Data/information sharing is a key to promote good water environmental governance

- Sharing data/information of water environment management such as ambient water quality standards and effluent water standards among countries is important in promotion of environmental governance.
Challenges

- Insufficient data on water quality is a barrier to the evaluation of water quality management in many countries in Asia.
- Monitored parameters are not always consistent with the targets/objectives of water quality conservation set by each country. Water quality standards also need to be set considering the situation of each country/area.
- Translation of monitoring data in policy context is necessary for better understandings of those who are concerned. In this context, information of water management policy should be shared together with monitoring data.
- Financing and human resource issues are identified as common barriers for data acquisition, accumulation, and presentation in Asian countries.
- Information sharing among countries is not always easy partly because not many people see its importance.
- Water quality data is not comparative because of differences in monitoring criteria. This also becomes barriers to regional cooperation.
Water Environment Partnership in Asia (WEPA)

- Initiative of Ministry of the Environment, Japan
- Conducted under the partnership of 11 Asian countries
- Aiming to strengthen governance and management capabilities on the water environment through development of database on water environment management and the human resource development.
WEPA - experiences

• Re-evaluation of policy responses during the information gathering and reconstruction for the database. (capacity building component and information gathering are conducted together.)

• Development of networks among domestic institutions and overseas organizations will be promoted acquire more useful information.

• Partnership approach is useful to collect information.
WEPA Database - Regional Information Platform

Principles of WEPA database development

- Primary target users: Government officials and aid-agency staff
- Provision of original information through cooperative work between countries

“Water Environment Partnership in Asia (WEPA)”

WEPA, in cooperation with 11 countries in East Asia, aims to promote good governance in water environment management by providing necessary, relevant information and knowledge, through a series of databases. Information collected through WEPA activities is shared by the WEPA Database, which consists of 4 individual databases, namely Policies, Technologies, NGOs’ and CBOs’ activities and Sources of water-related information.

News

- Coming Event: the Third WEPA International Forum on Water Environmental Governance (23-24 October 2009, Putrajaya, Malaysia)
- Papers and presentations presented at the 2nd International WEPA Forum (3-4 Dec. 2007 in Beppu, Japan) are now online
- Meeting report of a dialogue with the Philippines (23-24 Oct. 2007 in Manila, the Philippines)
- Meeting report of a dialogue with Vietnam (8 Feb. 2007 in Hanoi, Vietnam)
- Papers and presentations presented at the 1st International WEPA Forum (14-15 March 2007, Bangkok, Thailand) is now online
- Papers and presentations presented at the International Symposium on Community Activities for Conservation of Water Environment (8 December 2006, Bangkok, Thailand) are now online
- 17 March 2006: The WEPA database is open to the public!

http://www.wepa-db.net/