



Kitakyushu City

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# International Projects

Explore the international water projects of Kitakyushu City!



Kitakyushu's Technology Will Change the World



# Challenges Towards Building a Sustainable Future via the Kitakyushu City Model

## Features of Kitakyushu City Water and Sewer Bureau's International Projects



### Promoting International Technical Cooperation



Dispatched **more than 300 experts** to 14 countries around the world  
 Accepted **more than 7,000 trainees** from 160 countries and regions around the world  
 (as of March 2025)



Enhancing the Skill of Partner Country's Staffs



Improving Living Conditions in Partner Countries



### Supporting Overseas Water Business



Strengthening Diplomatic Relations

Building Strong Trust-Based Relationships with Partner Countries



Creating Business Opportunities, e.g. Construction of Water Treatment and Sewage Treatment Plants

## Three Reasons Why the Kitakyushu City Water and Sewer Bureau Continues Its Overseas Operations



Enhancing the City's Image Through International Contributions



Promoting the Industrial Development among Japanese Companies



Developing Global Talent and Passing on Technical Know-How

# Kitakyushu Overseas Water Business Association (KOWBA)

**Purpose of Establishment** To actively promote initiatives for the overseas water business through public-private partnerships.

## Organization

138 corporate members : 69 local companies, 69 out-of-city companies (as of February 1, 2026)  
 4 municipality bureaus : Water and Sewer Bureau, Environment Bureau, Industry and Economics Bureau, Policy Bureau  
 Establishment : August 31, 2010  
 9 related organizations : KitakyushuCCI, JICA Kyushu, JBIC, DJB, JWVA, GCUS, JETRO, SME SUPPORT JAPAN  
 Kyushu Headquarters, Asia Center for Carbon Neutrality  
 3 professors as academic experts  
 5 organizations as observers : Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, Japan Sewage Works Agency, Japan Institute of Wastewater Engineering and Technology

## Board Members

- Chairman
- Vice Presidents (2 personnel)
- Auditors (2 personnel)

## Executive Committee (to provide opinions, etc. for KOWBA's smooth operations)

- Secretary General: Vice President (1 personnel)
- Committee members: About 10 personnel
- Vice Chairman: 1 personnel

## Activities



### Cambodia



Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of Cambodia, Kitakyushu City, and KOWBA



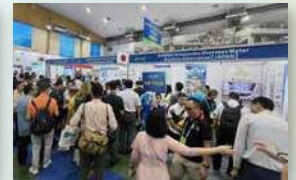
Cambodia-Japan Water and Sewer Seminar



### Vietnam



Memorandum of Understanding with the Vietnam Water Supply and Sewerage Association



Vietnam Water Week

## Business Achievements

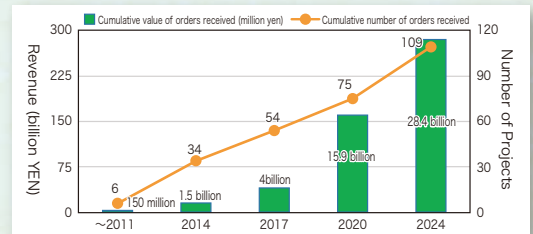
### Ta Khmau Water Treatment Plant (Cambodia)



### U-BCF installed at the An Duong Water Treatment Plant (Vietnam)



### Number of Projects and Contract Amount Received by Corporate Members



## Equipment Sales



Water Leakage Detector



Water Flow Meter

## Kitakyushu City Overseas Business Support Center

- Main Functions of the Support Center
- Office space for rent
  - Assistance in arranging local interpreters and transportation
  - Provision of meeting rooms and others



Phnom Penh Center, Cambodia (2 locations)



Haiphong Center, Vietnam



# Globally Expanding Kitakyushu City's Technology and Network



**Tajikistan**



Contributing to resolving National Water Issues



**Ethiopia**



Technical Cooperation with the Addis Ababa Water and Sewerage Authority (AAWSA)



**Myanmar**



Contributing to the Improvement of Water Treatment Plant Operating Capabilities in Mandalay, Myanmar's Second-Largest City





## Vietnam



Contributing to the Development of Vietnam's Water and Sewerage Systems through Strong Trust and Reliable Technical Expertise



## China



Technical cooperation with our friendship city, Dalian, based on a longstanding relationship of trust



## Cambodia



"The Miracle of Phnom Penh"  
One of the few cities in Asia where the tap water is drinkable!



