
Report on the 1st AAA Conference 2023

International Affairs Department

1. What is the AAA Conference?

The AAA is a “city with advanced technology and experience in the field of water and environmental infrastructure” registered with WESHub (see below), which provides solutions to water and environmental issues from the perspective of urban development, including tourism, based on distinctive experience. Refers to registered organizations as Alliance Advanced Agencies. The AAA Conference is a meeting for registered organizations to liaise and coordinate, and the secretariat is the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport, and Tourism (MLIT). Still, based on a contract, the Japan Sewage Works Agency (JS) has provided secretariat support services since 2020.

Participating organizations: MLIT, Sendai City, Saitama Prefecture, Tokyo Metropolitan Government, Kawasaki City, Yokohama City, Nagoya City, Shiga Prefecture, Osaka City, Kobe City, Kitakyushu City, Fukuoka City, JS, JSC, JICA

What is WESHub (Water and Environment Solution Hub)?

At the Asia-Pacific Water Forum (APWF) held during the Singapore International Water Week in 2009, the Japan Sanitation Consortium (JSC) proposed a business plan to become a Japanese knowledge hub, and the JSC was established on October 16 of the same year.

WESHub is a network of local governments that is participating in the JSC's Knowledge Hub concept.

2. Summary of the First AAA Meeting in 2023

- Date: Thursday, August 31, 2023, from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- Venue: International Conference Room, 12th Floor, Central Government Building No. 2, MLIT
- Agenda: (1) Status of international activities of each organization

- (2) Results of inquiries to participating organizations and discussion
- Participants: MLIT, 12 AAA organizations, Two AAA Conference Support Organizations

*11 participants attended in person, 26 participated online

3. Summary of the Meeting

1) Status of International Activities of Each Organization

The 12 AAA-registered organizations, MLIT, and the two organizations supporting the AAA Conference reported on their activities for 2023.

In response to questions about the background to the start of cooperation with the cities in which the AAA operates and the funding sources, it was indicated that the basis for collaboration with overseas cities is the cooperation agreements held by each organization and that most of the funding comes from JICA.

Additionally, it was noted that JICA will target cities that have already established relationships through JICA projects and will implement a policy of selection and concentration.

(2) Results of inquiries to participating organizations and discussions

In the case of the inquiry from Osaka City regarding "Sewerage publicity by each AAA during the period of the Osaka/Kansai Expo 2025", it was reported that each AAA would approach the matter with their regular publicity activities, and in the case of the inquiry from the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism regarding "the ideal form of AAA meetings in the post-corona era," in addition to providing a venue for continued information exchange, inter-city collaboration within the same country was discussed.

4. Others

The conference was held both in person and online. Still, the proceedings and exchange of opinions went smoothly, and it was clear that online support had been cultivated over the three years of the coronavirus pandemic.

On the other hand, in terms of the quality of online conferences, some organizations had unclear audio and video, and there were still differences in the environment for maintaining communication lines and cameras.

This time, we prepared a demonstration model that integrated a camera, microphone, and speaker and checked the usage environment. We visualized the participants individually in the venue, which helped to enhance the sense of presence.



Venue scene



Video of the integrated camera, microphone, and speaker