

Online Report Launch: Bringing Culture into the Conversation of Water Resource Management Policy

Date: Wednesday, 17 April 2024

Time: 16:00–17:00, Tokyo time

Location: Online (Zoom link will be provided)

Launch Details:

- Leading to the official launch at the World Water Forum, this launch event aims to promote the importance of incorporating sociocultural dimensions in water resources management, fostering discussion and collaboration among participants.
- Attendees will have the opportunity to engage with the authors, contributing to the broader dialogue on sustainable water resources management in Asia and the Pacific.

Explanation of the edited report: "Sociocultural Dimensions in Water Resources Management: Policies, Practices, and Challenges"

Water resources management is a critical component of sustainable development, and the challenges it poses require a holistic understanding that goes beyond technical and economic considerations. The "Sociocultural Dimensions in Water Resources Management: Policies, Practices, and Challenges" edited report offers a comprehensive exploration of the intricate relationship between water and society in Asia and the Pacific. Edited by Mikio Ishiwatari and KE Seetha Ram, this report delves into the sociocultural dimensions of water management, shedding light on how cultural values, beliefs, and practices influence societal perceptions of water.

The edited report emphasizes the need for policies and strategies that integrate sociocultural aspects into water resource management, recognizing that these factors play a crucial role in shaping governance structures and improving water access. By analyzing cases from various countries, including the People's Republic of China, India, Indonesia, Japan, and others, the report provides valuable insights into the evolution of water management mechanisms in response to historical contexts, socio-economic structures, and cultural influences. The lessons learned underscore the importance of integrating local knowledge, traditions, and customs into water resource management approaches, promoting cooperative governance, and adapting strategies to evolving sociocultural dynamics. This report serves as a vital resource for policymakers, stakeholders, and anyone committed to fostering effective and sustainable water management practices in the Asia-Pacific region.

Draft Agenda

Time	Time Allocation	Agenda Item	Speaker
16:00 - 16:05	5 mins	Welcome and opening remarks	Dil Rahut – Vice Chair of Research, Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI)
16:05 – 16:10	5 mins	Introduction to the edited report and its significance	Mikio Ishiwatari (Governor, Japan Water Forum)
16:10 - 16:30	20 mins	Panel discussion: Key policy messages from the edited report	<p>Moderator: Taikan Oki (Special Advisor to President of the University of Tokyo and Professor, Graduate School of Engineering)</p> <p>Presentation by Panel (5 minutes each)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Victor Shinde (National Institute of Urban Affairs, India) – Chapter 3, River Management in India: Mainstreaming the Sociocultural Elements 2. Hiroaki Ikeuchi (Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport, and Tourism Japan) – Chapter 8, Novel Approaches in Flood Management Policies in Japan: Integrating Sociocultural Wisdom in Climate Change Adaptation 3. Bulent Inanc (Turkish Water Institute (SUEN), Istanbul Technical University) – Chapter 10, Water Governance in Response to the Climate Change Impacts in Dry and Semi-arid Climates: Case of Türkiye 4. Keiko Tamura (Niigata University) – Chapter 18, Community-based Disaster Management Through Linking with Traditional Community Mechanisms
16:30 - 16:50	20 mins	Q&A session	Led by Taikan Oki (Special Advisor to President of the University of Tokyo and Professor, Graduate School of Engineering)
16:50 – 16:55	5 mins	Closing remarks	Firdaus Ali (Special Staff of the Minister, Ministry of Public Works and Housing and Indonesia)
16:55 - 17:00	5 mins	Closing session	Kotaro Takemura (Secretary General of Japan Water Forum)