

**Asia Water Forum 2022**

8–11 August 2022 • Online

[APWF Side Event “Pathways for Quality-Oriented Growth through a Resilient and Water-Secure Asia and the Pacific”]  
8<sup>th</sup> August 9:00-10:30 Manila time

# The outcomes of the 4<sup>th</sup> Asia-Pacific Water Summit (APWS) Kumamoto Declaration and Chairs Summary



4th Asia-Pacific Water Summit  
Kumamoto Japan 2022



Asia-Pacific  
Water Forum

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**ADB**





## 4th APWS

Kumamoto Japan 2022

### Objectives

- **Share forward-looking solutions and practices with Heads of State and Government and support their policy decisions to accelerate actions to realize quality growth towards a resilient, inclusive, and sustainable society** by resolving various water-related issues in the recovery of COVID-19 in Asia and the Pacific,
- Encourage further collaborations to deploy quality infrastructure to support quality growth
- Disseminate recommendations from the Asia-Pacific region to the United Nations Water Conference to be held in March 2023

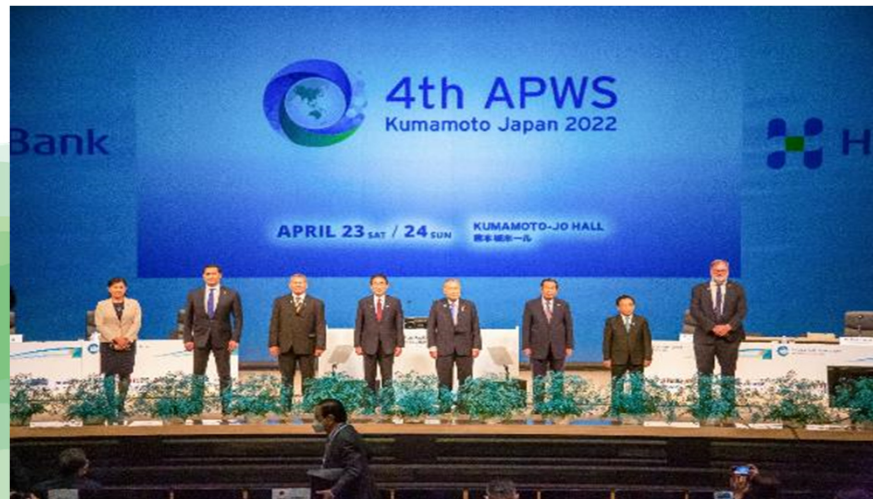
Dates	<b>23 (Sat)-24 (Sun)April 2022</b>
Venue	<u>Kumamoto-Jo Hall</u> , Japan and online
Co-organizers	<b>APWF and Kumamoto city</b>
Theme	<b>Water for Sustainable Development: best practices and the next generation</b>

◆ Cabinet approval to conduct necessary support to organize the 4<sup>th</sup> APWS smoothly in 26 March 2019  
Cooperative cabinet decision from the Ministers of: Foreign Affairs; Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology; Health, Labour and Welfare; Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries; Economy, Trade and Industry Land, Infrastructure and Transport; and the Environment

## Achievement in terms of high-level participation



- Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress of Japan attended online
- His Majesty the Emperor kindly gave a commemorative lecture titled "Heart, Minds and Water ~Touching Water in People's Beliefs ~".
- 18 Heads of State and Government & 22 Ministers joined and delivered their statement for the 4th APWS.
- Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida participated in person and delivered opening remarks and keynote speech
- 25 heads of international organizations delivered their statement for the 4<sup>th</sup> APWS





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## 3 main deliverables

Kumamoto Declaration

Kumamoto Initiative for Water  
by Japanese Government

4<sup>th</sup> APWS Chairs Summary



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# 4th Asia-Pacific Water Summit (APWS) - Kumamoto Declaration

*Joint Statement & Declaration to address water challenges and transformation towards a quality-oriented society*

*by 18 Heads of State and Government (HSG) in Asia & the Pacific of the 4th APWS on 23rd April 2022*

- Reaffirm water's critical importance
- Reduce disaster risks, achieve multiple SDGs, and strengthen transboundary cooperation by restoring a sound water cycle
- Strengthen the development of quality infrastructure, integrating both hard and soft components

