

# AQUAPOLIS

No. 6  
International  
Conference of  
Aquapolises



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## The 4th International Conference of Aquapolises

### Message from the Mayor of Osaka on the Opening of the 4th ICAP



It is a great pleasure for me to be able to convene the 4th International Conference of Aquapolises (ICAP), which brings together many participants from Japan and abroad. On behalf of the citizens of Osaka, I offer a cordial welcome to you all.

The ICAP is an international conference proposed by the city of Osaka to hold discussions on the main theme *Creating Aquapolises of the 21st Century*. The first ICAP was held in Osaka in 1990 and focused on Water and Greenery issues. At that successful event, participants recognized the significance of pursuing the theme, and decided to continue holding ICAP conferences. Accordingly, the second ICAP was held in Shanghai, China, in 1993, and the third in Piraeus, Greece, in 1997. Both of these also were great successes.

In recent years there has been increasing interest among people around the world regarding the promotion of resource and energy-saving measures, as well as the establishment of recycling-based systems, with a view toward resolving global environmental problems and realizing environmental protection. Against this backdrop, the 3rd World Water Forum will be held this year in Shiga, Kyoto, and Osaka Prefectures, with the venue in the Lake Biwa-Yodo River basin. The 4th ICAP will be held as one of the sessions convened at the 3rd World Water Forum in Osaka, in hopes that the outcome of the 4th ICAP will be disseminated to the world.

In Osaka, we are endeavoring to create an attractive destination for international visitors, where many people, goods, and information will come together from all over Japan and abroad. Osaka is a city well known since ancient times as Japan's representative "City of Water." We are committed to restoring the city's quality as an Aquapolis worthy of its fame.

The 4th ICAP will provide an opportunity to demonstrate to the world the attractiveness of Aquapolises. I believe that exchanges through this Conference will generate new exchanges and wisdom, which will greatly contribute not only to city development around the world on the theme of "water" but also to the creation of a new urban civilization. To conclude, please let me express my sincere hope that the 4th ICAP will achieve tremendous success and yield fruitful results.

Takafumi Isomura  
Mayor of Osaka

### What is the International Conference of Aquapolises (ICAP)?

ICAP is an international conference that was proposed as part of the Osaka City's centennial celebration events.

The objective of ICAP is to discuss ways of developing attractive cities where people and nature are in harmony, where water and greenery are preserved, where a comfortable environment is created, and where waterfront and verdant spaces are restored or created to foster scenic beauty. The organizers of this international conference on water and greenery hope that the leaders of cities that have nurtured unique cultures and histories through interaction with water and greenery will gather together from around the world to share their insights on this theme, with mutual respect for their cities identities. Such discussions will stimulate various forms of exchange among citizens, experts, and administrative officials of these cities, in the quest to develop attractive cities that will lead the civilization of the 21st century.

The wide variety of problems regarding city, water, and greenery range from disaster control and environmental protection to resource management. We believe that it is meaningful to hold an international conference like this, bringing together representatives from cities that have developed as Aquapolises and have taken an early lead in addressing water problems, whose seriousness has been increasing for some time. We expect that the ICAP conference will greatly contribute to resolving water problems that now confront cities around the world.

### 4th International Conference of Aquapolises (ICAP)

Around the globe, abnormal weather conditions have caused calamities, such as the recent floods that surged across a wide area of Europe, necessitating the implementation of countermeasures for water-related disasters. In addition, such issues as securing water resources and conserving the natural environment are becoming more important. Accordingly, a wide range of water-related issues are being addressed by governments, citizens, and NGOs, as well as through mutual cooperation among Aquapolises. The ways to address these water-related issues are also diversifying.

Considering this situation, we believe it is more important than ever for Aquapolises from around the world to meet, exchange information, and hold discussions. Their consequent activities should contribute substantially to the progress of the international community. If Aquapolises succeed in developing their characteristic features, enhancing their urban attractions, and promoting their social activities, the world economy will be revitalized as well.

In the 21st century, amidst ongoing globalization and rapid development of information technology, urban activities are expected to become more diversified and complex. We believe, therefore, that finding the future direction of Aquapolises will be a suitable theme for our discussions. Thus, the main theme of the 4th International Conference of Aquapolises will be *The Future Direction and International Role of Aquapolises*.

### Greetings from the Secretary General of the ICAP Secretariat

It gives me great pleasure to be able to organize the 4th International Conference of Aquapolises (ICAP) in Osaka, which marks the second time our city has had the honor of holding the ICAP conference.

The ICAP Osaka Secretariat has proceeded with preparations for the 4th ICAP thus far thanks to the extraordinary contributions and understanding provided by ICAP directorial cities and other member cities around the world. I would like to express our deep appreciation to all those who have supported us in organizing this Conference.

We at the ICAP Secretariat are making the utmost effort to ensure that the 4th ICAP will be a truly significant and fruitful event.

I ask for your continued support in this endeavor.

Seigo Tanaka, Secretary General of ICAP  
(Director for River and Canals, Public Works Bureau, Osaka City Government)

**March 19, 2003**

**Venue: Main Hall at OICC (Osaka International Convention Center)**

<Part 1>

Time	Program
14:00-16:00	<b>Opening Address by the Mayor of Osaka</b> <b>Presentations</b> (in alphabetical order): Budapest City: The Situation of the Water Supply System in Budapest, etc. Busan City: Ecological Restoration Project of the Oncheon River in Busan Ho Chi Minh City: Pollution and International Collaboration  Tentative: Osaka City, Venice City, etc.

