

Bilateral cooperation project between Water Resources University and Kyushu University, Japan.

Over the past 10 years, Water Resources University has built an effectively cooperative relationship with Kyushu University, Japan. Both parties signed a legal memorandum in August 2008, exchanged many scientists and students, hold a variety of symposiums and trained human resources...

Especially, the two parties have cooperated to propose a collaborative project for “Soil and Water Conservation in Southeast Asia Watersheds (SOWAC)” Project. The aim of this project is to conduct general scientific researches, holding scientific symposiums and exchanging specialists and researchers in four fields: Soil environment, Water environment, Water management, and Biomass. The project will be conducted for 3 years (from April 2012 to March 2015). The total funding is financed by the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science through Kyushu University, with the annual amount of 8,000,000 JPY (equivalent to 100,000 USD). Annually, the project will conduct researches in the four fields, hold conferences and scientific seminars in Japan and Vietnam, exchange academic staff, lecturers and students between the two universities. The participants in this research include Water Resources University, Research Institute for East Asia Environment, Kyushu University, Faculty of Agriculture, Kyushu University, and Institute of Tropical Agriculture, Kyushu University.





The signing ceremony on the cooperation took place in the presence of representatives of both parties

One of the main activities of the project in year 2012 was to hold an international seminar “Collaborative Project for Soil and Water Conservation in Southeast Asia Watershed (SOWAC)”. The first conference was taken place in Fukuoka city, Japan from 8th–11th August, 2012. Water Resources University sent a delegation of 11 staff members including Professor Nguyen Quang Kim–President of Water Resources University, who was the head of the delegation, Associate Professor Trinh Minh Thu, Vice-president of Water Resources University and the lecturers of Faculty of Environment and Water Resources Technology. The participants from Japan consists of Professor Setsuo Arikawa–President of Kyushu University and concurrently President of Research Institute for East Asia Environment; Professor Atsushi Yoshimura–Dean of Faculty of Agriculture, Kyushu University; Professor Kazuaki Hiramatsu–Project leader, Faculty of Agriculture; Professor Masami Ohtsubo–Faculty of Agriculture, and more than 100 Professors, Researchers, staff members and Students from Kyushu University. The conference received an honor of the presence of Mr. Vu Huy Mung, Vietnam Consulate General of Vietnam in Fukuoka.

Early 8th August 2012, before the beginning of the conference, the signing ceremony on the cooperation took place in the presence of representatives of both parties. The representative of Water Resource University is Professor Nguyen Quang Kim, the representatives of Kyushu University are Professor Atsushi Yoshimura – Dean of Faculty of Agriculture – Kyushu University and Professor Kiyoshi Kurosawa – Director

of Institute of Tropical Agriculture. Professor Nguyen Quang Kim has addressed his gratitude to the support from Japanese party and he expected to encourage the cooperation in the field of soil and water resources in the coming years. After the ceremony, two parties have given each other commemorative gifts.



Commemorative photo of the participants

The conference lasted 3 days from 8th–10th August 2012, including 2 days for the presentation session and 1 day for the field trip (10th Aug 2012). The beginning of the conference was the speeches of Professor Nguyen Quang Kim – President of Water Resources University and Professor Masami Ohtsubo – Kyushu University. In the first presentation, Professor Nguyen Quang Kim gave the introduction of current situation and problems associated with the water resources in Vietnam and the related projects in progress. In his presentation, Professor Masami Ohtsubo gave a summary of sediment accumulation in Ariake bay and the issues connected to agricultural development in Kyushu area – Japan. Twenty following presentations were divided into 4 groups: Soil environment, Water environment, Water management and Biomass. After the conference, on 10th August, with the considerable support provided by Japanese professors and students, the participants from Vietnam had chances to visit Chikugo barrage and varieties of pumping stations in Kyushu area.



The members of Water Resources University visited Chikugo Barrage

The conference has given the participants from Water Resources University the chance to broaden their knowledge and gain many scientific innovations from Japanese science. It was also a great opportunity for Water Resources University to introduce and exchange their scientific achievements with Japanese scholars. The conference left the participants a distinct impression and this is the ideal chance for Water Resources University to get experience in order to hold the 2nd SOWAC conference in Hanoi in 2013. See you in Fukuoka in 2014.