

PAWEES の進捗状況：過去、現在、将来の水田・水環境工学
Progress of PAWEES: Past, Present, and Future of Paddy and Water Environment Engineering

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The General Assembly of the United Nations (UN) declared 2004 as the International Year of Rice with the slogan “Rice is Life”. This is an extraordinary focus for a single crop to acquire such international recognition. As rice is a staple food for majority of developing countries, especially in Asia, it acknowledges the importance of rice linked to food security and poverty alleviation and also the significance of its management and development for our society and the natural environment. The establishment of the International Society of Paddy and Water Environment Engineering (PAWEES) is initiated from the same acknowledgement by scientists and engineers in the Asian region.

Since its establishment, the Society has achieved some short-term goals and progressed beyond. At present, the members of the Society from Japan has expanded to nearly 300, including scientists and engineers from a variety of universities, government agencies, and private sectors. The official international journal of PAWEES, Paddy and Water Environment (PWE), has been publishing periodically as planned, and the number of manuscript submissions from non-Asian region has been increasing. This is an indication of a successful recognition of PWE in outside of Asia. Because of its rapid popularity and advancement, many international organizations such as FAO, World Bank, IWMI and IRRI are giving great attention to this unique publication.

The Society has enhanced to establish professional relationships with other international/regional societies and organizations in similar fields in order to implement common actions of mutual interests for sharing the latest information and knowledge related to paddy and water environment engineering. The following is the list of major activities that the Society has been involved in by the time of this session:

1. March 2003: Co-Sponsored four sub-sessions of the session “Agriculture, Food, and Water” in the 3rd World Water Forum, held in Kyoto, Japan.
2. March 2003: 2nd International Conference Educational Accreditation System and APEC Engineers Project for Agricultural Engineers in Paddy Farming Regions, in Kyoto, Japan.
3. 1st PAWEES Awarding Ceremony for the PAWEES International Award, in Kyoto, Japan.

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4. July 2003: Participated to the Workshop on International Consortium “Paddy and Water Environment Network” in Tokyo, Japan.
5. July 2003: Sponsored a session in the JSIDRE Annual Meeting in Okinawa, Japan.
6. December 2003: Co-Sponsor of the International Colloquium on LUCC, Bogor, Indonesia.
7. February 2004: Participated in the Preparatory Meeting on International Network for Water and Ecosystem in Paddy Fields (INWEPF), in Tokyo, Japan.
9. March 2004: Co-Sponsor of the International Seminar on Salinity Mitigation for Water Resources Management, in Lahore, Pakistan.

In these activities, it should be noted that, the Japanese Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries (MAFF) launched the INWEPF in February 2004 for promoting a world network in research and practice related to paddy rice field systems. The society has mutual interests with INWEPF in principle and is expected to contribute significantly to the activities of INWEPF.

The Society has been provided significant support from many individuals. A noteworthy example is a significant contribution by Dr. Toshio Sawada, a former President of the Kyoto University. In March 2004, he voluntarily donated quite handsome money to the Society for its development. This is due to his understanding of the importance of globalization in the expertise of paddy and water environment engineering. The Society is planning to establish a new award in his name in honor of his great contributions.

The Society’s activities for the rest of 2004 is as follows:

1. October 2004: Co-Sponsoring 7th Inter-Regional Conference on Environment Water in Beijing, China
2. October 2004: Co-Sponsoring the 3rd International Conference Educational Accreditation System and APEC Engineers Project for Agricultural Engineers in Paddy Farming Regions in Seoul, Korea
3. October 2004: 2nd PAWEES Awarding Ceremony for the PAWEES International, Paper, and Reviewer Awards in Seoul, Korea
4. December 2004: Co-Sponsoring the International Conference on Paddy and Water Environment – 2004 (ICPWE2004) in Taipei, Taiwan

At the moment, the PAWEES has been well executed and observed considerable progress. The future prospects of the Society includes more effort to increase its membership, increasing the presence of the Society in the international community, developing strong relationships with other countries that have not been actively involved in the common and unique mission of the Society, and initiating a leadership role in research and professional activities that potentially contribute to the advancement of its discipline. It is also very important, as one of the founding member and main country for its execution, to have a continuous strong support from Japanese scientists and engineers involved in the related fields for the strong and sustainable development of the PAWEES with pace.