

## **Individual Report on the Lessons from the Training and Their Implementation**

### **Bancha Kwanyuen**

As a university staff and a river basin committee, this training elaborates in depth regarding integrated water resources management (IWRM). The contents on river basin organization and river basin committee are very strong. The participation approach and the ecological and environmental issues are among the most beneficial area since most of the participants have the engineering or water resources background. From my viewpoint the lessons and their implementation to my river basin and Thailand are as follows.

a) The river basin organization and the river basin committee is still weak in Thailand particularly the water user groups therefore the capacity building must be given the highest priority and implemented promptly. The issue were already proposed to the MaeKlong and Thachin river basin committees but the support was not very strong. The secretary (Department of Water Resources) to the RBCs is still lack of knowledge and inexperienced in water resources management and should be trained about IWRM prior to the RBCs and stakeholders in the river basin so they can be the supporting staff and resource person for the RBOs.

b) The participation of all stakeholders is among the most important component of the RBOs but the present RBCs are not the real representative because it is the top-down process (erected from province back to the village, not from the village up to the province). In addition the public is not well informed about the role and qualification of RBCs. Therefore the process on selection of the representative of the RBOs in many river basin should be restarted from the grass-root (village) probably with an assistant of the current RBCs.

c) From the field study, some good examples about good and poor water management were demonstrated. The strong, successful and sustainable water resources management must be in the context of IWRM such that the role of water users must be strongly strengthen within and outside of the irrigation project. Particularly within the irrigation, the PIM should be implemented but many RID staff are not understand and not able to perform the task. The same mistake on the development of water resources or irrigation project should not be repeated. The department of irrigation engineering at Kasetsart University was asked to be the trainer for some irrigation projects on PIM within this month (August 2004) so the lessons learned from this training will be high beneficial to the training program.

d) The mindset is important and should be recognized. The concept of social, ecology and environment as part of IWRM are realized by many water users but many government agencies are not well aware of the issues. They should be trained to the government staff. At the same time water resources and basic hydrology should be trained to the water users. In addition the compromise solution considering multiple issues with a lot of alternatives should be a new way on the introduction of a new water resources project.

e) The issue on economic value of water is not strongly emphasized in this training but this is rather important in order to earn the optimum benefit. The effectiveness in water use (e.g. profit per unit of water) should be used in stead of efficiency as the indicator for the performance evaluation of any water resouces projects. The idea had been proposed to the RID but there is no response at the moment. The continuing effort may lead to the success in the near future.

f) Many examples of RBOs from other countries were studied to be the role model for Thailand. From this training it may conclude that no more time should be wasted on employing or asking for aid of foreign consultations since there was no universal formulation of RBO. The appropriate form should be learnt from the social and policy aspects of Thailand such as the practice in the northern region.

g) Hydrological data and information are not easily available to the public eventhrough they should be released by the constitution. Lack of proper information may lead to misunderstanding and mistrust. The public agency reform in 2002 aimed to reduce the overlap of work but on the issue of water resources development RID and DWR still had some similar responsibility. This leads to tension and conflict among this two departments recently. A new reform for water resources agency may be the best way to solve the problem for the long term.

h) Tools in IWRM is one of the most important components in successful implementation. The project should apply some technigues that are inexpensive (or free), effective, and ease to use so that the upgrading and the continuous use will not be the problem in the future.

Some of discussed issuses can and will be implemented with the enhance knowledge from this IWRM training. Some of the presented issues may be out of control or no authority but these issues should be noted here and their implementation may be possible in the future.