

The NARBO Newsletter

(Network of Asian River Basin Organizations)

<http://www.narbo.jp/>

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1. Latest Information

1) The Report on APHW2004

NARBO Secretariat participated the APHW (Asia Pacific Association of Hydrology and Water Resources) Conference in Singapore, July 5 to 9. APHW was established with the aim to promote exchange of operational knowledge and experience in water resources management, and research activities as well as education. Of main interest are problems or cases (within the framework relevant to the geography and climate of the Asia Pacific region) and solutions or



approaches offered.

Having cooperation with APHW, in which many researchers on water resources in Asia are involved, will be greatly beneficial to NARBO activities in the future. Over 150 experts from Asian countries gathered in the conference and had active discussion.

NARBO Secretariat had a booth exhibit to introduce NARBO, and proposed to strengthen cooperation between NARBO and APHW at Closing Plenary.

The representative of APHW made a comment that APHW would become a member of NARBO for future cooperation.

2) The report on the Third South Asia Water Forum

The Third South Asia Water Forum was held from July 13 to 15 for three days at Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel in Dhaka, Bangladesh with more than 250 participants. This Water Forum was sponsored by Global Water

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partnership-South Asia, Japan Water Forum and United Nations Development Program (UNDP).

The Forum consisted of the inaugural session, technical session, plenary session and concluding session. Twelve technical sessions covered not only water-related issues but also IWRM-related issues such as "IWRM : Practices and Legal Framework/Institution" and "River Basin Organization/Area Water Partnership", etc. From NARBO Secretariat, Mr. TAKAGI (JWA : Japan Water Agency) attended the forum and made a keynote speech titled "What's NARBO -Process from its establishment to its goal-" at the session on "River Basin Organization/Area Water Partnership" held on July 14. He distributed NARBO newsletters and advertised NARBO. During the forum, some of the participants asked him the procedure to become its member. It seems the name of NARBO is gradually spreading among RBOs and other related organizations.

On the final day, July 15 at the closing session, the Dhaka Declaration was presented and adopted. The declaration emphasized the importance of basin-wide planning and management approach.

Although Bangladesh was in a troublesome situation hit by flood, the forum ended successfully with the good arrangement by the forum secretariat.

You can see The Dhaka Declaration and the detailed program of the forum on our website.

(URL:<http://www.narbo.jp/>)



Inaugural session



Keynote speech by NARO Secretariat



Inundated all over like ocean



3) The first NARBO training in Thailand

The first NARBO training course is going to be held in Thailand from July 26 to August 6 for about two weeks with great cooperation with the Ministry of natural Resources and Environment, Thailand and Thailand Water Resources Association. The aim of this training is to get deep understandings of IWRM and overcome the various challenges for applying IWRM to NARBO member countries through the IWRM-applied cases in Thailand. The first half of the course consists of lectures and discussions including the brainstorming session about the definition of IWRM in Southeast Asia, and the second half consists of field studies and case study analyses. About 30 participants are expected to take part in this training. The course fee is US\$200 per person.

4) Workshop on NARBO Web Design and Development

The workshop will be held in Thailand from August 7 to August 8. It aims to build a better understanding of what members of NARBO expect from the website, and how the website can best be structured and further developed, both in terms of substance and design, taking benefit from recent experience and best practice in other organizations.

Appointed representatives of RBO members of NARBO will attend the workshop to help prioritize the services to be provided through the NARBO website. In addition, web design and development specialists from selected organizations (MRC, IRRI, ADB, ADBI, IWMI) will participate in the workshop to share recent web development

experiences and to form a community of practice to support the NARBO web development team.

5) JICA group training course

The first JICA group training course titled "Integrated Water Resources Management" is going to be held from October 12 to 30 for about three weeks under the auspices of JICA. The target group for this course is "senior officials currently working at water-related administrative agencies who have possibility of being engaged in IWRM, with the age between 40 and 55 years old". GI (General Information) was sent to *13 countries in Southeast Asian regions. JWA (Japan Water Agency) is going to undertake the training so that the participants can get deeper understandings of IWRM and learn how to practice IWRM in their countries. We believe this training course will benefit activities of NARBO. The due date for application is August 30, and we encourage you to consider letting your staff participate in this training course.

* 13 countries are Indonesia, Philippines, Cambodia, Vietnam, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Thailand, Laos, China, India and Pakistan.



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2. Announcement from NARBO Secretariat

1) The basic idea for NARBO website and database

As a part of our efforts to facilitate NARBO activities, we are working on developing our website to be more useful, helpful and interactive. Our basic idea has been reflected on the website, and we are now seeking some ways to promote exchange of views between members, such as creating an on-line bulletin board and/or an electronic meeting for the next step. Any constructive suggestions, opinions and comments are welcome. For further information, visit our website at www.narbo.jp/.

Along with the website, we are now building NARBO mailing list, showing each organization's telephone number, contact person's name and so on. If you have not submitted the questionnaire, please fill out and send it back to us.

2) Call for Information on RBO members

In order to strengthen capacity of each country and RBO through NARBO activities, firstly, it is important to share a wide range of information on IWRM among members. Therefore, we are planning to build a database as a first step for sharing information, which contains detailed information of each member, such as legal system governing establishment and activities, specific functions and outputs, scheme of cost sharing, outline of the basin. Information will be collected in the given format and converted into database for members' use. We will send the format, named "RBO Information File", to each member along with a sample data. Please

complete the file in detail to the utmost extent, referring the sample. Although there might be some information with no data, we consider that it is important to comprehend which data is available (and which data is not available) at present. The database will be accessible only for members of NARBO by entering the keyword to protect confidentiality.

