

Public Participation: Key Concepts and Strategic Elements in IWRM

Ti Le-Huu

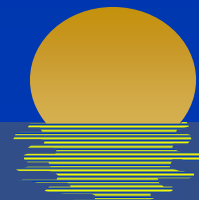
Water Resources Section

Environment & Sustainable Development Division

**United Nations Economic and Social Commission
for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)**

Public participation and IWRM

- Public participation and participatory process in Asia: the traditional system in the local community. The concept and its enrichment are important for sustainable development.
- *IWRM requires decentralization of decision-making and responsibility to the stakeholders in the river basins as an evolving process of involving the stakeholders*

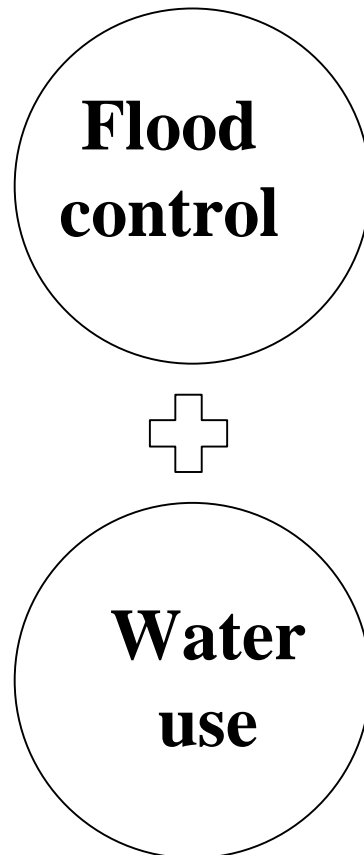


Evolution of the River Law of Japan

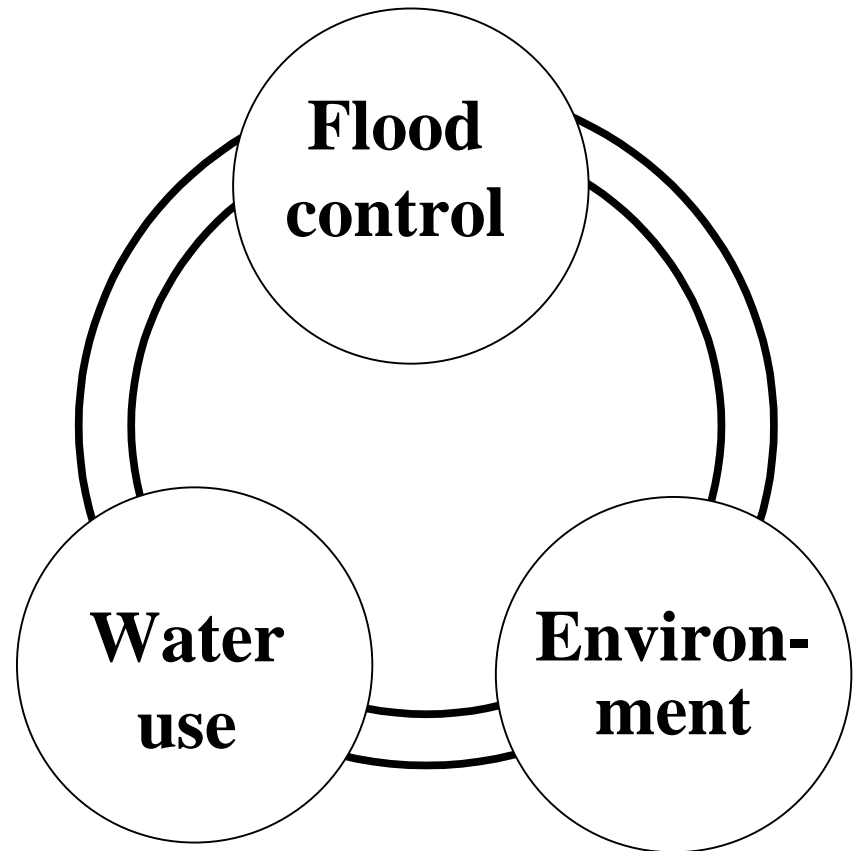
1896



1964



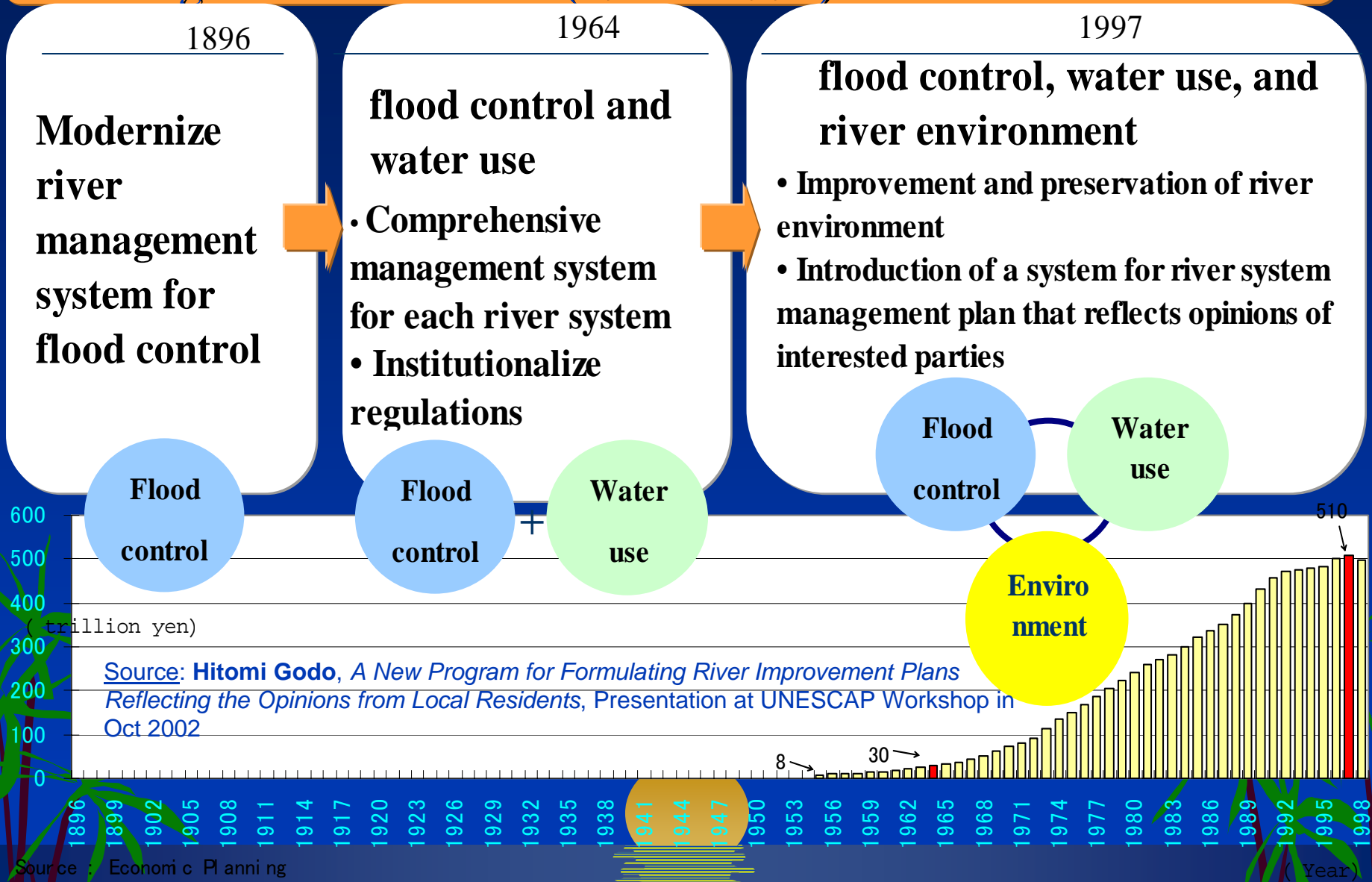
1997



An Evolution Process of the IWRM Legal Framework

Past Amendments on the River Law

