



Conference Dates

The conference will take place on 30 November-1 December 2007. Registration is on 29 November.

Conference Venue

The conference will take place in the Suginoi Hotel, Beppu City, Japan. The hotel is located in one of the major hot spring areas of Beppu. In December, the weather will be cool and dry.

The Oita Airport is approximately 40 minutes away from the conference venue. There are domestic flights from Tokyo, Osaka, Nagoya and Okinawa to Oita and direct international flights from Shanghai and Seoul.

For further details about national preparations for the conference contact:

- *In People's Republic of China:* Lei Jun, UNICEF Beijing, tel: (86-10) 6532-3131 ext.1806, jlei@unicef.org
- *In Cambodia, Lao PDR, Indonesia, the Philippines and Vietnam:* Jan-Willem Rosenboom, WSP-EAP Phnom Penh, tel: (855-23) 217 304 ext. 101, jrosenboom@worldbank.org
- *In Myanmar, Mongolia, Thailand, Timor Leste:* Mark Henderson, UNICEF Bangkok, tel: (66-2) 356-9270, mhenderson@unicef.org
- *In Brunei Darussalam, Japan, Malaysia, Republic of Korea, Singapore:* Terrence Thompson, WHO Manila, tel: (63-2) 528-9890, thompson@wpro.who.int

Conference Secretariat

For general inquiries about the conference contact:

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For inquiries in Japan contact:

Ms. Nobuko Takahashi, Operations Manager, UNICEF Japan, tel: (81-3) 546-4431, ntakahashi@unicef.org with copy to jsy@worldbank.org

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A valid visa is required for entry into Japan. Please contact Ms. Nobuko Takahashi--Operations Manager, UNICEF Japan, tel: (81-3) 546-4431, ntakahashi@unicef.org--who can issue an invitation to the conference which can be submitted with your visa application.



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EASAN is Working in Partnership with:

UNSGAB (UN Secretary General's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation), **UNESCAP** (United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific), **WSSCC** (Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council), **IWA** (International Water Association)

Co-organised by



East Asia Ministerial Conference on Sanitation and Hygiene 2007 (EASAN 2007)

Buoyant economic growth in East Asia has allowed many countries in the region to invest in progress. During the last five years alone, millions have been lifted out of poverty and the benefits of development are set to spread further during the next decades.

However, almost one billion people in the region still suffer the indignity of having no access to basic sanitation facilities, endangering the health of children and adults. One of the biggest challenges in the coming decades is to bring sanitation and hygiene to every household. Meeting the Millennium Development Goal on sanitation would be an important milestone. However, achieving this will still leave nearly one third of the region's population (735 million people) without access to improved sanitation, highlighting the need for countries to go beyond the MDG target.

Economic growth creates enormous opportunities that governments, the private sector and other partners need to seize to increase investment in sanitation and hygiene to make privation a thing of the past.

The Conference

Between 30 November-1 December 2007, leaders of fifteen nations in East Asia will meet to discuss options for accelerated national action to achieve and exceed the sanitation targets of the Millennium Development Goals.

The conference aims to:

- Generate commitments from governments and partners to increase investment in improved sanitation and hygiene;
- Agree on a joint declaration to implement effective national policies, programs and partnerships for sanitation and hygiene; and
- Explore options for establishing a regional process on sanitation and hygiene to maintain focus and attention on this vital issue.





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Nations need vision, political will and creativity to ensure that sufficient resources are invested effectively to make lasting progress in sanitation and hygiene that truly benefits communities everywhere.

| East Asia Sanitation Coverage 2004 | |
|---|-------------|
| (Source: 2004 UNICEF-WHO Joint Monitoring Programme on Water Supply and Sanitation) | |
| East Asia Region | 51 % |
| Brunei Darussalam, Hong Kong, Republic of Korea, Japan and Singapore | 100 % |
| Thailand | 99 % |
| Malaysia | 94 % |
| Myanmar | 77 % |
| Philippines | 72 % |
| Vietnam | 61 % |
| Mongolia | 59 % |
| DPR Korea | 59 % |
| Indonesia | 55 % |
| China | 44 % |
| Timor-Leste | 36 % |
| Lao PDR | 30 % |
| Cambodia | 17 % |

Participating Countries

The focus countries for the conference are: Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Mongolia, Timor-Leste, the Philippines and Vietnam. Other participating countries are: Brunei Darussalam, Japan, Malaysia, Republic of Korea, Singapore and Thailand.

