Workshop on Natural Circulating Water and Nature-based Solutions (NBS)

Subject

This research was launched as the Workshop on North Pacific Marine Ecosystems and Maritime Order, Diplomacy, and Security Systems (from April 2019 through June 2021). The workshop aimed at the sustainable management and use of marine resources based on scientific evidence from the collection of fish catch data. The workshop positioned marine resources as the common assets of the people and aimed at advancing the introduction of Individual Transferable Quotas (ITQs), which have not yet advanced in Japan. That has now been realized as the policy of the Fisheries Agency. The workshop also proposed collaboration in the management of salmon and trout international resources and aimed at management of marine ecosystems.

In the second stage, as the Workshop on Food, Ecosystems and Land Use to Overcome Global Warming (from June 2022 through March 31, 2024), the workshop comprehensively and cross-sectionally examined food, in particular reduction of food loss and food waste, development of alternative foods, and measures to improve the agriculture, fisheries, and marine products industries, as well as forests and the forestry industry.

The workshop group examined ecosystems and land use, in particular, land degradation, landfills and soil contamination, the loss of wetlands, and other problems and issues, as well as measures to contribute to reducing global warming by improving agricultural land use, animal husbandry, forests and the forestry industry, and

Subject	the fisheries industry. In relation to global warming, the workshop examined international sustainability accounting disclosure standards. The results of the examinations were published as an interim proposal (October 3, 2023) and a final proposal (July 26, 2024). The third stage “Workshop on Natural Circulating Water and Nature-based Solutions (NBS)” (April 1, 2024 through March 31, 2026) entered the second year in Fiscal 2025. The interim proposal of the Fiscal 2024 Workshop was released in July 2025. The workshop was run with this as the main pillar. (1) Natural circulating water is the common asset of the people. (2) The global water problem is severe, and water should be recognized as blue gold. (3) The last remaining clear stream is the Shimanto River, which means that other rivers should be recognized as dirty. (4) Expedite the active introduction of NBS in Japan. Satake Farm wetlands; use of water and soil. (5) Expedite cost-benefit analysis of dams and forest conservation. Assess the functions of forests and soils. (6) Understanding regarding international sustainability reporting should be promoted among companies inside Japan.

Research Background	NBS comprehensively requires botany, ichthyology, physics, and chemistry as well as soil science, hydrology, hydraulics, civil engineering, and other areas of expertise. Ties and collaboration across diverse specialized fields are required. It is essential that the barriers dividing ministries and agencies, research fields, and implementing enterprises be taken down so that all entities can collaborate as one. With this in mind, the walls separating ministries and agencies were removed. The workshop also deepened research on international sustainability reporting disclosure trends including the UN's ISSB and the EU's CSRD. In this way, examinations and proposals from a comprehensive and international perspective that are frank towards government organs as well are most suitable for research by the Kajima Institute of International Peace, which is independent from government organs.
Summary of the Research Results	1) The workshop invited a wide range of experts as lecturers including, from Japan, an aquatic environment expert from the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism and on-site experts from the Arakawa Joryu River office and the Arakawa Karyu River Office as well as an expert from the Tokyo Metropolitan Government Bureau of Port and Harbor and an expert on the Forest Environment Tax from the Forestry Agency, and from overseas, experts

Summary of the Research Results

from the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center of the US, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, and the Mulloon Institute of Australia, and examined the workshop themes in depth.

2) Following the Shimanto River NBS International Symposium held on March 4 (Shimanto City, Kochi Prefecture) and March 5 (Shimanto Town, Kochi Prefecture) 2025, the Tokyo Bay NBS International Symposium, which was ideal in terms of NBS awareness-raising and dissemination, took place on March 2 (Koto Ward) and March 3 (Ito Hall, The University of Tokyo) 2026.

Shimanto Town has Japan's first NBS project (creating wetlands at Satake Farm) and the second NBS project, which is the Ariake West Canal Living Coastline, is scheduled to be implemented. These are major achievements of the workshop. Also, many of those attending the symposium did not know about NBS, and more than 80% of those responding to a questionnaire said that they found the symposium to be useful. The fact that symposium participants indicated stronger interest in improving water quality and enhancing ecosystems than in disaster prevention is also a major achievement of the workshop and the NBS Symposium.

Explanation of the Three Stages

	First Stage	Second Stage	Third Stage
Name	Workshop on North Pacific Marine Ecosystems and Maritime Order, Diplomacy, and Security Systems	Workshop on Food, Ecosystems and Land Use to Overcome Global Warming	Workshop on Natural Circulating Water and Nature-based Solutions (NBS)
Objectives and Contents	(1) Stipulate that marine resources are the common asset of the people (2) Implement fisheries management based on resource assessments (3) Propose introduction of Individual Transferable Quotas (ITQs), exit regulations (observer system), etc.	(1) Food; reduction of food loss and food waste with large CO_2 emissions (2) Ecosystems; responses to land degradation and loss of wetlands (3) Land use; Contribution to mitigating and eliminating global warming through responses to landfills, soil contamination, and the use of agricultural land	(1) Position natural circulating water as the origin for resolving problems (2) Adopt measures and responses that transcend ministries and agencies, research, and business sectionalism (3) Conduct research focused on NBS which requires all areas of expertise