-- Change of nominal GDP (1955 – 1998) and the River Law --



Source : Economic Planning

Areas of Partial Agreement

POLICY MAKERS

- Elected
- Appointed
- Administrative

SCIENTIST

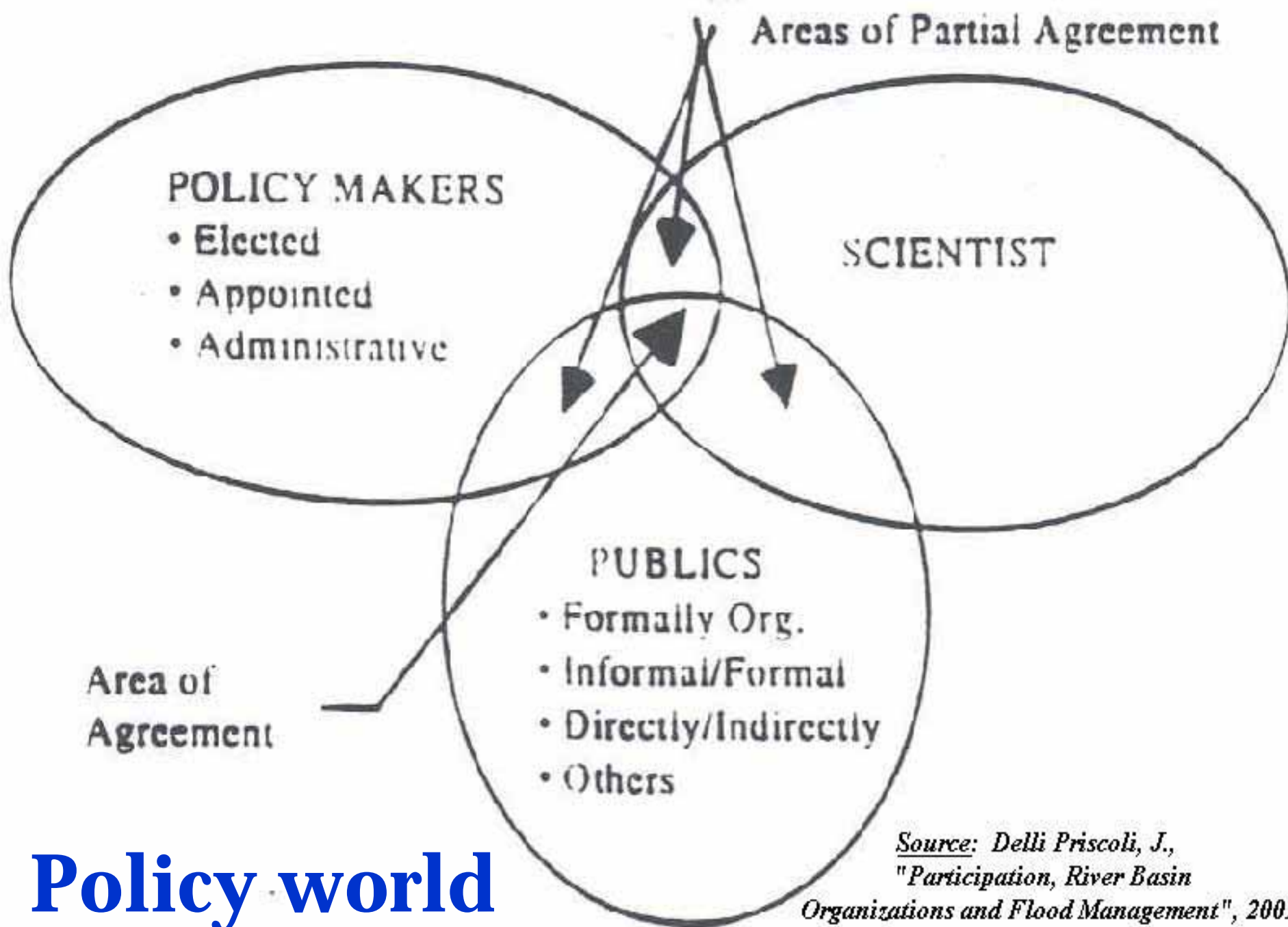
PUBLICS

- Formally Org.
- Informal/Formal
- Directly/Indirectly
- Others

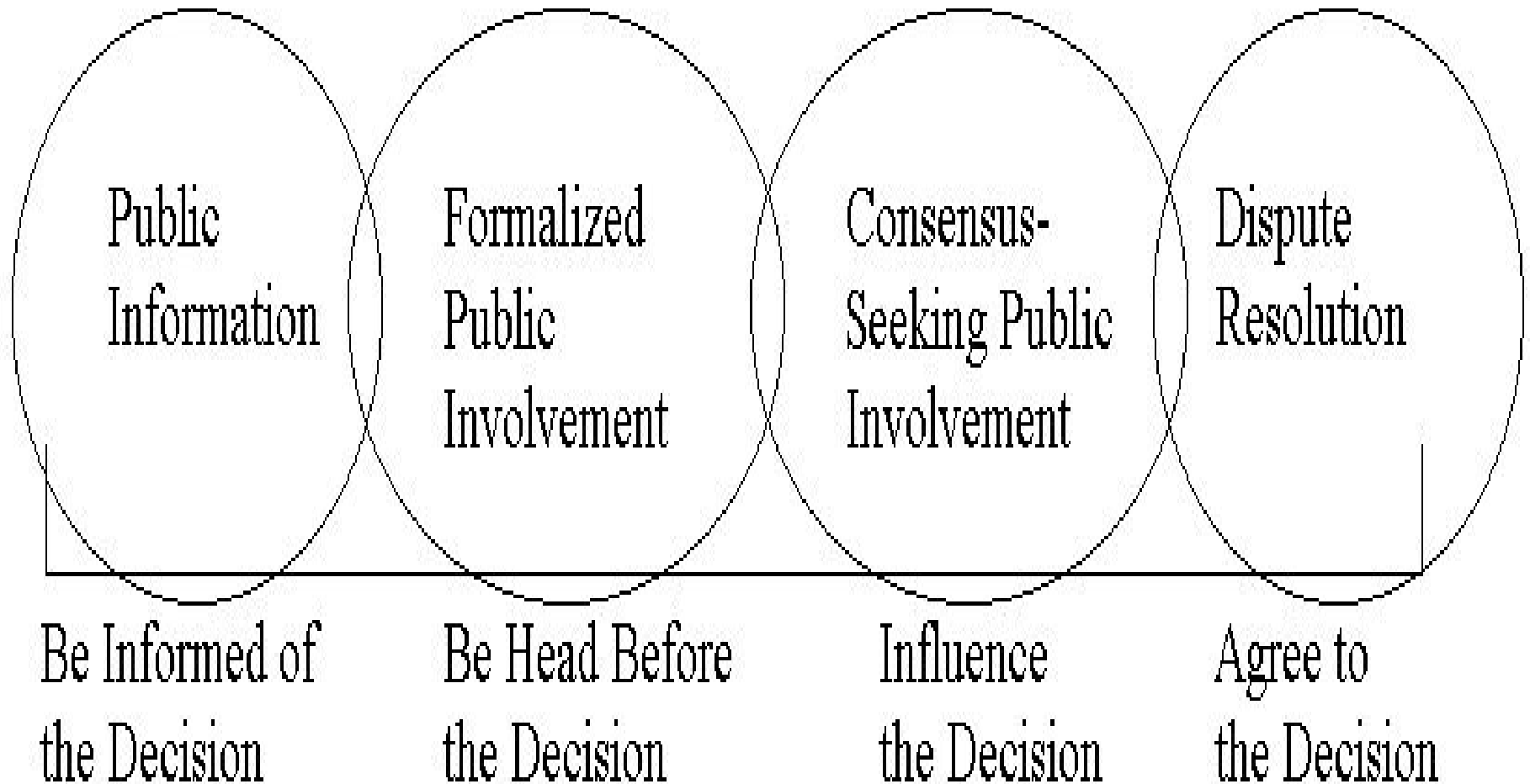
Area of Agreement

Policy world

*Source: Delli Priscoli, J.,
"Participation, River Basin
Organizations and Flood Management", 2001.*

