering & Eco-Technology Consultants / Oriental Consultants Global / Mitsui & Co. / Maeda Corporation / IDEA Consultants Inc. / Nippon Koei Co. Ltd. / ANA HOLDINGS INC. / APRIL International Enterprise Pte Ltd / Sumitomo Forestry Co., Ltd. / KITAJIMA Co., Ltd. / Madonoume Co., Ltd.

Grant Programs

Keidanren Nature Conservation Fund / Japan Foundation Asia Center Grant Program for Enhancing People-to-People Exchange

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Executive Summary

Yoshihiro Natori

Vice Chair, Asian Wetland Symposium 2017 Executive Committee
President, Wetlands International Japan

The 8th Asian Wetland Symposium (AWS) 2017 with the theme “Wetlands for Sustainable Life” was held in Saga, Japan from 7 to 11 November 2017. The organizers were the Ministry of the Environment of Japan, Wetlands International Japan, Ramsar Center Japan, and Japan Wetland Society. The co-organizers were Saga Prefecture, Kumamoto Prefecture, Saga City, Kashima City, Arai City, Ramsar Regional Center – East Asia, International Lake Environment Committee Foundation, and Wetland Link International Asia. There were three supporters from the Government of Japan: the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, and the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism. The Collaborators include the Ramsar Convention Secretariat, UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, IUCN Asia Regional Office, Keidanren Committee on Nature Conservation, the Domestic Committee for Ramsar Sites related Municipalities in Japan, Youth Ramsar Japan, and the Institute of Decision Science for a Sustainable Society of Kyushu University. There were also several sponsors from the private sector in Japan and Asia. There were approximately 470 participants, including about 150 overseas participants from 27 predominantly Asian countries and regions.

The first AWS was held in Otsu and Kushiro, Japan in October 1992, co-organized by NGOs and the government of Japan. It was an epoch-making experiment at that time. The NGO Ramsar Center Japan planned to organize a symposium in order to increase the number of Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention in Asia. The Environment Agency (Now the Ministry of the Environment) invited 5th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP5) of the Convention held in Kushiro, 1993 and planned the Pre-COP5 Meeting in 1992. Therefore, the Secretary General of the Convention recommended that the Environment Agency and Ramsar Center Japan jointly organize the symposium.

The second AWS was held in Penang, Malaysia in 2001. During those nine years, a series of thematic local wetland workshops were held in the region to maintain and prepare bases and a network for developing the second meeting. The 3rd Symposium was held in Bhubaneswar, India in 2005, and then the 4th was held in Hanoi, Vietnam in 2008, the 5th was held in Sabah, Malaysia in 2011, and the 6th symposium was held in Wuxi, China: also in 2011. There was only one symposium in between the two COPs but in 2011 two symposia were held within a period of 4 months as this was demanded by two national partners: Malaysia and China. Still another symposium was held in Siem Reap, Cambodia in 2014. Until now, AWS's have been held seven times in six countries covering South Asia, Southeast Asia and Northeast Asia. Each time the theme was different and one that pertained to the real life situation of wetlands, such as heavy exploitation of resources, conversion of wetlands, high level of pollution, change in land use and land cover, habitat destruction/degradation, poor governance and knowledge gap, etc.

This AWS Saga 2017 was the 8th meeting of the symposium. Also, the year 2017 marks the 25th anniversary of the first AWS.

An international team, called International Steering Committee (ISC), is responsible for steering the process, direction and governance of AWS. Its overall objective is to provide guidance, advice, technical support and input to the nations organizing the symposium. The Committee also serves as a focal point to disseminate information and outputs in the region including identification of appropriate experts for the symposium as well as analysis of issues and problems for drafting the resolutions.

A Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP) is an intergovernmental meeting. Compared with COP, AWS is a regional forum that provides opportunities to diverse target groups such as policymakers, managers, NGOs, donors, promoters, academicians, researchers, practitioners and students, to share and learn knowledge, wisdom and practical experience on conservation, sustainable management and wise use of wetlands in Asia. Its usefulness was also recognized in the Resolution IX.19: "The importance of the regional wetland symposia in effectively implementing the Ramsar Convention", and it endorsed the continuation of the periodic Asian Wetland Symposia.

