

Domestic Ramsar Committee for Relevant Municipalities (Japan)

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Characteristics of WETLAND EDUCATION in Japan

Introduction

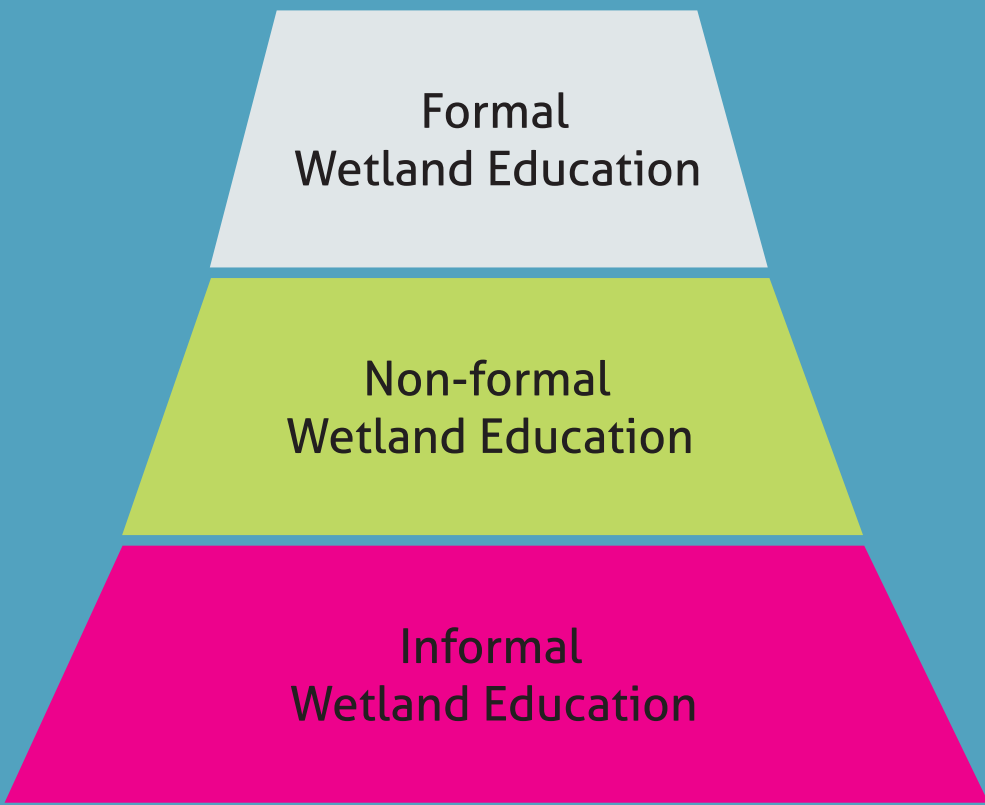
Noting the adoption of Resolution XIV. 11 on *Wetland education in the formal education sector*, the network decided to conduct the annual education and exchange event under the theme of **Wetland Education that Supports Local Communities** for the fiscal years 2023–2025.

Also, ① the basic concept of wetland education and ② case studies from different municipalities –including the use of locally developed sub-textbooks - were shared.

The Domestic Ramsar Committee for Relevant Municipalities (Japan) is a voluntary network of cities and towns with designated Ramsar Sites. As of April, 2025, the network has a total membership of 71 municipalities. The Annual Principal Member Meeting provides a platform for learning and exchange, and a Mayors' Meeting is held every three years.

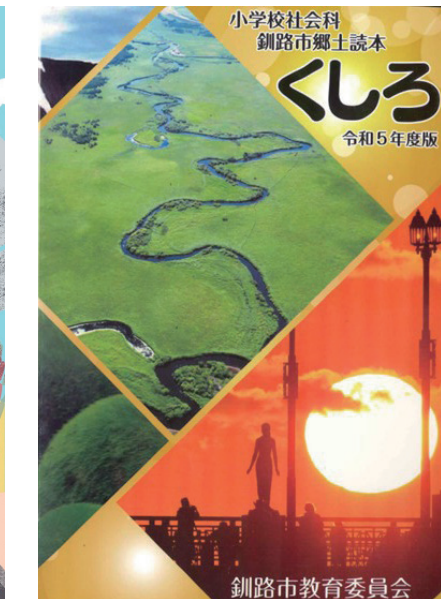
1. Wetland Education in Japan

Wetland Education in formal sector is built upon the accumulation of Non-formal Education driven by wetland managers and community-led Informal Education.