3) Role sharing of NARBO activities

As you know, the NARBO Secretariat is located in JWA (Japan Water Agency) at present, and its work is being shared by "Planning and Information Systems Division" at JWA headquarters and "Planning and Information Division" at Research and Training Institute. Although there is no clear assignment of roles between two divisions, roughly saying, Planning and Information Division is serving as a liaison office and Planning and Information Division is doing more practical works such as conducting training courses.

If you have any questions, requests and whatever regarding NARBO, please do not hesitate to contact us at shikenar1@luck.ocn.ne.jp by e-mail, or call at +81-48-853-9419-315.

3. Serial Topics

1) What is RBO? : Outline of Japan Water Agency (JWA)

【Activities】

Japan Water Agency (JWA) is one of the Incorporated Administrative Agencies, which are set up and granted objectives and missions by the national government to put “administrative jobs and projects, implementation of which should be ensured for the public benefits such as stable public life and socioeconomic activities” into operation.

JWA constructs, renovates and operates various water resources development facilities such as dams, estuary barrages, canals and facilities for lake and marsh development in the seven river systems (Tone, Ara, Toyo, Kiso, Yodo, Yoshino and Chikugo River Systems) designated for water resources development in accordance with the Basic Plan for Water Resources Development (Full Plan) established under the Water Resources Development Promotion Law. (see Fig-1)

JWA activities consists of water supply, flood control and entrusted activities, and each activity is implemented under instruction of Competent Ministers such as the Minister of Land, Infrastructure and Transport; the Minister of Health, Labor and Welfare; the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries; the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry. (see Fig-2) The Minister of Land, Infrastructure and Transport takes charge of matters related to personnel and financial affairs of JWA.

【Management Philosophy】

JWA ensures the stable supply of safe and high quality water at a reasonable price.

JWA, as a group of professionals with comprehensive knowledge and experience, pursues the Management Philosophy through following activities:

1. Project cost reduction based on life cycle cost of water resources development facilities
2. Strong coordination with related administrative agencies and water users
3. Special care for aquatic and natural environment
4. Risk management to secure lifelines
