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INDIVIDUAL REPORT

DEFINITION OF IWRM (PERSONAL POINT OF VIEW)

IWRM is a process by which various stakeholders of water in a basin, policy makers, planners, civil society organizations, people, the poor people and neutral groups work together thru a shared vision in attaining goals and bringing greater benefits in the area without compromising the environment while maintaining resource sustainability.

It is a dynamic process which varies from one planning area to another. The process involves more participation from the grassroots level, conflict resolution, identifying problems and issues, formulating options and coming up with best scenario of basin planning and project development and implementation with the least adverse impact to environment. The process looks at the present condition with a vision of the future for the basin. It is a two way approach, top to bottom and bottom-up planning approach.

LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE TRAINING COURSE

1. The importance of RBO's or RBC's in basin resource management

Competing use of water in a basin results among downstream and upstream water users during water scarcity. The RBO plays an important role in the formulation of water allocation policies as well as regulations for various users. It also serves as an arbitration body to resolve water use conflict arising from the priority of water use. It promotes harmony and unity among stakeholder and water users thru equitable water resource distribution.

2. IWRM principle of participatory approach

In basin planning and decision-making process, participatory approach is a key element. This involves the participation of stakeholders, the various users in identifying issues and problems. The formulation of alternative course of actions and selection of most appropriate options for implementation. It involves consultation with affected parties to solicit ideas what is best in the area. Thru this approach, commonalities among various groups are generated which are important factors for decision-making.

It generates consensus among users and stakeholders

3. *Water Resources Systems with IWRM approach are managed more efficiently and economically.*

Several projects visited during the fieldworks under this training course, reveal that projects with IWRM practice are efficiently managed and are economically operated. Citing examples of projects with IWRM is the small community irrigation system at Chiang Dao River catchment area. It has its own set of policies and regulations. The system is efficiently managed and maintained thru existence of working committees which have distinct roles from each other.

In contrary, a project without IWRM approached have caused the government investing large money over design of system. The IWRM approach therefore considers the whole aspect of balancing economic, social, engineering impact for sustainable harmonious development in a basin.

HOW THE LESSONS LEARNED WILL BE USED?

- a. As a government employee and enforcer of government regulations in water resources, the IWRM concept will be a useful guide and tool in formulation of recommendations of water regulation policies for implementation.
- b. To be an advocate of IWRM concept. To participate in advocacy training program of the government.
- c. To include IWRM concept in the review and revision of the Implementing Rules and Regulations of the Philippine Water Code.
- d. Under he institutional strengthening project of the National Water Resources Board of the Philippines, to consider the deputation of river basin organization to undertake monitoring and enforcement of water regulations as one policy recommendation.