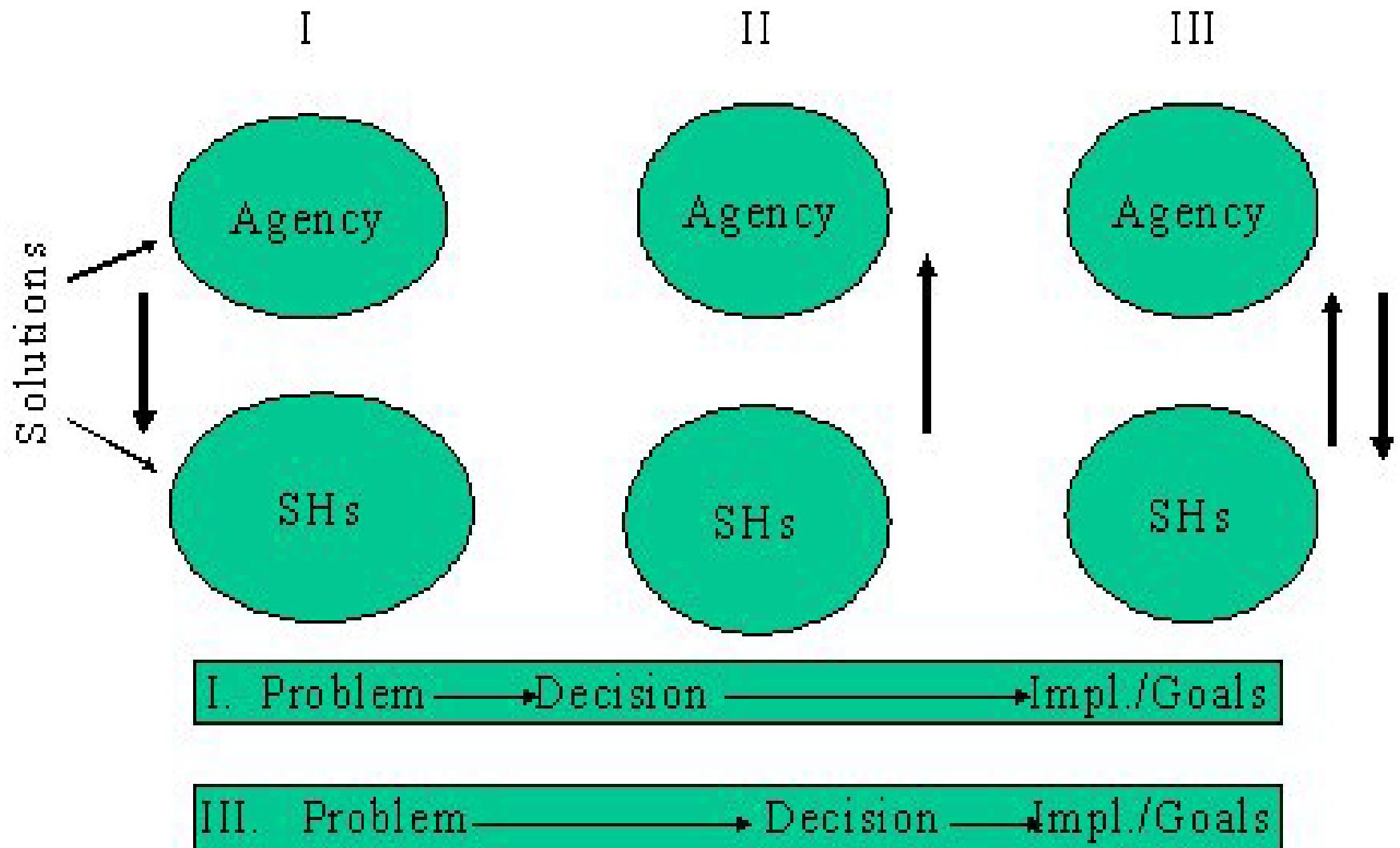


What it takes for a decision to count

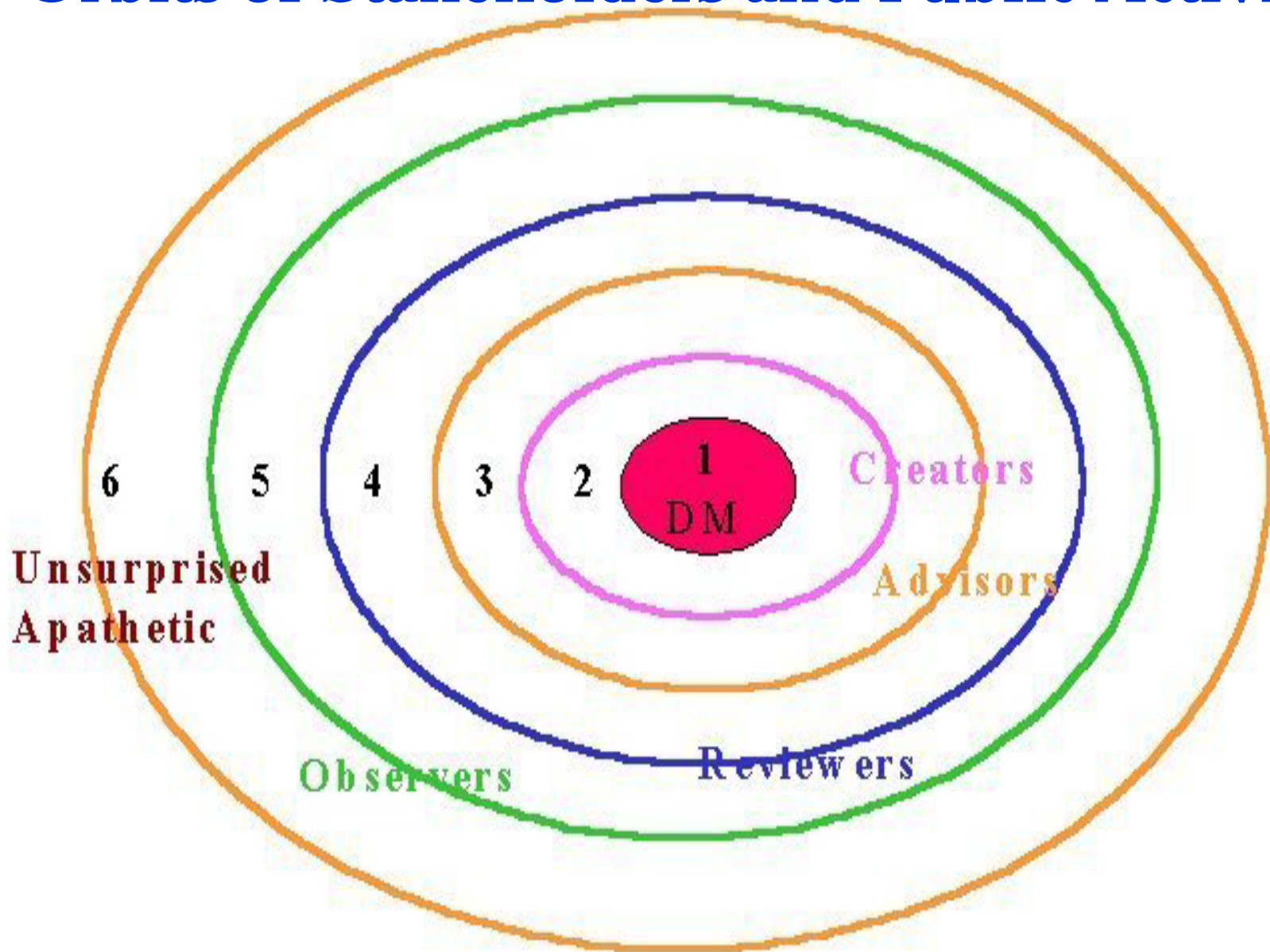


Source: Creighton, J., "Continuing Evolution of Public Involvement and Conflict Management—An Overview", May 1983.

