

## OPENING REMARKS

Chairperson of the Network of Asian River Basin Organizations (NARBO)



The honourable invitees,

The distinguished delegates,

The respectable representatives of international organizations

Dear members of the network and participants of the meeting.

Assamualaikum warrahmatullahi wabarakatuh.

May blessings from our almighty God be bestowed upon all of you.

First of all, allow me to extend a warm welcome to the Third General Meeting of our network. This meeting is one of the assigned responsibility in the NARBO Charter, therefore it has the paramount importance to existence of this network.

Like other general meetings before, this event is the venue where we as members of the network shall meet and evaluate our objectives based on the executed programs, this meeting serves also as an milestone to reflect and draw up important issues and visionary goals of the network. Beside that, this meeting is also an opportunity to assign responsibilities among the members and evaluate them.

I strongly suggest that all members, observers and involved parties participate actively in this general meeting as a focal point of commitment and consciousness of the network.

Four years has passed since we established NARBO in Batu, East Java. At the present moment NARBO has 56 members from several RBOs, international apex bodies, knowledge centers and organizations, all of them representing 9 nations. Various activities and programs have been conducted by the members and secretariat. Report on the activities will be part of this meeting, also in line to it I bode my hope that this general meeting will truly reflect our interest on enhance and promote integrated water resources management among river basin organizations in Asia.

It is designed that this general meeting is conducted in sequence with a study visit and a workshop. This is intended to enriched the participants on issues in integrated water resources management. Participant had visited yesterday the Bengawan Solo River Basin, especially the upper catchment area.

This typical monsoon river basin in Indonesia is visited as an example of the many typical issues in integrated water resources management in Asian countries. I endorse that result of this study vist will be used to provide comments and suggestions on water resources management.

For our program today, we will convene further on integrated water resources management. Critical issues and learning process are carefully designed for this workshop and I expect that this will serve us all well.

I hope that this workshop and general meeting will contribute directly to our need, especially for the NARBO member countries.

On behalf of the organizing committee, I would like to thank all the participating organizations, that financially made this meeting possible. The organizing committee has done in any possibility their best to make this meeting success, but should there be any inconvenience, I would like to apologize to the participants.

Finally, I kindly invite his excellency the Minister of Public Works of the Republic of Indonesia to officially open the Third General Meeting of NARBO and its appertaining workshop.

I wish to all participants a fruitful workshop and meeting. To our foreign friends, dear members and counterparts of NARBO, I wish you all a pleasant stay in Indonesia.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Wassalamu'alaikum warrahmatullahi wabarakatuh.

Surakarta, February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2008

NARBO Chairperson 2004-2008

**M. Basuki Hadimoeljono**