

# **RIVER BASIN ORGANIZATION AND ROLE OF STAKE HOLDERS IN RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT**

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## **1. Introduction**

Recently, Water is a main problem everywhere particularly in agriculture countries where water crisis becomes an issue in both dry and raining seasons. Disorganized land occupancy where forest is shifted to be cultivating areas resulted in environmental degradation. Forest is no longer served well as regulators for hydrology cycle that leads to large gap in water debit fluctuation between dry and raining seasons. The problem is more complicated due to the high growth of population as well as farming growth that needs plenty of water. Farming and industry decrease quality of water in developing countries where pollution is uncontrollable adequately. Meetings in regional and international level conducted by NARBO are good opportunities to share knowledge and experience amongst Asian countries specifically for those agriculture countries in managing water problem. River basin management is a suitable solution to manage all activities in the areas from upriver to downstream in order to have enough and in good quality water supply. Problems in river basin areas are complex as they involve conflict of interests.

## **2. Stake holder's roles for River Basin Area**

Stakeholders are defined as people who actively employ or have interest in river basin area. All activities can operate discretely and independently therefore it is possible to lead to conflict of interests where one activity may harm one party or all activities. River basin management is a system where all elements work as one. It is necessary to promote partnership amongst all stakeholders with intention to manage problems in river basin area.

First question to answer is how to start and who is going to start the partnership. IT is the government that has to initiate first stage of coordination for river basin partnership by inviting all stakeholders to discuss problems in river basin. It is required to establish vision, mission and to reach same perception about water management in river basin to satisfy all activities based on fairness, and to maintain the management of water resources.

Second question is what to be done and who is going to be responsible for the management. In order to implement water resources management, it is important to define all activities and determine priority according to natural and water resources capability in river basin area. There might be activities to be reduced or eliminated, however decision made shall be taken carefully to salvage

important activities. All stakeholders shall agree upon the decision that is taken in reference to satisfy community basic needs and all concerns in environmental management. Consequently, programs for river basin have to be thorough and comprehensive. Once agreements on program are reached, the programs can be executed by each respective stakeholder. They have to consistently follow the defined programs.

In implementation stage, the program can be reviewed to find the best solution whenever it is found that they cannot be reached accordingly. Basically, as all parties define the programs, it is possible to execute the programs successfully as long as all have adequate sense of belonging and responsibility toward the programs.

### **3. Development of River Basin Organization in Indonesia**

It is required a competent, efficient, and effective organization in managing water and natural resources for river basin management.

In this training, there are good examples from Thailand and India, however they cannot be simply implemented in other Asian countries, as they are different in acts, regulations and cultures. Despite the fact that there are similarities between Indonesia and Thailand, it will take long time to establish firm institution to manage river basin in Indonesia. It can only start in 2004 when the regulation no 7 years 2004 starts to apply.

In 2003, a committee was established to manage water resources and river basin in the province of South Sulawesi. Still, it is in the progress of consolidation, coordination and recognizing tasks and responsibilities in water resources management. Therefore, the committee has not been fully effective yet. In Thailand, water and natural resources management, and environmental management are in one department head by a minister. Being in one department, will be resulted in more effective and efficient coordination, as their activities are related one to the others. This is better than the one in Indonesia where management of water is not coordinate by Ministry of Environment. The same as applied in the provincial and regency level as in the province of South Sulawesi that management of water and management of environment are in different institution. Jeneberang River in South Sulawesi has 10 regencies with a very large area; therefore it has to be divided into sub river basin of 1 or 2 regencies.

In order to have an adequate and proper management of water resources in river basin area, it is necessary to initiate improvement through benchmarking to water resources management in other countries and adapt it to local condition: the government, people and culture.

River basin management committee in provincial level needs to formulate regulation for management of river basin, management standard, providing fund and oversee the whole activities in each respective river basin.

River basin management committee has to prepare necessary programs that have to be agreed upon, and then follow up with evaluation and monitoring the implementation of each program.

Working group that consists of local people and NGO (Non Government Organization) support by government staff carry out the program in accordance to the agreed programs.

4. Conclusion:

- River basin organization is necessary to conduct a proper and adequate river basin management. Stakeholders play big roles in program establishment and implementation as well as controlling and monitoring activities in river basin area.
- Stakeholder's partnership will operate well providing that there is understanding, awareness and sense of responsibility amongst them. It shall be by principle of mutual benefits, fairness and obedience to agreed decision.