



## **6<sup>th</sup> Wetland Link International-Asia Conference and Asian Wetland Symposium 2017**

Hotel Grande Hagakure, Saga City, Japan  
6-10 November 2017

The 6<sup>th</sup> Wetland Link International (WLI) -Asia Conference will be held in Saga, Japan from 6-10 November 2017 back to back with Asian Wetland Symposium (AWS) 2017.

The Ramsar Regional Center – East Asia (RRC-EA) is one of the four Ramsar Regional Centers of the Ramsar Convention. It was endorsed by the Ramsar Convention and established in the Republic of Korea in 2006. Since its establishment, the RRC-EA has organized a variety of activities for the capacity building and information sharing among wetland managers, and has made its effort to vitalize the network of relevant wetland stakeholders.

As a part of its effort, the center signed a Memorandum of Understanding with WLI headquarter to support the network activities of wetland education/visitor centers in Asia as a WLI-Asia Secretariat in March 2016. In order to make a firm membership and network basis, the RRC-EA is currently building an inventory of wetland education/visitor centers in Asia, especially for the 17 countries in East, Southeast and South Asia and is planning to organize necessary activities for further cooperation between the members and other wetland education/visitor centers.

Wetland Link International is a global network for wetland education/visitor centers, founded in 1991 by Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT). It is endorsed by the Ramsar Convention on wetlands as a key mechanism to support wetland education/visitor centers to deliver CEPA activities (Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness) at wetland sites. Currently the network has more than 350 members over 6 continent and it is an open network to all wetland education/visitor centers. The objective of the network is to facilitate exchange of information and experience among the members and support their activities for better understanding of general public on wetlands.

Different from the previous WLI-Asia Conferences, the 6<sup>th</sup> WLI-Asia Conference will be held back to back with AWS to seek synergies between the target audiences for two wetland events. Participants to WLI-Asia will be able to learn more about the current wetland issues in Asia and participants to AWS will also be able to learn more about wetland education/visitor Centers.

The RRC-EA / WLI-Asia will create a communication platform through the 6<sup>th</sup> WLI-Asia Conference and AWS and continue making its utmost effort to improve its function as a facilitator among various wetland stakeholders in Asia.



## **Objectives:**

The Conference will be organized for

1. Sharing good programs for visitors, accumulated experience and useful information
2. Expanding knowledge base on the current wetland studies and issues in Asia
3. Discussing targets, goals, objectives and methodologies for active network of WLI-Asia
4. Discussing cooperative funding mechanism for WLI-Asia
5. Exploring joint activities among WLI-Asia members

**Working language:** English

## **Draft program for the conference:**

The proposed program for the workshop is as follows:

### **Day 1. The 6<sup>th</sup> WLI-Asia Conference (6 November)**

- Opening Ceremony
- Update on WLI global and WLI-Asia
- Presentation session for sharing education program, experience and information
- Discussion to identify targets, goals, objectives and methodologies for active network of WLI-Asia
- Discussion on cooperative funding mechanism for WLI-Asia
- Welcome Dinner

### **Day 2. AWS 2017**

- Opening Ceremony
- Keynote presentations
- Plenary Session
- Reception for AWS 2017

### **Day 3. AWS 2017**

- Session 1 Disaster Risk Reduction / Climate Change
- Session 2 Policy / Change / International Cooperation
- Session 3 Natural Resources / Agriculture / Fisheries / Food Security
- Session 4 Urban Wetlands



- Session 5 Youth
- Session 6 Sustainable Tourism
- Session 7 Culture
- Side Event
  - WLI-Asia side event will be held during the evening

#### **Day 4. WLI-Asia - Field Trip (9 November)**

- Wetland Visitor Center in Kashima City
- Saga Water Management Historical Center
- Brainstorming Session to explore joint activities among WLI-Asia members

#### **Day 5. AWS 2017**

- Session 8 CEPA
- Session 9 Biodiversity / Restoration / Reintroduction
- Summary of sessions
- Discussion of Saga Statement
- Closing Ceremony

More detailed program and update will be delivered to participants soon.

