

SOUTHEAST ASIA TOUR VOL.2

International Affairs Department

United Nations adopted Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which contain 17 and 169 targets to be achieved by 2030. No.6, about clean water and sanitation, includes halving the proportion of untreated wastewater by 2030. On July 25, 2018, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transportation, and Tourism (MLIT) and the Ministry of Environment (MOE) jointly established AWaP (Asia Wastewater Management Partnership), which facilitates Asian countries to achieve the SDGs.

Currently, Vietnam, Cambodia, Myanmar, Indonesia, and the Philippines, other than Japan, join the AWaP. AWaP operation contributes to accomplishing the SDGs, organizes required improvement or legal systems to raise awareness for wastewater management, and carries out joint projects to solve everyday problems. JS participates in AWaP as a support organization. This year, JS contracts administrative operations from MLIT.

As a part of the AWaP operation, some members, including me, visited Myanmar and Cambodia from July 28 to August 2, as the latter half of the South-East Asia tour this summer. I will report the meetings with the two countries.

MYANMAR

We met with the Ministry of Construction (MOC) in Naypyidaw and the Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC) in Yangon.

In the meeting with MOC, we shared opinions on the design of the AWaP annual report and explained our plan for the operations committee scheduled on August 8, 2019. I was happy to know that a member of MOC had read our English brochure, "New Technology Meeting Your Needs," on our website.

Then in the meeting with YCDC, we told them we would carry out a preliminary study for the package project of Johkasou and sewerage in AWaP operation. YCDC offered it would deliver information and asked us to choose Yangon as a place for the research.

CAMBODIA

In Cambodia, we toured Sihanoukville. The national government wants to enhance the wastewater management of Sihanoukville. After the tour, we met representatives from the Ministry of Public Works and Transport (MPWT) and the Ministry of Land Management (MOL.)

Since July, Mr. Komatsu of JS has worked for MPWT as a JICA expert. At the MPWT office, after reporting the Sihanoukville tour, we shared opinions on the design of the AWaP annual report. We explained our plan for the steering committee as same as in Myanmar. It was made sure that MPWT, MLIT, and JS kept communications through expert Komatsu.

At the MOL office, we again reported about Sihanoukville; the center area of Sihanoukville is more desirable for off-site treatment than Johkasou because it has many hotels. Some cities we could not visit this time or other municipalities in Cambodia have possibilities of the preliminary study for the package project of Johkasou and sewerage in AWaP operation. We need to collect information for candidate cities for the pre-survey.

It took six hours to drive between Phnom Penh to Sihanoukville. In theory, the distance of 250km shall take four hours when we go at 60km per hour, but many slow vehicles cause traffic jams because of single-lane roads. Sihanoukville still has unsurfaced streets, even downtown, which made moving very hard.

I appreciate our driver who drove us from early morning till late night. Thank you.