## For acceleration of efforts

Improve governance

Close the financial gap

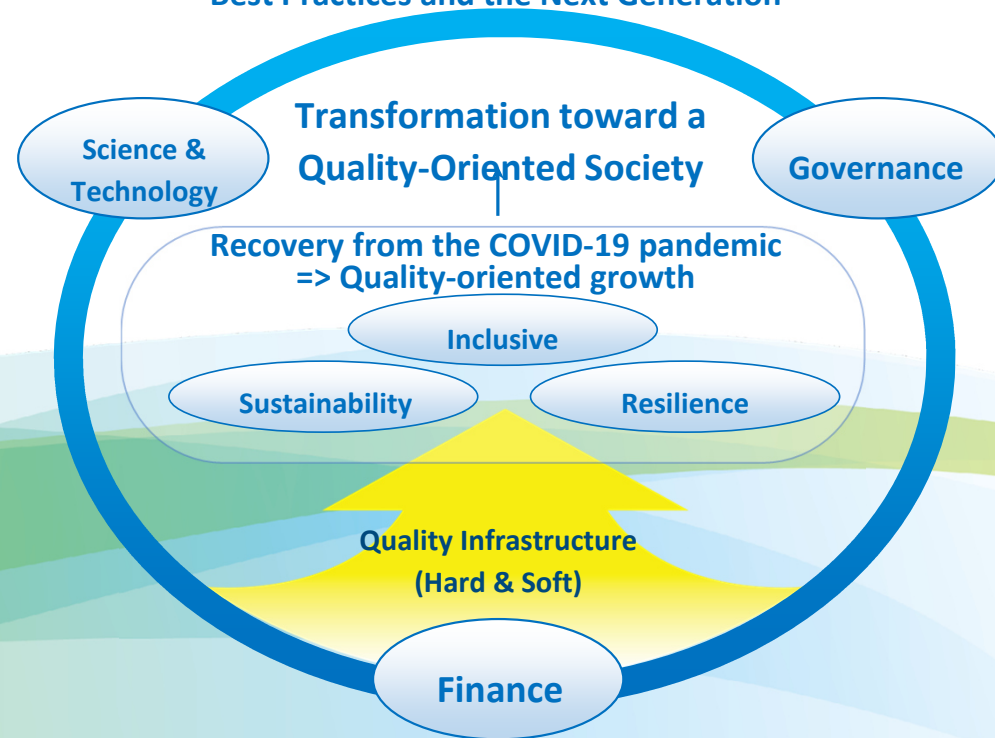
Appeal to the science and technology community

- Collaborate across sectors and generations, enhancing capabilities & performance
- Share water-related lessons learnt, enhance cooperation among basins
- Contribute to growth by committing to double investments
- Mobilize investment in each river basin
- Call upon context-specific innovations, respecting the natural environment, geographical features and historical background of local communities
- Promote education and capacity building for a new generation of water professionals

... > Acknowledge & Support the Kumamoto Water Initiative by the Government of Japan

4th APWS Theme

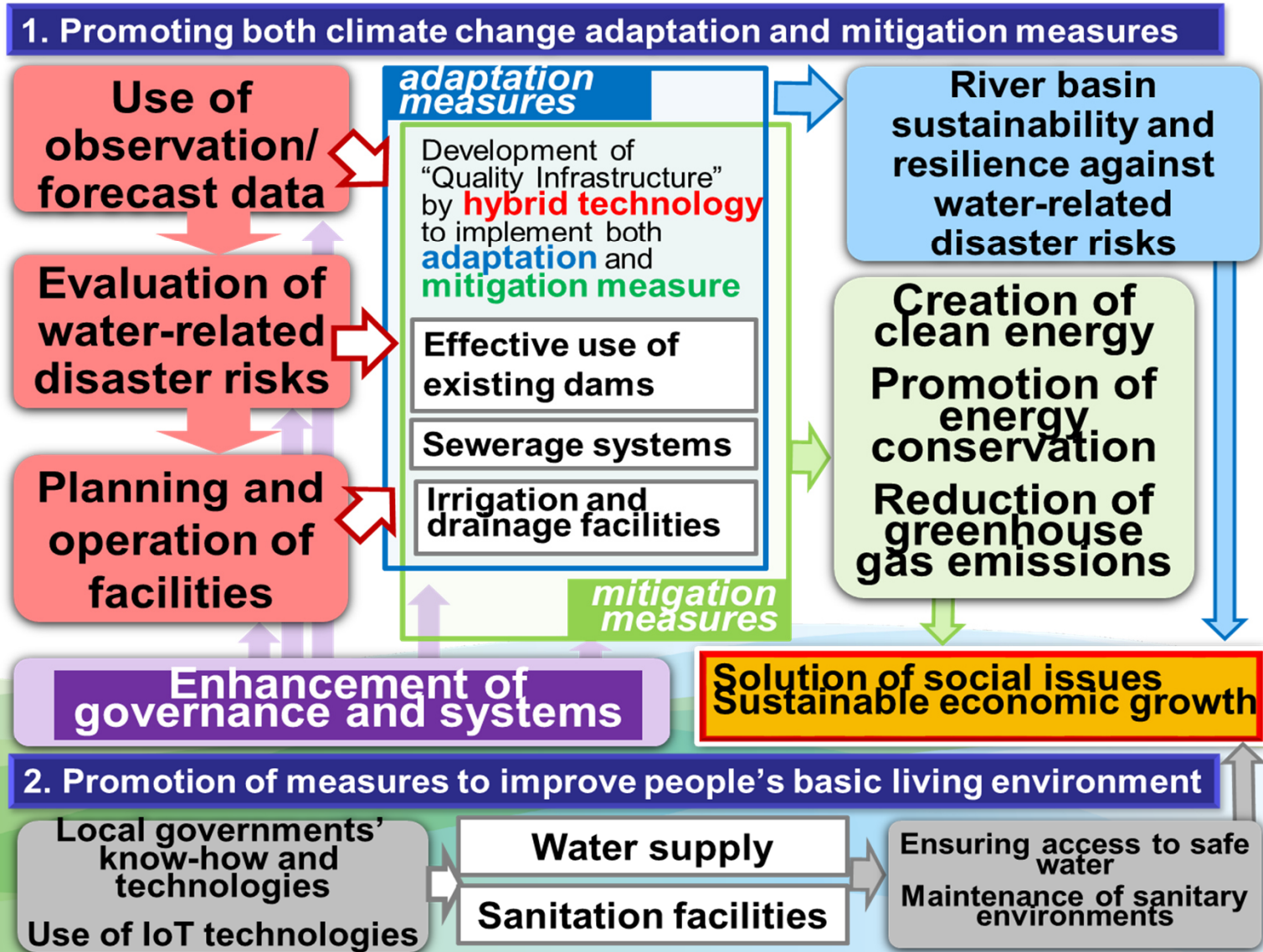
Water for Sustainable Development:  
Best Practices and the Next Generation