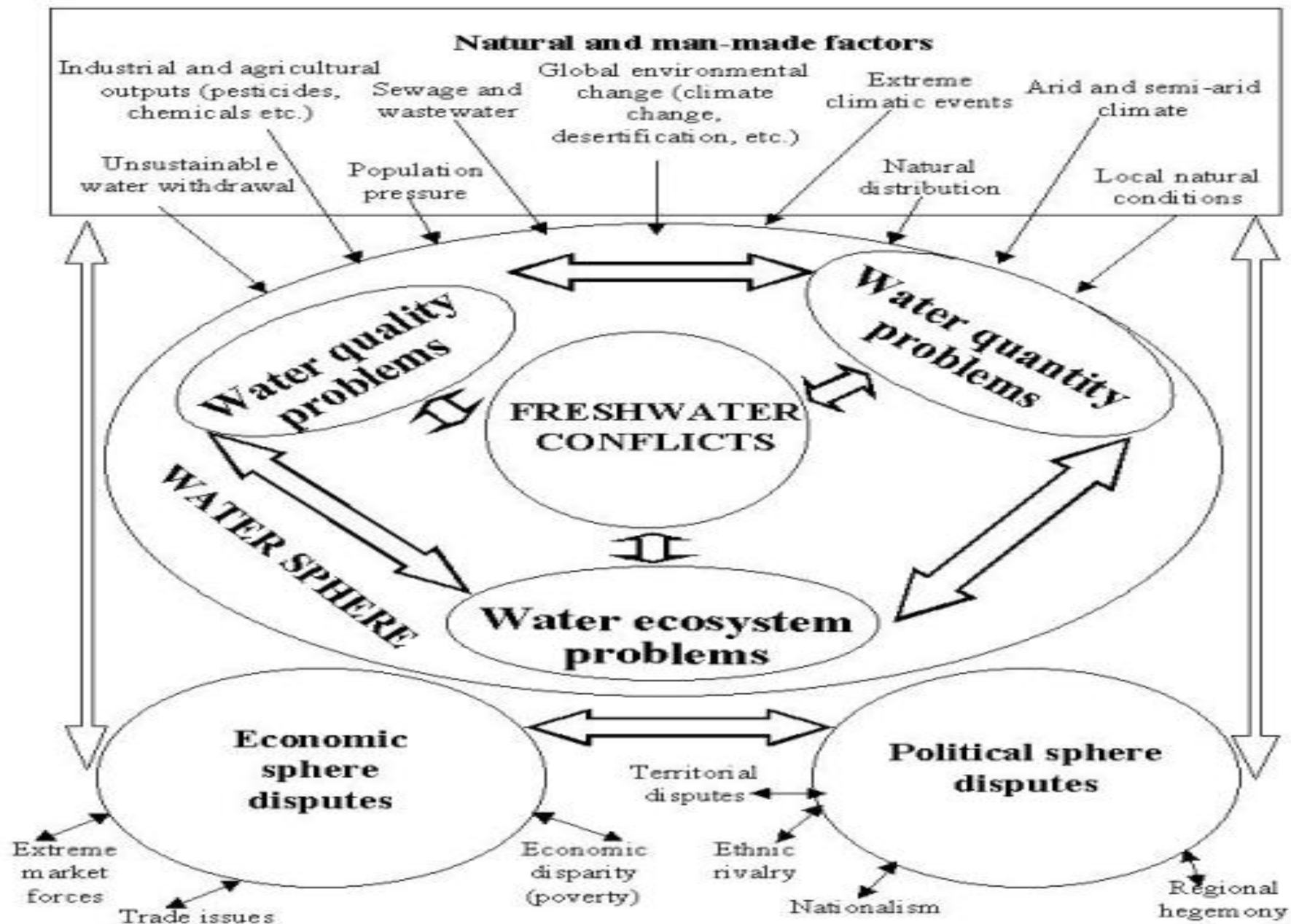
Defining the role of participation in decisions



