

## **Individual Report**

### **First Training Program on IWRM and Strengthening of River Basin Committees( RBC )**

**26 July to 6 August 2004, Bangkok and Chiang Mai, Thailand**

**By Ms Chansouk PHIMVONGSA**

#### **I. Objective of the Training Program**

The regional training program on IWRM and strengthening of river basin committees aims to strengthen the capacity of IWRM practitioners with emphasis on putting concepts into practice. The training workshop's specific objective are:

- Equip the water-related professionals in the region to have a good understanding of the IWRM concepts.
- Present case studies and field experiences on actual water management at a basin and country level
- Enable the participants to translate the IWRM concept into the planning process

#### **II. Learn from the course**

##### **➤ Day 1(26-07-2004) : Concept of IWRM (By Dr. Apichart)**

###### 1-Introduction of Participation

Challenges require IWRM challenges faced by more and more countries in their struggle for economic and social ages, integrated Water Resources Management is process that can assist countries in their endeavor to deal with water issues in cost-effective and sustainable way.

###### 2-Common understanding of IWRM

-Interpretation of the IWRM Concept and Process by the GWP Technician Advisory Committee interprets

-No Universal blueprint / To identify target group

###### 3-The overall problem

-Resources under pressure / Populations under water stress

-The Impact of pollution / Water governance crisis

###### 4-Main challenges

-To secure water for people / To secure water for food production

-To improve food country can in effect import water from more generously endowed areas

-To apply the concept of virtual water

-To develop other job creating activities / To protect vital ecosystems

###### 5-IWRM principles

-Dublin principles as a guide / Principles have universal Support

-The four Dublin Principles / Fresh Water is a finite and vulnerable resource essential to sustains life, development and Environment.

-Water development and management should be based on a participatory approach, involving user, Planning and policy maker at all levels

-Women play a central part in the provision, management and safeguarding of water

-Water has economic value in all its competing user and should be recognized as an economic good

##### **➤ Day2 (27-07-2004): Case study of Japan and Thailand**

Water Resources in Japan and the Development of IWRM in Kiso River (JWA)

-The Master has been changed as follows: Water Demand and water supply plan

-In each of the designated river systems, "the water resources development Master plan" has been made under the Law.

Experiences on IWRM action in Thailand (TWRA)

- IWRM can be implemented or institutionalized through a step-by-step process
- In the preparation of river basin plans, the application of IWRM process is far more important than having a plan *per se*
- Public awareness and multi-stakeholder participation is a must to ensure acceptance by public and the government
- ISO 9001 and IWRM (ADBI)
- Water resources management by a professional, innovative and sustainable state-owned companies with complete stakeholder participation.
- Conduct sustainable water resources management and dealings.
- Implement awareness and attention to all employees in order to provide qualified services.
- Maintain professionalism and harmony for a conducive working environment.
- Improve cooperation with related institutions and stakeholders.

➤ **Day 3 (28-07-2004)**

- Establishment of RBC's in Thailand (TWRA)
- Public Participation (UNESCAP, JWA)
- Participatory Process (David & Wouter)
- SPM(Strategic Participatory Management)
- Participatory

➤ **Day 4 (29-07-2004)**

**Environment Flows (Dr. Kampanad Bhaktikul)**

- Water allocation
  - Agriculture/Industries/Domestic/Livestock etc.
- There is a lack of awareness throughout the sector and among the general public about EF concept and its application.
- Evaluation is difficult, for a lot of aspects.
- Compromising between water for development and water for nature.

**Integrated Water Supply Management System (Jae-Heung Yoon)**

**Basin Planning (Ick Hwan Ko)**

**Hydro-systems Engineering Center**

**KOWACO**

- Sustainable Development / Water Resources Management
- Sceneries
- Knowledge Needed By Water Management
- Comprehensive Framework
- Advantages / Disadvantages
- Basin Water Planning
  - Water accounting Data
  - Water Resources analysis

➤ **Day 5 (30-07-2004)**

**1-Evolution of approaches and tools for basin planning towards IWRM (ByTi Le-Huu)**

**Mekong basin planning process**

Over the decades, *the basin planning process* has changed significantly from *the planning activities to the planning practices, approaches and underlying philosophy*. Apart from *basin potentials* and the *needs of the riparian countries*; the evolved planning approaches focus also on *economic development opportunities*, the *common goals* of basin development and *priority areas* of cooperation: toward a *Shared*

*Vision process.*

### **Important lessons in BDP (Basin Development Planning)**

-Needs

- To link to national targets of social-economic development of the riparian countries.
- To establish development strategies forming criteria to prioritize development projects
- To be supported by an appropriate legal and institutional framework
- Active participation of riparian countries.

-Request

- Formulation needs active participation of riparian countries.
- Effective implementation of IWRM requires adoption of “Strategic Planning and Management”

(SPM)

- Capacity building is instrumental to successful application of SPM
- Successful application of SPM requires change of “Mindsets” of key stakeholders
- Action oriented should be required

### **2-Exploring opportunities for transboundary water cooperation through basin development planning**

In BDP, *transboundary issues* include potential opportunities and basin-wide negative impacts that are raised at the sub-area level for regional water and water-related resources planning.

e.g: Issues related to water resource management, environment and ecology, transboundary impacts, interdependencies between catchment, issues of cross-border trading and regional cooperation, basin assets.

BDP mainstreams the stakeholders participation and capacity building, transboundary issues and opportunity for cooperation in its planning process.

BDP will be one way of conflict mediation in the Mekong River Basin, because the basin-wide transboundary issues are dealt from the onset of development plan.

BDP may link to the RBOs in the LMB in the future.

-The course was successfully, because the course process follows as the schedule and every topic was very clear and happy.

### **III. For the future**

For Lao PDR, the experiences from this course are very informative and enlightening for the following century’s dream called IWRM. Such as Thailand which has effectively applied IWRM’s concept into its policy, we Lao PDR would like to establish its own way of the feasible IWRM in near future.

Opportunity, I’d like to thank to TWRA NARBO with JWA, IDI, ADB and Especially to thank Dr. Apichart Anukularmphal for organize this Training course and all so Thank to NARBO, JWA for providing financial to support, who are in charge of this course and the good program for us. All so, any specially to Mr Sasahara Hideshi who spent their in tire time for us, in Coordinated and Accompanies us to fields.

In addition, thank you so much for local stuffs those who are welcoming and good hospitality.

When we arrive home, we will do all experience from the study and apply in my home.

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for Training Course me for the training. I enjoyed and I learned a great deal about the IWRM. This training Course very interesting and I am confident that my education and experience have provided me with the qualifications necessary to work effectively with our team since I completed one courses in it and I have used it extensively during my internship at IWRM.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity for TWRA NARBO with JWA, IDI, and ADB and especially thank to Dr. Apichart. I am excited about the prospect of working with such a dedicated team of professionals. If you request any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your time and consideration, and I look forward to hearing from you.