

**Recommendation meeting of Overseas Water Business Strategic Study & Research Club
(Summary)**

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"Global Strategy Research Group on Regional Creation"

1. Abstract

The water issue is one of the common issues in the 21st century worldwide, but there are many challenges in its efforts. Global Strategy Research Group on Regional Creation held a recommendation meeting of the Overseas Water Business Strategic Study & Research Club, which summarized the research results of two years, on July 27, 2019 at Tokyo Hakusan Campus, Toyo University.

2. Overseas Water Business Strategic Study & Research Club

The "Overseas Water Business Strategic Study & Research Club" started its activity in April 2017 as a private study group with no restrictions from any organization in order to revitalize Japan's overseas water business. In the background, in the last 10 years, interest in overseas water business, which was once boosted by the government, has declined. On the other hand, in 2015 the UN issued a "sustainable development goal," highlighting the importance of global water issues. Organized by 20 volunteers for water supply and international finance, the research results have been accumulated through monthly regular meetings and continuation of Series Article to water supply magazines.

3. Content of the proposal

The recommendation aimed at clarifying the target at present and looking at the future and activating the efforts of Japanese water business related companies. (1) Paradigm shift of basic ideas, (2) Review and reform of fund raising, (3) promotion of public-private partnerships, (4) Systematization understanding of trade, foreign trade, foreign direct investment and financial information, (5) Dissemination of promising technologies, (6) Recognition of differences in evaluation criteria, (7) Others (utilization of various opportunities).

As the necessity of converting the basic idea, it was emphasized that the business has economics, business feasibility and profitability, and that the investment capital can be recovered. It is also useful to think about water, energy and food in the Trinity. With regard to financial resources, it was pointed out that the use of infrastructure support mechanisms other than JICA and the review of corporate investment strategies should be made.

On the other hand, the recommendation stated the need for collaboration between the local government (including the third sector) and a general trading company that has a long track record in each region of the world. For cooperation, the device to make the

most of both features is an issue. It was pointed out that it is necessary to scrutinize and disseminate promising technologies and select the technology fields that Japan can win in order to expand overseas based on the concept of "high-quality Japanese technology". In addition, it is necessary to make efforts to organize information on trade, foreign investment and finance, to understand the legal system and culture of emerging countries in Asia and Africa, etc., and to grasp the actual situation concerning specific demand. It should be noted that there are differences in evaluation criteria for each sector, and it should be noted that it may hinder cooperation and collaboration. In addition, utilization of the 4th Asia-Pacific Water Summit (Oct 2020, Kumamoto City) was also considered important.

4. Summary

The recommendation emphasized the need to consider the overseas water business separately from technical exchange and grant-aid assistance, focusing on the economic, business and profitability of the business. And it is asking the water business persons concerned a paradigm shift of basic ideas. In the future, it can be said that it is necessary to make efforts to materialize the structure model in order to realize the contents of the recommendation.