Orbits of Stakeholders and Public Activities



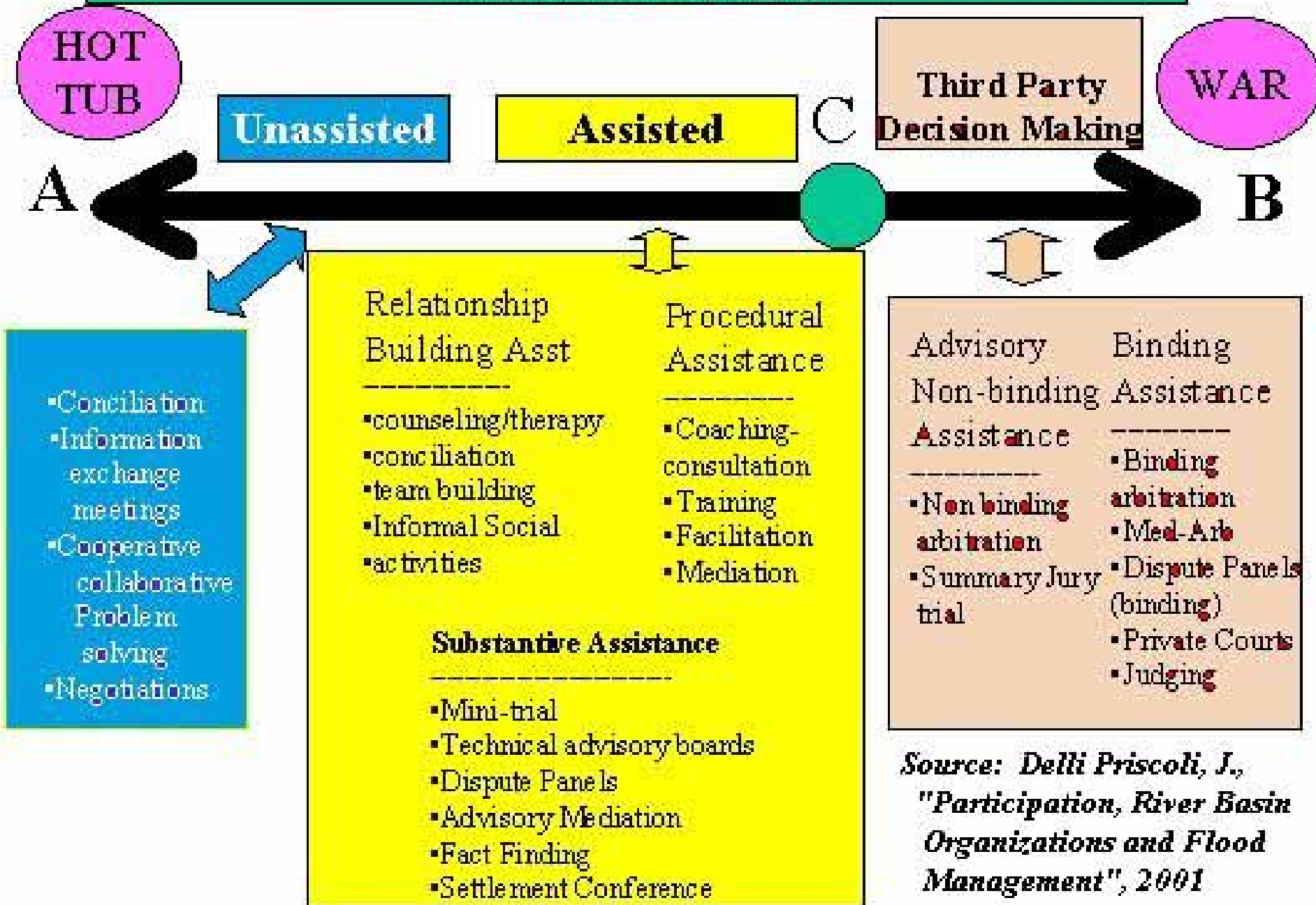
Source: Delli Priscoli, J., "Participation, River Basin Organizations and Flood Management", 2001.



Source: Ti Le-Huu, "Potential Water Conflicts and Sustainable Management of International Water Resources Systems", *Water Resources Journal No. 210*, ESCAP, September 2001.

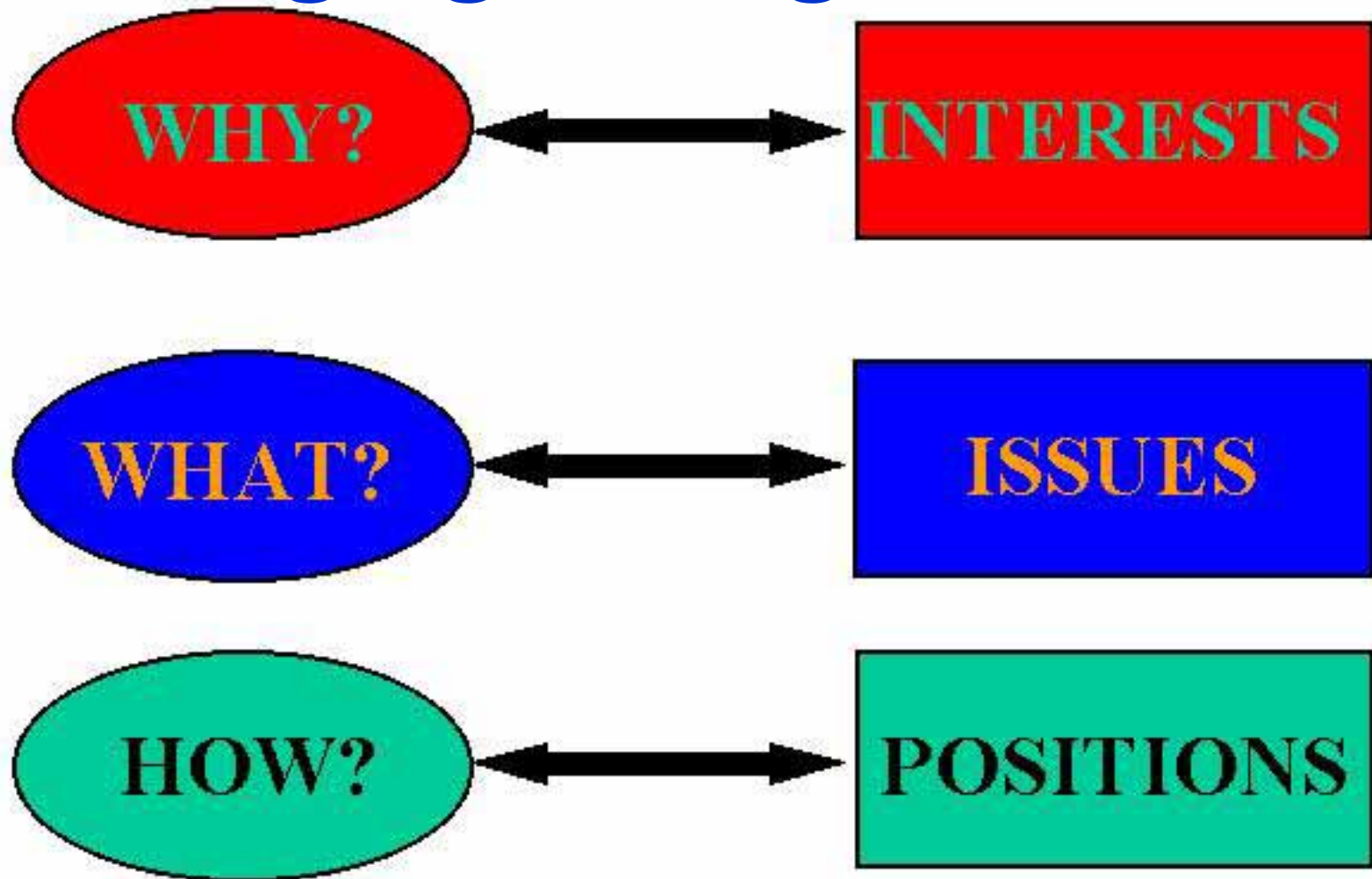
A Continuum of Alternative Dispute Resolution Techniques

