



# The WEMRB Project

The Project for Strengthening Capacity  
of Water Environmental Management in River Basin



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## The WEMRB Project has started

### Background

Water environmental conditions in Vietnam have been degraded due to increase of pollution load accompanied by the rapid urbanization and industrial development, and shortage of wastewater treatment facilities as well as their operation and maintenance capabilities. The Government of Vietnam (GOV) inaugurates revised National Strategy for Environmental Protection targeting to 2020 in 2012 focusing on pollution source control and water environmental management.

Due considering the current situation mentioned above, GOV requested the Government of Japan (GOJ) for implementation of a technical assistance titled "The Project for Strengthening Capacity of Water Environmental Management in River Basin".

### Overall Goal

Enforcement capacity of MONRE/Vietnam Environment Administration (VEA) and Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DONRE) is strengthened and MONRE/VEA is ready to implement river basin water environment management system other than the target river basin area.

### Project purpose

Policy development and implementation capacity of MONRE/VEA, and enforcement capacity of target DONREs regarding River Basin Water Environmental Management (RBWEM) are strengthened and institutionalized.

### Outputs

**Output-1:** Capacity of MONRE/VEA and target DONREs in legal document development and enforcement on RBWEM is strengthened, and the base of institutionalization of RBWEM mechanism is constructed.

**Output-2:** Enforcement capacity on RBWEM of MONRE/VEA and target DONREs is strengthened through implementation of Pilot Projects.

**Output-3:** A road map for improvement of RBWEM is prepared based on the outcomes of Output-1 and Output-2, and MONRE/VEA is ready to implement further steps toward the Integrated River Basin Water Resource Management (IRBWRM).

## The WEMRB Project approved

(22/3/2016)

The Project document was signed by the Vice Minister, Dr. Vo Tuan Nhan, in the same day of the first JCC Meeting.

In this connection, the Project for Strengthening Capacity of Water Environmental Management in River Basin has been formally approved by the Government of Vietnam.

## The 1st JCC Meeting was held

(22/3/2016)

On 22 March 2016, the first Joint Coordinating Committee (JCC) Meeting was held at the Crown Plaza Hotel, Cau Giay, Ha Noi City.

At this Project's important annual meeting with the participation of concerned people from MONRE, organizations under umbrella of MONRE, JICA Vietnam Office, JICA's Expert Teams and the Departments of Natural Resources and Environment (DONREs) of target river basins, the Project has been formally started.

Starting with Opening Remarks of the Vice Minister of MONRE, Dr. Vo Tuan Nhan and the Senior Chief Representative of JICA Vietnam Office, Mr. Naoki Kakioka, presentations about the project and discussion were conducted at this meeting.

At the presentation, main topics were the overview of the project, detailed activities and exchange of experiences & challenging issues on the coordination mechanism. After the presentations, project issues regarding Inception Report, general work contents, pilot project activities, development process of legal documents, etc. were discussed.



*Participants with the Vice-Minister,  
Dr. Vo Tuan Nhan*



*Opening Remarks by Dr. Vo Tuan Nhan,  
Vice Minister, MONRE*



*Opening Remarks by Mr. Naoki Kakioka,  
Senior Chief Representative, JICA Vietnam Office*

## Kickoff Workshop

(22/3/2016)

After the JCC meeting, the Kickoff Workshop named “Toward to the Enforcement of the Water Environmental Management in River Basin – Activities of WEMRB Project” was held at the same venue from 13:30 to 16:00.

The objectives of this workshop were to disseminate the project activities, and to discuss difficulties and challenges of water environmental management. In this workshop, more specialized and deeper issues were discussed.



*A scene of the discussions at the Kickoff*



*Co-chairs,  
Dr. Loi (above) & Mr. Adachi (Below)*



*At the discussions,  
Ms. Huong, Thai Nguyen DONRE*

## Project management personnel

Upon approval of the project document, the Project Personnel, such as the Project Director, Project Manager, Task Force & Working Group members etc. will be formally assigned soon.

From now on, the project activities will be conducted timely by this formal assignment.

## SET opens offices in target river basins

On the plan of the project, JICA's Short Term Expert Team (SET) opens their offices in Bac Giang Province of Cau river basin and Binh Duong Province of Dong Nai river basin.

## DONREs Visiting

(28-31/3/2016)

Holding the JCC meeting, the project Inception Report (IC/R) had reached an agreement.

This series of visiting was conducted for the follow-up of the said meeting by a team of staff members from Department of Waste Management and Environmental Improvement (WENID), Environmental Science Institute (ESI) and JICA Experts.

Before the starting of the pilot projects ↗

↙ (PP), supplementary description of detailed contents was explained to DONREs in the target river basins. It had been also requested to confirm at the JCC Meeting.



*A scene at the DONRE-visiting  
(12 January 2016)*



*Celebration of Int'l. Women's Day  
(8 March 2016)*



*Interview to Vice Minister,  
at the JCC (22 March 2016)*

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## The Next Schedule

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### New SET members are dispatched

On April, eight (8) members of SET arrive in Vietnam. Four (4) of them are newly dispatched.

New members' areas of expertise are Simulation Model Analysis, Pollution Analysis, Water Resource Management and Administrative & Financial Institution Building.

### Studies will be started

To develop a circular about compensation, the project will start the review and research with local experts.

They are the experts on "Review of legal documents regarding compensation" and "Development of first draft circular on compensation for environmental damages".