<Part 2>

Time	Program
16:00-18:00	<b>Panel Discussion</b> Coordinator: Professor Akinori Kato, School of Policy Studies, Kwansei Gakuin Univ. Theme: The Future Direction and International Role of Aquapolises Participating cities (in alphabetical order): Budapest, Busan, Hiroshima, Ho Chi Minh, Osaka, Venice  <b>Introduction of Virtual Forum</b> <b>Conference Summary</b> <b>Closing Address</b>

## • Coordinator

Professor Akinori Kato

(School of Policy Studies, Kwansei Gakuin Univ.)

During the 20th century, Japan achieved a high level of economic growth. In the wake of economic development, however, the country has begun to suffer from a general degradation of nature, increases in air and water pollution, and other environmental problems. This degradation is the result of the expansion of urban areas, caused by over concentration of industry and population in cities.

Osaka, well known since ancient times as Japan's representative "City of Water (Aquapolis)," is also faced with these urban environmental problems, which have adversely affected Osaka's characteristics as a true Aquapolis. In addition, because of a low ratio of visible greenery in towns, Osaka conveys the impression that it has little natural environment left.

In the 21st century, we must strive to eliminate the negative legacy of the last century, as well as to develop Osaka's attractive features by increasing its water-related strengths, such as its "familiarity" with water, an abundant and important resource in Osaka.

At this conference, representatives from participating Aquapolises around the world will make presentations on measures they have taken to address water and greenery issues in their cities, and will hold discussions to identify problems and solutions, all with the aim of enhancing the attractiveness of being an Aquapolis. I hope that these discussions will contribute to the further development of Aquapolises around the world.

## Personal history

- 1946: Born
- 1971: Completed master's course, Department of Architecture and Architectural Systems, Graduate School of Engineering, Kyoto University
- 1972-1973: Research at the Graduate Course of Architecture, Florence University (awarded an Italian Government Scholarship)
- 1973: Employed as an architect at the Architectural & Urban Design Studio of G. De. Carlo (Milan)
- 1975: Worked as a senior staff member for Kisho Kurokawa Architects & Associates (KKA)
- 1978: Served as a teaching assistant, lecturer, and associate professor in the Environmental Engineering Division, Faculty of Engineering, Osaka University
- 1985: Earned doctorate in engineering at Osaka University
- 1999: Appointed as professor in the School of Policy Studies, Kwansei Gakuin University (present position)

## International Conference of Aquapolises (ICAP) Secretariat

Address: c/o City of Osaka Public Engineering Works Foundation Osaka WTC Bldg, 19F, Mailbox #93 - 94,  
 1-14-16 Nanko-kita, Suminoe-ku, Osaka 559-0034 JAPAN

Phone: +81-6-6376-2963 Fax: +81-6-6376-2362 (c/o Inter Group Corporation) E-mail: icap-secretariat@intergroup.co.jp

## ICAP History

### 1st ICAP, Osaka, Japan, July 1990

The first International Conference of Aquapolises (ICAP) was held over three days starting on July 25, 1990. In response to a call made by the city of Osaka, 33 cities (including six in Japan) participated in the 1st ICAP, whose outcome was adopted as the Osaka Declaration.

At this Conference held in Osaka, participants decided to continue holding the International Conference of Aquapolises in order to take a leading role in programs for the conservation and improvement of the global environment. To this end, they also decided to organize the directorial city conference, and the Rivers and Canals Department of the Public Works Bureau of the Osaka City Government agreed to serve as the Secretariat.

### 2nd ICAP, Shanghai, China, November 1993

The second ICAP was held in Shanghai from November 17 to 19, 1993. Twenty-eight cities from 22 countries and one international body took part. Discussions covered many topics, namely, the protection of water resources, sewage treatment technologies, urban planning, harbor construction, the correlation between economic growth and environmental protection, city greening and ecosystems, and the prevention of natural disasters.

The outcome of the 2nd ICAP was adopted as the Shanghai Declaration.

### 3rd ICAP, Piraeus, Greece, March 1997 Theme: Water and Tourism

The third ICAP was held in Piraeus, Greece, from March 20 to 22, 1997. Representatives of 22 cities from 11 countries took part in the Conference. The cruise ship Orpheus was used as the Conference venue. Participants stayed together on the ship and held presentations and discussions on each city's programs in areas including the conservation of water resources and greenery, countermeasures against flooding, and port development.

The outcome of the 3rd ICAP was adopted as the Piraeus Declaration.

## Invitation to ICAP Virtual Forum

We have opened the ICAP Virtual Forum on the web, at the URL given below, to solicit your comments and information on municipal activities, including measures that your city has promoted as an Aquapolis.

The ICAP Secretariat hopes to continue to run this Virtual Forum even after the closure of the 3rd World Water Forum in March this year. We would like to request your active involvement in the ICAP Virtual Forum, in the hope that this Virtual Forum will provide a network for wide dissemination of information on preserving water and greenery to cities around the world, and that it will serve as a venue for lively discussions and information exchange towards better city development.

The contents of discussions held at the ICAP Virtual Forum will be reported also in this newsletter, AQUAPOLIS, as the occasion arises.

ICAP Virtual Forum

VWF Session Name: International Conference of Aquapolises

Chairperson: Seigo Tanaka

<http://www.worldwaterforum.org/eng/index.html>

AQUAPOLIS