

Main Category	Utility Management
Sub Category	Watershed Management
The environment surrounding Japan's water supply is undergoing major changes, such as a shrinking population served, rising demand for water facility renewal, and an increasing risk for source water quality. Under such circumstances, it is important to cooperate with other water utilities for mutual water accommodation within the common water source basins and for conservation of water sources. This section introduces Japan's watershed management based on the New Water Supply Vision (revised in 2008), which was formulated by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW) with the basic principle of "Let's pass on the trust in water supply to future generations by cooperating with the community." 1. Watershed management in the New Water Supply Vision In the New Water Supply Vision, an ideal future of water supply is envisaged from the three perspectives of "safety," "resilience," and "sustainability." o From the perspective of "sustainability" • To ensure the stability of water sources and to secure water sources in emergencies, stable water supply will be possible even in times of drought or accident by allowing available water resources to be shared among water utilities on a basin-by-basin basis as well as on an inter-basin basis. • Ideally, the ownership and use of land within the water source basin is well managed, and water source conservation efforts should be actively carried out. 1.1 Priority measures Since a single measure may be related to multiple aspects of the three perspectives above, the measures to be implemented are organized into three categories, depending on who is involved: (a) internal measures for those concerned, (b) collaborating measures among those concerned, and (c) measures to be taken with a new mindset. (1) Internal measures for those concerned As a countermeasure against water source accidents, it is important to plan and implement: • the development of response manuals, training drills, and the establishment of information sharing methods among those concerned in the basin. • the development of water safety plans based on an integrated approach, and improvement of the effectiveness of those plans. (2) Collaborating measures among those concerned • It is important for water utilities sharing the same water source to plan and implement coordinated water source conservation efforts.	

1.2 Role of government agencies

- National government should promote wide-area conservation efforts on a watershed basis to keep water sources healthy.
- Prefectural governments should play a coordinating role with related water utilities within their jurisdiction, while cooperating with other administrative entities on various matters that should be coordinated on a watershed basis. It is also necessary for prefectures to have a system that can support the promotion of water cycle and effective use of water resources at water utilities on a watershed basis.

2. Basin management under water safety plans

The Water Safety Plan aims to create a system that ensures safe water supply by identifying hazards that exist in the water supply system from source to tap, and continuously monitoring and controlling them.

o Concrete effects expected from the development of the Water Safety Plan include:

Strengthening the cooperation among related parties within the watershed in terms of improvement and monitoring of source water quality, and responding to abnormal water qualities quickly.

2.1 Obtaining various information from the water source to tap

To identify hazard-causing events in the water supply system from source to tap, information is collected on potential sources of pollution such as sewage treatment facilities, mining and industry, and animal husbandry in the water source basin. Information on water sources and intakes is collected from relevant administrative departments, such as environmental health-related departments and river-related departments, as well as from neighboring water utilities that share the same water source basin.

When collecting related information, it is desirable to share the information with neighboring water utilities that share the same basin. For small and medium-sized utilities, it is also effective to ask large utilities having an information collection system to provide information for them.

- Creation of water source basin maps

It is also necessary to put the collected information into a format that is easy to use. It is desirable to create a water source basin map by entering on a map the collected water source information, especially the location of facilities that could cause a source water pollution.

- What to do in case of deviation from the management standard

In case of deviation from the management standard, it is important to have specific measures in place depending on the actual situation, such as contacting related organizations, contacting people concerned in the basin when raw water quality deteriorates, and making necessary requests.

References	MHLW. “New Water Supply Vision Portal Site.” https://www.mhlw.go.jp/seisakunitsuite/bunya/topics/bukyoku/kenkou/suido/newvision/1_0_suidou_newvision.html MHLW. “About the Water Safety Plan.” https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/seisakunitsuite/bunya/topics/bukyoku/kenkou/suido/suishitsu/07.html Cabinet Office. “Secretariat of Water Cycle Policy Headquarters.” https://www.cas.go.jp/jp/seisaku/mizu_junkan/index.html
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