## Indonesia



Contributing to the improvement of the water environment in Jakarta, the capital city of Indonesia

Kitakyushu City



# Cambodia



Cambodia · Phnom Penh

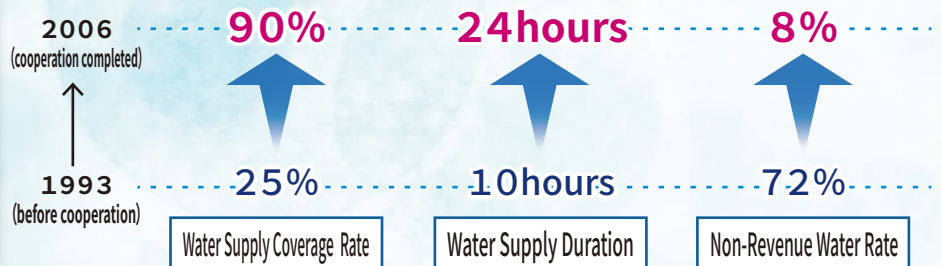
## Activities in the Water Supply System



### Water Supply Capacity Development Project in Phnom Penh Capital (1999-2006)



We dispatched our staff as experts to Phnom Penh and dramatically improved the water supply coverage rate in a short period of time. The project has been called the "Miracle of Phnom Penh" and has resulted in the city being one of the few with drinkable tap water in Asia.



### The Miracle of Phnom Penh

~Water Supply Reform that Stunned the World~

These achievements have been met with astonishment and acclaim worldwide, and even now, 20 years later, they continue to attract attention, including coverage in various media outlets.

Publication ▶



Nationwide Broadcast on "Project X-New Beginnings" in October 2024!

### Water Supply Capacity Development Project in Provincial Cities (2007-2018)

We have implemented a project to develop technical and business management personnel at public waterworks in eight provincial cities, including Siem Reap Province, known for the World Heritage Site, Angkor Wat. As a result, we have achieved significant improvement in water quality, 24-hour water supply, and profitability in a single year in all target cities.



Technical Training (Valve Operation)



Technical Training (Pipe Connection)

### Water supply administrative capacity improvement project (2018-2021)

In cooperation with the Ministry of Industry, Science, Technology & Innovation (MISTI), which supervises water administration in Cambodia, we provided support for drafting water supply regulations, strengthening organizational structures, and developing human resources to improve water supply capacity throughout the country.



Technical supervision (pump vibration measurement)



Discussing ideas with government officials



## Development of Sewage Treatment Plants in Phnom Penh

Despite being a major city with a population of over 2 million, sewage and rainwater in Phnom Penh flow through channels spread throughout the city and discharge directly into rivers and lakes.

To improve the deteriorating water environment, Phnom Penh's first public sewage treatment plant was completed in November 2023 with aid from Japan. Kitakyushu City was involved in the design, operation, and maintenance of this plant.



A lake with a blackened surface due to the flow of domestic wastewater



A public sewage treatment plant built in Phnom Penh

## Support for Environmental Education and Enhancing Sewerage Maintenance Skills in Phnom Penh (2017-)

In Kitakyushu City, to promote understanding of the importance of sewerage development, we collaborate with local elementary schools on awareness activities for citizens, such as environmental education classes and waterway cleaning activities.

Additionally, to ensure the proper maintenance of Phnom Penh's sewerage, we are developing maintenance manuals for sewer pipes and pumping stations.



Condition at the time of Project Launch (August 2017)



Improvement upon Project Completion (December 2019)

## Sewerage Capacity Development Project (2019-)

To establish a full-scale sewerage system in Phnom Penh, we provided support for the formulation of legal frameworks, the establishment of organizational structures, and skill enhancement for staff planning sewerage projects.

Currently, we are cooperating with Cambodian government agencies to create plans for the expansion of sewerage treatment plants.



Kitakyushu City staff explaining the sewerage project

# Vietnam



Vietnam : Hai Phong

## Activities in the Water Supply System



### Kitakyushu's invented advanced water purification technology

The city of Hai Phong, Vietnam, a sister city of Kitakyushu, located downstream from a large river, has in recent years been suffering from the deterioration of river water quality due to rapid economic development. To address this issue, Kitakyushu's own environmentally friendly advanced water purification technology, Upward Biological Contact Filtration (U-BCF), has been deployed across the ocean in Hai Phong.