In the past 25 years, the number of Ramsar Sites was increased from 9 to 50 in Japan. The number of NGOs engaging in conservation of local wetlands and their biodiversity has been increased. There is progress in activities by municipalities related to Ramsar Sites in Japan. The wetland environmental education targeting the next generation was also implemented, and on the academic side the Japan Wetland Society was established. In Asia, the number of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention was increased from 11 countries to 34 countries, and collaboration among parties is also progressing.

However, conservation and wise use of wetlands, participation of relevant stakeholders, and concrete planning and management have not achieved sufficient results. In addition, issues such as climate change, sea level rise, intensification of natural disasters, etc.: which were not well recognized 25 years ago, became a big problem. The function of wetlands to contribute to disaster risk reduction has been drawing attention.

Based on this background, the overall objective of AWS 2017 was to review achievements, practices, progress, and challenges related to conservation and wise use of wetlands in Asia in the past quarter century, and to consider what should be done: looking towards the next quarter century and beyond, to mainstream conservation and wise use of wetlands in order to contribute to the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016 – 2024, the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In nine sessions, a total of 68 oral presentations and questions and answer sessions were held. There were also 109 presentations in total in the poster sessions, and those poster presentations were conducted interactively and with active involvement by participants. Session topics were as follows: Wetlands and Disaster Risk Reduction / Climate Change, Wetlands and Policy / Changes / International Cooperation, Wetlands and Use of Natural Resources / Agriculture / Fisheries / Food Security, Urban Wetlands / Wetland City / Natural Infrastructure, Wetlands and Youth, Wetlands and Sustainable Tourism, Wetlands and Culture, Wetlands and CEPA (Communication, Capacity building, Education, Participation and Awareness) / ESD (Education for Sustainable Development), and Wetlands and Biodiversity / Restoration / Reintroduction.

In the afternoon of the first day, "Ariake Sea Session" had 9 presentations on how the nature and people around the Ariake Sea are related and people received benefits from the sea. In addition, the Mayors Roundtable was held among three local city mayors with tidal flats Ramsar Sites along the Ariake Sea and the Suncheon City Mayor of the Republic of Korea.

Three field visits of the Saga course, Kashima course, and Arai course were held on the third day.

In the afternoon on the fourth day, the "Saga Statement" was adopted after discussions with the participants. On 11th November, a public symposium was held and AWS 2017 was closed. In order to avoid the Saga Statement becoming too long, the text describes only the most important points of all sessions, and the points discussed at each session were included in the Annex.

Through the Mayors Roundtable and the local cooperation along the Ariake Sea, we affirmed the importance of cooperation and collaboration (local, national and international) between Ramsar Sites and other wetlands with common characteristics and the necessary context for effective conservation and wise use inspired by champions at each site, and were informed of both good and poor practices. We also learned that we must take a holistic approach at landscape level and that we also need to work at appropriate scale levels to conserve, restore coastal wetland ecosystems throughout Asia.

From the session on Wetlands and Disaster Risk Reduction / Climate Change, we recognized the importance of Eco-DRR actions on the ground by combining them with traditional practices and scientific knowledge, quantifying their effectiveness through research, and pursuing their incorporation into policies, legal frameworks or administrative measures at national and local levels.

From the session on Urban Wetlands / Wetland City / Natural Infrastructure, we recognized the important role of urban as well as peri-urban wetlands in providing ecosystem services and in sustaining and re-establishing the connection between humans and nature. Therefore we called for urban wetlands to be incorporated into urban land use planning and legal frameworks, utilization of CEPA by urban decision makers, and proactive adoption of good practices by private developers so that urban and peri-urban wetlands can be conserved and restored as healthy ecosystems.

From the session on Wetlands and Sustainable Tourism, we highlighted the fact that conserving wetland ecosystems can serve as the foundation for successful implementation of responsible tourism, which can be a model to achieve economic development and wetland conservation.

We also learned from the large number of best practices introduced by various participants: including appropriate branding such as Ramsar Logo, which demonstrate that sustainable agriculture, fishery or forestry could not only revitalize local communities by providing added-values to local economies, but also maintain and rehabilitate wetlands.