5. Efforts for conservation and revitalization of reservoir areas

【Project Implementation Procedures】

JWA projects go through procedures of consultations with or hearings from the related government ministries, prefectural governors and water users about projects plans, cost burdens and construction schedules, etc. (see Fig-3)

【Funding】

JWA projects are funded by government grants, subsidies, charges, loans, trust funds and trust revenues. (see Fig-4)

Government grants

The government provides grants for flood control including alleviation of flood damage, maintenance and improvement of sound



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functions of river water flow (e.g. securement of vested water intake, conservation of river environment) from the special account under the supervision of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport (MLIT).

Subsidies

The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare (MHLW), the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI) grant subsidies to reduce the finance burden of beneficiaries such as agricultural land improvement districts, and domestic and industrial water suppliers.

Charges (Beneficiary Shares)

Beneficiaries make payments during water project construction or make installment payments after the completion of the facility and also make payments for facilities management.

Loans (Beneficiary Shares)

JWA receives long-term loans from the government fund to enable beneficiaries to make installment payments of construction cost after the completion of water resources development facilities. JWA itself issues water resources bonds and raises private funds to pay for the costs of advance land acquisition and of dam constructions.

【Scheme of cost sharing】

There are two schemes of cost sharing: construction project and management project. (see Fig-5.1 and Fig-5.2)

【JWA project locations】

JWA is managing 53 completed projects with 48 facilities, and constructing or investigating another 15 projects, in seven river systems (Tone, Ara, Toyo, Kiso, Yodo, Yoshino and Chikugo River systems) designated for water resources development. (see Fig-6)

【JWA Project Performances】

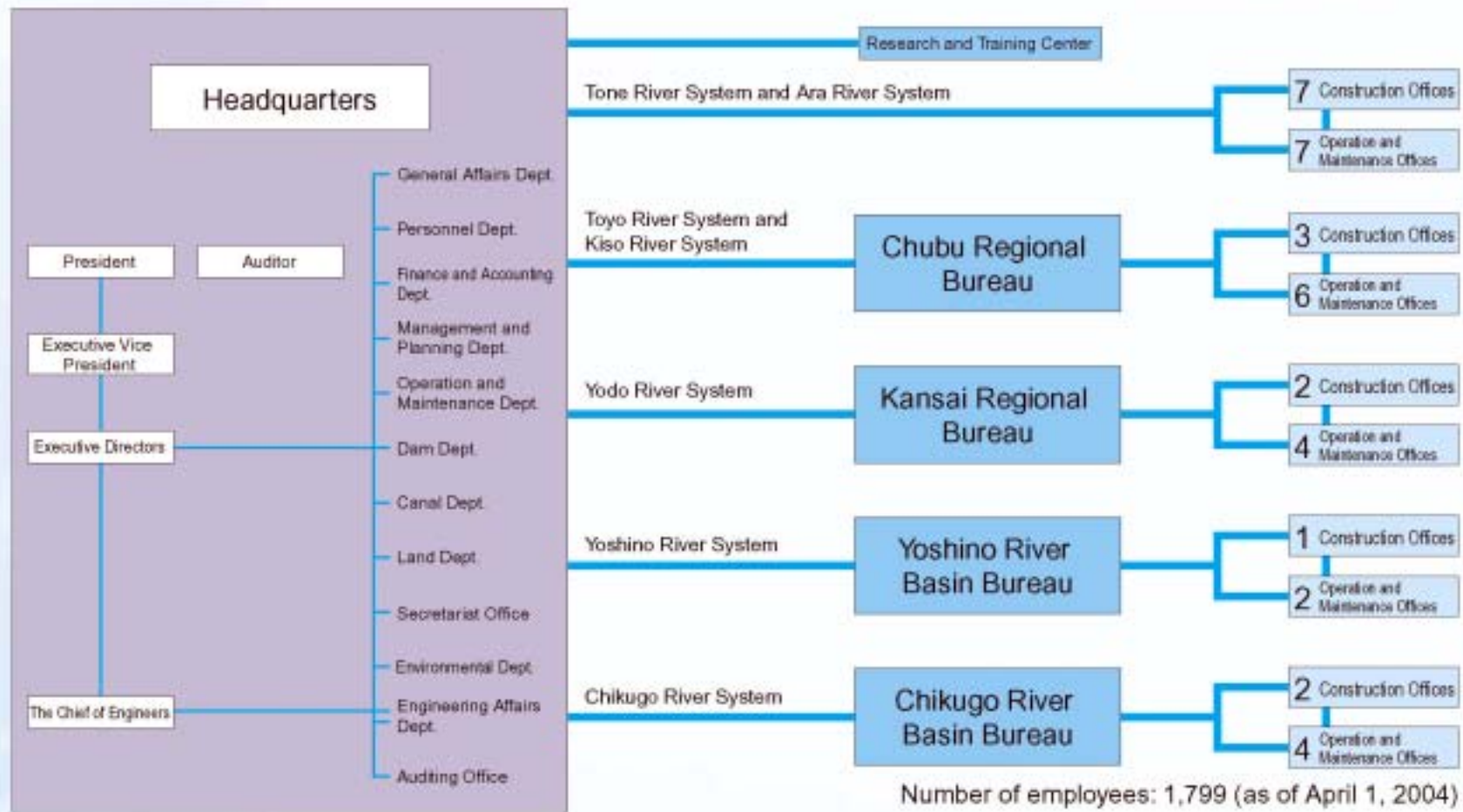
The seven river systems designated for water resources development (Tone, Ara, Toyo, Kiso, Yodo, Yoshino and Chikugo River Systems), where the Basic Plan for Water Resources Development (Full Plan) is applied, cover areas of major economic and social activities, approximately 16% of national land, 51% of national population and 47% of national industrial shipment. (see Fig-7)

