

TRIP REPORT TO JAPAN IN MARCH, 2003

Date: March 16 - 22, 2003

Chief Advisor, JICA expert: Mr. Kazuhisa ITO

Subject: Official Visit to 3rd World Water Forum, JAPAN

1. Introduction

The 3rd World Water Forum was held in Japan, and I and Dr. FAIAD of C/P from WRIC attended it. Various sessions were held at the water forum. Though we attended the part of session, there were many themes concerned with WRIC Project, and it was useful for us.

Syrian Government Delegation Dr. Slayman, Vice-Minister of Irrigation, Mr. Atef DeeB, Director of Planning, Mr. Aziz AI-MASRI, Director of International Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reforms (1 person) were in active Ministerial Conference and preparation meeting.

2. Objectives

2.1 To attend 3rd World Water Forum

2.2 To have relation with officers who come from other countries, especially, Middle East countries

2.3 To have meeting with Mr. Matsuda who will chair a project assistant committee in Japan

3. Attendance

Japanese side

Mr. Kazuhisa ITO, Chief Advisor, WRIC

Syrian side C/P

Dr. Bachar FAIAD, Director, WRIC

4. Trip Activities

Day	Mr. ITO	Dr. FAIAD	Accom.
March 15 (Sat)		1700DAM→2150DXB EK912	
16(Sun)	0710DAM→1215LHR BA6702 1815LHR→	0315DXB→1205BKK EK382 2359BKK→	
17(Mon)	1520KIX JL422	0710KIX JL622	OSIC
18(Tue)	Osaka Day Opening Ceremony (Osaka)	Orientation in OSIC	OSIC
	Opening Plenary "Groundwater" (Osaka) Groundwater for Socio-Economic Development- Improving		

	Management in Practice Session(Osaka) Submarine Springs Session(Osaka)		
19(Wed)	Optimizing the Mix of Public and Private Responsibilities in Utilities Worldwide Session Session(Osaka) Hydrological Information Systems Session(Osaka) Wrap up Plenary "Groundwater"(Osaka)		OSIC
20(Thu)	Opening ceremony for Middle East and Mediterranean Day (Kyoto) Ground Water Management Session(Kyoto) Panel Discussion(Kyoto)		OSIC
21(Fri)	1050KIX→1925AMS KL868 1925AMS→	1850KIX→2255BKK JL727	
22(Sat)	0120DAM KL403	0120BKK→0455DXB EK383 1415DXB→1545DAM EK911	

* OSIC: JICA Osaka International Center

6. Results

6.1 Summary

In Jordan, MOWI needed much time and personnel to make database. Especially we need much effort to establish database system in Syria.

- WMO session and Ground Water Management session are most useful for us.
- In each Opening ceremony, we did not hear speech but also saw attraction (like OKINAWA Traditional Dance and created Dance by the Egyptian children which participant didn't get tired.
- Syrian officers participated in the conference to prepare a cabinet minister class meeting, too. And I saw that Mr. Al-MASRI, Director of International Affairs, Ministry of Irrigation, gathered about 20 officers of foreign countries and chaired meeting.

6.2 3rd WWF Session results

6.2.1 Osaka Day Opening Ceremony

- Opening performance showed 'WADAIKO'(traditional Japanese drums) performance and the announced the opening using BUNRAKU puppets.
- Mr. Ryutaro HASHIMOTO, Former Prime Minister, Dr. Mahmoud ABU-ZEID, Minister of Water and Irrigation, Egypt, Dr. Anna Kajumulo TIBAIJUKA, Executive Director of UN-HABITAT, Mr. Fidel Lamos, Former President of Philippines, Ms ANNAN, Wife of Secretary-General of the UN, Mr. Fusae OHTA, Governor of OSAKA Prefecture and others attended and gave the speech.

