

**Opening Speech**  
**at**  
**IWRM Seminar & Workshop**  
**The Fourth General Meeting of Network of Asian River Basin**  
**Organizations (NARBO)**

Delivered by

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The honourable invitees,

The distinguished delegates,

Dear friends, members of the network and participants of IWRM Seminar & Workshop of the Fourth General Meeting of Network of Asian River Basin Organizations (NARBO).

Assamualaikum warrahmatullahi wabarakatuh, and Good morning.

First of all, on behalf of the Constitutional Body of the Network of Asian River Basin Organizations (NARBO), I am pleased to extend a very warm welcome to all our distinguished friends here today at IWRM Seminar and Workshop as part of the agenda of the Fourth General Meeting of NARBO. Organizing IWRM Seminar and Workshop on topic of interest during the General Meeting of NARBO which will be conducted today and tomorrow, is one of NARBO activities within the key result area in Capacity Building in River Basin Organizations (RBOs).

Integrated water resources management (IWRM) has been recognized across the world as the continuous process to promote the coordinated development and management of water, land and related resources in river basins, to maximize the economic benefits and social welfare in an equitable manner without compromising the sustainability of vital ecosystems.

The application of IWRM varies according to each river basin's specific conditions and requirements, yet in all cases IWRM is focused on delivering a triple bottom line of a balance of economic, social and environmental benefits resulting from an integrated approach that carefully considers each trade-off.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen,

In the natural system, IWRM focuses on integrating management of (i) upstream and downstream interests, (ii) water quantity and quality, (iii)

surface water and groundwater, and (iv) land and water resources. However, the water crisis in countries across the Asian region is largely a challenge of improving water governance, and IWRM focuses equally on improving the human system, focusing on how people and their institutions work all together, make the appropriate and right decisions, and implement them effectively. Stakeholder active participation, local actions and ownership are therefore necessary building blocks for achieving IWRM in the river basin level. The active and informed participation of river basin stakeholders in planning until decision making, including in water resources allocation and conflict resolution, is central to the success of IWRM.

IWRM is a long-term process that needs sustained commitment by all stakeholders in the river basin. Its continuous implementation will take decades of incremental improvements to achieve full results. The introduction of IWRM in a river basin needs a positive enabling environment, clear institutional roles, and practical management instruments. The process can be anchored, and its achievements monitored, through a capable river basin organization, institutionalized stakeholder participation, and comprehensive river basin planning and monitoring.

At the national level, the enabling environment includes an effective water policy, updated legislation, and conducive financing and incentive structures. Issues to be addressed through the enabling environment include cost sharing and recovery, water use rights, responsibilities of the national water apex body, river basin organizations, local governments, service providers and water user organizations, and the private sector, amongst others.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen,

For your information, Indonesia has undertaken a step forward to implement the Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) policy to enhance water resources management for achieving public prosperity and sustainable environment. In line with a developed IWRM concept in the international forum, some actions have been taken in the national and regional level within the framework of water resources policy reform.

The reform is one of the important actions to cope with poverty alleviation, food security, and natural resources conservation. It has devised some policy formulations such as the enactment of the Law No 7 of 2004 on Water Resources which is consistent with IWRM principles. The Law is aimed at promoting a coherent, integral, sustainable and open approach to water resources management. It is also giving the option for community, businesses, and non government organizations to participate in the process of planning and implementation of IWRM.

The Law No 7 of 2004 is also aimed at promoting IWRM at basin level. The basic principle of water management under the context of the Law is involving

the effort to plan, implement and monitor as well as evaluate the subsequent implementation on water conservation, utilization, and mitigation of water resources disastrous potentials. While the water resource planning refers to in this context, which is just at the beginning stage in Indonesia, is the comprehensive plan, making use of integrated approach for subsequent implementation of water resources management under the principle of "one river, one plan, and one integrated system of management".

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen,

For the basis of IWRM implementation, the Law stipulates the vision, missions, and principles of water resources management in Indonesia. As stated in the Law, the vision is: "water resources are managed comprehensively and integrally with an environmental concept, with the aim of realizing sustainable water resources benefits for optimal public welfare". To instigate this vision, five missions has been stated: 1) water resources conservation, 2) efficient use of water resources; 3) control destructive force of water; 4) empowerment and improvement of the roles of community, business, and government; and 5) improvement of data and information's availability and transparency. Then, in order to achieve those missions, water resources are managed in the principles of harmony, equality, public prosperity, integrity and concurrence, fairness, autonomy, transparency and accountability manners.