From the session on Wetlands and Youth, we recognized the capacity of youth to exchange ideas between various stakeholders, build networks, and actively participate in various wetland conservation actions. We expect youth leadership to enable the AWS to continue its vital contribution to effective wetlands management.

From the session on Wetlands and CEPA, we acknowledged the importance of a structured, targeted and long-term approach supported by sustainable finance and skilled staff to deliver CEPA programs which lead to positive conservation outcomes on the ground. We need to replicate and disseminate those good practices across the region through existing structures and partnerships.

The results of AWS 2017 including the Saga statement were input to the Ramsar Pre-COP13 Asia Regional Meeting held in Sri Lanka in February 2018, and will be input to the Ramsar COP13 to be held in Dubai in October 2018.

Finally, the Japan Wetland Society, which is in the 10th year since its establishment, became an organizer as an initiative to start international efforts, and it was an opportunity for the academic society to gain good experience. Also, it seems that it was a good experience for the youth to train themselves to plan and organize the "Wetlands and Youth" session to cultivate young people who will be responsible for the next generation. In addition, the cooperation among the three municipalities and stakeholders of Ramsar Sites along the Ariake Sea: Higashiyoka-higata, Hizen Kashima-higata, and Arao-higata, were further strengthened. AWS 2017 became very fruitful, in large part through the local cooperation with Saga Prefecture, Kumamoto Prefecture, Saga City, Kashima City, Arao City, Kyushu University, Saga University, and several NGOs, who are members of the Local Organizing Committee and who worked together with the Executive Committee.

Asian Wetland Symposium 2017

As of 1 Nov. 2017

	6 (Mon)	7 (Tue)	8 (Wed)	9 (Thu)	10 (Fri)	11 (Sat)			
Morning 9:00-11:30	WII – Asia Conference	Registration Opening ceremony(9:30- keynote presentations (Interpretation)	Session 1 (2.5hrs) [DRR/ Climate Change] (Interpretation)	Session 2 (2.5 hrs) [Policy/ Change/ International Cooperation]	Field visits Course A, B and C	Session 8 (2.5 hrs) [CEPA/ ESD]	Session 9 (2.5 hrs) [Biodiversit y/ Restoration/ Reintroduc tion]	Poster 3	Public symposium
Lunch 11:30-13:30	-	Side event 1 (25 th , RCJ)	Side event 2 [Migratory Session waterbirds]	Special Session [Other]	-	Core time 11:30-12:00	-	-	-
Afternoon 13:30-18:00	WII – Asia Conference	(13:30-16:00) Ariake Sea Session (Interpretation)	Session 3 (2 hrs) [Natural Resources] (Interpretation)	Session 4 (2 hrs) [Urban]	Poster 2	Core time 18:00-18:30	-	-	-
Evening 18:30-20:30	Registration (from 14:00, In front of flower)	Break *1 (16:30–18:00) Mayors roundtable (Interpretation)	Break Session 5-2 *2 (2 hrs) [Youth] (Interpretation)	Break Session 6 (2 hrs) [Tourism]	Session 7 [Cultural]	-	-	-	-
Venue	Flower C	Flower ABC	Harmony	Flower BC	Flower A	Symphony	Hotel Grande Hagakure		
Room	Flower C	Flower ABC	Harmony	Flower BC	Flower A	Symphony	Hotel Grande Hagakure		

*1: 16:00-16:10 National Geographic Foundation will be introduced.

*2: Session 5-1 will be at Ariake no ma the lunch time on 8 Nov.

