

Thoughts on the 中村哲 speech and future perspective by 2025

I think the speech by Mr. Nakamura really resonate with me considering my research field also focus on water governance in Central Asia and hydrology. The number one pressing issue for Central Asian nations, including Afghanistan has always been water shortage caused by climate change. Mr. Nakamura really exhibited a quite cruel fact, that in region/ countries struggling with water shortage, water infrastructure is really the determining factor regarding whether the region/ countries could adapt to the water shortage and seasonal water flow differences caused by climate change. Afghanistan case as presented by Mr. Nakamura is a perfect case of how local people could revive the previously considered to be non-arable land through construction of necessary infrastructure.

As my very own research also focus on water governance in Central Asia, regarding water conflict in the riparian region of Syr Darya, particularly between Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan. I was really amazed by how much progress was made by Mr. Nakayama and how they managed to incorporate local communities into the process of construction and future maintenance. As was showed in actual cases of JICA, that giving infrastructure to local people one-sided will not necessarily guarantee the long-term functioning of the infrastructure.

I hope my career path in the future will still focus on the soft infrastructure of water governance. Civil engineering sure have a major part in the technical dimension of water governance, but I believe water governance international organizations do play a important role. For my future, I hope to continue study in the field of water governance regime, hopefully help the people of Central Asia to design a new international organization for more effective water sharing.