6.2.2 Opening Plenary "Groundwater"

- Water Minister of South Africa, Vice - President of World Bank, IAH and UNESCO officers gave the key speech.
- Though a session was held in the Conference Hall of the 12th floor, I felt that there are many participants to this Opening Plenary.
- Okinawa dance, the karate etc were performed at intervals.
- Vice -President of WB mentioned following points.
 - Groundwater doesn't cost money.
 - The water quality of the groundwater is good relatively.
 - 1.5 billion people are using groundwater in the world.
 - Management the origin of groundwater is neglected.
 - Influence tends to be evaluated too small.
 - The indirect cost of the groundwater is expensive relatively.
 - It is the same as surface water that integrated management is necessary.
 - Control of use of the land for control of groundwater is necessary.
 - It is necessary to work for the achievement of the goal (The goal for Millennium) of Johannesburg.
 - We must persuade statesman, Cabinet minister and member of an assembly.
- UNESCO's Special envoy for water by proxy mentioned following points.
 - The premise of the UN Millennium goal achievement is Capacity Building.
 - Though technology is important, and, ethical cultural and political approach is necessary.
 - It is important to raise literacy rate to secure sustainability of water.
 - UNESCO needs to submit the report each three years by the order from the Secretary –General of the UN.
 - UNESCO has the global network of the experiment basin about surface water and Groundwater. We will develop the center of the area in four countries from now.
 - We will do international aquifer management project and will make a world groundwater map.

6.2.3 Groundwater for Socio-Economic Development- Improving Management in Practice Session

- This Session divided two Themes (1. Knowledge & Mobilizing, 2. Sustainable ground water utilization) and carried out. The example of Mexico, China, Arizona State of U.S. A. and Egypt were introduced.
- The necessity of the social consensus included stakeholders in the Mexican example was referred.
- In the Chinese example, it was referred that improvement of irrigation efficiency wasn't linked with the decrease of the quantity for the total water supply except importance of control of demand.
- As for the search for the equality, It was referred that change after Groundwater

Management Act in 1980 and that pursue to equality brought strengthening of the regulation in the example of State of Arizona.

- It was referred that the possibility of the temporary use of large-scale aquifer that extend over four countries(Egypt, Libya, Sudan and Chador) and that can't be sustain utilization in an Egyptian example.
- The summary of this session is following.
 - Investment in management of groundwater is necessary.
 - Technical base is necessary.
 - It is difficult to recover the quality when it is polluted at once.
 - Stop using it as much as possible.
 - It is necessary to show groundwater which can be seen in the people's eyes.
 - Basically local government should be responsible.
 - Some example indicated that system included the participation of the stakeholders had already started.
 - A posture to advance forward not to wait is necessary.
 - All begins from establishment of the data base.
 - The establishment of the use right of the groundwater is necessary from the long-term viewpoint.
 - Management of aquifer of the participation type is necessary.
- World Bank have GWMATE (Groundwater Management Technical Advisory team). They mentioned their HP.

6.2.4 Submarine Springs Session

- As for the submarine spring Session, public relations of the French company (NYMPHEA WATER) was strong.
- They introduced some submarine springs around Mediterranean Sea and especially Submarine spring near Baniyas, Syria is 300m diameter and its flow rate is 5m³/s and a world maximum in the submarine spring.
- I and Dr. Bachar asked some points.

6.2.5 Optimizing the Mix of Public and Private Responsibilities in Utilities Worldwide Session

- Dr. Yutaka TAKAHASHI explained history of PPP in Japan and River law was enacted in 1897. This law changed the relation between Public and Private greatly in Japan. After that, the role of the Public increased on the other hand Private role decreased. And in New River law environmental issue was adopted and Public government must hear from local resident about environmental issue.
- Discussion about the management of the water service business by the company in France and England started in this session. But as for Japan, it is the stage when PFI begins partly to be introduced.

- It was pointed out that there was some problems which private company withdrew when management doesn't go well in some country.
- The opinion to add Poverty to PPP more was shown, too.

6.2.6 Hydrological Information Systems Session

- There were some presentations from Australia, Nigeria, Argentina and the Asian Disaster Reduction Center. And it was explained that decaying of the observation station had the same problem as Syria in the whole of Developing countries at the session of WMO.
- The hydrological data can be divided to Public Goods, Cost Provision and Commercial Base and some problem occur in the last one by the Australian explanation.
- Member countries of WMO confirmed that WMO member nation exchange data on the with free and unrestricted in the 13th WMO Congress in Geneva in 1999 to protect life, property.
- As for the important weather information for national defense, there was an explanation with the clauses of resolution that each country can do it for non-opening to the public.
- As for the hydrological data, WMO officer mentioned that there has political issue.
- There is eight related organization about the Meteorological and hydrological observation, and they observes it in Nigeria. Nigerian officer explained the unification of the collection data of each organization and decaying of the observation equipment like Syria.
- Argentina officer explained that there were many related organization and they observed from 1964. They entrusted the local farmer with observation. They face same problem like other countries.
- After ten years of IDNDR, and Asian Disaster Reduction Center at Kobe is developing new system that we can collect the disaster information of the Asian area efficiently. As WMO unifying the typhoon name that are different in each country, this system gives a standardized name about a disaster to arise in each area, and it is the system which tries to make a reference easy.
- Though even Global Data of Runoff Center (GDRC, Germany) collects flow rate data, there is an area to cut down a network recently. And it is problem to collect observation data. Political problem is involved in this in such cases as the collapse of the Soviet Union after 1989.
- We entrusted six thousands volunteers with observation of precipitation in Australia, and Australian government do not have the budget of the automation of the observation even in Australia. It is not necessarily good to abandon an old method.
- We should insist about the crisis of the maintenance of the hydrological observation strongly.

