

Vice Prime Minister Nur uulu Dosbol leaves for Japan to attend 1st Asia-Pacific Water Summit

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Acting Vice Prime Minister Nur uulu Dosbol today left for Japan to attend the 1st Asia-Pacific **Water** Summit.

The Summit will be held in Beppu, Oita prefecture, Japan on December 3-4 with the participation of top-level decision-makers from across the Asia-Pacific region.

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 Asia-Pacific **Water** Forum (APWF) is working to increase the region's access to improved **water** supplies and sanitation, protect and restore river basins, and reduce people's vulnerability to **water** disasters. The APWF champions efforts aimed at boosting investments, building capacity, increasing public outreach and enhancing cooperation in the **water** sector at the regional level. AKIpress

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