

# AQUAPOLIS

**No. 7**  
**International  
Conference of  
Aquapolises**  
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With the cooperation of the City of Osaka Public  
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## The 4th International Conference of Aquapolises

### Greetings from the Mayor of Osaka

It is a great pleasure for us in Osaka, host city of the 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference of Aquapolises (ICAP), that the Conference in Osaka met with great success.



I would like to express our sincere appreciation to all the participants, who came from various parts of Japan and abroad.

The 4<sup>th</sup> ICAP was the occasion of various discussions on the theme "The Future Direction and International Role of Aquapolises." Through these discussions, participants agreed that Aquapolises should strive to further enhance their strengths by competing and cooperating with each other from a global perspective.

Based upon the outcome of the 4<sup>th</sup> ICAP, the City of Osaka will continue to make efforts for the promotion of Aquapolises worldwide, thereby contributing towards innovative city development and the creation of a new urban civilization.

In closing, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Mayor and City of Busan for agreeing to host the next conference, and to all those who helped us in organizing the 4<sup>th</sup> ICAP.

Takafumi Isomura  
Mayor of Osaka

### The report of the participant number

To our great pleasure, the 4<sup>th</sup> ICAP turned out a great success, with the participation of approximately 900 people from all over world: 900 participants were from 55 cities in 22 countries. (28 cities out of the 55 cities were out of Japan.)



### The news of the 5<sup>th</sup> ICAP Busan holding

As to the 5<sup>th</sup> ICAP that is to be held in 2006, we would like to announce that the City of Busan (Korea) has kindly accepted our offer to host the 5<sup>th</sup> ICAP and it has been already fully approved by all the directorial cities.

The City of Osaka will make our very best efforts to support Busan in every possible way. We believe your furthermore continuing support and cooperation.



## Program) March 19, 2003

Venue: Main Hall at OICC

Time	Program
14:00-14:05	<b>Opening</b> Takafumi ISOMURA, Mayor of Osaka
14:05-15:50	<b>Part 1 Presentations by representatives from participating cities</b> <b>Budapest</b> The Situation of the Water Supply of Budapest Pál VAJDA, Deputy Mayor, Responsible for City Management, Budapest <b>Venice</b> Venice: New life for old cisterns Giorgio GIANIGHIAN, Senior Research Professor, Istituto Universitario di Architettura di Venezia <b>Ho Chi Minh</b> Technical Review of Solid Waste Management in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam GUYEN Van Hien, Deputy Director in Charge of Technical Works, Project Management Unit of HCMC Environmental Improvement Project, Ho Chi Minh <b>Busan</b> Ecological Restoration Project of Onchun River in Busan Young-Suk JUNG, Director General, Environment Bureau, Busan <b>Osaka</b> Water Aquapolis Osaka: Our Approach Toward City Reconstruction Masashi IGOSHI, Deputy Mayor, Osaka
15:50-16:00	
16:00-17:45	<b>Break</b> <b>Part 2 Panel discussion by representatives from participating cities</b> Theme: The Future Direction and International Role of Aquapolises Coordinator: Professor Akinori KATO, School of Policy Studies, Kwansai Gakuin University Panelists: Representatives from the cities of Budapest, Busan, Hiroshima, Ho Chi Minh, Madrid, Venice, Vienna and Osaka
17:45-17:50	
17:50-18:00	<b>Conference summary</b> Professor Akinori KATO <b>Closing</b> Ahn. SANG YOUNG, Mayor fo Busan Takafumi ISOMURA, Mayor fo Osaka

## Business reporting by representatives from participating cities

### Budapest (Hungary):

Budapest, featuring terrain of mixed plains and mountains, is a city endowed with rich water resources and nature. Many hot springs gush from the ground of Mt. Gellent. The City's drinking water sources are mainly in the water-bearing layer (aquifer) of the gravel terrace that extends along the Donau. The Budapest Municipal Government has been actively involved in national programs concerning the measurement, analysis and conservation of the water quality of rivers that have major impact on the City's water supply. Although Budapest has already resolved problems concerning its water supply system, efforts have continued toward water saving and appropriate sewage management as important issues.

The completion of Europe's largest sewage treatment plant in 2009, with the assistance of the European Union (EU), will boost the rate of sewage disposal in the city up to 97 percent.

### Venice (Italy):

To secure funds for keeping Venice attractive to many visitors from around the world, the Venice Municipal Government must pay careful attention to preserving and exploiting not only large ancient buildings, such as palaces and churches, but also small legacies, including canals, waterside landscapes and bridges. At present, projects are underway to explore the possibility of renovating the water storage tanks built in the 19th century and using them for water supply to local communities. One such effort is a project for restoring the water storage tank in the Natural History Museum of Venice.

