

## Ise Bay Development and Conservation Conference

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Located in the middle of Japan, Ise Bay is one of the largest inland bays in the country with a 660km long coastline and its large sea area that is 2,342 k m<sup>2</sup> as about two times as San Francisco Bay. Since ancient times, this region has been fortunate geographically, surrounded by mountains and the ocean, thus encouraging the development of its own culture and productivity in trading and agriculture, including farming and fishery.

However, Ise Bay faces disadvantages as a result of these geographical conditions. The narrow 20km-long entrance to the bay is blocked by scattered islands, which along with the basin-shaped sea bottom, prevents the flow of water in and out of the bay. As a result, waste accumulates easily, leading to the need to purify the water.

The Ise Bay Development and Conservation Conference was established in 1970 by three prefectures – Gifu, Aichi and Mie – to promote the comprehensive development and management of Ise Bay and the surrounding areas. Later in 1976, Nagoya City joined the afore-mentioned prefectures to form the organization as it exists today. Through the mutual cooperation of the city and three prefectures, activities such as research, symposiums, and the creation of homepages have been realized. These include Research of the System for the Cooperative Management and Use of Ise Bay (1996), Basic Investigation for the Protection of the Environment of Ise Bay (1997), Investigation for the Guideline of Use and Management of Ise Bay (2000), and the study of environmental conservation survey results carried out by The Research Committee for Environmental Problems.

As a great result of these activities the Policy for the Use and Management of Ise Bay was devised in 2000 by Gifu, Aichi, Mie and Nagoya City. This policy enables them to provide a cooperative and comprehensive response to the diverse requests for environmental protection, security and versatile usage of Ise Bay.