

PAWEES-INWEPF International Conference Nara 2018
PAWEES-INWEPF Nara Joint Statement

The International Society of Paddy and Water Environment Engineering (PAWEES) and the International Network for Water and Ecosystem in Paddy Fields (INWEPF) jointly held the “PAWEES-INWEPF International Conference Nara 2018” (Nara Conference) on 20-22 November 2018 in Nara city, Nara prefecture, Japan. Under a common purpose of sustainable development of paddy farming, the PAWEES organizes activities with an academic approach, and the INWEPF mainly with policy and engineering approaches.

During the Nara Conference, all 552 participants including researchers, policy makers, engineers and private sectors from 21 countries and regions and 4 international organizations discussed the issues on paddy farming including water use, water management and water environment under the joint theme “Promoting sustainable paddy farming to achieve the SDGs”.

The PAWEES and the INWEPF re-acknowledged the significance of ensuring the multi-functionality of paddy farming as well as sustainable and stable food production. Toward achieving the SDGs, both parties will contribute with mutual cooperation to further development of sustainable paddy farming in harmony with the environment, strengthening the partnership among countries and related organizations such as ICID and FAO. To this end, both parties will proceed with the following activities respectively:

PAWEES:

- The activities of PAWEES including editorial duties of the international journal of PAWEES, Paddy and Water Environment (PWE) shall expand and strengthen cooperation with national and international institutions as well as individual experts from paddy cultivation regions or societies of the world.
- The international journal of PAWEES, Paddy and Water Environment (PWE), has been well recognized in the disciplines of agricultural sciences, engineering, and environmental sciences. The PAWEES members agreed to continuously support the publication of the PWE and maintain its quality.
- The PAWEES 2019 International Conference will be hosted by KSAE and held in Korea. The purpose of the next conference is to discuss the issues related to paddy and water environment. The specific theme of the conference will be announced later. The PAWEES members hope that PAWEES 2019 will provide an opportunity to enhance the exchanges of our knowledge and experience among participants.

INWEPF:

- The INWEPF launched the 5th Phase Strategy from 2018 to 2021 toward achieving the three challenges of “Food Security and Poverty Alleviation”, “Sustainable Water Use” and “Partnership” adopted in the Ministerial Meeting on “Water for Food and Agriculture” which was held in March 2003 in Kyoto and provided an opportunity for the establishment of INWEPF. The theme of the 5th Phase Strategy is “More Resilient, Sustainable and Productive Paddy Farming” and it is composed of three working groups (WGs). The WG1, WG2 and WG3 will organize activities focusing on “Strengthening Multi-functionality and Food Value Chain”, “Modernizing Irrigation and Drainage System in Response to Climate Change” and “Improving Water Use Efficiency and Water Productivity”, respectively.

- In the 5th Phase Strategy, under the theme of “Strengthening Partnership and Utilization of INWEPF Expertise to achieve the SDGs”, the INWEPF will expand its activities to the African region where increasing rice production is an urgent issue as well as deepening cooperation among the member countries and international organizations.
- The 16th INWEPF Steering Meeting will be held in Korea in 2019 hosted by the INWEPF Korean Committee in collaboration with the PAWEES 2019 International Conference. The INWEPF members will get together for the meeting and share knowledge and experiences toward further development of paddy farming.
- The 17th INWEPF Steering Meeting will be held in Sri Lanka in 2020 hosted by the INWEPF Sri Lankan Committee.