

**INDIVIDUAL ASSIGNMENTS**  
**First training program on IWRM and Strengthening of river basin Committees**  
**26 July- 6 August 2004, Bangkok and Chiang Mai, Thailand**

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*Prepared by Pham Quoc Hung*  
*Department of Water Resources-Vietnam*

## **I. Introduction**

The training course on " Integrated Water Resources Management and Strengthen the River Basin Committees" is jointly organized by ADB, ADBI, JWA, TWRA, KOVAKO and some concerning agencies from 26th July to 6 August, 2004 in Bangkok and Chiangmai, Thailand. This course is the first one in a series of NARBO's intention activities. The aims of the course are to provide opportunity for "River Basin Organizations" in NARBO members to share and learn experiences from each one in term of River Basin Management.

## **II. Lesson learned**

Through a series of country reports and lectures given by NARBO members and experts who have a lot of experiences in IWRM and River Basin Management including the field trip in Chiangmai. The lesson learned during the course is a lot. However, we could summary in the following:

### **A. by lectures:**

Until now, there is no formal one definition of Integrated Water Resources Management. However, people are committed that Integrated Water Resources Management is the management of surface and subsurface water in quantitative, qualitative and environmental sense from a multi-disciplinary and participatory perspective and focused on the needs and requirements of the society at large with regard to water for now and in the future.

The IWRM in summary are:

- All water (Surface, ground, black, grey, green water etc)
- All interest (social)
- All stakeholders (participation)
- All relevant levels (administrative)
- All relevant sectoral policies (organizational)
- Aiming at sustainability (in all senses: environment, political, social, cultural, economic, financial, legal)

In order to achieve the IWRM, we should develop a comprehensive sets of measures to carry out IWRM functions spread over the relevant administrative levels and using various tools:

### **a. National Water Resources Strategy and Policy**

#### **b. Integrated Planning Systems**

##### **- National plan**

- ❖ Water Quality
- ❖ Water quantity
- ❖ Environment protection

##### **- River Basin plan**

- ❖ Water allocation

- ❖ Standards for specific water quality
- ❖ Protective measures (license systems...)

### **c. Decentralization**

#### **- Functional administrative decentralization**

- ❖ Subsidiarity: Decision making at the lowest appropriate level
- ❖ River Basin Management and Watershed management

### **d. Participation procedure**

- ❖ Representation of stakeholders in decision making and management
- ❖ Appeal procedures

### **e. Commercialization**

- ❖ Water is economic good
- ❖ Water pricing
- ❖ Pollution charge/taxes
- ❖ Pricing policy development

### **f. Demand management**

#### **- Technical measures**

- ❖ Saving water technology
- ❖ Reuse and recycling
- ❖ Water treatment
- ❖ Regulation of use

#### **Financial incentives**

- ❖ Subsidies
- ❖ Tax exemptions

#### **Financial penalties**

- ❖ Penalties
- ❖ Charges
- ❖ Taxes

### **B. by field trip**

The field trip in Chiangmai provide us a lot of useful lesson; one of the most important lesson we learned is that the integrated water resources management in Thailand well implemented in closely relevant with their cultural characteristics and Thai people are willing to participate in water resources management. However, the way they use water is seemly unoptimized or the demand management is not fully operated even the coordination between the water user association and the regional irrigation management is very good; the other thing is that in the most presentation during the field trip the water quality and groundwater issues is not mentioned that make us a little bit worried about such issue in Thailand.

### **III. Conclusion**

IWRM is a very comprehensive tool that helps us to ensure the sustainable development of water resources in every river basin. The NARBO should play as the centre forum where its members can provide knowledge and experiences to each other to find out the way we can successfully applied IWRM into practice.