2010

Confirmation of the effectiveness of U-BCF as a result of a one-year verification survey

#### Step 1

#### Conducting Pilot Trials

A U-BCF pilot plant was installed through the JICA Grassroots Technical Cooperation Project. Its effectiveness was confirmed.



2013



U-BCF was proven to be exportable to emerging countries

#### Step 2

#### Installation at the small-scale water treatment plant

Hai Phong City installed U-BCF at a small-scale water treatment plant (5,000 m<sup>3</sup>/day) with its own funds.



2018

Horizontal expansion to promote U-BCF in Vietnam

#### Step 3

#### Installation at the main water treatment plant (100,000 m<sup>3</sup>/day)

U-BCF facilities were developed through Japan's Grant Aid.



2020

#### Step 4

#### Expansion of Technical Cooperation across Vietnam

Expanding technical cooperation projects, including U-BCF pilot trials and human resource development, to water utilities across Vietnam facing water quality issues.



Tien Giang Exchange of Notes Ceremony



Phu Tho Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) Signing Ceremony

**Nationwide Expansion of Technical Cooperation through the Promotion of Proprietary Technologies**



## Kitakyushu City's Invented Development Upward Biological Contact Filtration (U-BCF)

This is a technology that applies the natural purification action of microorganisms inherent in rivers to make them more efficient. It can be configured with simple equipment, consumes little power, and is environmentally friendly.

**Sustainable**

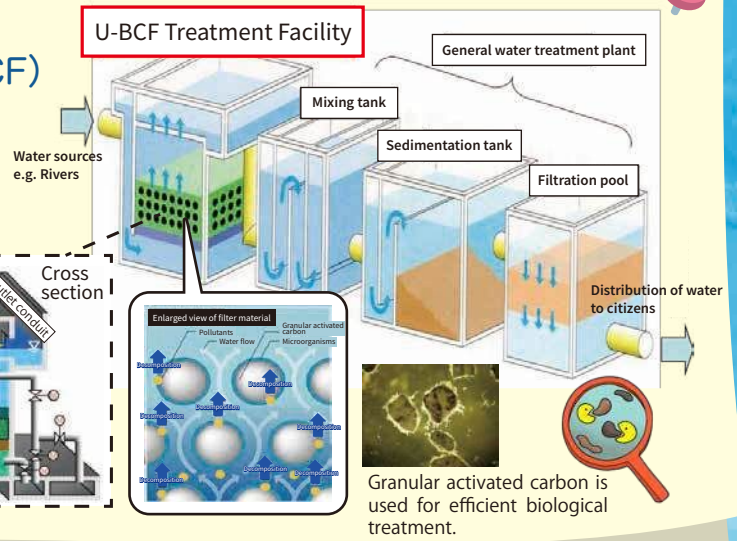
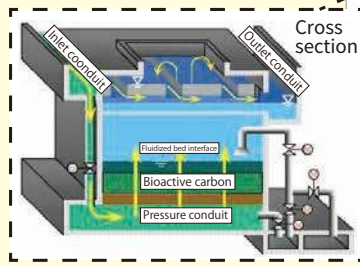
**Cost Comparison**

Compared to Ozonation

- Construction cost: approx. 1/2
- Operation cost: approx. 1/20



Explanatory video



## Activities in the Sewage System



### Moving towards the improvement of sewerage maintenance and operation ability in Hai Phong City.

#### Challenges

Hai Phong City, Vietnam, is a port city located near the World Heritage site of Ha Long Bay. However, with rapid urbanization, wastewater from households and factories has surged, while inadequate sewer infrastructure has led to a serious deterioration of the water environment.



Ha Long Bay (World Heritage Site)  
Water pollution has become an issue in recent years



A polluted river in Hai Phong City

#### Approaches

##### Supervising the Maintenance and Management of Pump Stations (2012-2014)

Developing a manual for maintenance and management of pump stations.

##### Supervising the Maintenance and Management of sewerage culverts (2014-2017)

Developing a manual for operation and maintenance of sewerage pipelines.

##### Sewage Treatment Plant Operation and Management (2018-2024)

The first sewage treatment plant in Hai Phong City began operation in 2021.

Leveraging the technology and know-how gained by the public and private sectors in overcoming challenges such as deteriorating water environments and flood damage, Kitakyushu City developed operation and maintenance manuals for the sewage treatment plant.



