

## Kyoto Water Declaration

We are greatly pleased that the 3rd World Water Forum has convened here in Kyoto where the Kyoto Protocol — which sets forth specific targets for addressing global warming — was adopted. This Forum is dealing with a wide array of water-related problems and is encouraging those linked through water around the world to take action toward these problems.

First, we have confirmed that environmentally conscious lifestyles should be promoted to preserve the water cycle on the globe, to ensure all have equal access to at least minimum necessary amount of water, and to contribute to the perpetual sustainability around the world.

The world's water-related problems encompass water pollution, ecosystem destruction, flood and droughts as well as a lack of safe drinking water and access to sanitary facilities. While these problems are due to the impacts of climate change as well as existing production and consumption patterns to some extent, they are also deeply rooted in regional social cultures and geographical characteristics.

Solutions to the wide-ranging water problems specific to each region of the world require a two-pronged approach: a long-term, comprehensive approach calling for global cooperation that brings together the wisdom of the world; and a local approach undertaken by multi-stakeholders sharing a common water history and culture. We pledge to join in the effort to promote this approach.

We should also recognize that humanity, throughout the long history of civilization, is responsible for the disruption, pollution, and disorderly consumption of the water provided by the natural water cycle, which is inherently continuous and enduring. We must always bear in mind that the water we are using today is borrowed from future generations, who will require it for their survival.

Therefore, we pledge to preserve the natural water cycle throughout every basin; develop social norms with a noble regard for the survival of humanity and all other organisms; and engage in a concerted effort with all multi-stakeholders involved in basin conservation to take action toward this end.

Throughout Kyoto's history — which extends back more than a millennium — our ancestors lived in villages and forests, developed the plains and nurtured a rich cultural heritage. At the same time, they fostered a spirit of genuine concern for water and adopted a prudent approach to water management, achievements of which we are very proud. It is our responsibility to preserve this spirit, nurtured in the beautiful natural environment of Kyoto, as well as a sound water cycle for future generations.

In this spirit, we walk hand-in-hand with the people of the world to whom we are linked through water.

March 20, 2003  
Kyoto Executive Committee for the 3rd World Water Forum