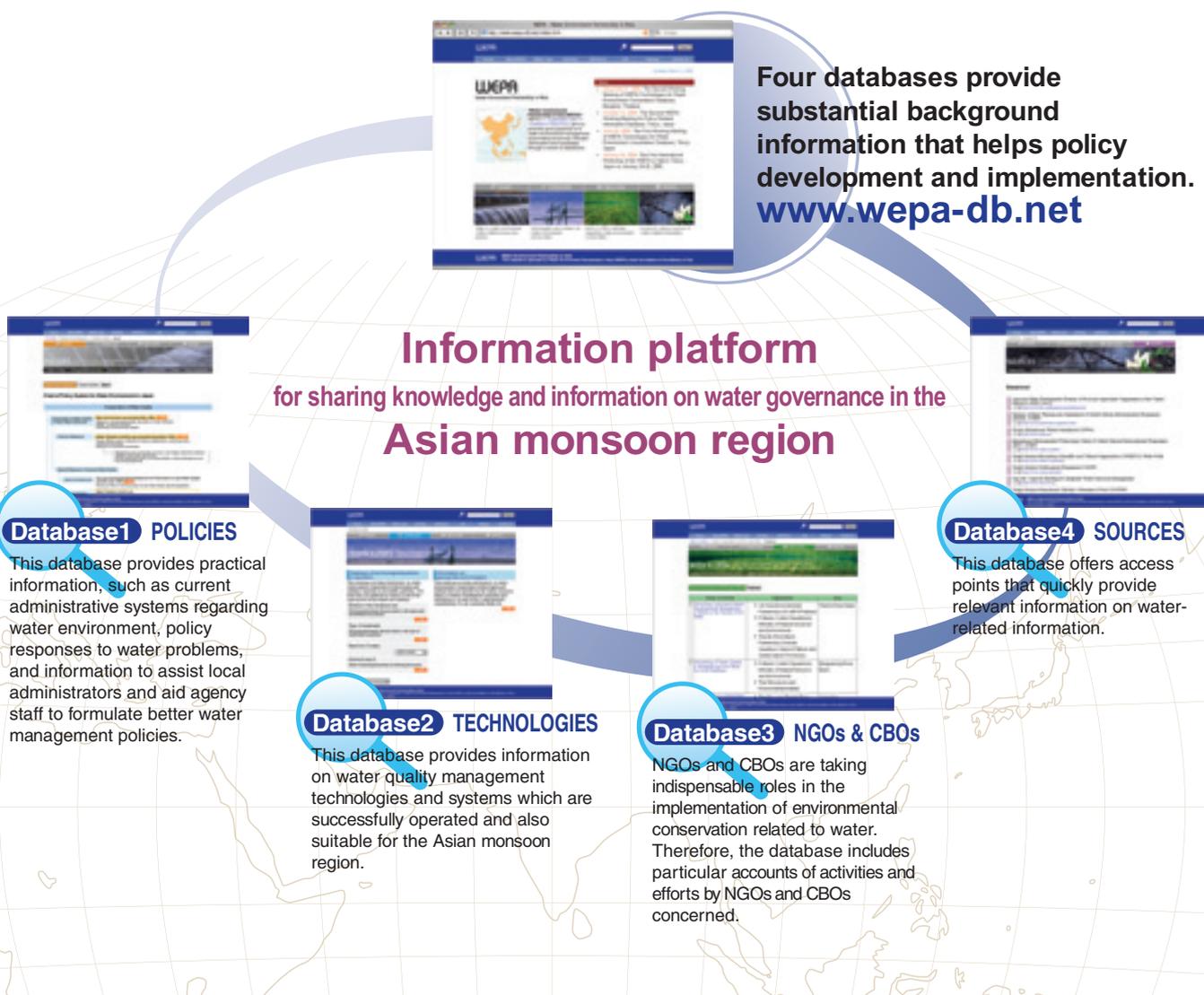


Water Environment Partnership in Asia (WEPA)

The water environment in Asia is under threat, and is seeing progressive deterioration despite the substantial efforts taken by governments, NGOs, and citizens. Historically, participation of different stakeholders concerned with the water environment constitutes one important element of good environmental governance, but the knowledge garnered thereby was through one-off projects, and was not made available for sharing among other stakeholders. Therefore, what is needed is easy access to the necessary policy and technical information, which would facilitate the various stakeholders in their decision-making to properly address the water issues they are facing.

In consideration of the importance of a platform for sharing knowledge and information on water environment management in Asia, the Water Environment Partnership in Asia (WEPA)—a partnership of 11 Asian countries—developed a database. The formation of the WEPA initiative was first proposed by the Ministry of the Environment of Japan at the 3rd World Water Forum held in Kyoto, 2003, and WEPA's term of operation runs until March 2009.



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Partnership is essential to develop the WEPA

Importance of the Partnership

The stakeholders themselves are a crucial agent in the dissemination of experience and knowledge, which is why implementation of the WEPA programme is so very important. Currently, 11 Asian countries, including Japan, are working together to implement the WEPA programme. Through this partnership collaboration, it is intended that a mutual understanding among partner countries and relevant stakeholders involved in the WEPA project will be developed, with the goal of laying the groundwork for further collaboration for water environmental conservation efforts in the region.

Partner countries: Kingdom of Cambodia, Kingdom of Thailand, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, People's Republic of China, Republic of Indonesia, Republic of Korea, Republic of Philippines, Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, Union of Myanmar, Japan.



International workshop



Working meeting for policy-related information database



Working meeting related to the database for water environment conservation technologies



Session at the WWF4

Selected Outreach Activities:

- ▶ Session, "Water Accounting and Information Platforms" at WWF4, March 2006 – Mexico City
- ▶ Presentation at the 13th Session of the Commission on Sustainable development (CSD13), April 2005 – New York