The volume of water resources developed by JWA based on Full Plan in seven river systems amounts to approximately 335m³/sec, 88% of a total volume of 379m³/sec in all water resources developments, including those developed by other organizations except for JWA (see Fig-8).

Of the total water resources developed by JWA, municipal water is approximately 321m³/sec (292m³/sec completed) and irrigation water is approximately 70m³/sec. Conveyance volume of municipal water is approximately 133m³/sec (118m³/sec completed) and that of irrigation is approximately 259m³/sec.

Fig-1 JWA Organization Chart

(As of April 1, 2004)



Notes

- 1) It is been stipulated that the Japan Water Agency should be staffed with one president, one executive vice president, five executive directors (at most) and two auditors.
- 2) Construction Offices include Management and Construction Offices.

Fig-3 JWA Projects Procedures

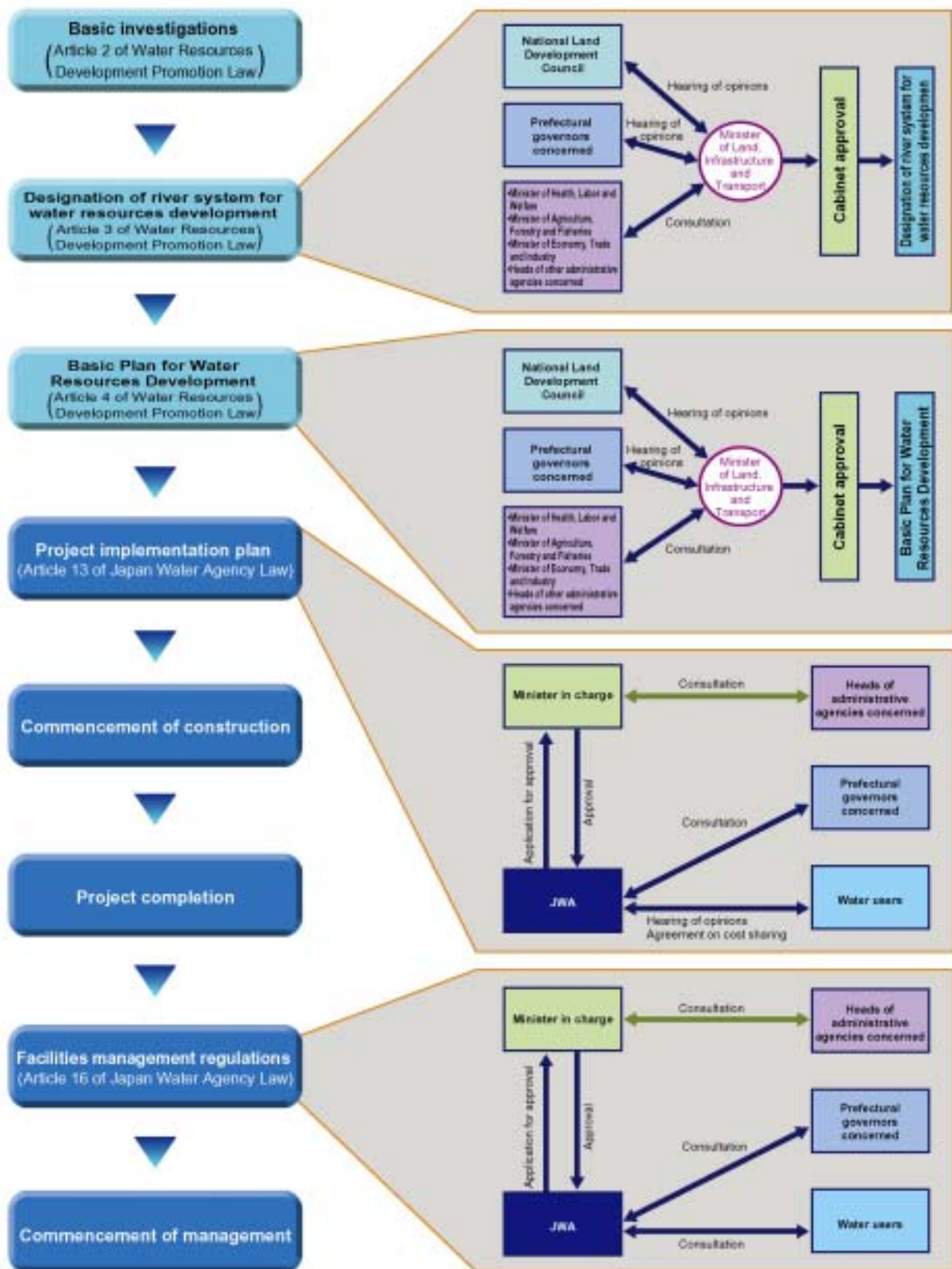


Fig-4 JWA Projects Funding

