

## The Study on Project Formation for Environmental Aspect, Latvia

(Period of the study: 2 months from March, 1998 Our assignments: Natural Environment)

### Background of the Study

There have been serious damages on the environment of Latvia during the era of USSR. Nordic countries such as Sweden and International Organizations such as World Bank so far implemented various cooperation activities in the field of environment as priority projects. The technical cooperation from Japan has also been strongly expected. Since the environmental problems in Latvia widely ranged, the extensive survey has been carried out in this study including general situation of urban environment, environmental protection and cross-border environmental problems along with their urgency, the cooperation of other donors and future cooperation necessity.

### Outline of the Study

In the field of natural environmental conservation, background survey was carried out for the requested project of management plan of Lubana wetland along with the general survey. Lubana wetland is located around lake Lubana which is the largest lake in Latvia and is important as transfer point for migrating birds and breeding point for resident bird. The abundance of the birds of prey shows the biodiversity level of the area. The area is one of the candidate areas for Ramsar Convention. Fish pond, forest and crop field are distributed around the lake and each sector need certain degree of water level and quality which is strongly related to the surrounding eco-systems. For example, spring flood create peculiar glass land in the flood plain and this is the important biotope for various bird species but the flood gives negative effects to the inhabitants. In summer, on the other hand, high water level is needed for fisheries and low water level is needed for the conservation of eco-systems. In this study, therefore, investigation on cooperation possibility and examination for the formation of priority project have been carried out aiming at the formulation of environmental management plan for wetland and biodiversity conservation.

### Our Assignments

- Data collection/analysis on administration, organization, regulation and research for environmental conservation,
- Needs assessment in the field of environmental conservation with the priority on the protection of wetland,
- Examination of cooperation situation by international organizations, donors and NGOs in the same field,
- Field survey on ecosystem conservation and natural resource utilization including ecotourism in Lubana, and
- Examination of future cooperation possibility and formation of priority project including development study.