### Ho Chi Minh (Vietnam):

It is difficult for Ho Chi Minh to meet the growing demands for garbage collection and disposal resulting from the rapid increase in population. To resolve these problems, the municipal government has embarked on a large-scale infrastructure improvement program, whose major purposes are to improve the efficiency of garbage collection and provide an environmentally friendly garbage disposal system. At the same time, the government has launched a project to renovate the waterway system in the City, to alleviate various problems concerning wastewater discharged into canals, as well as water transport. The project is scheduled for completion in 2010.

Considering the fact that capacity building serves as the core of these renovation projects, with financial support

from international agencies Ho Chi Minh is now making efforts to improve the various facilities and equipment necessary for upgrading infrastructure.

### **Pusan (South Korea):**

Due to the rapid economic growth and urbanization that began in 1960, Pusan has faced serious problems resulting from flood prevention works and the worsening of water quality.

Now that the water quality has been improved by development of Pusan's sewage system, the City has worked at returning rivers to their natural conditions, in a joint effort with NGOs and local authorities. Under these circumstances, there has been growing public call for creating a river environment that allows many forms of life to thrive and provides places of recreation and relaxation for people by improving and protecting the water environment. In response to such demands, the municipal government has launched a river improvement program that emphasizes conservation of the natural environment. Thus, active involvement of local citizens has served as a driving force for improving water quality and sewage system development. Now, there is a growing tendency to deal with problems through cooperation among local authorities, citizens and NGOs.

### **Osaka (Japan):**

Osaka has been called a city of water since ancient times, its history being closely linked to water.

Osaka residents have felt less familiar with water recently, given the ongoing structural changes in transportation and industry. Water is, however, one of the natural resources that Osakans can enjoy in everyday life. Having realized anew that water brings relaxation, refreshment and beautiful scenery to our city, we are introducing a series of active projects focusing on water control, improvement of water supply and sewage, amelioration of river water quality, redevelopment of the bay area etc.

In central Osaka, in particular, the integration of rivers into the landscape is advancing rapidly, to regenerate Osaka as an Aquapolis and add to its urban attraction, while invigorating the economy and other key functions of the City.

### **Hiroshima (Japan):**

In Hiroshima, most rivers are so short that water pollution has become a most important concern; serious damage can easily occur to the cultivation of oysters, a special product of Hiroshima. On this account, fishermen

and local people have been actively involved in promoting and managing tree-planting projects on the upper reaches of rivers, in order to improve water quality.

The City's waterfronts have served as places of recreation and relaxation for citizens and approximately 9 million tourists each year. With this fact in mind, the City has worked with volunteer groups and NPOs to promote various programs with "attractive to people," "learning" and "new business opportunity" as key concepts. These programs include holding promenade concerts on waterfronts, opening sidewalk cafes and promoting programs that provide local citizens with opportunities to learn waterfront nature.

### **Vienna (Austria):**

In Vienna, with the Donau running through its center, there has been growing awareness of the importance of water control as the City developed and worked on various water-related strategies. What makes Vienna famous and unique is the fact that its water supply system, established about 130 years ago, is still used to supply spring water from the Alps. The City has promoted initiatives for sustainable environmental preservation by securing the area surrounding the water resources.

In recognition of the importance of deepening public knowledge concerning water, as an aquapolis Vienna has conducted various educational activities to raise children's awareness of water issues.

### **Madrid:**

Madrid, Spain's capital city, with a population of more than 3 million, is located far from the sea and large rivers, so works constantly to secure drinking water using various technologies. On the other hand, until the late 1970s there had been little progress in developing sewage systems and increasing the number of sewage treatment facilities. However, Madrid successfully brought the Manzanares River back to life and restored its natural environment, where fish and birds can thrive again, by carrying out a comprehensive plan from the late 1970s to 1984. Major features of the plan comprise implementation of the polluter-pays principle, under which dischargers are required to pay the cost of sewage services, according to the quality and quantity of their discharge; and the establishment of a funding mechanism for preserving the water environment.