(from Delli Priscoli and Moore, 1985)



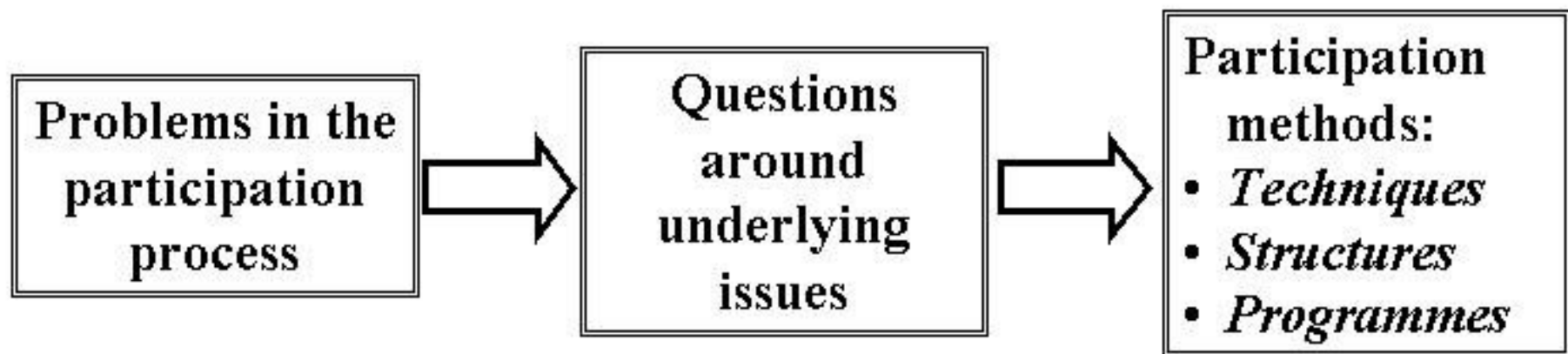
Source: Delli Priscoli, J., "Participation, River Basin Organizations and Flood Management", 2001

Language of negotiation



Source: Delli Priscoli, J., "Participation, River Basin Organizations and Flood Management", 2001.

Solving participation problems



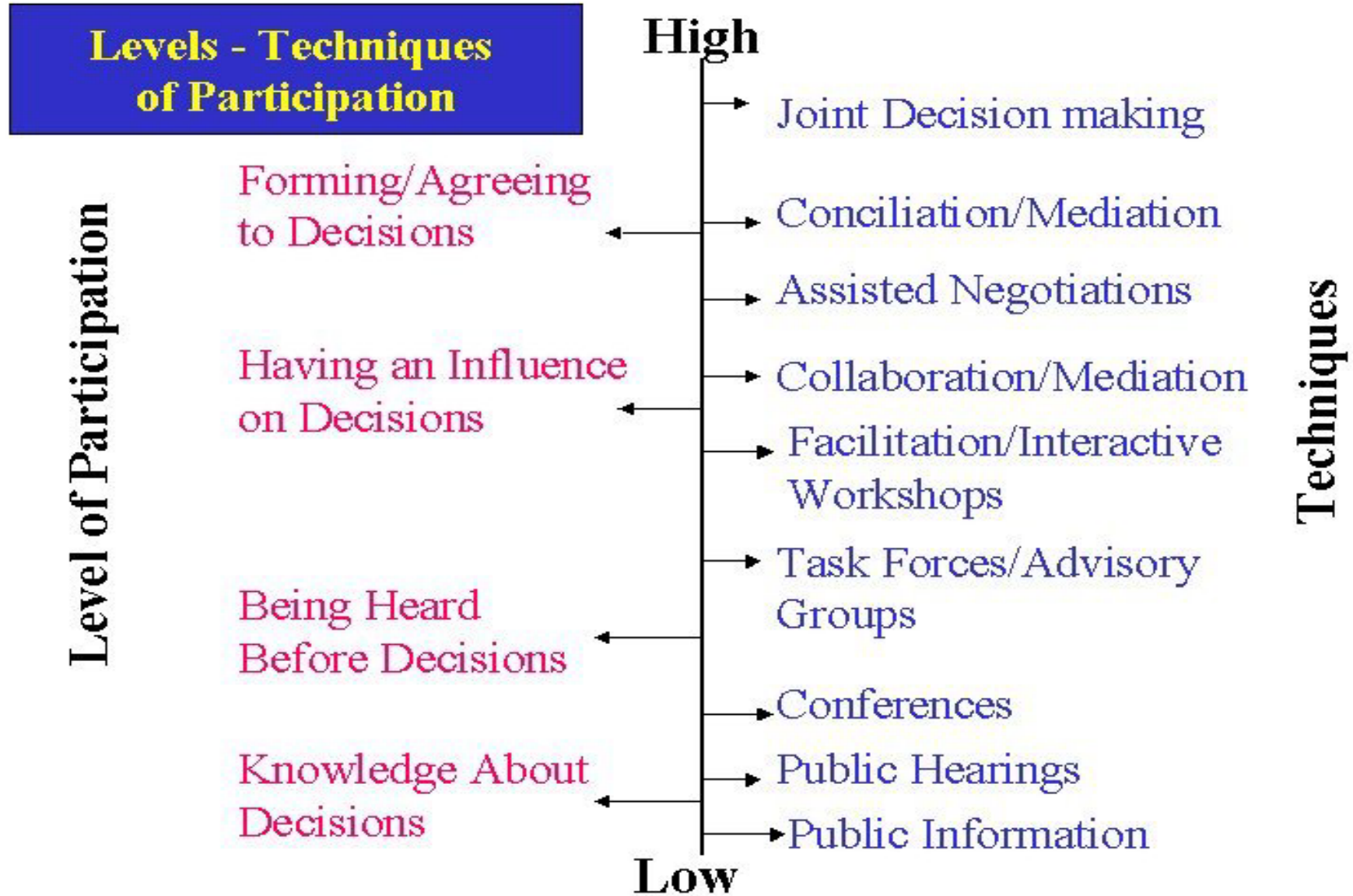
Source: *The A-Z of Effective Participation*, David Wilcox Partnership, 13 Pelham Square, Brighton BN1 4ET, UK, <http://www.partnerships.org.uk>, ISBN 1-870298-00-4.

