

The 5th AWaP Operations Committee

International Affairs Department

Asia Wastewater Management Partnership (AWaP) was launched in 2018 at Japan's call. The Ministries of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism and the Environment are secretariats. Together with participating countries and international organizations in Asia, they are working towards one of their primary goals: contributing to achieving SDGs Target 6.3, which states that "the proportion of untreated wastewater should be halved by 2030."

The 5th AWaP Operations Committee was held in Tokyo on September 24th this year. In addition to the existing five partner countries of Indonesia, Cambodia, the Philippines, Vietnam, and Japan, there were representatives from Thailand, one of the new member countries, as well as the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism and the Ministry of the Environment, the host organizations, the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), the Japan Sanitation Consortium (JSC), and JS, with a total of around 30 participants.

Agenda

1. The concept and purpose of AWaP and sharing activities based on the 2nd Work Plan
2. Proposal for New memberships -Bangladesh and Thailand-
3. Activities for the 4th General Meeting

【Topic①】 The AWaP policy for the optimum wastewater treatment systems

【Topic②】 Organizing regional issues, especially finance of sewerage projects

【Topic③】 Collection of technologies and examples by countries

【Topic④】 Setting AWaP indicators for wastewater treatment

4. Future schedule

During the Q&A session, participants made many active comments. Here are some of the main points.

- Approach to setting tariffs

The case of Cambodia, where 10% of water supply tariffs are collected, was introduced, and discussions were held on how to set sewerage tariffs as high as those in Japan.

- Sewage systems that respond to geographical diversity

Septic tanks were introduced as a solution for island countries and other areas where it is difficult to develop public sewage systems.

- Raising public awareness

In response to the question about educating the public, many of whom have little interest in sewage systems and do not oppose discharging sewage into rivers, several examples were provided of how public awareness is being raised in Japan. These include school visits to wastewater treatment plants, promotional activities at events, and the use of manhole cards. The recent increase in natural disasters has also unexpectedly heightened public awareness of these issues.

- Sewerage construction in densely populated areas

The pipe jacking method has been suggested as a viable solution to address the high costs and advanced technology needed for sewer construction in already-developed large cities.

The AWaP holds general and operations committee meetings every two years. The following general meeting, to be held in Cambodia in 2025, will mark the first time it will be held outside Japan.

We will continue collaborating with participating countries to address the challenges of sewerage projects, aiming to achieve SDG Target 6.3 by 2030.



Group photo after the meeting