Allocation of time for sessionsSession (2.5 hrs)

Keynote: 25 minutes * 1 person

Case studies: 15 minutes

Session (2 hrs)

Keynote: 25 minutes * 1 person

Case studies: 15 minutes

Flower hall: Plenary or session
Symphony hall: Poster
Harmony hall: Reception
Culture hall: Higashiyoka Culture Hall

Saga Statement

Asian Wetland Symposium Saga, Japan 7 to 11 November 2017

Introduction

1. RECOGNIZING the 25 years of Asian Wetland Symposiums (AWS) held in Japan, Malaysia, India, Vietnam, China, and Cambodia, that have contributed to understanding wetlands in Asia, influencing national and international wetland policies and plans, and promoting conservation and wise use of wetlands. Additionally ACKNOWLEDGING the statements from the previous seven AWS and the publication of the history of the AWS in the period 1992–2017;
2. ACKNOWLEDGING the importance of AWS 2017 in Saga City, Japan from 7th to 11th November, with the theme “Wetlands for Sustainable Life”, with the overall objective to review achievements, practices, progress, and challenges faced related to conservation of wetlands in Asia and consider what should be done to mainstream conservation and wise use of wetlands. The AWS hosted 470 participants from 27 countries and regions;
3. NOTING Saga City faces the Ariake Sea, Kyushu encompassing the tidal flats i.e. Arao-higata, Hizen Kashima-higata, Higashiyoka-higata, that have been designated as Ramsar Sites, where the water systems provide valuable ecosystem services and have been traditionally used by local people, leading to the adoption of the Saga Water Statement (Saga Mizu Sengen) in 2003;
4. RECOGNIZING the increasing severe impacts of disasters being accelerated by climate change, and the fact that Asia is the most disaster prone region in the world, and the damage caused by floods that occurred very recently in northern Kyushu in July 2017;
5. RECALLING the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, Sustainable Development Goals and other relevant international treaties such as the Convention on Wetlands, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Paris Agreement of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;
6. AWARE OF the keynote presentations, nine oral sessions and field visits to the Ariake Sea and important tidal flats including Ramsar Sites. Innovative sessions at the AWS included Ariake Sea Session, Youth Session, Mayor’s Roundtable, Participatory Poster Sessions, which were highlighted as that accelerated proactive communication among different stakeholders and generations; and
7. RECOGNIZING the usefulness of interactive and participatory poster sessions not only to promote effective peer-learning that can overcome barriers among various generations, stakeholders, cultures and academic backgrounds, but also to support future actions on the ground.

We, the participants of this symposium, declare as follows;

1. Enhance Networking and Collaboration among wetland sites

We affirm the recommendation of the Mayor’s Roundtable on the importance of cooperation and collaboration (local, national and international) between Ramsar Sites and other wetlands with common characteristics and context for effective conservation and wise use inspired by champions at each site, and informed by both good and poor practices.

2. Ensure a Holistic Approach to Conserve Coastal Wetland Ecosystems

We have learned from the history and ongoing research of Ariake Sea including the serious damages caused by large scale developments at other coastal sites across the region, we must take a holistic approach at landscape level. We also need to work at appropriate scales to conserve, restore coastal wetland ecosystems throughout Asia.

3. Implement Ecosystem-based Disaster Risk Reduction (Eco-DRR)

We recognize the importance of Eco-DRR actions on the ground by combining with traditional practices and scientific knowledge, quantifying its effectiveness through research, and pursue its incorporation into policies, legal frameworks or administrative measures at national and local levels.

4. Conserve and Revive Urban Wetlands

We recognize the important role of urban as well as peri-urban wetlands in providing ecosystem services and in sustaining and re-establishing the connection between humans and nature. Therefore we call for urban wetlands to be incorporated into urban land use planning and legal frameworks, CEPA for urban decision makers, private developers to be encouraged to adopt good practices so that they can be conserved and restored as healthy ecosystems.

5. Encourage Responsible Wetland Tourism

We highlight that conserving wetland ecosystems can serve as the foundation for successful implementation of responsible tourism (e.g. Suncheon Bay (R.O. Korea) and Chilika Lake (India)), which can be a model to achieve economic development and wetland conservation.

6. Enhance Local Production Initiatives in Wetlands

We learn from many best practices introduced by various participants, e.g. by appropriate branding such as Ramsar Logo, which demonstrate that sustainable agriculture, fishery or forestry could not only revitalize local communities by providing added-values to local economies, but also maintain and rehabilitate wetlands.

7. Ensure Youth Leadership in Wetland Conservation

We recognize the capacity of youth to exchange ideas between various stakeholders, build networks, and actively participate in various wetland conservation actions. We expect youth leadership to enable the AWS to continue its vital contribution to effective wetlands management.

