

City of Kawasaki and JICA Conclude Partnership Memorandum

–Improving the Water Environment in Developing Countries through a Public–Private Partnership–

On August 27, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) signed a partnership memorandum with the City of Kawasaki. Yoichi Hiraoka, Chief Executive Officer for Kawasaki City Waterworks, and Yasushi Tanaka, Director General of the JICA Office for Private Sector Partnership signed the memorandum at the Kawasaki Nikko Hotel in Kawasaki.

The City of Kawasaki has a great deal of experience in water management and has established the Kawasaki Water Business Network, a new platform for public–private partnerships on the water sector. The objective of signing this memorandum was to strengthen the partnership between the City of Kawasaki and JICA with a focus on developing countries in Asia. The Kawasaki Water Business Network, made up of the City of Kawasaki and 42 companies located primarily in the city, was established with the goals of promoting further overseas expansion of companies through public–private partnerships, and improving the water environment around the world through the water business.

The City of Kawasaki has technology and expertise that has been cultivated through the management of water, sewer and industrial water projects spanning many years. Additionally, in Kawasaki, there are large corporations that have developed projects on the global level and many small and medium–sized companies with advanced technology. Using environmental technologies and other tools accumulated in the process of overcoming serious environmental issues, the City of Kawasaki is developing a growth strategy through its global contributions. In recent years, JICA has been strengthening its partnerships with private companies and businesses to effectively deal with the range of issues that developing countries face. The partnership memorandum was concluded as a means for the City of Kawasaki, with its technology and expertise on the water management and its network of companies, and JICA, with its experience in developing countries and wide network, to promote water environment improvements with the strengths of both parties.

The conclusion of the memorandum will provide a stronger relationship between the two parties in public–private partnership projects for improving the water environment in developing countries. In February of this year, the City of Kawasaki signed an environmental cooperation agreement with the City of Da Nang, Vietnam, and Kawasaki will team up with JICA on water improvements in the city, one of the focal areas of the water business in Kawasaki, and in other areas of Asia. It is expected that this partnership will result in ODA project development using the Kawasaki Water Business Network, as well as overseas expansion of companies in Kawasaki.