

**Individual Report**  
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**What is Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) to me?**

Just like other inhabitants of a given watershed, IWRM to me then, is a no issue! It is just a word, spoken by technocrats and being introduced for the sake of knowledge. Its introduction and usage was eventually accepted, since it is the way things should be managed appropriately.

As an employee of a government agency mandated to promote the development of an identified watershed, I am also mandated to accept the shift from a plain management and development practice to an integrated water resource management. Such shift is beneficial, due to the fact that accumulated knowledge is a plus factor, career-wise.

It has been said during the last few days that IWRM does not just focus on water, but also includes other land-based natural resource. It must be viewed as a system where there is a close interaction between water and land resources and their surrounding environment, under the influence of human intervention. This intervention has been identified as the major cause of damaging situations and occurrences that cause irreversible damage to the natural resource. Thus, IWRM approach seeks to manage the watershed system as an entity, whose main concern is to ensure the sustainability of the resource to meet the increasing human needs.

One specific resource that needs continuous and uninterrupted development is water resource. Water is a priority need of the world's population. Access to water is an ultimate satisfaction. This finite resource, both surface and underground water, is essential to the development process. They are to be safeguarded to ensure its sustainability and accessibility. Accessibility to water for various reasons and usage is tantamount to freedom. Accessibility to a safe drinking water is identical to access to safe sanitation and safe sanitation guarantees a vigorous and vibrant society.

Accordingly, IWRM is a continuing process for a coordinated development of various natural resources to ensure sustainability. Major beneficiaries of these coordinated efforts are the natural world and everything in it. The world consists of people, and people are the spirit of IWRM, for their needs are dependent on the existence of a protected resource.

## Future Plans/Action Plan

(What to do after the training)

Activity	Time-frame	Remarks
Report Preparation	Last week of August, 2004	Summary of Activities undertaken during the 2-week training
Conduct in-house dissemination of lessons learned and IWRM context	First week of September, 2004	Target audience is the staff of PPDD (no. of staff-13)
Inform management that the re-engineering process/on-going thrust is consistent with IWRM principles	Last week of August, 2004	LLDA is now in the re-engineering process (Phase 1) towards strengthening as IWRM authority.
Participate in the re-engineering activities of the agency	August, 2004	Participation thru dissemination. Provision of additional inputs/information
Resume evaluation of proposed LISCOP-funded environmental projects	August, 2004 and beyond	Projects are IWRM-related and the IWRM approach will serve as inputs during discussions and brainstorming process.

### LESSONS LEARNED

The training course is a venue for learning various experiences both from the participants and from the visits the group has conducted. It has also provided insights from each country presentations on how IWRM was being utilized as a tool and how such concept/tool was utilized in each country. These notable experiences and lessons learned were as follows:

1. Public participation is a guarantee that strengthens local communities;
2. Involvement of diverse group of stakeholders into one common project elicits participation and promotes sense of belonging and mutual trust;
3. Resolution of conflicts through a consultation/collaboration process done in a manner that was acceptable to both parties;
4. Sharing of responsibilities of both the national, provincial, villages and sub-districts, thus clear functions were established;
5. Strong support of projects from the central government which resulted to implementation of projects;

6. Strong awareness of stakeholders needs, coupled with strong initiatives to realize these needs;
7. Ability to put into practice and duplicate good experiences;
8. Strong commitment, dedication and respect to persons in authority, and
9. Utilization of inherent ingenuity was clearly emphasized; and
10. Sustained community interest especially during project implementation and maintenance.

It has been said that there is no blueprint for development, and each country has its own agenda on how such development process can be simulated to the advantage of the host country. Development is a step-by-step process and the lessons learned during visits may enable as perform as catalyst for change that may eventually influence the life of certain people.

#### References:

TEC Background Papers No. 4, Integrated Water Resource Management, Global Water Partnership, Technical Advisory Committee

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