

Joint declaration for decentralized domestic wastewater treatment
in Asian countries
at
“The 4th Workshop on Decentralized Domestic Wastewater
Treatment in Asia”

“The 4th Workshop on Decentralized Domestic Wastewater Treatment in Asia” was held on September 27-28, 2016 in Jakarta, Indonesia. The issues associated with decentralized domestic wastewater treatment in Asia have been actively discussed to contribute to the SDGs’ sanitation goal.

The series of workshops on Decentralized Domestic Wastewater Treatment in Asia started in 2013 with the objective of discussing issues related to decentralized domestic wastewater treatment in Asian countries, such as management, regulatory arrangements and standards.

We, the participants of the workshop held in Jakarta, Indonesia, on September 27-28, 2016, hereby agreed on the following declaration based on the results of the discussions conducted during the workshop;

1. In areas not covered by any appropriate wastewater treatment system, it is an urgent task to install and diffuse decentralized domestic wastewater treatment systems to protect the public health and water environment in Asia.
2. It is essential to establish in each Asian country a septage management policy that includes strategies, tariff mechanisms, and standards for desludging and effluent water quality.
3. Public awareness and participation in domestic wastewater treatment and septage management should be encouraged.
4. Important issues related to decentralized domestic wastewater treatment were discussed and recognized as common challenges for Asian countries, such as
 - the introduction of combined wastewater treatment (black and gray water);
 - operation and maintenance;
 - the establishment of legal frameworks;
 - the establishment of a certification and training system for technicians;
 - incentives for users;
 - the implementation of septage management programs and regular desludging.

Sharing best practices on these issues will be very useful for Asian countries, and particularly for their cities.

5. The importance of revising effluent water quality standards, improving treatment efficiency, evaluating treatment performance and tariff mechanisms were also emphasized for the sustainable and appropriate implementation of decentralized domestic wastewater treatment systems.
6. Effluent reuse and sludge recycling will probably be one of the future issues for decentralized wastewater treatment systems.
7. Cooperation for the improvement of decentralized domestic wastewater treatment with the development of a network of users/stakeholders in Asia should be encouraged. This network should expand to other countries and play a key role in decentralized domestic wastewater treatment in Asia.
8. All participants express their appreciation to the Ministry of the Environment of Japan for its contribution to the workshop, and hope for its continuous support to promote further activities on decentralized domestic wastewater treatment issues in Asian countries.