

3rd NARBO General Meeting, Solo, Indonesia

Announcement

Workshop 3: Exploring New Challenges in IWRM Workshop Session on Addressing Issues and Challenges in Water Rights and Water Allocation 21 February 2008, 13:00 – 14:30

Introduction

Water rights is a topic of great interest to NARBO members as they help to introduce IWRM in river basins. However, the process of introduction and country-wide implementation of a licensing system for water use rights may well take as long as 20 years to complete. Making clear arrangements for practical solutions in the transition phase is therefore an important and urgent task, and these arrangements need to be flexible enough to respond to changing needs in water management as a result of continuing urbanization, climate change, and other drivers of change. Water rights and water allocation emerged as the top-ranked topic in a survey of training needs carried out among NARBO members. In response, NARBO initiated a series of workshops on the theme of water allocation and water rights in December 2005, in partnership with NARBO member organizations from Indonesia, Lao PDR, the Philippines, Thailand, Viet Nam and subsequently Sri Lanka. Over the period December 2005 - January 2007, representatives of national governments and river basin organizations met in a sequence of four workshops in Hanoi, Manila, Bangkok and Saitama, respectively. A culminating workshop on water rights was held at ADB's headquarters in May 2007.

Why You Should Come

The workshop will provide a better understanding of the principles and application of water rights and water allocation. The aim is to stimulate in-depth discussion on the challenges, practical solutions and lessons in the implementation of water rights, and to make recommendations for further NARBO activities that will assist governments, RBOs and civil society in the region in improving water rights and water allocation in the context of IWRM.

The workshop will start with the presentation by ADB's Wouter Lincklaen Arriens of a technical paper on water rights and allocation prepared by Jeremy Bird, Wouter Lincklaen Arriens, and Dennis von Custodio. After clarifying questions, facilitated discussion follows, moderated by ADB's Ian Makin. Panelists include members of the core group of specialists in the thematic workshop series, and other resource persons. The audience will also be involved in the discussion. The session will then wrap up with take-away messages from panelists and a synthesis of lessons and way forward for reporting to the General Meeting. Situational country updates will be available for reference at the workshop, prepared by core group members. A workshop report will be prepared afterwards, including (i) a summary of the session and participants views on challenges, practical solutions, and lessons in implementing water rights and water allocation during discussion; and (ii) consolidated progress reports from the countries that participated in the thematic workshop series.

Proposed Panelists

1. Mr. Elenito Bagalihog (NWRB/Philippines)
2. Ms. Sukontha Aekaraj (MONRE/Thailand)
3. Mr. Sudharma Elakanda (MASL/Sri Lanka)
4. Mr. Michitaro Nakai (JWA/Japan)
5. Mr. Herman Idrus (PJT2/Indonesia)
6. Mr. Rustam Abdukayumov (ADB/Uzbekistan)
7. Ms. Sun Feng (YRCC/People's Republic of China)
8. Mr. Vishal Gagan (Department of Water Resources, Orissa State, India)

Resource persons

Mr. Wouter Lincklaen Arriens (ADB)
Mr. Ian Makin (ADB) (Facilitator)
Mr. Dennis Von C. Custodio (ADB Consultant)
Email: dvcustodio@adb.org