

## **Keynote Opening of Narbo Chairman**

### **In The Opening Session on**

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Theme: Water Resources Management in River Basin**

Nusantara 1, BICC, Nusa Dua, Bali

3 September 2005

08:30 – 09:00

Ladies and gentlemen, Welcome back to BICC from site visit. And if you arrived yesterday, I sincere hope to say “welcome to Bali”.

#### **Slide 1**

- Water plays various roles. Water is an indispensable resource for people to live, and at the same time it is an important element for the nature environment. Now a day, serious and complex problems concerning water have occurred worldwide. In our Southeast Asia region, we are facing many water-related issues and people strongly expect us to make an effort toward the resolution on these water-related issues in order to achieve further sustainable development of country, and also for their wealthy and stable society.
- The Southeast Asia Water Forum is one of the good opportunities for the people concerned to share information, discuss toward the future actions and solutions. I would like to expect all participants get the fruitful time and raise your motivation.

#### **Slide 2**

- Today’s theme is “Managing water resources in River Basin” and we are discussing how to cope with water-related issues in basin level and how to solve them. We have three parallel sessions each in the morning and in the afternoon. Moreover, NARBO will have the side event in the evening.
- Each session’s title is as follows:
  - Developing Capacity in River Basin Organizations
  - Environmental Flows - Ecosystem and Livelihoods – Impossible Dream ?
  - Upstream – Downstream Issues in Implementing Equitable and Reasonable Utilization on the River Basin – Challenges and Interdisciplinary Experiences
  - Reducing Vulnerability from Floods, Drought and Other Water Related Disasters.
  - Caring for and Using Coastal Ecosystem (including tsunami response) and Watershed (including improving water services for agriculture)

- Improving Water Governance-Different Scales, Different Approaches.
- Each title seems very interesting and appropriate toward solving water-related issues in Southeast Asia region. We expect lively and heated discussions.

### **Slide 3**

- Some of water-related issues in Southeast Asia are worldwide issues and some of them are limited issues to this region. So, let me clear latter issues first. Southeast Asia region has been developing rapidly and many countries in this area have experienced rapid population increase, high population density in cities and rapid industrialization. For example, the total population in Indonesia increased by 40% from 147 million to 206 million over 20 years from 1980 to 2000. Population in Jakarta increased by 29 % from 6.5 million to 8.4 million in the same period. The economical development in the region has growth and growth, but it cases various water-related issues. These situations are similar with other Asian country. Therefore, the collaboration among Asian countries is essential.

### **Slide 4**

- Many countries in Southeast Asia are included in monsoon Asia. Monsoon Asia region, in general, is the region with much precipitation. More than 70% of annual rainfall tends to concentrate in a wet season. Hence, river flows in the region have much fluctuation throughout the year. Meanwhile in many of the monsoon Asian regions, cities are formed on alluvial plains that are flood plains. Therefore, these cities have water problems of both flood and drought, namely, too much water and too little water.

### **Slide 5**

- In monsoon Asia region, water has been used mainly for agricultural purpose, especially about rice since ancient time, and a large amount of water is still being used for the same purpose. The more population has increased and the economic has developed, the more demand for domestic water and industrial water has increased rapidly, mainly in urban areas. And this has caused friction against the traditional use of a large amount of water for irrigation. We implemented many numbers of infrastructures for water resources development, and some of them are used as power of development.
- For further economic development, further development of infrastructure will become the key as well as an efficient water use and management.

### Slide 6

- In addition to these problems, water quality in rivers has become the big problem. According to the economical development and population increase, water quality has degraded in many rivers in many large cities in Southeast Asia. The deterioration of water quality in rivers gives much stress to the environment and hygiene.
- Flash flood is also the other issue, as their upper catchments are in degradation condition caused by deforestation and in proper management of agricultural land areas.
- We have to think about underground water seriously, too. Due to the excess extraction of underground water, land subsidence has still been going on. Once land is subsided, it won't go back to its original situation. And settled land is susceptible to flood and high tide, namely, storm surge. Also we will need to tackle with the salinity of groundwater and the contamination of groundwater.

