

Stakeholder Intervention – Interactive Dialogue 3 - Water for Climate, Resilience and Environment: Source to Sea, Biodiversity, Climate, Resilience and DRR – 23 March, 10AM – 1PM – Conference Room 4.– Japan Water Forum c/o Asia-Pacific Water Forum (APWF) Secretariat

This statement is on behalf of the Asia-Pacific Water Forum, comprising more than 30 organizations in Asia and the Pacific to address water security issues.

Asia and the Pacific are among the most disaster-prone in the world, experiencing increased frequency, intensity, and duration of heavy downpours that lead to severe losses of lives, livelihoods, and infrastructure damages.

18 Heads of State and Governments of Asia and the Pacific adopted the Kumamoto Declaration at the 4th APWS. The shared vision and commitments are a quality-oriented, sustainable, resilient, and inclusive society through integrating water sector measures.

The leaders voluntarily have pledged to :

Take immediate and more ambitious actions to manage and reduce water-related disaster risks based on an integrated, cross-sector approach, whole-of-river-basin, and source-to-sea; and,

Promote measures to mitigate climate change in conjunction with adaptation; and build up carbon-neutral societies in harmony with nature and biodiversity conservation to achieve long-term sustainability.

While science and technology can contribute to evidence-based decision-making to address these challenges, the reality is often fragmented, and policies and actions are not designed and executed in an integrated manner. Thus, an urgent need exists for systemic change of institutional architectures at each local, national, regional, and global level and to figure out how to promote an end-to-end approach with the interaction of scientific, engineering, and socio-economic practices.

We call for collective effort and partnership to build intellectual knowledge and a database - as a platform to foster "Facilitators," or the catalytic beings who can resolve problems by providing professional advice on-site using a broad range of scientific and indigenous knowledge to address water for climate resilience and the environment.



Japan Water Forum c/o APWF Statement for Interactive Dialogue 3

And we at APWF share forward-looking, evidence-based, and locally-tailored knowledge, solutions, and practices with the international community and each member state of our region. APWF has made a strong case and proven its role as the regionally-rooted network platform dedicated to facilitating collaboration and partnership to promote and advance quality growth for a sustainable, resilient, and inclusive future.

Yumiko Asayama, Chief Manager, Japan Water Forum c/o APWF Secretariat