



Activity Report for INWEPF Working Group 2 of Japan national Committee of INWEPF

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Vision of national committee

The ultimate goal of the International Network for Water and Ecosystem in Paddy Fields (INWEPF) is to realize the three challenges endorsed at the Ministerial Meeting on Water for Food and Agriculture on 21 March 2003, namely “Food security and poverty alleviation”, “Sustainable water use” and “Partnership”.

In order to achieve these goals, the INWEPF is established to provide a framework for promoting better management of water for paddy fields toward rural development with due consideration for the environment through a variety of activities including Virtual Meeting, workshops, symposiums and other knowledge exchange and capacity building activities.

In order to streamline the local activities and to function as a coordinating body for INWEPF related local activities and as a contact point of the INWEPF network, the Japan national committee of INWEPF is established. The Japan national committee aims to ensure effectiveness of the Ministerial Declaration through INWEPF activities.

Policy to achieve the vision

The Japan committee assembles members from fields of policy/action, research and international cooperation. The committee meeting is held more frequent than once a year to report activities implemented and to discuss policy for further activities.

The Japan committee has planned several INWEPF activities, proposed them in INWEPF meeting and participated in the activities. By now, following activities by proposal from Japan have practiced.

1. Virtual Meeting

- Multiple Benefits of Paddy-field Agriculture in Monsoon Asia (2005)
- Efficient and Sustainable Water Use To Address Poverty Alleviation and Food Security (2006)

2. Participation in International Conferences

- The FAO-Netherlands conference “Water for Food and Ecosystems” (January 2005)
- The 13th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (April 2005)
 - PAWEES International Conference (September 2005)
 - The 4th World Water Forum (WWF4) (March 2006)

“The message from INWEPF to WWF4” was compiled and conveyed to WWF4 secretariat.

3. Other Contributions

The Japan committee has practiced following activities as its independent contribution.

- Support for INWEPF Steering Meetings, Symposia or workshops
- Management of virtual meetings
- Distribution of INWEPF newsletter
- Operation of INWEPF website

Strategy to disseminate INWEPF activities to international societies

The INWEPF is practicing many activities for promoting better management of water for paddy fields toward rural development with due consideration for the environment through a variety of activities including Virtual Meeting, workshops, symposiums and other knowledge exchange and capacity building.

So far, INWEPF achieved result toward its goal through several activities, including activities arisen from Japanese proposals above. Continuous practice and consideration for development of these activities is needed for the activities in the future.

To make INWEPF activities more fruitful, we, Japanese committee propose following strategy for concrete activities fully utilizing framework of the Working Group 2.

1. Virtual Meeting

The Virtual Meeting is one of the core activities of the INWEPF. To activate the meeting, the Working Group 2 will discuss the theme, dissemination and utilization of the Virtual Meeting.

2. Participation in International Conferences

Taking opportunity of the 1st Asia and the Pacific Water Summit and the 5th World Water Forum, INWEPF should disseminate important achievements of the INWEPF activities to the general public. For a better understanding of water management and multiple roles of water in paddy fields, the Working Group 2 will compile draft of “message from INWEPF to the 1st Asia and the Pacific Water Summit” and propose conveying the message to the Summit in INWEPF steering meeting.

3. Newsletter and Website

For further provision of information, contribution in providing news from member countries is required. Both newsletter and website should be used to inform members and non-members on activity report or result of Working Groups.

4. Exchange information on paddy farming and agricultural and water policy

To formulate better understanding on paddy farming and irrigation/drainage in Asia Monsoon region, the Working Group 2 will collect information on paddy farming and agricultural and water policy, compile them into publication or website, and disseminate them.