

**Conclusion of NARBO IWRM Workshop 2 on February 21, 2008**  
**Managing Assets and Risks**  
**for Sustainable Improvement of Water Resources Infrastructures**

**Background**

Infrastructure provides the foundation for a society, and promotes the economic growth in a country and a region, and enriches the quality of life for people as results. In other words, without infrastructure investment, it means no access to social services, expands a gap between rich and poor, and grows social disorder. Unlike the economic infrastructure that contributes to the industrial factors such as energy and transport, the water infrastructure provides the backbone forming the basic structure for socioeconomy in a country and a region. The water infrastructure is not only serving as facilities to develop and supply water resources for use of domestic, industrial and irrigation water, but also as facilities to prevent or mitigate water-related disasters due to floods, droughts and landslides.

Asia-Pacific region where the member organizations of NARBO are in existence is influenced by a monsoonal climate under which distinct patters of rainy season/dry season emerge in the region, also precipitation varies substantially on a monthly basis, and more people and assets are accumulating in the flood-prone alluvial plains. Water demand is projected to increase with continued economic development in the Asia-Pacific region. Water related disaster risks arising from flood, drought and debris flow increase concurrently as more people and assets are accumulating in the flood-prone alluvial plains than ever before. Thus, the Asia-Pacific region encounters either problems of too much water or too little water by seasonal changes of the climate. This tendency of “too much water or too little water” becomes more significant to due the global climate change. The region’s rich natural environments are already degraded and under further pressure. Water resources and ecosystems need to be protected to ensure sustainable development to future generations.

**Conclusion**

Under the conditions the member organizations of NARBO are pushed as mentioned above and on the basis of the keynote speech in the opening program by Prof. Yoshida and the keynote speech by Prof. Kobayashi, the reports by panelists and the discussion by participants in this workshop, the following directions for NARBO activities in the coming years are adopted:

1. NARBO will more powerfully advance the network activities such as sharing of information and experiences, capacity building and institutional development than ever to be able to carry out sustainable improvement and maintenance of water infrastructure and deal appropriately with water related disaster risks arising from flood, drought , pollution and debris flow.
2. Participants recognize that it is essential to comprehend the conditions of socioeconomic development, hydrometeorology, water usage, and water-related disaster due to flood, drought, pollution and debris flow in the river basin, and to manage water infrastructure from the view points of the asset management and the water-related risk management for the purpose of improving it effectively and deriving the maximum benefit from its effective utilization and maintenance. We also recognize the necessity of further enhancement of the asset management and the water-related risk management as well. Thus, NARBO will gather the information about fruits of research of them and share it among the member organizations, and advocate an emphasis upon the research and development of the asset management and water-related disaster risk management for IWRM to authorities concerned.
3. NARBO will continue to support governments and RBOs in improving the enabling environment for IWRM, including policies, legislation, institutional development, and public awareness and participation. NARBO will also continue to facilitate the sharing of knowledge and experience in the development and management of water resources, in priority topics such as water rights, water quality management, and climate change adaptation. NARBO will pilot an advisory service for RBOs in the preparation of integrated water resources management and investment programs in river basins.