

Water Management – Policy, Research, Community and Business

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There is no doubt water is seen as one of the most important and strategic natural resources in today's modern world. Water quality and availability constitute increasingly significant environmental problems and future international conflict is likely to occur over these issues, just as previous disputes over other resources such as oil and food have threatened our planet's well-being.

In December 2001 a successful international symposium on Water Management was held at Deakin University, Warrnambool, Australia. The sub-themes of the conference focused on policy, research, the community (including education) and industry roles in water management. Scholars from six countries representing a range of disciplines – from ecology to economics, from education to engineering – participated in the symposium. As well, a series of field trips and visits were held in which participants viewed local examples of successful water management, community involvement, education and industry activities.

Deakin University was proud to host this successful event which arose from fruitful discussions held with colleagues from the Faculties of Education and Education of Shiga University, Japan. We believe the symposium has been the springboard for productive research and education collaboration between participant organizations.

I am pleased that the inaugural issue of *The Asian Journal of Biology Education* presents some of the papers presented at the Symposium. I am grateful to the Editorial Committee of this special issue for their refereeing and editorial contributions: Associate Professor Brad Mitchell and Professor Gordon Duff from Australia, and Professors Manabu Kondo, Yasamasa Itakurs and Shuichi Endoh from Japan. Each paper has been rigorously reviewed by two independent referees to ensure the highest standards. The full proceedings, including papers which were not refereed, are to be published separately in paper format by Shiga University. I would also like to acknowledge the work of Dr Laurie Laurenson in ensuring the papers appear in the appropriate format in this exciting new electronic format.

The Asian Association for Biology Education is especially thanked for giving me the opportunity to act as editor of this special issue of the journal.