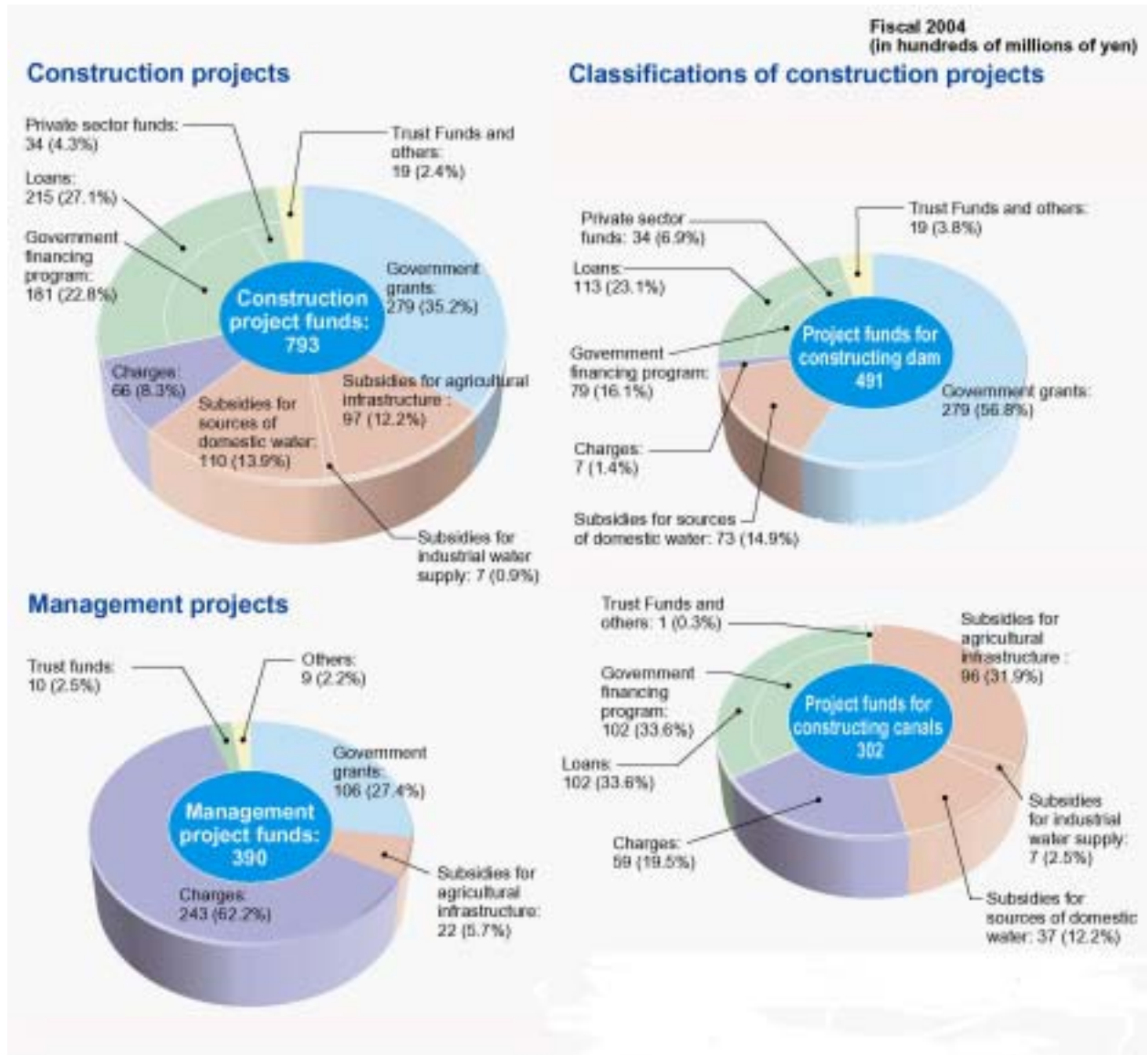


Fig-5-1 Scheme of Cost Sharing

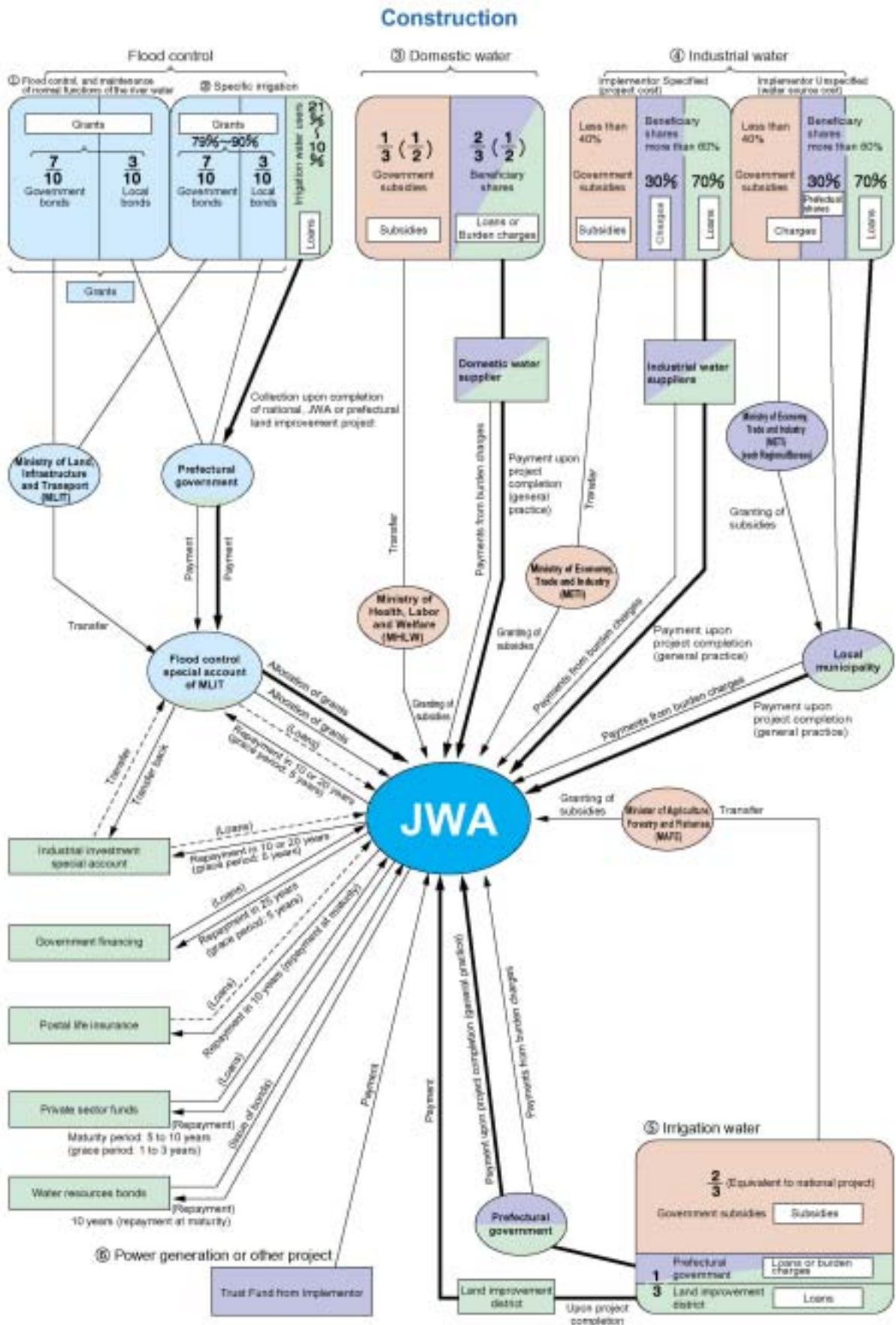


Fig-5-2 Scheme of Cost Sharing

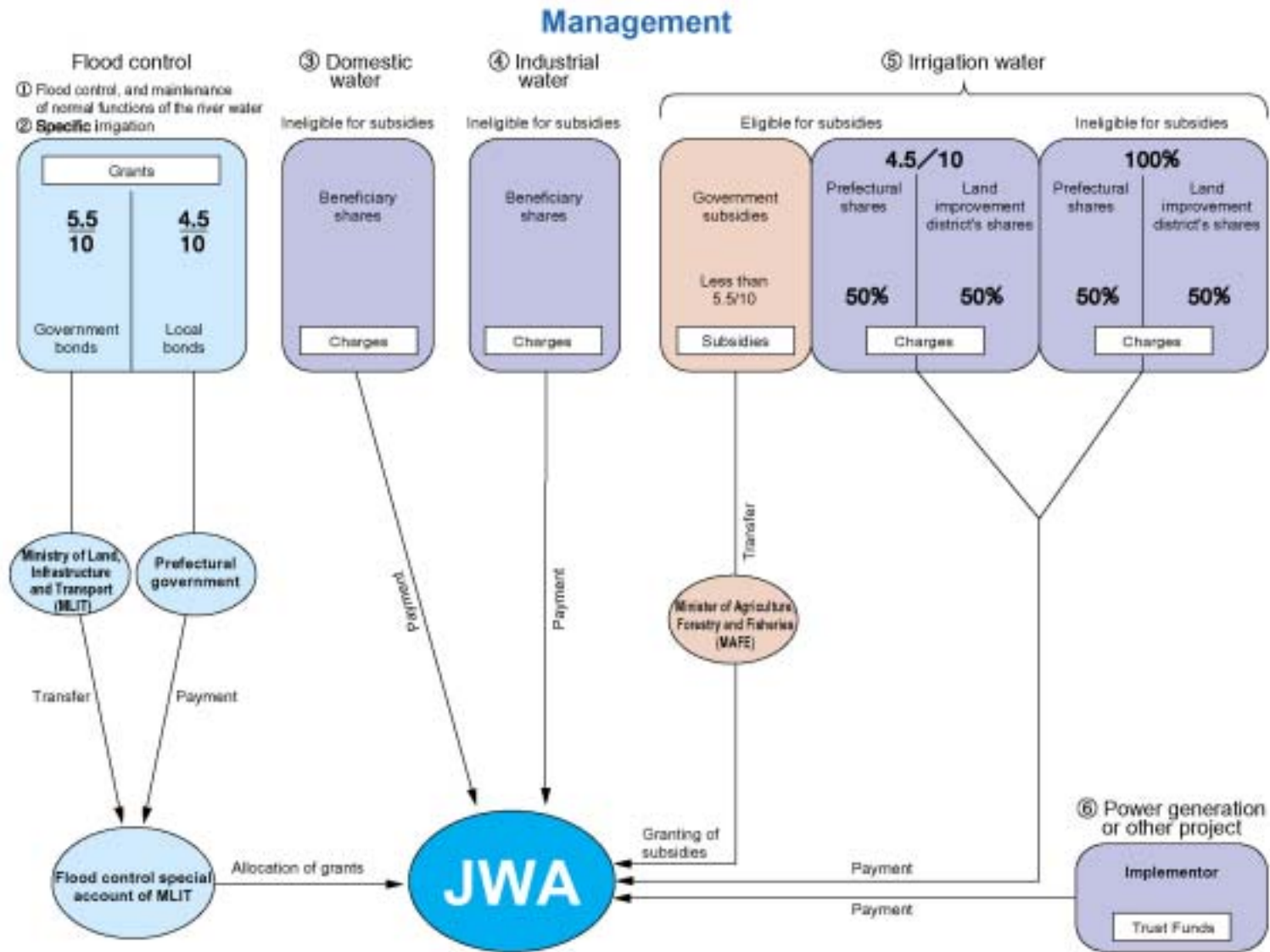


Fig-6 JWA Projects Locations

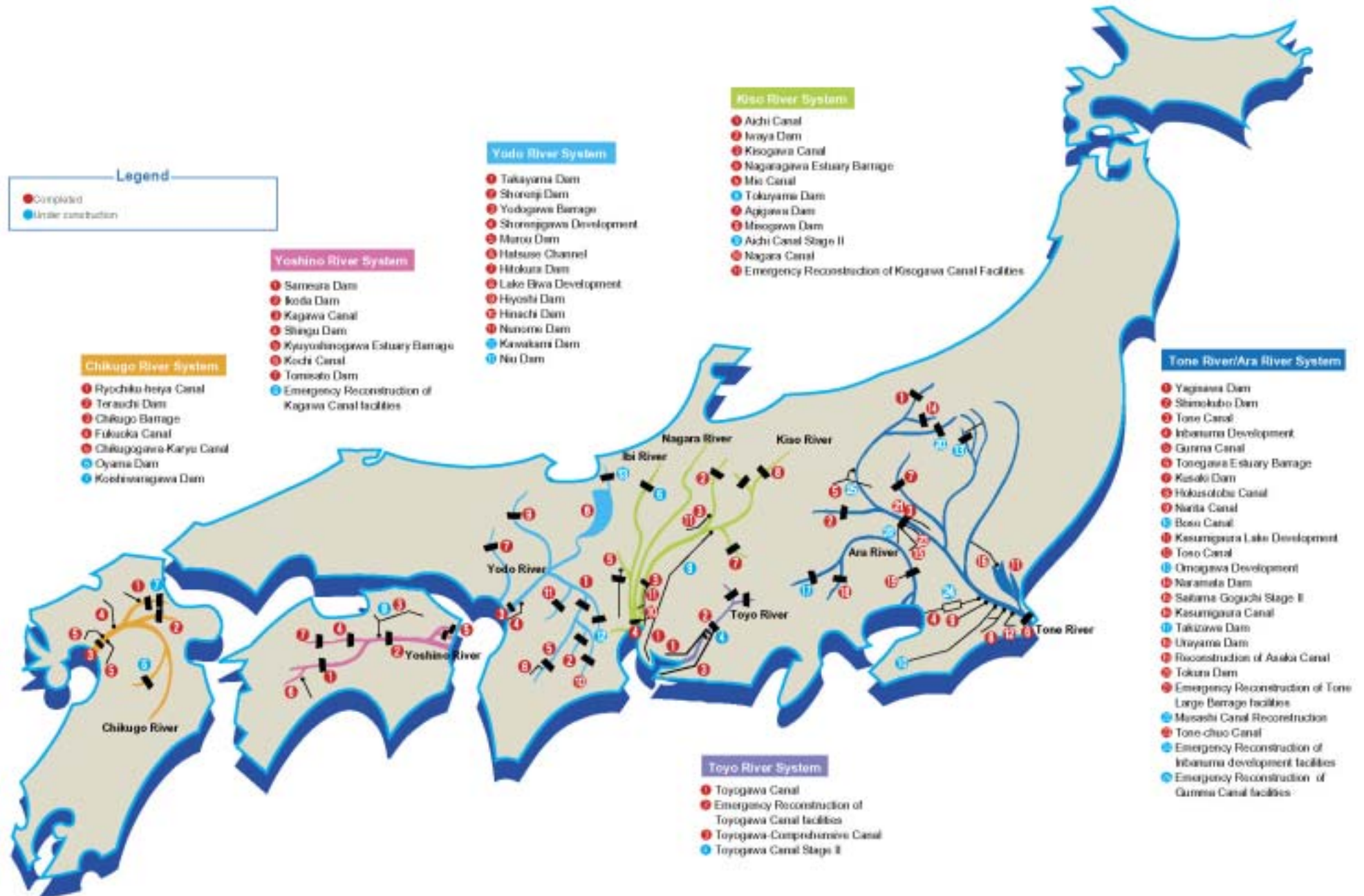
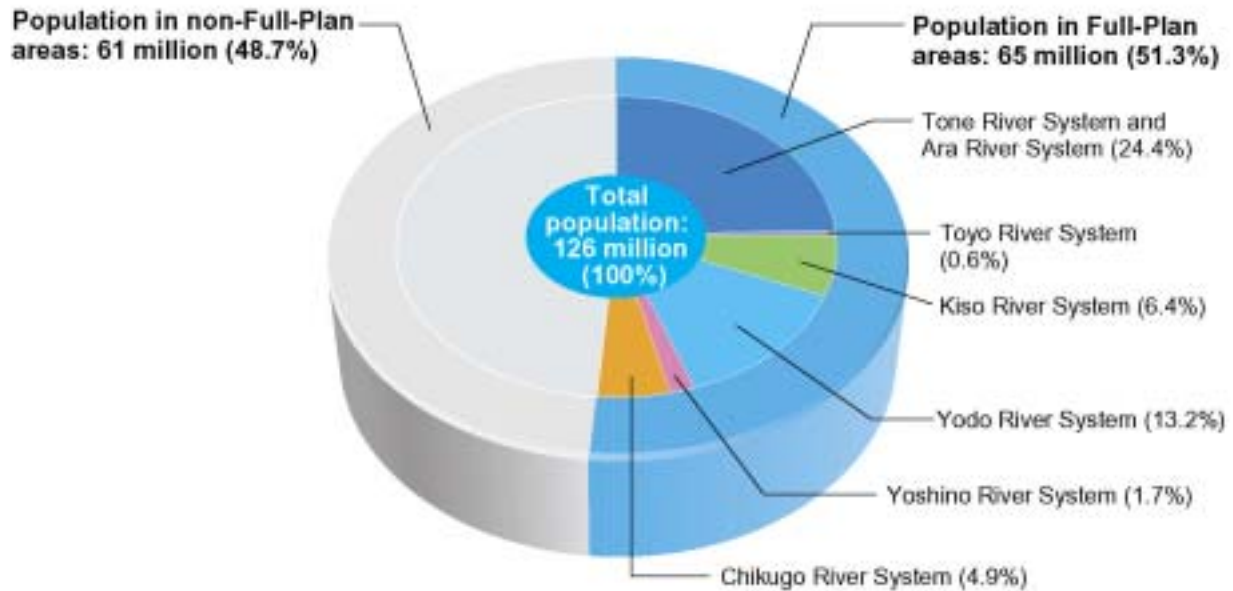
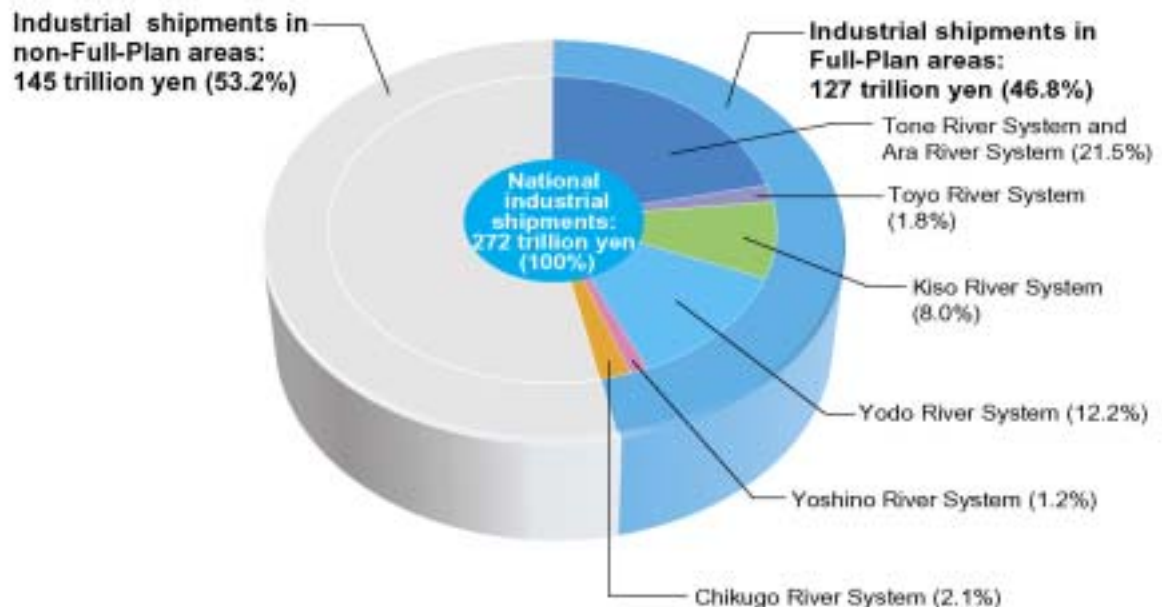


