

## **A REPORT ON SUCCESSFUL WETLAND CONSERVATION AT FUJIMAE, JAPAN**

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On Nov.2002, Fujimae Tidal Flat was registered as a Ramsar site at COP8 in Valencia. It was a turning point in the history of wetland conservations in Japan and a first step toward the creation of a truly sustainable society.

Fujimae Tidal Flat is located on the Ise Bay in Central Japan, in the port of Nagoya, which is the 4th largest city in Japan with a population of over 2 million. After rapid industrial development in the 1960s, Fujimae was a one of the most important remaining sites for migratory shorebirds. In 1981, the Nagoya government decided to use Fujimae as a garbage landfill site. After many long battles, persistent citizens forced the cancellation of the project in 1999. Nagoya was now faced with a crisis, having no place to dump its garbage. As a result, the city worked to reduce the amount of garbage by 20% within 2 years. The amount of landfill garbage was cut in half, prompting Nagoya to set itself a new goal of reducing landfill garbage to zero by 2010.

The presenter will also discuss wetlands conservation in Japan and challenges to the future.