8. Deliver CEPA Programs that lead to Direct Conservation Actions

We acknowledge the importance of structured, targeted and long-term approach supported by sustainable finance and skilled staff to deliver CEPA program which leads to positive conservation outcomes on the ground. We need to replicate and disseminate those good practice across the region through existing structures and partnerships.

We urge all Contracting Parties to the Convention on Wetlands, organizations, participants and concerned citizens to build upon the first 25 years of the AWS to ensure the AWS continues to fill its vital role into the future.

Lastly, thanking the Government of Japan, Saga Prefecture, Kumamoto Prefecture and Saga City, Kashima City, Arao City, Ramsar Regional Center-East Asia and all sponsors and supporters for their generosity and hospitality in successfully hosting the Asian Wetland Symposium in Saga, from 7th to 11th November 2017.

And that the organizers seek the support and assistance of the Government of Japan to convey this statement to the forthcoming Asian Regional Meeting on the Convention on Wetlands, the 13th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Convention to be held in Dubai in October 2018.

Saga, 10 November 2017

Saga Statement Annex

The Saga Statement highlights the most significant messages extracted from all the sessions of the AWS 2017. This Annex illustrates the key discussion points and specific examples that are not included in the Saga Statement, but are considered to be particularly important.

Ariake Sea (including Field Visits)

1. Tidal flats (“Higata” in Japanese) nurture not only numerous living organisms but also a variety of culture that was born through wise use of wetlands. In order to pursue a truly sustainable society, we must make efforts to hand over both rich biodiversity and the culture derived from tidal flats to our future generations.
2. Three courses of field visits, namely the Saga Course, Kashima Course and Arao Course were organized in and around the three Ramsar Sites in Ariake Sea. In Saga Course, we recognized the potential of attractive eco-tourism program in Saga, where tourists can enjoy and learn about wetlands comprehensively, not only on the ecosystems of river and tidal flats, but also on wise use and cultural values of wetlands. In Kashima Course, we acknowledged that wetlands play an important role in purifying water, realizing the growth of Sake (Japanese rice wine) industry, which now serves as a main pillar of the local community’s economy. In Arao course, we understood that we should not rely on a single income source from tourism alone; it is better to pursue multiple income sources for a more sustainable economy. Since Ariake Sea is blessed with rich wetland products such as crabs, fish and seaweeds, combining tourism with such wetland based industries would enable the region to promote sustainable economic development. Another important finding was that a traditional land reclamation method used in Japan for four hundred years may serve as a low cost and an environmentally-friendly technique, compared to the modern technology.

Wetlands and Disaster Risk Reduction / Climate Change

1. Recognizing the increasing impacts of disasters accelerated by climate change particularly in the Asian region, and confirming the wetland’s huge potential for ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction (Eco-DRR) and climate change mitigation and adaptation, we should further strengthen international partnerships to promote sharing of knowledge (including scientific, traditional, local knowledge and best/poor practices).
2. Recognizing the huge carbon stock of mangroves and sea grass beds (i.e. Blue Carbon), peatlands and soil, we should further promote research and effective countermeasures to reduce the carbon emissions from wetlands and watersheds. Check dams that may prevent soil erosion, and prevention of peatland fire through introduction of non-burning agriculture techniques were discussed as some of the countermeasures for climate change mitigation.
3. Recognizing the rapid change of the socio-economic and environmental status of each region, local self-governance should be strengthened to enable community-based adaptive management. In order to strengthen local self-governance, we should provide sufficient opportunities for the local, vulnerable communities to participate in decision making processes (e.g. develop village action plans) through effective facilitation.

Wetlands and Policy / Change / International Cooperation

1. Recognizing the fact that a significant number of wetlands in the Asia-Pacific is transboundary, we recommend that monitoring data should be shared through an international network, and such data should be effectively utilized in identifying the issues and in promoting collaborative actions for wetland conservation through regional and international cooperation in the Asia-Pacific.
2. Learning from the experience of conserving Black-faced Spoonbills, usage of attractive and/or daily accessible tools (e.g. fashion goods and social networking services) is recommended to connect

various stakeholders in different generations, which can form a basis of regional and international cooperation.