Fig-7 Ratio of the Full-Plan Areas to Total Japan (2002)

Ratio of population in the Full-Plan areas to total population (2002)

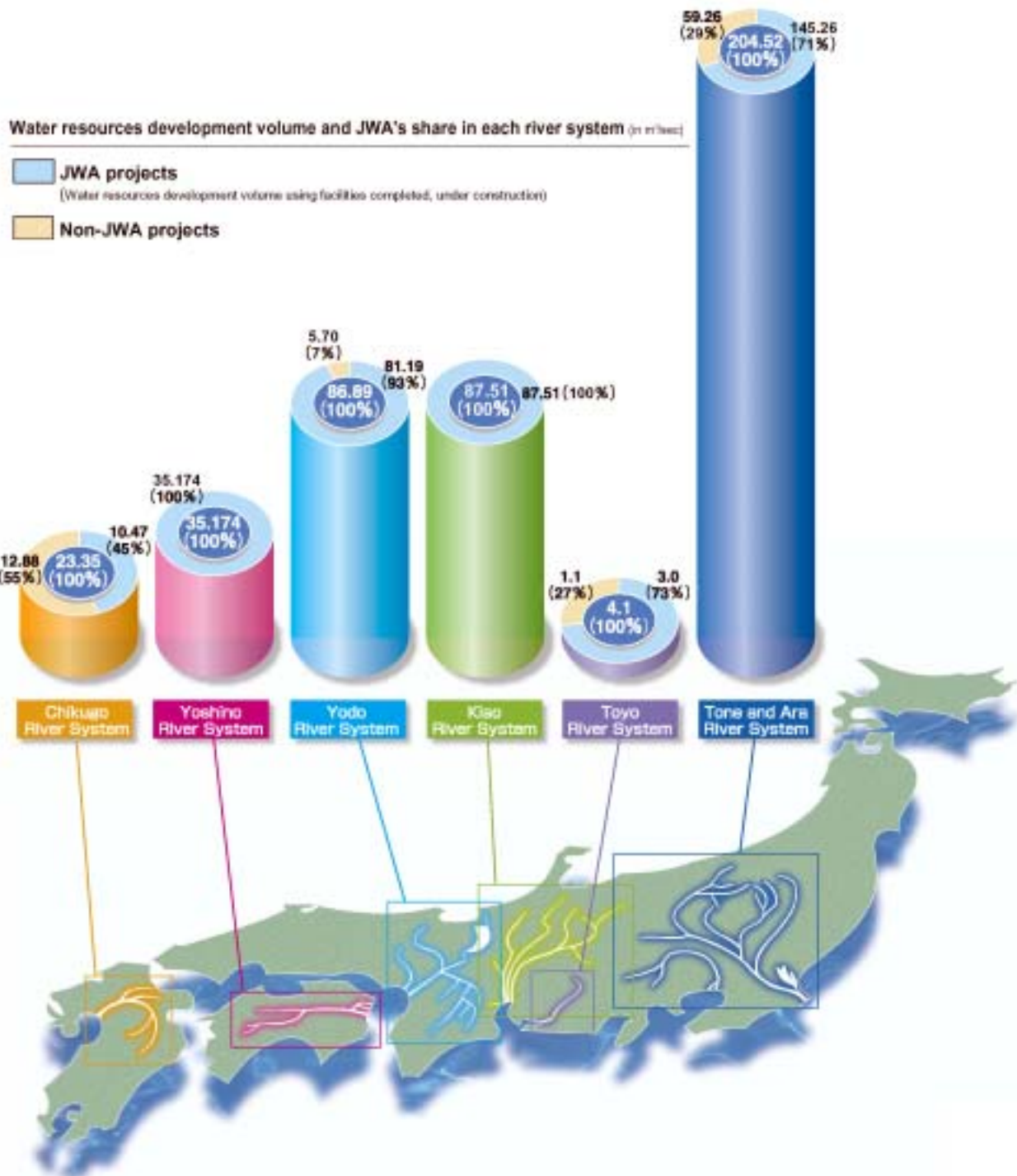


Ratio of industrial shipments in value in Full-Plan areas to the national total (2000)

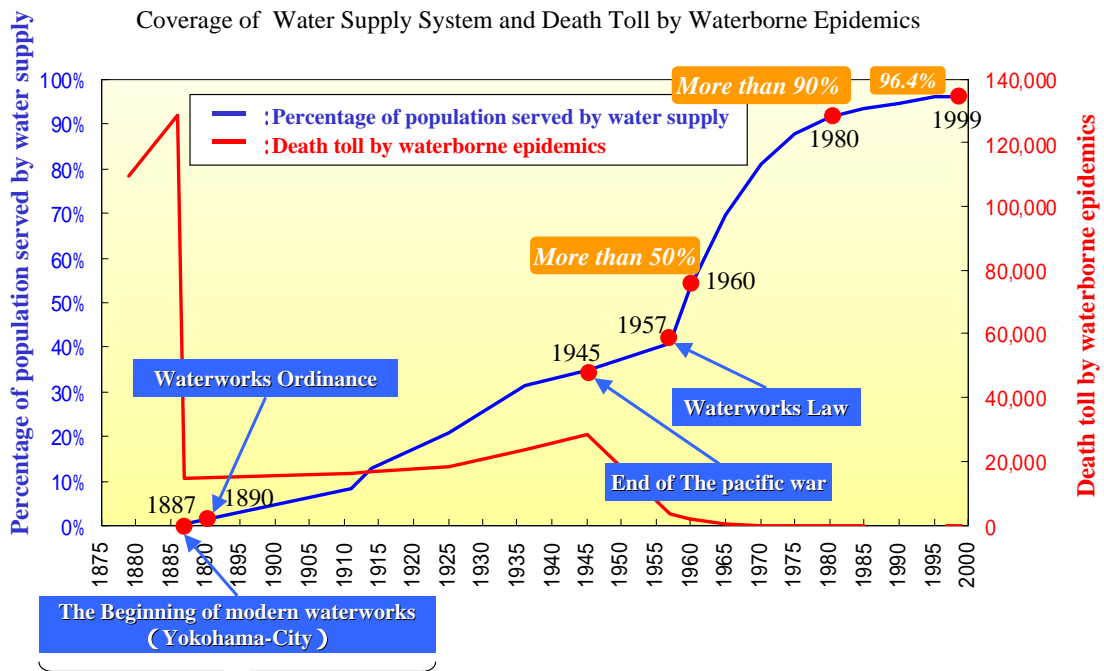


Source: Water Resources in Japan, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, 2003

Fig-8 Water Resources Development Volume and JWA's Share in each River System



IWRM Topics



Water supply control measures were implemented at harbors to prevent the spread of waterborne epidemics such as cholera

Note: "Rate of waterworks installation" refers to all water supply systems, including large public water supplies, small public water supplies, private water supply systems, etc.

The outbreaks of cholera and other waterborne infectious diseases were observed since the end of the Edo period (around 1860) when Japan began to trade actively with foreign nations. From 1868 to 1887, the number of patients who contracted cholera amounted to more than 410,000, and more than half of them died from the disease.

Therefore, people clamored for the installation of modern waterworks and sewage facilities as sanitation facilities primarily in the port cities where the risk of waterborne infectious diseases were high.

In 1887, the first modern waterworks in Japan was completed in Yokohama port town where the most citizens were infected with cholera at the time in Japan. Other waterworks were subsequently completed in Hakodate (1889), Nagasaki (1891) and other cities. As the above figure shows, installment of water works and sewage facilities result in dramatic decrease in the number of fatalities caused by waterborne infectious diseases.

Call for Articles on IWRM !

NARBO Secretariat would appreciate it if you could post IWRM topics of RBOs on the NARBO Newsletters.