

Individual Paper**Achmadi Partowijoto****Indonesia Water Partnerships****Motto :***You tell me, I may forget**You show me, I can remember**You involve me, I will learn***Foreword**

First of all I like to convey my gratitude and thanks to the Network for Asian Rivr Organization, Thailand Water Resources Association, Japan Water Agency and other collaborating agencies and instututions and individuals for their good will and hard work in conducting the First training on IWRM and Strengthening of River Basin Committee in Bangkok and Chiang Mai, July 26 to August 6 2004.

I believe that the outcome of the training will be of much benefit to all of the participants who will desiminate among colleagues and put intopractice all of the technological knowledge and experience obtained during the training which include presentations by prominent university professor, officials from government, ADB, ADBI and Kowako, experts and profesionals, followed by site visits to water resources enrout and in Chiang May province.

I realy hope that the first training program which is particularly conducted for participants from the South East Asia countries will be followed by the second training program, under better organization with more appropriate methodology and competency-based learning materials.

Experience obtained during the first training programme will certainly will be very helpful for the preparation of better training program with an ultimate outcome.

Lessons learned

Having participated in the first raining on Integrated Water Resources Management and Srengthening of River Basin Committee, I realize that there are still much to learn about the definition and meaning of participation. Integrated water resources management is a process that should be integrated into overall water resources management from central government to the grass-root level. Integrated water resources management need to manage water resources at the lowest appropriate level.

In Indonesia participation is at present becoming important issue in the context of the new Water Resources Law No. 7/2004 which is effective since April 2004 and the Law on Decentralization No. 22/2000. Different perception on the extent and level of participation in the context of integrated water resources management among stakeholders should be overcome through intensive socialization and discussion, particularly at the provincial and district level as well as river basin and sub-basin level.

In the implementation of decentralization, many local government are pushing too hard in collecting revenue from local sources, which unfortunately often neglecting the principles of nature conservation and protection of the ecosystem, including deforestation.

Participation as a key concept and srategic factor in the implementation of integrated water resourcs management, should be seriously taken into

account to achieve the ultimate goal of integrated water management. In conducting participatory activities, some aspects need to be considered, among others are : (a) process of participation, (b) problems in the participation process, and (c) methods of participation. An effective participation process need to properly planned, implemented and integrated into the socio-economic development process and local cultural condition.

The process of participation is shifting from weak to strong and follow the path of respective phases, that are : initiating, preparing, implementing, and sustaining phases. The level of intensity in each phase and the interaction between phases will determine the depth and scale of participation process.

Problem solving in the process of participation starts from problem identification, setting-up questions around the underlying issues, and the methods of participation, which includes technique, structure and program. Participation for decision making and consensus should involve thinking process that covers questions (what, who, why and how) in regard to problem identification, alternative, setting, impact assessment, evaluation, and choose the most appropriate solution alternative.

Discussion on participation had come into a concluding remarks as follows :

- (a) there is no perfect model for participation
- (b) participation is a process of institutional and social learning
- (c) intens and level of participation vary among stakeholders depending on the degree of interest of participation
- (d) participation is a concept of changing strategic planning paradigm, and
- (e) participation is a challenge towards a common goal for civilized societies.

(f) Participatory and grass-root involvement enhance the identification of local issues and solve water resources related problems.

Facts observed.

Technological knowledge and good practices learned from visit to Chao Praya Irrigation Project, among others is the high cropping intensity of five rice crops per two year had been practised for many years without decreasing soil fertility. This can only be achieved by planting rice varieties of short growing period, good soil management including ballanced fertilization and use of organic fertilizer.

From the boat trip along Ping rivers many things had been learned, such as the effect of natural vegetation along the river bank to slow down the water current, that flowing river water is functioning as buffer for air temperature, that river corridor provide flow of fresh and cool air from the mountain to the city and urban area in the valley, that good river management can provide additional revenue from tourism, that construction of high rise building is prohibited within 100 m from the river bank to avoid impedence to river scenery, and that there is penalty to everyone who violate river regulation, such a encroachment. Big sign on the bank of Ping river address people and all visitors to keep river water clean, prevent pollution and properly managed Ping river and other rivers for people welfare, at present as well as in the next generation.

Local Water Resources Management Committee at Ban Muokhong, Chiang Dao, in the upper watershed area of Ping River, work hard and has a good linkage with the religion leader and community, which help to make make a success. The local government provide subsidy to the local committee and

the farmers pay fee for the maintenance of water resources and irrigation infrastructures.

Another things to be observed is that water in the Ping river and its tributaries is very muddy and brown in colour, that indicate the ocurrence of severe erosion process, however from the overland observation there is no sign of deforestation. In fact there s deforestation, however it only can be observed through a bird view from above.

Chiang Mai, August 5, 2004.