Vinh Nien Sewage Treatment Plant, the first sewage treatment plant in Hai Phong City

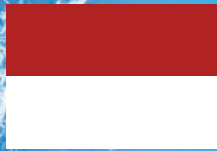
##### Smart Stormwater Management Technology Demonstration Project (2025-)

Due to severe flooding caused by heavy rains in recent years, we are demonstrating a system that can monitor rainfall information and water levels in sewer pipes in real-time.

This system is expected to enable more rapid and effective flood control activities and reduce flood damage.



# Indonesia



Indonesia · Jakarta

## Activities in the Sewage System



### Technical Cooperation in Jakarta City (2015-2018)

As a result of the rapid urbanization that has accompanied the economic growth of Jakarta, the capital city of Indonesia, the development of urban infrastructure for the population has lagged behind, and the sewerage coverage rate is only 4%.

In order to promote the development of sewerage systems, Kitakyushu City sent its staff for a long period of time to support the formulation of medium- and long-term plans for sewerage system development and to support the formulation of ordinances and standards related to sewerage system projects.

Currently, projects such as the construction of sewage treatment plants and pipelines are in progress.



Pollution Status of Jakarta City Rivers



Meeting with the experts and counterparts

# Tajikistan



Tajikistan · Dushanbe

## Activities in the Water Supply System



### Support for Safe and Stable Water Supply

In the Republic of Tajikistan, although water sources are abundant, the country faces challenges such as deteriorated water supply facilities, low water access rates for households, intermittent water supply (3 hours/day), and Water-fetching labor by women and children.

In this context, a JICA Grant Aid project was launched. Kitakyushu Water Service Co., Ltd. and member companies of the Kitakyushu Overseas Water Business Association are participating in the project, and the Kitakyushu City Water and Sewer Bureau is conducting training in Japan and dispatching JICA individual experts.



A girl drawing water from a public well

# Ethiopia



Ethiopia · Addis Ababa

## Activities in the Water Supply System



### Strengthening Non-Revenue Water (NRW) Management Capabilities for the Addis Ababa Water and Sewerage Authority (AAWSA)

The JICA International Cooperation Project, "Project for Strengthening Management Capacity of Non-Revenue Water Reduction in AAWSA, Ethiopia," was awarded to Kitakyushu Water Service Co., Ltd. and member companies of the Kitakyushu Overseas Water Business Association.

As part of the project, the Kitakyushu City Water and Sewer Bureau is conducting training in Japan.



Snapshots from the domestic training program

# Awards and Recognition from Japan Domestically and Abroad

Enhancing the Municipal Brand



2012

## Foreign Minister's Commendations (Japanese Government)

Became the first waterworks organization to receive this award in recognition of its international cooperation projects in the field of technical cooperation, particularly in the field of waterworks in the Kingdom of Cambodia.



2018

## Selected as a "Global Model City for Promoting the SDGs" by the OECD

Kitakyushu was selected as the first model city in Asia in recognition of the city's efforts in international environmental cooperation.

2023

## 25th Japan Water Prize "Grand Prize" Winner

The Grand Prize was awarded in recognition of the Kitakyushu City Water and Sewer Bureau's international cooperation activities spanning over 30 years.



2017

## Introduction of initiatives at the "High-Level Political Forum" at United Nation Headquarters

The then Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Kishida, introduced the international technical cooperation of the Kitakyushu Water and Sewer Bureau to the world.



## The 1st Japan SDGs Award (Special Prize)

"Established by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Promotion Headquarters (Chairman: Prime Minister). Promoted the achievements of international technical cooperation and overseas water business by the Water and Sewer Bureau.

2025

## 19th Local Government International Exchange Award (Minister of Internal Affairs and Communications Award 2025)

Kitakyushu City was recognized for its "Technical Cooperation on the Promotion of Safe Water in Vietnam."



## Public Relations Activities

We are delivering our overseas initiatives through visiting class and documentary videos!



### Visiting class



Presenting overseas business initiatives

### Accompanying local high schools on overseas study tours



### Event Participation



Conducting quiz competitions, panel displays, etc.

### Videos

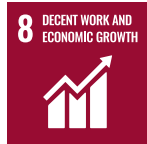


Behind-the-scenes footage featuring Kitakyushu City employees working in Cambodia and Vietnam

Kitakyushu City will contribute to the improvement of the world's water environment by mobilizing the wisdom of the public and private sectors to achieve the SDG principle of "leave no one behind".



### Goals pursued by international projects



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