### **Exhibition:**

The RRC-EA will prepare an exhibition booth for information sharing of WLI-Asia members and joint promotion of WLI-Asia to AWS participants. Please bring all relevant materials for exhibition on your wetland education/visitor center.

### **Sponsorship to participants:**

#### **1. Travel**

- The RRC-EA will provide the travel support for the participants (members or potential members of the WLI-Asia)
- The sponsorship will be limited to
  - round trip flights for international participants from origin location to Fukuoka Airport
  - round trip transportation such as train, bus, and flights for Japanese participants from origin location to Saga train/bus station or Fukuoka/Saga airport
- The number of sponsored participants will also be limited on account of budget constraints.
- The number of sponsored participants will be limited to one participants to each wetland education/visitor center



- Transportation from Fukuoka Airport to Saga Bus Terminal will be arranged by RRC-EA.

## 2. Meals

- The RRC-EA will provide meals on Day 1 and Day 4 (6 Nov. and 9 Nov.)
- Participants shall bear the cost of meals for other days (7-8 Nov., and 10 Nov.)

## 3. Registration fee for the AWS

- Regular participants to AWS need to pay for the registration fee, but for the participants registered to the WLI-Asia Conference through the RRC-EA will be exempt from the registration fee

## 4. Field trip

- The RRC-EA will arrange field trip program on Day 4 (9 November) for participants.

## Venue:

Hotel Grande Hagakure  
2 Chome-1-36 Tenjin, Saga, Saga Prefecture 840-0815  
Tel. +81-952-25-2212

## Accommodation:

The cost for accommodation is required to cover by participants.

However, the RRC-EA secured a number of rooms in the Hotel Sun City 2 with reasonable price (about 50 USD per night). If you want to stay at the Hotel Sun City 2, please mark in the registration form with your check-in and check-out date.

Hotel Sun City 2  
4-1-33 Konohigashi, Saga-shi, Saga-ken 840-0804, Japan  
Tel. +81-952-31-9999  
<https://goo.gl/maps/c7y1BPQoGns>  
<http://hotel-suncity.net/hotel2/>

## Flight (for sponsored participants):

1. Please look for the most reasonably priced flight ticket and inform us the airfare including flight schedule.
  - If it is affordable, we will email you to proceed to the booking.
  - If it is not, we will provide you other options.



2. The airfare will be reimbursed after the WLI-Asia based on the original receipt. Therefore, do not forget to bring the receipt and bank account for international wire transfer.
3. As a recommendation, we suggest that you use the website (www.kayak.com, or www.momondo.com) as a suitable online ticket purchasing agency.
4. If you have any question, please contact the RRC-EA  
(Email: [rrceaksbo@hotmail.com](mailto:rrceaksbo@hotmail.com) or [suhseungoh@gmail.com](mailto:suhseungoh@gmail.com)).

### **Entry visa:**

If you need a visa to travel Japan, please inform us as early as possible.

- Visa information: [http://www.mofa.go.jp/j\\_info/visit/visa/index.html#section8](http://www.mofa.go.jp/j_info/visit/visa/index.html#section8)
- Visa exemption : [http://www.mofa.go.jp/j\\_info/visit/visa/short/novisa.html](http://www.mofa.go.jp/j_info/visit/visa/short/novisa.html)
- Visa procedures : [http://www.mofa.go.jp/j\\_info/visit/visa/process/short.html](http://www.mofa.go.jp/j_info/visit/visa/process/short.html)

Please consider enough time for visa process and submit your registration form as early as possible so that we can support your visa process properly.

### **Contact person:**

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**\* Please submit your completed registration form to [rrcea.wliasia@gmail.com](mailto:rrcea.wliasia@gmail.com) by 29 September 2017.**