In terms of Integrated Water Resources Management, there are three management areas, i.e. watershed management, water sources management and water use management that should be implemented integrally in Indonesia. Watershed management consists of managing spatial planning, land use monitoring and control, forest, land rehabilitation and soil conservation, and restoration and management of water recharge area. Water sources management consist of managing water quantity, water quality, flood management, river infrastructure, and river environmental. Whereas, water use management consist of managing waste water, efficient use of water, irrigation water, and waste water system.

There are three pillars of IWRM, are the enabling environment, institutional framework / roles, and management instruments. In terms of enabling environment, up to now it has been implemented Government Regulations and other regulations regarding Water Drinking Supply System, Irrigation, Water Resources Management, Ground Water, Dam, Water Council, River Basin Territory, whereas Government Regulations regarding River, Swamp, Water Use Right are still in process.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen,

To implement water resources management in the basin level in Indonesia, based on the Ministry of Public Works Regulation No 11A/PRT/M/2006, the

whole of area is divided into 133 river basin territories (consist of 69 river basin territories are central government responsibilities and the rest of 64 river basin territories are local government responsibilities, consists of 51 provincial, and 13 district river basin territories). The implementations of water management in river basins are done by river basin territory management units (River Basin Organizations/RBOs).

In the year of 2007, the Central Government established 31 Public Utility Type River Basin Organizations (Balai Besar Wilayah Sungai/ Balai Wilayah Sungai) under the jurisdiction of the Central Government, out of 3 river basins have been managed by Corporate Type River Basin Organization i.e. Jasa Tirta I and Jasa Tirta II Public Corporation. In collaboration with Provincial Government, the Government of Indonesia has established also 53 Public Utility Type River Basin Organizations under jurisdiction of the Provincial Government in 14 provinces. The law and regulations illustrate the RBOs position as organization in charge of water resources management at river basins level. It means that the RBOs are required to take consultation and their participations in increasing capacity and applying better water resources management and technology in its river basin.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen,

For coordination, the Law No 7 of 2004 stipulates that coordination at national level shall be carried out by the National Council of Water Resources established by the Central Government. Coordination at provincial and basin levels have been carried out by Provincial Water Resources Management Committee and Basin Water Resources Management Committee called Coordination Team of Water Resources Management. RBOs play significant role in the Committee and Coordination Team. Regular communication and coordination meeting are organized by RBOs.

The National Council of Water Resources conducts coordination function in water resources management through consultation with stakeholders in order to have policy integration and to achieve understanding and harmony of needs among sectors, regions and stakeholders; monitoring and evaluation of national policy implementation on water resources management and consultation with stakeholders in order to have policy integration on information system of hydrology, hydrometeorology and hydrogeology.

The National Council of Water Resources already established by the Government of Indonesia based on President Regulation No 12 of 2008. Membership of the National Council of Water Resources consists of Government Organizations (Ministries related to national planning, water resources, environment, health, forestry, transportation, industry, energy and natural resources, coastal and fishery, education, etc) and Non Government Organizations (consist of water users organizations/ associations for irrigation,

drinking water, industry, fishery, electricity, transportation, tourism, forestry, etc). The members from Government and Non Government Organizations should be in balanced number based on representative principle.

**Distinguished Guests and Participants,**

**ladies and gentlemen,**

For the practitioners involved in IWRM implementation, NARBO in cooperation with UNESCO has developed IWRM Guidelines at River Basin Level. The project was started in November 2007, based on the recognition that there was a need for a mechanism to translate the IWRM principles into practical application. The principles of concepts of IWRM have been widely recognized, but the implementation of IWRM is not satisfactorily progressing in many basins. This is, perhaps, because the practitioners responsible for water resources management at the basin level encounter difficulties in understanding where and how to begin, or advantages of applying IWRM with respect to their actual situation may not be apparent enough. Therefore, it is desired that practitioners absorb the ideas and needs of IWRM and understand the effectiveness of applying these within a basin-wide approach. These Guidelines for IWRM at River Basin Level are intended to be used for that purpose, as a tool to fill that 'gap'. In this seminar, NARBO Secretariat will present the introduction of IWRM Guideline as a tool for the improvement of IWRM in NARBO.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen,

Finally, allow me to close my opening address by wishing you all a successful meeting, enhance good water governance and disseminate best practices in integrated water resources management (IWRM) among the members of NARBO.

I thank you for your kind attention.

Wassalamu'alaikum warrahmatullahi wabarakatuh.

**DR. Ir. Mochammad Amron, M.Sc**

Chairperson of NARBO