

Main Category	Utility Management
Sub Category	Wide-Area Water Supply
<p>The first wide-area water supply in Japan was established in 1919 as the Edogawa Water Town and Village Association, which was managed beyond the administrative areas of various municipalities.</p> <p>Since then, many wide-area water supplies were founded, prompted by the government subsidy program made available in 1967, and by the revised Waterworks Act in 1977 which provided for the development schemes of wide-area water supplies. With passage of time, the number of wide-area supplies increased. Their number reached its peak of 194 in 2000, but afterwards decreased to 154 in 2005, primarily due to the amalgamation of municipalities.</p> <p>Under these circumstances, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare formulated the "Water Supply Vision" in June 2004, in which they suggested a development of various forms of wide-area water supply as a way to strengthen the financial and technical foundations of many small water supplies in Japan. The suggested forms include the integrated management and co-operation of facilities. Later in 2005 and 2008, the Ministry issued two important notices to the nationwide water utilities under the name of its Director of Water Supply Division, requesting that prefectural and municipal water utilities develop their own water supply vision in which they should give thought to a potential wide-area water supply development as suggested in the national Water Supply Vision.</p> <p>These two notices made it clear that the national policy as regards wide-area water supply has now become more diversified, compared to when it had been primarily implemented to balance water supply and demand in specific local areas. Now, it should also be promoted to strengthen the financial and technical foundations of the local water supplies. In light of this policy diversification, the creation of wide-area water supply will be expected to take various forms of development in future, including the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Service integration Positive influence is expected in a wide range of areas including facility development, management structure, water supply operation and service provision.</li> <li>2. Integrated management Amalgamation of managing entities can level off the difference in facility development, strengthen the management structure, and improve service qualities.</li> <li>3. Integrated operation Various effects including an enhancement of management system and services can be expected depending on what is integrated in terms of management and services.</li> <li>4. Joint ownership of facilities Joint ownership can improve facilities' maintenance standards, emergency response and others.</li> </ol>	

Citation: Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare website. "Guidance Manual for Wide-Area Water Supply" (Japan Water Works Association).

<https://www.mhlw.go.jp/topics/bukyoku/kenkou/suido/kouikika/index.html>