	First Stage	Second Stage	Third Stage
Objectives and Contents	(4) Manage salmon and trout international resources; US, Russia, and Canada (5) Work for the revitalization of the Japanese fishery and marine products industry	(4) Examinations of international sustainability disclosure standards	(4) Revive the fishery and marine products industry through the restoration of marine ecosystems and marine resources as resolution to the first stage problems
Main members	Masayuki Komatsu (Leader) Nobuyuki Hiraizumi Tatsuo Hatta Zentaro Kamei Kenji Mochizuki Masahide Kaeriyama Tatsunobu Kawasaki	Masayuki Komatsu (Leader) Nobuyuki Hiraizumi Katsuhide Yokoyama Masatoshi Matsumasa Zentaro Kamei Yasuhiro Takarada Hiroshi Terashima Tatsunobu Kawasaki	Masayuki Komatsu (Leader) Nobuyuki Hiraizumi Katsuhide Yokoyama Zentaro Kamei Masatoshi Matsumasa Yasuhiro Takarada Tetsuo Murakami Taikan Oki Tatsunobu Kawasaki Satoru Itagawa

Period	April 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026
Location & Time	
Location	For Fiscal 2024, workshop meetings were held online and in person. The various themes regarding natural circulating water and NBS were set for each time, lecturers were invited, and workshop meetings were held.
Time	In principle, the last Friday of each month from 1 to 3 p.m. (when there are foreign lecturers, a separate time period is set considering the time difference).

Fiscal 2025 Workshop Meetings Schedule

#1	Friday, April 25, 2025	“Regarding the Policy and Schedule for the Fiscal 2025 Workshop on Natural Circulating Water and NBS,” Workshop Leader Masayuki Komatsu (15 minutes) “NBS in the Shimanto River Basin: Collaboration for Introduction and Implementation of NBS toward Nature Positive,” Workshop Member Satoru Itagawa
#2	Friday, May 30, 2025	NBS Wetlands Creation Project (Satake Farm) and Site Report on the Niida River Weir (following monitoring on April 29, 2025) Workshop Leader Komatsu; Professor Katsuhide Yokoyama, Tokyo Metropolitan University, and Satake Farm Managing Director Kota Satake
#3	Friday, June 27, 2025	Adoption of fiscal 2024 interim proposal
#4	Friday, July 25, 2025	“Ecosystem Service Capabilities and NBS: After the Shimanto River NBS International Symposium,” Keith Binsted, Underwood & Associates

#5	Friday, August 29, 2025	"Tokyo Bay NBS International Symposium: Preliminary Investigations by US, Japanese, and Australian Scientists (August 25–29)" (session 1) • Keith Binsted, Underwood & Associates • Carolyn Hall, CEO, Mulloon Institute, Australia • Workshop Leader Masayuki Komatsu Report on the Tokyo Bay and Arakawa River observation results and the possibility of introducing NBS.
#6	Friday, Sept. 26, 2025	"Tokyo Bay NBS International Symposium: Preliminary Investigations by US, Japanese, and Australian Scientists (August 25–29)" (session 2) • Workshop Member Masatoshi Matsumasa • Workshop Member Katsuhide Yokoyama • Workshop Member Satoru Itagawa Report on the Tokyo Bay and Arakawa River observation results and the possibility of introducing NBS.
#7	Friday, Oct. 24, 2025	"Regarding the Forest Environment Tax," Keita Nagasakiya, Director-General, National Forest Department, Forestry Agency

Fiscal 2025 Workshop Meetings Schedule

#8	Wednesday, Nov. 19, 2025, 3 to 5 p.m.	“Introduction to Policy Design for Practitioners: Evidence-Based Policy Making (EBPM) and NBS” (tentative title), Workshop Member Zentaro Kamei
#9	Friday, Dec. 19, 2025, 9 to 11 a.m.	“San Francisco Bay and NBS,” Andrew Chang, Researcher, San Francisco Office, Smithsonian Environmental Research Institute
#10	Friday, Jan. 23, 2026	“Arakawa Lower Basin Present Conditions and Issues”, Tomoya Kikuta, General Manager, Arakawa Karyu River Office, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism
Special	Wednesday, Feb. 4, 2026, 5 to 7 p.m.	“Functions of the Port of Tokyo and Creating a Natural Environment at the Water’s Edge,” Kazunori Mizukai, Senior Director for Waterfront Development, Bureau of Port and Harbor, Tokyo Metropolitan Government
#11	Friday, Feb. 13, 2026	“Arakawa Upper Basin Present Conditions and Issues”, Kensuke Hagiwara, General Manager, Arakawa Joryu River Office, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism

#12	Friday, March 6, 2026	"Regarding the Summary Results of the March 2–3, 2026 Tokyo Bay NBS International Symposium" • Dr. Dennis Whigham, Scientist Emeritus, Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC) • Dr. Andrew Chang, SERC West • Cedar Corp., Chris Becraft • Keith Binsted, Underwood & Associates • Dr. Amani Alfarra, Land & Water Division, FAO • Carolyn Hall, CEO, Mulloon Institute, Australia

Members

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Chair/President, Ecosystem Research Institute
Visiting Professor, Asian Growth Institute
President, Toto Enterprise Owners Society

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