

**First Training Program on IWRM  
And Strengthening of River Basin Committee**

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**Individual assignments  
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Since the Lao Government's development strategy emphasizes poverty reduction and economic growth through improved management of water resources, application of the IWRM approach is necessary to reinforce links and synergies between water and land use, the environment, and sustainable development.

Through the First Training Program on IWRM and Strengthening of River Basin Committee, I have learned many invaluable lessons from lecturer as well as from field visit as follows .:

- IWRM looks at the entire hydrological cycle and the interaction of water with other natural resources and socio-economic systems. The sustainable use of the resource calls for the creation of institutions and systems that can transcend the traditional administrative boundaries and involve a variety of users and other stakeholders. Keynotes are integration, participation, consultation, gender awareness and consensus.
- Integrated and coordinated water resource management imply a concern with upstream-downstream relations, including land use, a unified management of surface- and groundwater, a shift to management at a river basin or sub-river basin level, and harmonising water management with other sectoral policies with a collateral impact (trade, housing, energy, agriculture, etc). Water quantity and quality issues need to be reviewed in conjunction.
- Integrated water resources management involves a new and more balanced treatment of sectoral water perspectives. IWRM means treating the interests of all water sectors in line with their importance in national goals and objectives.
- Political will at highest levels should be established on early stage;
- Multi stakeholder is a basic requirement for the solution of problems involving different perspectives and priorities;
- IWRM principle need to be studies and adapt to the national and local context;

- Promote women's involvement in planning, management and decision-making in water resources development and management. The specific skills of women in the essential human aspects of this work (e.g. coordination and conflict resolution) should be encouraged.
- IWRM can be implemented or institutionalized through a step-by-step process

This training course provides the opportunity to learn on the experience gained from the practical exercise in the region. The lessons learned are very useful and valuable. The participation countries could be considered these lessons during implementation IWRM. For Lao PDR the IWRM will be implemented very soon in Nam ngum river basin. As Director, all the work implemented by the Water Resources Coordination Committee Secretariat is under my responsibility and the lessons learned from this training will be studied to apply in the local context.

The activities of the Water Resources Coordination Committee Secretariat for the next five years are as follows:

#### Activity 1: WRCC Action Plan

- An Action Plan for WRCC/S for 5 year periods. The Action Plan will be based on the mandate of the WRCC, priority water resource management issues at the national level and in the Nam Ngum River Basin.
- A Capacity Building Plan (CBP) based on the requirements for achieving the Action Plan.

#### Activity 2: Policy and Legislation

- A review of current water resource policy and legislation,
- Recommend priority topics for further policy and legislation development and prepare draft policy, legislation, regulations, guidelines and other documents,
- Establish appropriate arrangements for inter-ministry involvement in this process, such as a Policy and Legislation Working Group
- Ensure that the awareness and consultation process provides adequate information on these documents, both during the development and following approval.

#### Activity 3: Data and Information Management

- Coordinate the development of a detailed data and information management strategy, including an assessment of current practices and issues and recommendations for introducing greater coordination and accessibility of water resources data,
- Review, update and disseminate the metadata directory established under previous technical assistance,
- Prepare and maintain a water resources information system for the WRCC.

#### Activity 4: Water Resources Planning Coordination

- Coordinate the development of a river basin water resource planning system, including detailed procedures and roles for WRCCS, Hydropower Office, Integrated Watershed Management Unit, River Basin Committee, and other key participants in the preparation of river basin plans, including plan approval and implementation procedures,
- Prepare an integrated management plan for the Nam Ngum River Basin (NNRB). This plan is expected to serve as guidelines for provinces, local authorities and other central agencies to conduct detailed project planning in a coordinated manner. The plan will also indicate agency responsibilities, including the responsibility for monitoring plan implementation

#### Activity 5: Training

- Establish an inter-agency Training Working Group
- Conduct a training needs assessment (TNA) for IWRM training in the NNRB,
- Prepare a coordinated training plan to address the priority training needs, drawing on the training modalities identified in the Project and the available training budget.
- Facilitate and coordinate the delivery of training activities under the approved plan, to evaluate training results and recommend ongoing training needs and activities.

#### Activity 6: Awareness and Consultation

- Establish an inter-agency Awareness and Consultation Working Group,
- Develop an awareness and consultation strategy. This strategy will (a) identify target groups and their information needs, appropriate and cost-effective means of providing information and creating awareness, (b) identify modalities and an action plan for consultation with stakeholders regarding draft policy and legislation, the draft water resource plan for the NNRB and other important consultation topics, and (c) identify awareness and consultation roles of central government agencies and the NNRB Committee in relation to all major target groups,
- Deliver WRCC awareness and consultation activities according to the agreed strategy
- Support for the NNRBC to play an awareness and consultation role at the river basin level.