Wetlands and Use of Natural Resources / Agriculture / Fisheries / Food Security

1. Recognizing the increasing impacts of climate change on the livelihoods of vulnerable communities, we recommend to develop and disseminate climate-resilient sustainable agriculture/fisheries techniques (e.g. water saving agriculture) throughout the Asia-Pacific region.
2. The experience of the Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMA) in Fiji is considered as a form of Satoumi. Community-driven wetland management based on traditional governance systems involving traditional knowledge, customary tenure and resource access, traditional decision making processes, traditional social networks are capable of enhancing pride, ownership, adaptive capacity, and collective community efforts in sustainably managing the wetlands.
3. Learning from the good practices in producing the White Stork's Rice, more efforts should be made to develop and extend techniques that can restore wildlife habitats in the landscapes of agriculture/fisheries (e.g. maintaining water for a longer period in rice paddies).

Urban Wetlands / Wetland City / Natural Infrastructure

All the key messages from this session were included in the Saga Statement.

Wetlands and Youth

1. We, the youth, should make further efforts in conducting a wide variety of attractive activities such as singing, dancing, cooking, drawing, making exhibits in festivals etc. particularly in public institutions including schools, community centers, hospitals, nursing homes, etc. in order to promote CEPA among people with low environmental awareness.
2. We, the youth recognize the necessity to brush up our knowledge and skills in order to make more contributions in the future. We would like to make further efforts not only to obtain scientific knowledge but also to train our communication / presentation / facilitation skills from professionals through actively participating in volunteer activities or internships related to wetland conservation.

Wetlands and Sustainable Tourism

1. Based on the past experiences, we learned that local communities with abundant knowledge on local natural resources have a potential to play a significant role in alleviating the negative impacts of tourism on natural ecosystems. Involvement of local communities should therefore be further promoted in order to pursue responsible tourism.
2. Recalling the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, we recommend to provide tourists with on-the-site experience at wetland sites (e.g. enjoying food directly harvested from wetlands), so that the connection between tourists and wetlands will become stronger, and the tourists' motivation toward wetland conservation and wise use will be enhanced.
3. Entry fees, Crab Banks (increasing crab population and utilize the crabs as tourism resources) and utilization of payment for ecosystem services are considered as good practices to simultaneously realize wetland conservation and income generation through sustainable tourism. In addition, appropriate regulatory control and environmental monitoring should also be conducted to ensure responsible tourism.
4. Recognizing the fact that the correct definition of "sustainable tourism" under the World Tourism Organization is not being utilized properly, more efforts should be made to disseminate the proper definition.

Wetlands and Culture

1. Cultures do not derive from unused and forgotten wetlands. Since wetland cultures need many years to develop, having wetland culture is a synonym that wetland has been wisely used.
2. Among the major ecosystem services (functions for provision, control and culture), it should be

noted that provision function including supply of food, water, housing, clothes are all deeply connected with culture.

3. Wetlands have site-specific, symbolic values for local people. These values have potential to serve as the most powerful driving force for wetland conservation from a bottom-up approach.
4. Not only nature with limitation of seasonality, but also culture is an indispensable part of sustainable tourism to invite more visitors.
5. To clarify the characteristics of Asian wetland cultures, comparison with those of other regions would be beneficial in the next step.

Wetlands and CEPA / Education for Sustainable Development

1. Wetland centers are places where people and wildlife interact and when any activity related to communication, capacity building, education, participation, and awareness (CEPA) occurs that contribute to wetland conservation. The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands recognizes wetland centers as key places for learning about the conservation and wise use of wetlands through CEPA interventions, and as catalysts for activities that support the implementation of the Fourth Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016–2024 (Ramsar COP12 Resolution XII.9). Wetland centers are important vehicles that convey messages and encourage behavior change and actions for wetland advocates and stakeholders.
2. Wetland centers can maximize their impact by joining a network of wetland centers. Through the network, expertise, resources, experience and best practices are shared among the members of the network. Wetland centers can be linked at the sub-national, national and international levels. Wetland Link International (WLI) is a global network of wetland centers that supports the development of new and enhancement of existing wetland centers. WLI-Asia facilitates the coordination among members in Asia. The Ramsar Regional Center — East Asia (RRC-EA) currently acts as the Secretariat of WLI-Asia.