2. Formal Education in Japan

In the Japanese formal education system, classes are conducted using textbooks and materials based on the national curriculum standards. Although the term ‘Wetland Education’ is not commonly used, students learn about wetland through subjects such as social studies, science, extracurricular activities, and the period of integrated studies and so on.

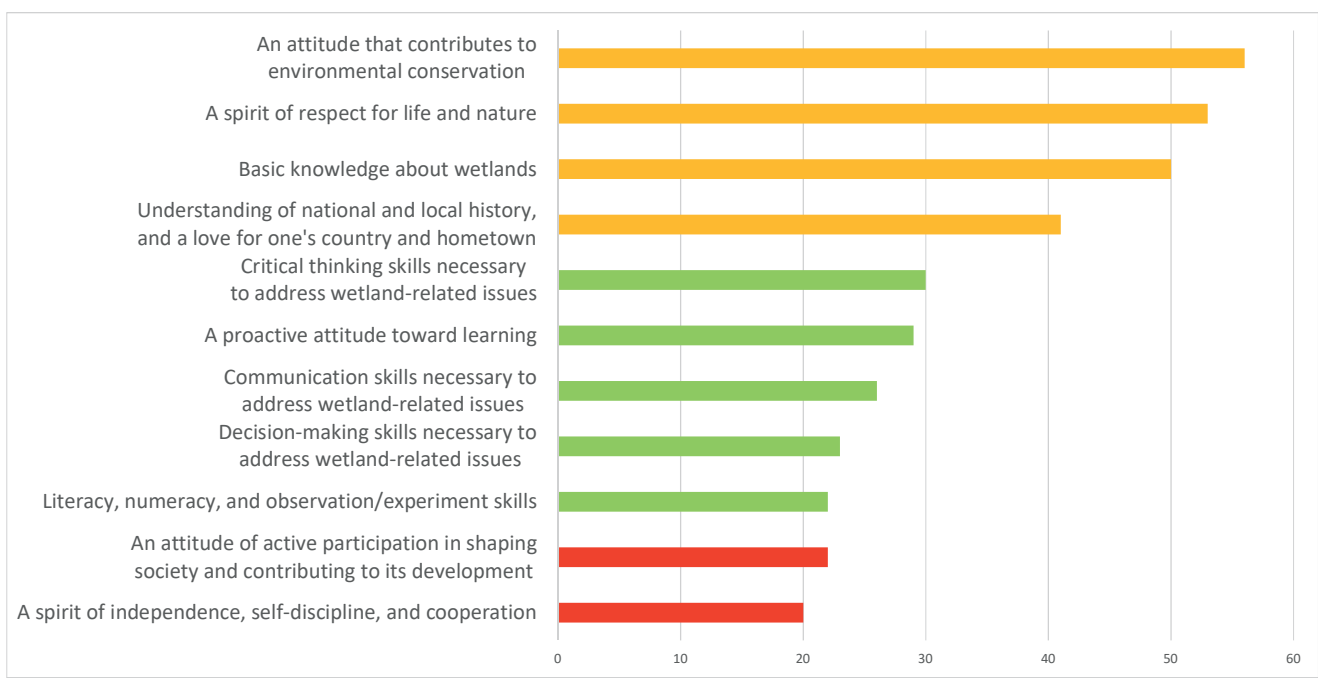


3. Utilization of Sub-textbooks for Wetland Education

In Japan, wetland education is also promoted through the use of locally developed sub-textbook and similar materials designed to help students learn about their own communities.

4. Competencies Fostered through Wetland Education

According to a survey conducted by the network, various forms of wetland education have helped to foster the following competencies in students.



1) Understanding, values, knowledge, and affection toward nature and local communities

2) Thinking skills, proactive attitudes, expressive and decision-making abilities necessary for problem-solving, and an active attitude toward learning

3) Participation in society, and the spirit of independence, autonomy, and cooperation

5. Coordination System for Wetland Education

It has been clarified that collaboration between the local Board of Education and the Ramsar site management department, as well as an increase in staff, are essential.

► Based on these findings, a report will be prepared and presented to the Mayors' Conference in Nov 2025, where it will be discussed.



▼Domestic Ramsar Committee for Relevant Municipalities (Japan)

AIM

To promote wetland conservation at the regional level and contribute to the wise use of wetland, 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, 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 and MEMBERSHIP

- Chair, vice-chair and auditor municipalities are elected for 3-year terms.
- Chair municipalities assume the role of secretariat.
- “Membership is open to mayors of Ramsar Sites, etc. in agreement with Committee objectives” (Committee regulations). Membership is voluntary.