

Subject:	Presentation of Mr. Szollosi-Nagy (Manager of Division of Water Sciences, UNESCO)
Location:	Special Conference Room on 2 nd Floor, PWRI
Time of Day:	10:00 ~ 11:00, 18 May, 2004, Tue.

- Historical insights on water
 - Water is politically sensitive

There are over 263 international river basins in Africa. Three billion people in over eighteen countries share most water resources.
- Overview of debate and results
 - Water recognition changes

1997 was the international turning point about recognition of water. UN General Assembly observed the progress in the past five years. Nineteen special sessions were held. A resolution was adopted, for the first time in the UN history, to legally bind the eighty-nine members of UN. Unless early actions are taken, in fifty years, most developing countries will face severe water crisis.
 - Johannesburg negotiations and results

Through the tough negotiations, finally UN Secretary General made a proposal in five major areas including water, energy, health, and biodiversity. So water came extremely stronger. Water has become an environmental agenda as well as a political agenda. The World Summit on Sustainable Development held in 2002 (in Johannesburg) is important as it does not only repeat the importance of water supply sanitation, but is emphasizes on improving observation system, giving a whole chapter to it.
- Introduction of UNESCO's Response to Challenges
 - Huge budget required

Annually additional 33-35 billion US dollars needs to be invested for water issues.
 - Needs assessment in developing countries

Alone in Africa, you need to increase the number of water expertise like technicians, water laboratory technicians, and researches, by 300 percent. That number for Southeast Asia is 250 percent, and for Latin America, fifty percent. But it has to be done; it is very important to support the developing countries.
- Expectation to UNESCO Center which will be established in Tsukuba
 - Its purpose and covering range

It aims at dealing with global disaster, becoming a global hub or center for global disaster mitigation. The goals of Tsukuba Center include capacity building,

education, application, and global disaster mitigation.

It ranges from science, data connection, focusing on mitigation of disaster, corporate forecasting, mitigation of productivity impacts, measures and structures, to observing social response and activities. Tsukuba Center combines engineering, science, and social sciences, to provide new technologies, training, and support to those in need.

➤ Some major disasters in the last decade

Some major disasters in the past ten years are caused by hurricanes. The damage totals four billion dollars and left people homeless.

➤ Japan, the sole country with good experience

Japan is the only country with over 100-year experience of developing very specific knowledge on how to live in and with disasters.

➤ Characteristics of Tsukuba Center

It is an implementation of Johannesburg Summit, aiming at international disaster reduction. It also fits well in the Kyoto strategy.

□ UNESCO facilities and prospects

➤ UNESCO centers

In sixty years many centers were built and now we have nine functioning. Given the high needs for human resources, a hundred people work on water issues. Normally programs and capacities take over. Examples are ones in Panama, Kuala Lumpur, Cairo, and Chili.

➤ UN's important decades

Two important decades are ahead, for educating sustainable development, mitigation of hazards, and international integration.