Wetlands and Biodiversity / Restoration / Reintroduction

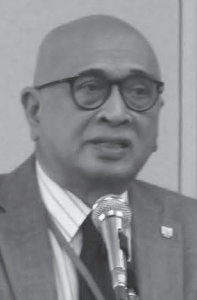
1. Confirming the research outcomes that indicate a higher productivity in sites with higher biodiversity, we recognize that maintaining ecosystem services derived from biodiversity can serve as the foundation for improved agriculture and fisheries practices in the long run.
2. Learning from the experiences of Nakaumi Lake, movements by local communities can play a key role in preventing negative impacts from development projects, and promoting designation of wetlands as Ramsar Sites. However, due to lack of coordination among stakeholders, community-based management alone is not sufficient to prevent wetland degradation. Comprehensive strategy combining political, economic, social and technological approach would be necessary to conserve wetlands in the long term.

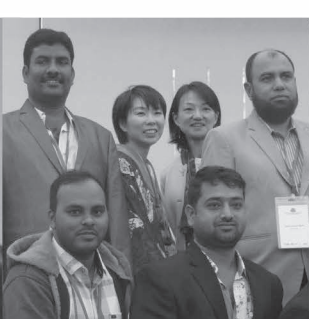
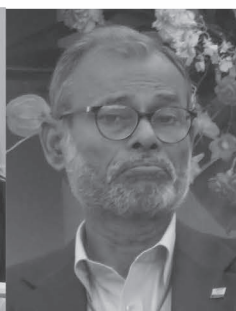
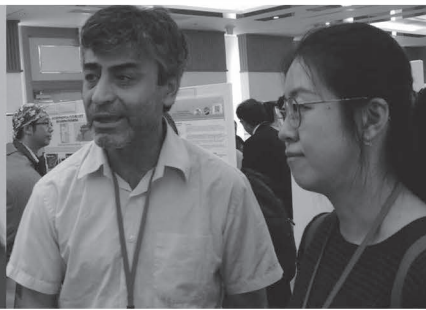
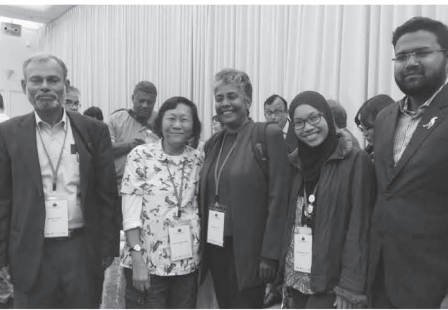
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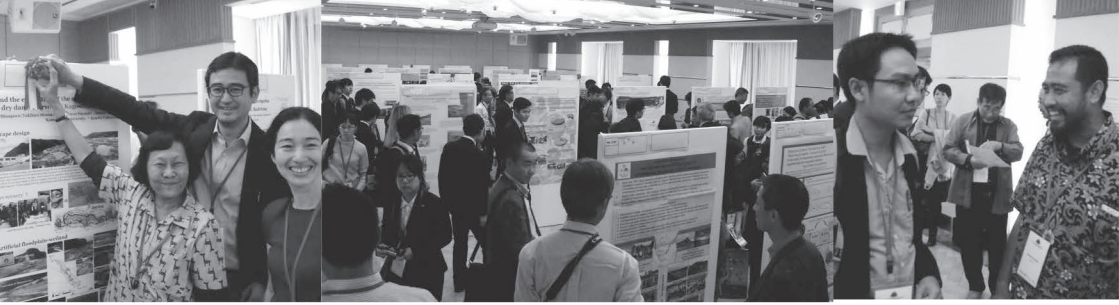


第 8 回アジア湿地シンポジウム (AWS2017) - 湿地と持続可能な暮らし -











第8回アジア湿地シンポジウム
湿地と持続可能な暮らし

2017年11月7日-11日 佐賀 日本



AWS 2017