Participation thinking process

Questions	Why?	Who?	What? To & From	How
Key Decisions				
Problem identification				
Alternative generation				
Impact assessment				
Evaluate / Choose				

Source: Delli Priscoli, J., "Participation, River Basin Organizations and Flood Management", 2001.

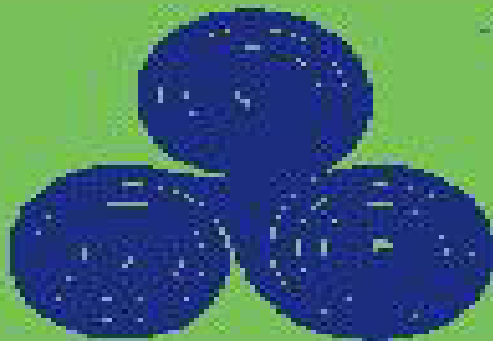
Participatory techniques and levels of influence



Source: Delli Priscoli, J., "Participation, River Basin Organizations and Flood Management", 2001.

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

THE AARHUS CONVENTION



... securing citizens' rights through

- access to information
- public participation
- access to justice

for a healthy environment ...

AN IMPLEMENTATION GUIDE



UNITED NATIONS

Three Pillars of the Aarhus Convention

Securing citizens' rights through

- **Access to information**
- **Public participation**
- **Access to judicial and administrative proceedings**

for a healthy environment

Obligation	Implementation guidance
Establish framework to implement the Convention	Compatibility, Proper enforcement
Ensure public authorities assist and guide the public	Best efforts in all three pillars: (1) <i>access to information</i> , (2) <i>public participation</i> , and (3) <i>access to judicial and administrative proceedings</i>
Promote environmental education and awareness	Generally, Especially with respect to three pillars
Recognize and support environmental NGOs within legal context	Adjust legal system if necessary, “Promoting environmental protection”, “Appropriate”
Convention is a “floor” not a “ceiling”	Right to maintain existing positive measures, Right to introduce more positive measures
Discourage backsliding	No derogation from existing rights required
Promote Convention’s principles in int’ l arena	Int’l environmental decision-making processes, International organizations
Anti-harassment	“Penalized, persecuted or harassed”, Costs in judicial proceedings not affected
Non-discrimination	All three pillars, Citizenship, nationality, domicile or seat

An Example of Public Participation: Floodplain management

Aspects of floodplain management which require direct involvement and cooperation of the floodplain community:

- ***identification of the flood problem;***
- **information gathering;**
- ***formulation and analyses of potential flood mitigation strategies;***
- **implementation of long-term management strategies;**
- ***flood awareness and response.***

Aspects of Community Consultation

Effective community consultation requires consideration of the following aspects:

- *the need to undertake a floodplain management study and its purpose;*
- the community's level of concern, knowledge and understanding in relation to flood issues and flood readiness;
- *information community members may have relating to historic flood levels, behaviour, etc.*
- community aspirations in relation to floods;
- *alternative floodplain management measures;*
- mechanisms for the community to have an input into the selection of appropriate measures.

Principles for building a "soft" consensus

Three fundamental principles

1. Free statement
2. Thorough discussions
3. Consensus building

Seven rules

1. The opinions of the participants are not considered as the official views of the party they belong to.
2. Participants are not allowed to blame organizations and individuals by referring to their names.
3. Discussions shall be conducted in a fair way.
4. Discussions shall be conducted by using reliable data.
5. Consensus shall be reached after clarifying problems.
6. Problems in dispute shall be treated in an objective manner.
7. When preparing programs, long-term and short-term ones shall be classified, and viability shall be taken into consideration.

Source: Hitomi Godo, A New Program for Formulating River Improvement Plans Reflecting the Opinions from Local Residents, Presentation at UNESCAP Workshop in Oct 2002

Steps in involving stakeholders

- Building trust
- *Involving directly affected stakeholders*
- Seeking feedback
- Involving the voiceless
- Involving the opposition

Concluding remarks

- Effective IWRM requires full support of key stakeholders, especially communities in river basins
- *Support can only be achieved by the involvement and participation of the communities from the initial planning phase to the implementation*
- Community education, community involvement and acceptance, community ownership and responsibility for IWRM issues are prerequisites for the satisfactory solution of such issues
- *The need for effective community participation in the IWRM process cannot be over emphasized*