World Parliaments Declare New Cooperation to Resolve Global Water Issues

Around 70 legislators from 30 countries participated in the Parliamentarian Process of the 7th World Water Forum. Talks were conducted on global water issues and a Statement for a new cooperative framework was declared.

The ‘Conference of Parliamentarians for Water' which attracted the keen interest of legislators around the globe, was successfully completed with the closing speech by Congressman Jung Woo-Taek, the Chair of the National Policy Committee and Joint Representative of the Parliamentarian Smart Water Forum.
The 7th World Water Forum is being held starting April 12th in both the city of Daegu and North Gyeongsan Province. The Forum is the largest water-related event in the world and includes the participation of heads of state, ministerial-level officials, legislators, international organizations, entrepreneurs, NGOs and citizens.

As part of the Political Process, the Parliamentarians’ Conference was held on Wednesday, April 15th at the HICO in Gyeongju City. Seventy legislators from thirty different countries searched and debated solutions to water issues. At the conclusion of the meeting, a statement was announced to implement the solutions that were developed during the four conference sessions.

The Conference was attended by various senators from around the world and a few of them presided some of the sessions. These senators include Christine Defraigne, the President of the Belgian Senate, whose presence reflects the participants’ keen interest in water issues.

In his closing speech, Congressman Jung Woo-Taek (Chair of the National Policy Committee and Joint Representative of the Parliamentarian Smart Water Forum) said “We’ve recognized several pressing water issues at the Conference, and had issues to overcome. We were able to ensure that developed countries’ commit to provide active support, while developing nations promised in turn to invest in efforts to bring about positive changes. We were also able to find solutions such as the smart water management techniques. This converges various fields to ICT-based integrated water management.”

Established in 2014, the Parliamentarian Smart Water Forum (Joint representatives: Jung Woo-Taek, Chair of the National Policy Committee, Park Gi-choon, Chair of the National Assembly Land & Transport Committee) has worked to make World Water Forum a success and advanced the national water management system.
In each session, Congressmen of the National Assembly of Republic of Korea gave speeches on the success case studies of the Korean government, the government’s commitment to overcome future risk and the innovative water management system that converges with the high-tech information communication technology used in Korea. The speakers expressed their hope that these would bring a positive contribution to solving each country’s water issues.

Congreeman Lee Wan-young, Ryu Sung-geol and Lee Jasmine presented speeches on water and climate change, governance, and rights to water and Congresswoman Park Yoon-ok talks about the success cases of the Korean government.

The Parliamentary Process of the 7th World Water Forum may be evaluated to have provided a future direction for water management as it has re-acknowledged that access to good quality water and sanitation is a basic right for all human beings and highlighted the smart water management and integrated water management which converges with ICT.

For more information on the press release, please contact the 7th World Water Forum Organizing Committee, General Planning Team, Kim Jin-hyuk (☎ 02-6009-9428).
7th World Water Forum
Parliamentarian Process

□ Overview

○ (Date/Venue) April 15, 2015 (Wed.)/Gyeongju Hwabaek Convention Center(HICO), 3rd floor

○ (Main Programs) Opening-closing ceremony, official dinner, water legislation help desk, main sessions (3 sessions), special session (1 session) etc.
* Official dinner : Hosted by Congressman Jung Woo-taek (Joint representative of the Parliamentarian Smart Water Forum) and K-water

○ (Desired outcome) Adopt the 7th World Water Forum Parliamentarian Statement, Establish parliamentarians’ network for solving water issues which the effort includes the water legislator help desk project

* The online tool designed to support legislators around the world with water related legislation and budget activities. The project is being led by the World Water Council.

□ Programs

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<th>Time</th>
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<th>Content &amp; Participants (※ subject to change)</th>
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<tr>
<td>09:00～09:50</td>
<td>Opening Ceremony</td>
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| 10:00 ~ 10:40 | Parliamentarian Helpdesk                                             | - Topic: Mrs. Sophie Auconie, WWC director (member of the European Parliament)  
                          - Discussion: Congressman Gil Jung-woo (Republic of Korea)  
                          Mr. Arnaldo Jardim (member of the Brazilian Senate)  
                          Mr. Mlungisi Johnson (member of the Senate of South Africa)  
                          Mr. Ignazio Casis (member of the Swiss Parliament) |
| 10:40 ~ 11:40 | **Plenary session ①** Water and Climate Change                       | Panel discussion between 4 to 5 members                                  |
| 11:40 ~ 13:10 | Lunch (VIP dining area)                                              |                                                                        |
| 13:10 ~ 14:20 | **Plenary session ②** Water Governance                               | Panel discussion between 4 to 5 members                                  |
| 14:20 ~ 15:20 | **Plenary session ③** Right to Water                                 | Panel discussion between 4 to 5 members                                  |
| 15:40 ~ 16:40 | Statement Drafting Committee                                         | - Statement Drafting Committee                                           |
|              | **Special session** Shaping and ideal national water law             | Panel discussion between 4 to 5 members                                  |
| 17:00 ~ 18:00 | Presentation of the Parliament Statement & Closing ceremony          |                                                                        |
| 18:30 ~       | Official dinner                                                      |                                                                        |

**Annex 2** Parliamentarian Smart Water Forum

**Objectives**

- To discuss the roles and details of involvement to make the 7th World Water Forum a success (Political Process – Parliamentarian Process)

- Examine current national water management system and propose policy direction for restoration of healthy water cycle
Overview

☐ Joint representatives: Jung Woo-Taek, Chair of the National Policy Committee, Park Gi-choon, Chair of the National Assembly Land & Transport Committee

☐ Members: 50 members of the National Assembly, 26 external specialists

☐ Sponsors: 7th World Water Forum Organizing Committee, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, K-water

☐ Activities

○ Held 『Parliamentarian Smart Water Forum』 “Inaugural Assembly” (June 27, 2014)
  - Attended by around 300 people from the National Assembly, government and civic groups

○ Held 2nd Parliamentarian Smart Water Forum (November 27, 2014)
  - Attended by around 150 people including members of the National Assembly; conducted talks on the success of the 7th World Water Forum etc.

✔ (Session 1) Discussed the roles and details of involvement to make the 7th World Water Forum a success

✔ (Session 2) Discussed policy direction for restoration of healthy water cycle

○ Held 3rd Parliamentarian Smart Water Forum (March 3, 2015)
  - Attended by around 150 people including members of the National Assembly; conducted talks on improving the water management legislation

✔ (Session) Means to improve the legislation to accomplish integrated water management

Accomplishments
The topics that were discussed during the Parliamentarian Smart Water Forum (1 to 3 sessions) selected as Parliamentarian Process’ plenary session topics for the 7th World Water Forum

* Session topics: ① Water and Climate Change ② Water Governance ③ Rights to Water ④ Water Legislation

Parliamentarian Smart Water Forum Members participate in Session(I, II, III) as speakers.

* Session I: Congressman Lee Wan-young, Session II: Congressman Ryu Sung-geol, Session III: Congresswoman Lee Jasmine