



Activities of the Domestic Ramsar Committee for Relevant Municipalities (Japan)

～ Network of municipalities for the conservation of Ramsar Sites ～

【 Voluntary network of municipalities 】

Aim

To promote wetland conservation at the regional level and contribute to the wise use of wetlands, by means of promoting information exchange and cooperation between municipalities with Ramsar Sites or other wetlands

Activities

1. Training on the conservation and use of Ramsar and other wetland sites
2. Lobbying and petitions to raise funds for Ramsar Convention matters
3. Support for activities that increase the number of domestic Ramsar Sites
4. Cooperation in Ramsar Convention-related activities implemented by municipalities in their respective regions, etc.



Establishment History

- First Meeting held in Kushiro City, Hokkaido in June, 1989 in preparation of the 5th Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention (COP5) in 1993.
- Meeting was voluntarily attended by 8 municipalities associated with the 3 Ramsar Sites at the time: Kushiro-shitsugen, Izu-numa and Uchi-numa and Kutcharo-ko.
- Objectives included inviting COP5 to Kushiro, exchange of information and opinions on the promotion of conservation of Ramsar Sites, lobbying to the government on issues relating to Ramsar Site conservation, etc.



Administration

- Chair, vice-chair and auditor municipalities are elected for 3-year terms. Chair municipalities assume the role of secretariat.
- Meeting types:
 - Principal Member Meeting (Annual, representative-level)
 - Municipalities Meeting (Triennial, mayor-level)



Membership

- "Membership is open to mayors of Ramsar Sites, etc. in agreement with Committee objectives" (Committee regulations). Membership is voluntary.
- Membership: 68 municipalities (as of October, 2018)

Data

Year	2008	2018
Ramsar Sites	37	50
Relevant prefectures	20	26
Relevant municipalities	62	68

【 Place for CEPA among Municipalities: Education and Exchange event 】

As municipality representatives often change positions after just a few years, there were difficulties in retaining knowledge and experience, as well as maintaining relationships between municipalities. In response, the Committee organizes symposia, site visits and workshops for representatives and groups, providing a forum for learning and the exchange of opinions and information.



Aim

- To harbor cooperation among relevant parties in the wise use of wetlands, and promote activities and regional revitalization
- Particularly in recent years, emphasis has been on information exchanges to promote the creation of wetland conservation and use plans



Implementation

- "Learning and Exchange" activities are held in conjunction with Principal Member and Municipalities meetings. During these, lectures by wetland conservation and use specialists are interspersed with groundbreaking examples of conservation and wise use policy shared by municipalities.



Recent History of Education

Tsuruga City, Wakasa Town and Mihama Town, Fukui 9-10 July, 2015
Wetlands for our future : Cherish Wetlands for our future : Regional Development and Development of human resources Utilizing Ramsar Sites

Nagoya City, Aichi 8 July, 2016
Cooperation and Development of human resources for Sustainable Life

Osaki City, Miyagi 13 October, 2017
Sustainable Regional Development and conservation and practical use of Ramsar Sites : Focusing on various roles of wetlands and SDGs

Results of each session are summarized in a report and distributed to each municipality.



【2017 Principal Member Meeting and Education and Exchange event】

Theme : Sustainable Regional Development and conservation and practical use of Ramsar Sites : Focusing on various roles of wetlands and SDGs
12-13 October, 2017 Osaki City, Miyagi

Day 1 : Principal Member Meeting

Contents

- Case study : "Mutual Cooperation with Ramsar Sites in Ariake Sea Coast"
Mr. Yasunori Yamaura, Head of Ramsar Convention Promotion Section, Kashima City
- Excursion in Kabukuri-numa and the surrounding rice paddies

Day 2 : Education and Exchange event

Content

- Keynote Address :
"Sustainable Regional Development and conservation and practical use of Ramsar Sites : Focusing on various roles of wetlands and SDGs"
Mr. Yukihiko Asaoka, Professor, Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology
"SDGs : History of Establishment and Feature"
Mr. Yoshihiro Natori, Executive Director, Wetlands International Japan
"Roles and Possibility of Wetlands as Green Infrastructure"
Mr. Yukihiro Shimatani, Professor, Kyushu University
- Case Study :
"Multi-purpose use of Wetlands and Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems"
Mr. Kohei Suzuki, Expert of Natural Environment, Osaki City
"Fishing Industry in Arai Tideland and Committee Management"
Mr. Kazuya Nakayama, Deputy Chief, Arai City
"Conservation and Wise Use of Wetlands by Regional Cooperation using Base Facilities"
Mr. Hideyo Satoh, Director, Tsuruoka City
- Group work



The participation of municipalities and various initiatives are indispensable in the promotion of the purpose of Ramsar Site designation. In the future, in addition to increasing membership of newly designated Ramsar Site municipalities, the Committee will strive to create a forum for municipalities to learn together about, and implement the conservation and use of wetlands.



Principal member meeting



Case study (Day 1)



Excursion in Kabukuri-numa and surrounding rice paddies



group work

