

3rd NARBO General Meeting, Solo, Indonesia

ANNOUNCEMENT

Creation of the NARBO Technical Advisory Committee¹

Rationale

NARBO seeks expert advice to ensure that the quality and credibility of its annual IWRM Training Program will be at the level of a prestigious regional flagship program that will attract numerous participants who desire to join and successfully complete the program to benefit their work, and who are willing to share in the cost by paying a registration fee of \$200 or more per person. NARBO can also benefit from periodic advice on the strategic direction of its activities to ensure optimal benefits to its members and a high standing among the water development community in the region.

Responsibility

The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) will advise NARBO's leadership and secretariat in the design of its IWRM Training Program and make specific recommendations on the objectives, target participants, qualifications of applicants, requirements for certification, and guidelines for organization of the program, including venue, host organizations, program scope and detailed content, assignments and ratings, program director and trainers, financing, and frequency. The TAC can also be requested to advise on other strategically important matters concerning NARBO's activities.

Members

Experts who may be invited by the Secretary General include:

- Professor Tsuneaki Yoshida of the University of Tokyo, a founder of NARBO, as Senior Adviser
- Former NARBO Chair, as Senior Adviser
- Heads of selected Asia-Pacific Water Forum Regional Water Knowledge Hubs with direct relevance to NARBO's activities (e.g. the hubs focusing on river basin organizations and management, water quality management in river basins, river basin decision support systems, disaster risk reduction and flood management, climate change, irrigation services, and water governance), as members
- Head of the International Water Centre in Brisbane, as member
- Other experts as needed.

The NARBO Secretariat may call on other experts to join TAC meetings for specific advice as and when needed. These may for example include leading experts of the Global Water Partnership's Technical Committee, CAPNet, UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education, and others. The NARBO Chair, Vice-Chair, and Vice-Secretary Generals are also expected to join the TAC meetings when available.

Organization

It is expected that the TAC will meet generally once a year, and that the meetings are organized in conjunction (back-to-back) with NARBO events whenever possible, to reduce costs. The NARBO Secretariat will organize the meetings. TAC membership does not involve remuneration, and members are in principle expected to arrange their own financing to participate in the meetings. Additional meetings can be held using existing video-conferencing facilities (such as those in ADB and World Bank offices). An internet-based discussion platform will be provided exclusively for the TAC members. Agenda and reports will be announced through the NARBO website.

First Meeting

The NARBO Secretariat is exploring opportunities to organize the first TAC meeting in April 2008 in Indonesia at the new Regional Knowledge Hub for River Basin Organizations and Management that is being established by the Ministry of Public Works of Indonesia. This Hub is expected to play a key role in supporting the NARBO Training Program in the future. Organizing the first TAC meeting in April will then give enough lead time for organizing the next IWRM Training Program in November 2008.

¹ NARBO's Charter provides for the establishment of a Technical Advisory Committee to advise and support NARBO in its activities. The committee is convened by the Secretary General. (Article 4.5)