### Slide 7

- As chairperson of from NARBO, the Network of Asian River Basin Organizations, I'd like to touch on how to establish and develop RBOs from now. To improve RBOs' issues, we need different kinds of approaches such as legal approach, institutional approach, technical approach, financial system approach and so on. We put each approach together and call the combined approach as "Integrated Water resources Management". For establishing and developing RBOs, it is needed to practice each approach in a specific manner and we have to discuss practical solutions here at the 2nd Southeast Asia Water Forum.
- Integrated water resources management is to be established for each basin as a lowest appropriate unit level, but in order to do so, it is required to establish a River Basin Organization (RBO) that engages in water resources development and management in the basin. Making a RBO play its roles or functions, supports from the government are indispensable and close relationship with peoples is required.

### Slide 8

- The role of an RBO is to realize the stability and development of regions through appropriate management of water resources based on the scientific viewpoint and engineering knowledge, and efforts are required that can acquire confidence of people and regional residents. The RBO should be the main component of institutional framework in performing integrated water resources management. The RBO should be a professional institution having sufficient capacities and supported with adequate budget to implement water resources management and

facilities management in the basin. Capacity development for this purpose is of utmost importance. In order to solve problems for establishing integrated water resources management in Asian region, exchange of information and experiences, and joint efforts for capacity development among RBOs, relevant governmental organizations, knowledge partners and organizations for international cooperation are indispensable.

### **Slide 9**

- For this purpose, NARBO was established jointly by water resources related organizations in Asian monsoon region on 24 February 2004, in Batu – Malang, Indonesia. The aim of NARBO is to provide support to RBOs in order to establish appropriate integrated water resources management in each country or region. The objectives are to strengthen the capacity and effectiveness of RBOs in promoting IWRM and improvement water governance.
- I would like to acknowledge again on what we have to consider the role of an RBO is to realize the stability and development of the region through appropriate management of water resources, and efforts are required that can acquire confidence of people and regional residents.

### **Slide 10**

- What kinds of capacity developments are necessary for RBOs? I think that those capacity developments have the direct connection to the problems that each RBO is suffering from. NARBO Secretariat distributed the questionnaires to members regarding the items of necessary capacity development and I'd like to introduce the result of the survey.
- Necessary capacity development in institutional approach is as follows:
  - As matter on framework, namely, issues about government policy related to: Institutional aspects, Water allocation, Finance and funding.
  - As matter on capacity development of RBO itself, namely, issues about RBO side includes: General matters, Engineering matters and Close relationship with residents and stakeholders

### **Slide 11**

- About detail contents on each list, I don't introduce here at the opening address. But in the session of "Developing Capacity of River Basin Organizations", I would like to ask to be examined throu sharing of information and experiences by presenters and panelist as well as by participants.

### **Slide 12**

- As I have mentioned so far, there are many problems concerning water resources management and capacity development of RBOs in Southeast Asia region. Both the results of discussions at this session and any cure-all can't solve these problems. The continuous and persevere daily efforts toward better water resources management through close relationship with people and effort to improve the engineering capacity are the most crucial.

### **Slide 13**

- People say, at present, because of influence of the climate change, occurrence of serious problems becomes reality. In Asia, we are facing many water- induced problems. Further collaboration with the technology and good splits is becoming very important. I believe today's session is covering the essential point. To realize "The better water resources management in Southeast Asia", I deeply expect that all of you discuss constructively and exchange opinions actively, then, more and more people receives our messages.
- The site visit was organized yesterday, not last day of this forum. This aims, we will discuss more fruitfully and concretely today, because the site is our basis. I believe this viewpoint is very important for participants. For the river and water management, we have to respect the traditional culture, local management rule, geographical and other natural environment feature. Therefore, sharing of information in Asian country and effort of many peoples will become more and more important.
- As many people mentioned, our mission is huge important for future of country and people.
- In the beginning of this year, the tsunami occurred in Indian ocean. At that time, we received encouragement and contributions from the World over. Here, I would like to express our respect and gratitude.

Let me say again, welcome to Bali.

Thank you very much.

Chairperson of NARBO  
Dr. Ir. M. Basuki Hadimuljono, MSc