
**ACTIVITIES OF WETLAND INTERNATIONAL
JAPAN IN ASIA AND JAPAN**

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Wetland International-Japan

Wetlands International Japan is a coalition of national non-governmental organisations devoting to the conservation of wetlands, under the global network of Wetlands International (Global Headquarter: Wageningen, The Netherlands). It was established in 1977 for supporting conservation efforts of the former IWRB (International Waterfowl and Wetlands Research Bureau) in the country.

Wetlands International Japan has made efforts for the conservation of wetlands in the country, such as:

- supporting Japan to join Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971) in 1980;
- publication of *Japan Wetlands Inventory* in 1989;
- taking a role of National NGO Focal Point for Ramsar Wetland CEPA (Communications, Education and Public Awareness) activities; and,
- compilation of *Japan's 500 Important Wetlands* for the Ministry of the Environment in 2001.

It has also given assistances in and supported a series of projects in the Asia Pacific countries such as:

- awareness projects in India, Malaysia and others;
- a project of conservation and ecotourism in mangrove wetlands in Micronesia; and,
- biodiversity projects in Mongolia, Papua New Guinea and others.

In the network of Wetlands International, it has provided co-ordination and involvement into various international initiatives, especially in Asia Pacific

region, such as:

- development and implementation of *Asia Pacific Migratory Waterbird Conservation Strategy: 1996-2000 and 2001-2005*;
- supporting *Asian Waterbird Census*;
- development of *Asia Wetland Inventory Project*.

**Member of
Wetlands International Japan:**

- Swan Society of Japan
- Japan Hunter's Association (JHA)
- All Japan Hunting Club (AJHC)
- Wild Bird Society of Japan (WBSJ)
- Yamashina Institute for Ornithology
- World Wide Fund for Nature Japan (WWF Japan)
- Kushiro International Wetland Centre (KIWC)
- Japanese Society for Preservation of Birds (JSPB)
- The Ornithological Society of Japan
- Japanese Association for Wild Geese Protection (JAWGP)
- Japan Wetlands Action Network (JAWAN)
- Japan Crane Network (JCN)
- Naka-no-Umi Waterbirds International Exchange Foundation

The awareness of the significance of the wetlands has been growing up in the country. In recent years, Wetlands International Japan provided some opportunities for Japanese to learn more from best practices in the world and global interests through workshops, *e.g.* on "Climate Change and Wetland Conservation" and on "Management and Restoration of Wetlands and River Basin". The National Strategy for the Conservation of Biodiversity (National Government 2002) was just revised, where restoration of wetlands and other natural environment to enhance the biodiversity in the country was incorporated. National CEPA Action Plan for Ramsar is being developed

in this year 2002. Wetlands International Japan is further enhancing the network of wetland scientists and the cooperation with the governmental organisations national and local.

It is anticipated to achieve closer international cooperation through sharing information and expertise and joint projects in the Asia Pacific region.

For further information on the internet:

- Asia Pacific Migratory Waterbird Conservation Strategy:
<http://www.wetlands.org/iwc/awc/waterbirdstrategy/>
- Asia Wetland Inventory: <http://www.wetlands.org/inventory&/awi/>
- Asian Waterbird Census:
<http://www.wetlands.org/iwc/awc/awcmain.html>
- Wetlands International: <http://www.wetlands.org/>
- Japan's 500 Important Wetlands:
<http://www.sizenken.biodic.go.jp/wetland/> (in Japanese)

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