

Participatory Process in IWRM



Network of Asian River Basin Organizations (NARBO)

Tell me, I'll forget

Show me, I
might remember

Involve me, I
will learn

Participatory Process

- people are at the heart of development - ultimate beneficiaries and agents
- participation - a process that enables stakeholders to influence or share control over development initiatives and over decisions and resources that affect themselves.



Participatory Process

- involves four main phases: initiating, preparing, implementing, and sustaining
- no single answers and blueprints
- progress depends on social, economic, political and cultural conditions



Need for Participation

- improve performance and sustainability of policies, programs, and projects
- enhance stakeholder capacity and skills
- empower stakeholders
- foster a sense of local ownership
- facilitate conscientious monitoring of activities
- motivate sustained commitment



Need for Participation

- smoothen transitions: from activity conceptualization → poverty assessment → design → capacity building → implementation → monitoring and evaluation.
- enhance the social capital and promote sound governance.
- minimize external criticism.
- build consensus.
- improve conflict management.



Modes of Participation

- Information sharing – one way communication
- Consultation – limited two-way communication
- Collaboration – work alongside
- Empowerment – accept responsibility



Need for Participation in IWRM

- develop process to match river basin management solutions with requirements of local government jurisdictions through stakeholder consultation



- organize community involvement in water resource monitoring and management

Need for Participation in IWRM

- adopt participatory and negotiated approaches for water allocation
- develop collaborative frameworks with riparian stakeholders, including an assessment of the downstream impact



- promote participation in the management of water resources at all levels and collaborate in fashioning partnerships
- get the poor to participate, and mainstream them into community thought and action

Need for Participation in IWRM

- promote the participation of civil society in identifying needs and issues, designing solutions, and establishing mechanisms for monitoring and dispute resolution.
- develop tools, including guidelines for the design and implementation of successful participatory processes in water sector activities.
- justify all large water resource projects – particularly those involving dams and storage – in the public interest, all government and non-government stakeholders in the country must agree on the justification.



WATER for ALL

Need for Participation in IWRM

- strengthen women's ability to participate more effectively.
- provide for explicit participation of the poor in water-related projects.
- strengthen institutional arrangements for participation, particularly at the community level.

