

## **Acting Vice Prime Minister of Kyrgyzstan to participate in Water Summit in Japan**

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BISHKEK, November 30 (TCA). Acting Vice Prime Minister of Kyrgyzstan Nur uulu Dosbol left for Japan to take part in the 1st Asia-Pacific **Water** Summit, the governmental press service reports.

The 1st Asia-Pacific **Water** Summit will take place in Beppu, Oita prefecture, Japan on December 3 and 4, 2007, with the participation of top-level decision-makers from across the Asia-Pacific region.

In calling for the creation of the APWF at the 4th World **Water** Forum in Mexico in 2006, the region's **water** ministers sought to establish an effective mechanism to encourage more collaborative efforts on **water** resources management and to accelerate the process of effective integration of **water** resources management into the socio-economic development process of the Asian and Pacific region. The Asia-Pacific **Water** Ministerial Meeting also called upon the APWF to organize Asia-Pacific **Water** Summits, to be held, once every 2-3 years.

The 1st APWS is being convened by the Steering Committee for the 1st Asia-Pacific **Water** Summit and the Asia-Pacific **Water** Forum (APWF), under the chairmanship of former Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori, in collaboration with the APWF's Governing Council, chaired by Prof. Tommy Koh, Ambassador-at-large of Singapore.

Heads of State and Government and ministers are expected to lead their national delegations to the Summit, in a bid to mobilize the political will and commitment required to put **water** high up the region's national agendas. The Summit will bring together top-level leaders from various sectors including industry, public, education, local organizations, and media from 49 countries. All in all, around 300 people are expected to participate in this Summit. The leaders of some of the region's foremost institutions and stakeholders involved in **water** and sanitation issues are expected to participate, namely, the **Asian Development Bank**, The World Conservation Union (IUCN), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, UNESCO, Singapore PUB, Streams of Knowledge, UN-Habitat, UNESCAP, Japan **Water** Forum, among others.

Exchanging on the central theme of "**Water** Security: Leadership and Commitment," top level dignitaries will make speeches in plenary session, while a series of thematic panel sessions are scheduled to discuss in further depth some of the issues of concern such as, climate change, **water** financing, **water**-related disaster management, **water** for development and ecosystems, developing knowledge and lessons, increasing local capacity, monitoring investments and results, the private sector **water** mandate, among others. In parallel to the 1st APWS, an Open Event forum will be held in Beppu, 1-5th December 2007 in and around the B-Con Plaza, with a broad participation from civil society stakeholders, multilateral organizations, and others.

"The fact is that, at present, in Asia and the Pacific, 700 million of our citizens do not have access to safe drinking **water**, the region suffers disproportionately from **water**-related disasters and degraded land-**water** ecosystems significantly threaten **water** productivity. We can turn the situation around if we can agree to make **water** a high priority in our development plans, if we can improve governance, if we mobilize and allocate more financial resources to **water** infrastructure and if we acknowledge that the access to safe drinking **water** is a basic human right of our people." - Former Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori, Chair, Steering Committee of the 1st Asia-Pacific **Water** Summit.

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The conclusions from the 1st APWS will be conveyed to upcoming political events in Japan, namely TICAD IV and the G8 Summit in 2008.

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