Report on Group 5

FOSTERING PARTICIPATION on the IMPLEMENTATION OF IWRM

1-Introduction

The worsening water crisis must definitely be arrested. People all over the world still treat usage of water as a right. They know and understand that water is there for the taking. There are no existing rules and principles that regulate usage, since access to water connotes freedom, and this freedom if threatened creates disagreement, both international and domestic.

Thus, an approach to mitigate such water crisis and conflicts, a framework for stakeholder participation is necessary to enable them relate to the pressing problem and let them be a part of the evolving process towards an integrated water resource management.

2-Participation important in IWRM

Participation in the implementation of IWRM approach is important due to the following reasons:

1. Stakeholders/Occupants of the locality/area where the natural (water) resource exist are the main users;

2. Human population/activities are highly connected and are identified as one of the source and major cause of pollution;

3. Promote responsibility and participation for the rehabilitation and enhancement of the resource.

4. It promotes an interactive learning environment among the stakeholders;

5. Promotes sense of belonging and mutual trust; and

6. Strengthens and empowers local communities and peoples organizations

7. It is the key element in national water policy;

8. It is globally accepted and makes good sense;

3-The important stakeholders?

1. Legislators/policy makers
2. Management/Implementers (government and people in authority)

3. Academe
4. NGOs (environmentalists, social and extension workers
5. Peoples Organization (POs)
6. Indigenous People (IPS)
7. Other Dwellers within the identified basin
8. Observers (research and development)

4-Designed and implemented?

Participatory process would be effective if properly planned and implemented. Formulation of purpose and objectives among a diverse group of stakeholders creates a sense of belonging, thus making participation an easy task. Presented below are the various phases of participation.

4.1.   Initiation phase (Problem Inventory/ Creation of a need)

In a certain degree, initiation or start-up activities are of paramount importance to enable the advocators/initiators come up with physical responses and presence. This phase involves preparation of a concept, commencement and introduction of various efforts that might have an impact on their lives. Networking and precise coordination with the proper authorities is a necessity.   All avenues of communication and the kind and mode of participation should be explored to generate response. Build up trust and confidence among the prospective audience to gather information that are necessary during the conduct of the participation process. Store and build-up data bank and identify specific issues, because, full knowledge of the project or of the information at hand usually generate positive responses from the target audience. Information should be shared to win confidence.

4.2.Preparation phase

This phase involves the realization of the activities that were planned during the initiation phase. Decisions should be made on to what approaches shall be implemented. A strategic plan must be prepared and should be discussed and agreed upon. Literatures, journals, and other forms of information must be prepared and circulated, to create interest and thus encouraged participation. Visuals such documentaries, are also necessary for easy comprehension. Scenarios must be formulated to provide context for any problem/issues that will be presented to the prospective stakeholders/target audience. These scenarios/assessment reports, specifically environmental and social issues, must be supported by documents such as existing policies, legislations, royal/presidential pronouncements, decrees, etc. to enable the audience realize that the process is of prime importance. Tasking is also necessary to define roles of the collaborating agency, and the authority where the proposed activity shall be undertaken.

Target audience/stakeholders are identified in this phase. Stakeholders may be classified into direct and indirect, to generate different responses. Direct stakeholders are those who are affected directly and whose projects directly cause impacts on their lives, while

indirect stakeholders are those groups who have minimal associations towards the project. Stakeholders also should be identified depending on the need for information and how this information will benefit the project. If consensus has been agreed, execution of the design follows in pursuit of a sustained and transparent participation.

The output of these process is a strategic plan with scenario to meet demands for eventual IWRM implementation. The group has identified several scenarios but the most pressing one is the diminishing water resource.

It is also during the preparation phase, where the mode of participation is being decided upon which may suit the needs of the target audience. In this report, the group has decided to utilize the consultation process, since this entails a larger group of participants, thus a wider coverage.

4.3. Implementation, Monitoring evolution phase

The IWRM process includes the effective and efficient management of water resources by considering the following:

- Sectored interests including health, agriculture, urban and industry;
- Institutional objectives and coordination;
- Ecological and environmental issues, including water quality and quantity;
- Gathering and sharing of hydrologic, environmental, economic, social data and information;
- Sustainability of the resource base;
- Economic and financial issues, including long-term costs, benefits, and opportunity costs;
- Social issues;
- Legislative and policy frameworks for national and trans-boundary prosperity; and
- Preparation of a monitoring framework
- Endorsement of the framework to the stakeholders
- Need for building the necessary institutional and human capacity.

5. Conclusion

- Fostering participation on the implementation of IWRM is a process ,not a product
- Scale independent – applies at all levels of development
- A tool for self assessment and program evaluation
- A tool for policy, planning and management
- A mechanism for evaluating competing
- demands, resource allocation, and tradeoffs