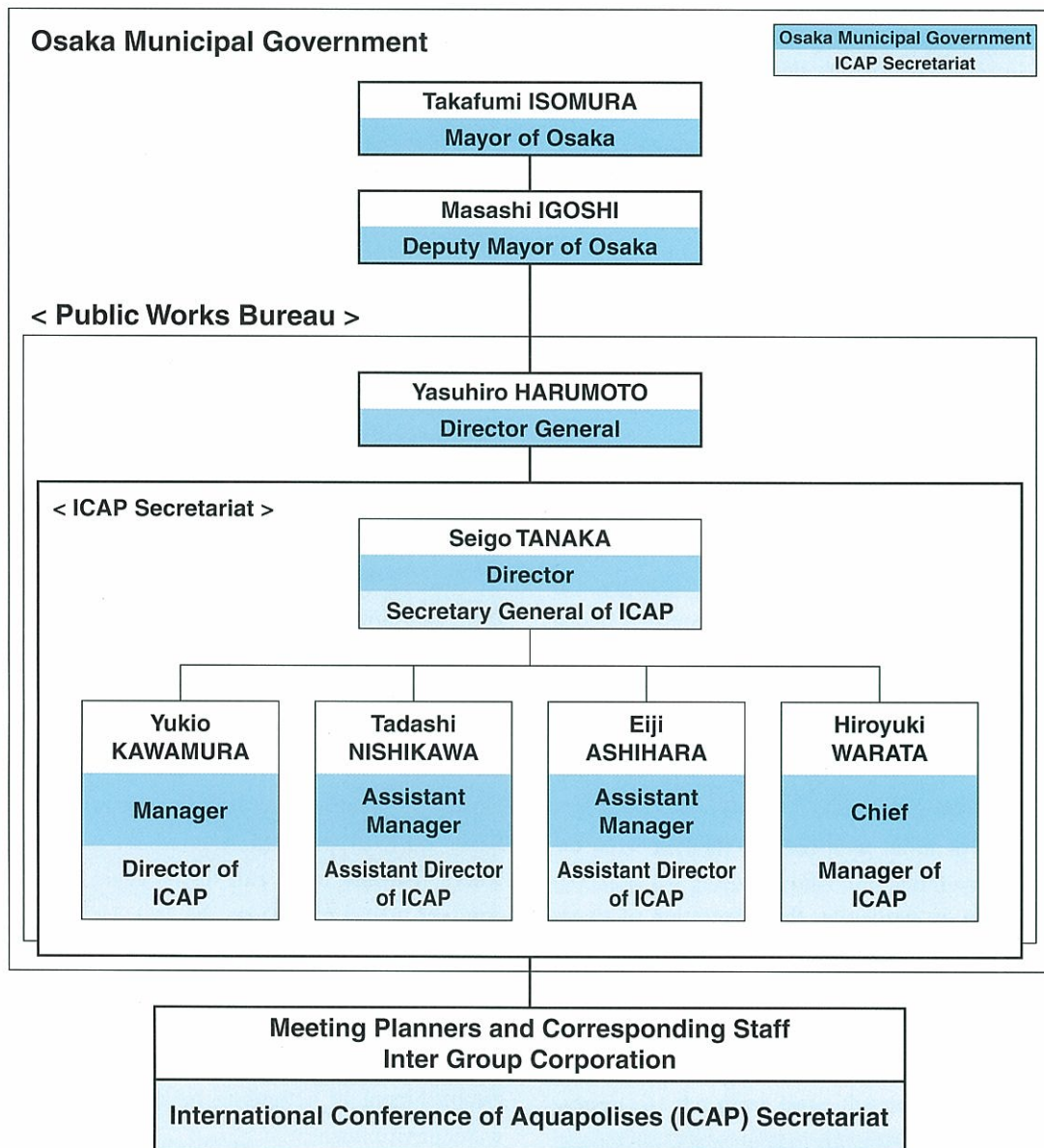
In addition, the municipal government is also implementing programs to promote water reclamation: the reuse of wastewater for sprinkling and agricultural water after biological treatment, such as by filtration and sterilization.

## Summation by Professor Akinori Kato: School of Policy Studies, Kwansai Gakuin University

With “Aquapolis” as the keyword, the representatives of participating cities presented diverse views for harmonious coexistence with water, citizens and urban activities. In addition, it was emphasized that we face multilayered issues in securing safe and adequate water supply, such as water control, water shortage, water source development, sanitation and water pollution. It was also indicated that we must change our attitudes to tackle these problems.

Based on the presentations by the participating cities, I would like to propose the term “affinity for water” in addressing the problems confronting us. In other words, it is important for us, through national and regional cooperation, to create cities with a “high affinity for water” and disseminate our knowledge and expertise in this field to other countries around the world.

### System of the ICAP



#### International Conference of Aquapolises (ICAP) Secretariat

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