# Kumamoto Initiative for Water

announced by  
Japanese  
Government





## 4th Asia-Pacific Water Summit (APWS) - Chairs Summary

The Chairs summary shows the pathway toward quality growth and is part of the Kumamoto Declaration process. It responded to the questions from the HSG in Asia and the Pacific about the ways forward compiling the key messages of 9 parallel and 4 integration sessions.

### 1. Towards a Sustainable Society The water sector should achieve all water-related SDG targets such as SDG 6.1-6.6 and 11.5.

**Governance:** Basin-wide water management based on IWRM, and increase policy coherence and develop legal and other frameworks at all levels to restore and keep a sound water cycle, tailoring diverse climate, geographic, and socio-economic conditions of the Region, etc.

**Finance:** Direct and indirect benefit of water investment should be **numerically articulated** to convince finance institutions and taxpayers and **attract investors by developing and standardizing the analytic method** to drastically increase total investment in the water sector. etc.

**Science & Technologies:** We cannot improve what we cannot measure. Transboundary information sharing is particularly important. etc.

### 2. Towards a Resilient Society: Water can and should play a critical role to build a post-COVID-19 society that is more resilient and adaptive to sudden and slow onset disturbances such as pandemics, disasters, and climate change.

**Science & Technologies:** promote a healthy water cycle by accelerating an Open Science policy, particularly focusing on observation, modeling, and data integration; and work together, beyond disciplines and sectors among different levels, while adopting an end-to-end

### 3. Towards an Inclusive Society: An inclusive society is a must not only for the achievement of SDGs but also as an engine for socio-economic growth, by fully tapping diverse capabilities and talents of human beings.

- Make gender equality and social inclusion a core goal for any institution
- empower youth to provide solutions and demonstrate their expertise in areas of technology, innovation, and data; encourage, initiate, and support Meaningful Youth Engagement (MYE); to strengthen Youth-Government Partnerships at all levels. etc.

### 4. Towards the UN 2023 Water Conference and Beyond:

- Water, Climate Change and DRR are discussed as a key topic for global processes, particularly the UN 2023 Water Conference.
- It is expected that the Kumamoto Water Initiative will make progress by enlarging the circle of commitments in the Region and beyond. etc.

# Quality-oriented Growth

- In the 4<sup>th</sup> APWS, the HSG also identified “Quality-oriented growth” defines as the growth **that satisfies all three factors**:
- (1) **Resilience** to the meteorological phenomena, flood, and drought intensified by changing climate, maintaining or restoring a sound water cycle;
- (2) **Inclusiveness**, ensuring that no one will be left beyond, irrespective of gender, including the poor and socially vulnerable, in access to safe water and sanitation, as well as food and nutrition, measures to water-related disasters and water resources management; and
- (3) **Sustainability** to protect and maintain social activities and environment.

- ◆ Necessary to transform the theory to the actual implementation and actions to enhance their continuous commitments and leadership.
- ◆ Necessity to provide capacity building and training opportunities to nurturing the talents.



