Invited Lecture I

Administrative and Policy Trends for Conservation and Promotion of SPA in the Ministry of the Environment

Naoko NAKAJIMA
Division Conservation and Promotion of SPA, Nature Conservation Bureau, Ministry of the Environment

Hot Spring bathing is one of the popular recreation activities in Japan. It is recognized that it has good impact on mental and physical condition of human beings. Hot springs are also important as natural and cultural resources in local areas and attract a number of domestic and foreign tourists.

Ministry of the Environment is in charge of enforcement of the Hot Spring Law which was enacted in July 1948. MoE has newly set up a division inside Nature Conservation Bureau in last December for promoting utilization of hot springs and related tourism especially in rural areas. In cooperation with other sectors/organizations, the Division will carry out a series of measures for revitalization of SPA including:

- designating National Hot Spring Health Resorts by the Minister of the Environment
- subsidizing renewable energy systems using hot springs
- introducing/maintaining of public facilities in National/Quasi-national parks
- promoting eco-tourism and geo-tourism relating to hot springs
- developing programs to promote effective utilization of hot springs, etc.