6.2.7 Wrap up Plenary "Groundwater"

- There are many problems such as quality and quantity in groundwater. Many people have interested in management of groundwater.
- Secretariat proposed draft of document to ministerial conference presented the plan of the document and took into consideration some opinion from each session, then submit final document.
- Contents were divided into two of “Scientific Understand” and “Management Approach”.
- “Scientific Understand” included (1) Dutch Housing and Environment Ministry, (2) Groundwater and Land disaster(Taiwan, ground subsidence disaster), (3) Human being activities and groundwater, the city environment, (4) the role of science for the better understanding, (5) Dr Becker report and the report of each session were mentioned.
- In the “Management Approach”, (1)World Bank, (2) Groundwater intensive use(The Marcelino Botin Foundation Spain), (3) Integrated Management Policy of Groundwater(Japan) were reported.
- Session report to the Ministerial Conference was reported by the chairperson at the end.
 - (1) It is necessary to raise the value of groundwater.
 - (2) It is necessary to raise the investment for groundwater because its level is low.
 - (3) It is necessary to invest for the sustainable use of groundwater.
 - (4) Groundwater is contained in integrated management of water resources.
 - (5) We need to introduce necessity of these points to Policy Maker.

6.2.8 Opening ceremony for Middle East and Mediterranean Day

- The water charge director-General of the world Bank, the Egyptian water resources and irrigation Minister, the person related to the Tunisian Agriculture, Environment and Irrigation Ministry, Greek Vice-Minister of Environment, Planning and Public works Ministry were done.
- A musical related the water by the Egyptian child was held at the end.

6.2.9 Ground Water Management Session

- Firstly, Mr. UEDA who was dispatched from Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport to World Bank explained about the present situation of water resources in the Middle East and Mediterranean Sea area, the importance of groundwater, Barcelona workshop, and so on.
- Spanish person introduced outline of management of groundwater in European Continent and the Spanish failure case and so on.
- Officer of Spanish Environment Ministry officer introduced how they managed groundwater and how they identify its procedure. And, he referred about the procedure of management in each area and the management of participation type groundwater.
- Yemen government officer introduced example of Yemen and explained about the unification of some Ministries related to the water.
- Mr. Edward, Director of planning, Ministry of Water and Irrigation, Jordan, explained

about desalination of brackish water, making Hydrological Database, re-use of 90% of the treated water, method of charge regulation related pumping of groundwater etc.

- Tunisian government officer explained about Nubia aquifer that extended over three countries in Tunisia, Algeria and Libya.
- User participation type approach doesn't work well only with users though it is necessary. It is important that government makes the scheme.
- The reduction of water use due to the improvement in the agricultural irrigation efficiency is a myth. It can be done by the reduction of the evapotranspiration quantity itself.
- The following key word was presented at the end.
Supply and demand gap by excessive intake water, Change of water quality, Water rights approach, Re-use, Consideration to the ethical side, Strengthening of the monitoring network of groundwater, Training, Utilization of new technology, effective use of water, Participation of stakeholders, Common aquifer, Participation of private sector, New technology in agricultural sector, Necessity of capacity building, Workshop, Improvement of bad institution

6.2.10 Panel Discussion

- There were many themes and nine panelists in this panel Discussion. And discussion points were not clear and contents were hard to understand.
- Chairperson and some Panelists were from French bloc, and there was an Iraqi situation, too, and the discussion which made fun of U.S.A. attack was seen in it.

6.3 Kinki Regional Development Bureau

- We had time to call at Kinki Regional Development Bureau, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, we were explained by Director of River Department about the image transmission system from the sites which used optical fiber and CCTV.

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank JICA Syria office, JICA Head Quarter, JICE and other related persons for our support.

Reference 1 Photographs

2 Brochure of 3rd WWF

End