About 180 representatives will be drawn from participating countries. National delegations led by ministerial representatives and including leading decision makers will come together with government, civil and private sector participants that have hands-on experience implementing sanitation and hygiene programs on the ground. **Please contact the conference secretariat focal points listed on Page 4.**



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- **Poster presentations** to provide an opportunity for networking and exchange of experience and ideas outside the formal structure of the conference.

The conference is part of a longer term regional preparation process and is closely linked with the Ministerial Regional Forum on Environment and Health. National papers and action plans have been under preparation in most participating countries since June 2006. **Participating countries are invited to contact the national focal points listed in Page 4.**

In the lead-up to the International Year of Sanitation in 2008, the conference is a response to the resolution of the United Nations Secretary General's Advisory Board (UNSGAB) on Water and Sanitation (Hashimoto Action Plan) and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

Conference Program

Chief highlights include:

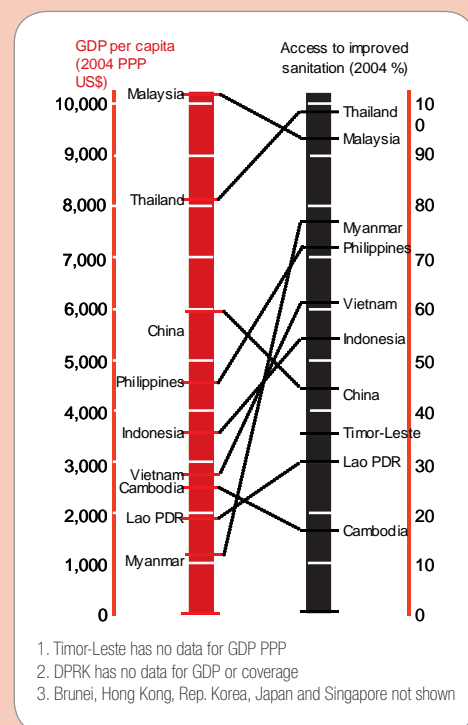
- A **ministerial roundtable** to profile issues at the highest political level resulting in options for regional cooperation
- **Country presentations** to highlight key aspects of country strategies, to define their major challenges, and to present plans and lessons learned on viable actions/achievements at scale
- **Country dialogues** to enable country delegations to reflect, discuss and debate national policies and programs
- **Regional thematic sessions** to profile key ideas and successful approaches

The Need For Action

If the MDG on sanitation is to be achieved, almost 400 million people in the region will need to gain access to improved sanitation facilities.

According to the 2006 Human Development Report, "Clean water and sanitation are among the most powerful preventative medicines for reducing child mortality. They are to diarrhea what immunization is to killer diseases such as measles or polio: a mechanism for reducing risk and averting death. In addition to saving lives, upstream investments in water and sanitation make economic sense because they would reduce the downstream costs facing health systems. Universal access to even the most basic water and sanitation facilities would reduce the financial burden on health systems in developing countries by about \$1.6 billion annually...."

Sanitation and hygiene are essential elements of development. Access to improved sanitation and hygiene reduces the risk of preventable diseases, including



1. Timor-Leste has no data for GDP PPP
 2. DPRK has no data for GDP or coverage
 3. Brunei, Hong Kong, Rep. Korea, Japan and Singapore not shown

Adapted from: UNDP (2006), Human Development Report 2006 Beyond Scarcity: Power, Poverty and the Global Water Crisis.

SARS, avian flu and intestinal worm infestation, but most notably to diarrhea, which is a major child killer.

East Asia is home to some of the world's success stories in sanitation development and hygiene promotion. It is this regional experience which can be brought to bear to develop workable strategies to increase access and to meet or exceed the MDG targets for sanitation. The nations of East Asia have many useful experiences to share, whatever their stage of economic development.



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