Management of the environmental resources of the Kanto groundwater basin in Japan – land subsidence and monitoring system

K. FURUNO¹, A. KAGAWA¹, O. KAZAOKA¹, Y. SAKAI¹, T. KUSUDA¹ & H. NIREI²

¹Research Institute of Environmental Geology, Chiba (RIEGC), 3-5-1, Inagekaigan, Mihama-ku, Chiba 261-0005, Japan
²(NPO)The Society of Geo-pollution Control, Japan, 5-24-1 Makuharihongoh, Hanamigawa-ku, Chiba 262-0033, Japan

Abstract Kanto plain in Japan is called Kanto groundwater basin. Groundwater level and land subsidence is monitored by about 500 monitoring wells and almost 5000 benchmarks. The groundwater level fell to its lowest in the early 1970s. Then regulations were strictly adhered to in southern Kanto. Consequently, the recovery of the groundwater level was recognized to be due to the control of the pumping. The groundwater resources can be used while the health condition of the groundwater basin is examined by periodical health checks. The monitoring system is important for the sustainable use of groundwater.

Key words land subsidence; Kanto groundwater basin, Japan; monitoring system; levelling; monitoring well