## References about the 4<sup>th</sup> APWS

### ◆ Participation from the Heads of State and Government :

- Cambodia, Tuvalu, Lao PDR, Uzbekistan, Japan (Participation in Kumamoto)
- Bhutan ,Viet Nam (online ▪ real time participation)
- Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Nauru, Niue, Philippines, Bangladesh, Marshall Islands (video message)

### ◆ Ministers :

- Brunei Darussalam, India, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Niue, Maldives, Philippines, Cambodia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Japan (Participation in Kumamoto )
- Kyrgyzstan, Singapore, Palau, Fiji, Armenia(online/real time Participation)
- Azerbaijan, Korea, Solomon Islands, Nepal, Mongolia(video message)
- Kazakhstan (video message at the parallel thematic session)

### ◆ Participants from country government organizations :

- Australia, Samoa, Tonga, Micronesia, Netherlands (attendance in person)
- China (online attendance)
- Israel, Germany, United States, (video message)
- Myanmar (online participation in the parallel thematic session about Water, Gender, Poverty)

## References about the 4<sup>th</sup> APWS

## 9 Parallel thematic Session

<b>Theme 1: Water and disaster/ climate change</b>	<b>organizations in Japan:</b> International Centre for Water Hazard and Risk Management (ICHARM), Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology(MEXT), Secretariat of High-level Experts and Leaders Panel on Water and Disasters (HELP) <b>International organizations:</b> UN- HABITAT, IUCN Asia, ADB, Secretariat of Pacific Community, IWMI, ICIMOD, GWP, EC-IFAS
Theme 2 : Water and Food	<b>organization in Japan:</b> Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) <b>International organization:</b> IWMI, EC-IFAS
Theme 3: Water Supply	<b>organization in Japan:</b> JICA <b>International organizations:</b> UN-HABITAT, Water Integrity Network
Theme 4 : Water & Sanitation and Wastewater Management	<b>organization in Japan:</b> : Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT) (Sewerage and Wastewater Management Department), Ministry of the Environment, Japan, <b>International organization:</b> UN-HABITAT
Theme 5: Water and Environment from Source-to-Sea	<b>Organization in Japan:</b> Water Environment Research Group, Public Works Research Institute, Japan <b>International organization:</b> UNESCO, IUCN Asia, EC-IFAS, GWP (S2S platform)
Theme 6: Water, Culture and Peace	<b>Organization in Japan:</b> National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS) <b>International organization:</b> UNESCO, GWP
Theme 7: Water and Poverty/ Gender	<b>Organization in Japan:</b> The University of Tokyo <b>International organization:</b> GWP
Theme 8: Sound water cycle including groundwater	<b>Organization in Japan:</b> CABINET SECRETARIAT / MLIT (Water Resources Department), Kumamoto University <b>International organization:</b> UNESCO Scientific Bureau of Asia & the Pacific, Water Stewardship Asia-Pacific, IGRAC
Theme 9 : Youth	<b>Organization in Japan:</b> Youth Water Forum Kyushu, Kyushu University <b>International organization:</b> ADB (youth for Asia), GWP

## 2 Special Sessions

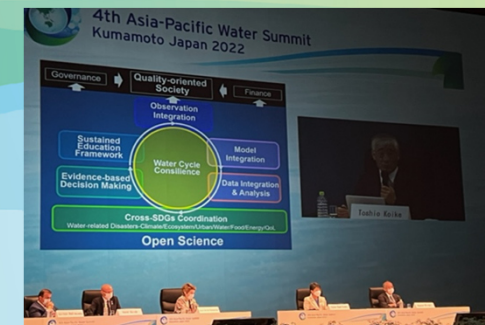
## 1) Showcase, 2) Small Islands State



## Integrated Process sessions

1. **Science and Technology** (co-chairs: ICHARM & UNESCO)
  2. **Governance** (Co-Chairs: MLIT Water Resource Development & GWP)
  3. **Finance** (Co-Chairs: MLIT International Coordination of River Engineering, Water and Disaster Management Bureau and ADB)
- Discussed concrete measures and actions, summarizing the messages and proposals comprehensively from the 9 parallel thematic sessions to answer the questions from the HSGs.

1. **Building Post-Covid World Back Better through Water- Actions and Commitments from Kumamoto to the World** (Chair: High-Level Experts & Leaders Panel on Water & Disaster





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References about the 4<sup>th</sup> APWS

## Additional Thematic Achievement

### **Publication of the collection of showcase and roadmaps which contributes to the quality-oriented growth in the Asia Pacific region**

- The co-organizers of each 9 parallel session made efforts to summarize the good practices which contributes to the quality-oriented growth as the 4th APWS showcase and roadmap for quality-oriented growth.
- Published it by the day of the 4th APWS.

Downloadable from JWF's website.

[https://www.waterforum.jp/pdf/other/4APWS\\_Showcases\\_Roadmaps.pdf](https://www.waterforum.jp/pdf/other/4APWS_Showcases_Roadmaps.pdf)