

## **Opening Speech**

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Thank you Dr, Apichart for your kind introduction.

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen.

My name is Takeyoshi SADAHIRO, from Japan Water Agency, JWA.

I'm a vice secretary general of NARBO.

First of all, I would like to pay my respect to you trainees, for your intention to improve water resources management of your country through this training course.

And, on behalf of JWA, I would like to express our sincere gratitude to Thailand Water Resources Association, Water Resources Department , and Irrigation Development Institute for arranging and opening a gate for this training.

I would like to express gratitude to knowledge partners, IWMI, IUCN, KOWACO, MRC, and UNESCAP, for your contribution to the training for resource side.

This IWRM Training is the first NARBO capacity building activity after we established NARBO in this February at BATU Indonesia.

Now, I would like to point out that Water Resources condition of Monsoon Asia ( Japan, Korea, South East Asia, part of China and

Part of India, Bangladesh, Sri – Lanka, Nepal) have common characteristics , which forms great contrast with arid region and semi arid region( Middle East and Africa).

That is, \* pattern of precipitation, \* River length and river slope

\* allocation of mega cities, \* agricultural pattern, \* threatened both by flood and draught.

In Monsoon Asia, annual precipitation is approximately from 1000mm to 2500mm, and it concentrated in rainy season.

And rivers are short and steep than those of the West

Usually, Mega cities are located in alluvial plain close to estuaries, and population are highly concentrated

Water is mainly utilized for agricultural use, especially for rice paddies in alluvial plain

The region shares the similarity in economic growth pattern, which is hyper—growth, and there is a feature that the people live in alluvial plain are threatened both flood and draught frequently, because of allocation of mega cities, and demands for municipal and irrigation water are quite large in urban area.

These conditions of monsoon Asia contrasted strikingly with those of arid region and semi arid region in Middle east and Africa.

So, that is the reason why we focus the improvement of IWRM in monsoon Asia for the first stage of NARBO activities.

And it is needed for us live in monsoon Asia to create original IWRM not prepared by Europe but prepared by ourselves which is fit for the conditions of the region.

The characteristics of issue in monsoon Asia are, so to speak “ too much water issues” which is contrast with “ Too little water issue”

The theme of the training is participatory approach in IWRM.

Dr. Apichart took the initiative for this training by proposing the idea of the training to us NARBO secretariat. The idea is to focus on introducing the participatory approach in river basin in Thailand in order to compare with actual conditions in other Southeast Asian countries.

The government of Thailand has established 29 River Basin Committees (RBCs) in 25 main river basins, and started to delegate the authority to the RBCs with respect to preparing river basin plans and approving projects in the basin for budget allocation.

I believe it would be very meaningful to share and weigh the experience of Thailand as a case example with other water related agencies in Southeast Asia.

Next week in the training, People's Irrigation Communities (Muang Fai) conservation and development Project will be introduced. There are such kind of irrigation community in many countries in monsoon Asia, for example Land Improvement District in Japan, Subak in Indonesia, Samakume in Cambodia.

In these communities, sense of ownership is penetrated, and these kind of communities are common characteristic in monsoon Asia. In this meaning, I expect your discussion at the field study in Chiang Mai.

Speaking of participants, from Indonesia, Jasa Tirta<sup>1</sup> and Jasa Tirta<sup>2</sup>, who have rich experience in river basin management are participating. I also welcome Jeneberang basin development project, which is going to establish a public corporation for basin management.

I'm concerned with it through JICA project.

Comparing Indonesia's experience with Thailand's has significant meaning, and I expect it can contribute to the establishment of Jeneberang basin management public corporation.

From Cambodia, Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology are participating. In Cambodia, a Law of Water Resources Management is in draft form, and I think river basin management by RBO is useful for them in near future.

From Philippine, National Water Resources Board, and two RBOs, Agno River Basin Development Committee, and Laguna Lake

Authority are participated. I expect them to exchange experience in basin management.

From Lao PDR, the Water Resources Coordinating Committee are participated, and from Vietnam, Department of Water Resources Management are participated.

I also expect you to exchange experience in river basin management in this training course.

JWA is also a RBO, which have much experience in IWRM in Japan. We have implemented water resources development and management in seven major river basins in Japan in these 42 years.

We would like to share our experience with Asian RBOs of not only successful one but also of lessons how we struggled with difficulties of water resources management, for example compensation problem, benefit sharing between upper reaches and lower reaches, countermeasure for environment preservation, operation and management of water resources facilities, and so on .

For this purpose, JWA try our best to support RBOs in Asia and support the cost of this training and other activities of NARBO. And through theses activities, we can also make progress in IWRM of us from the experiences of water resources management in Asian countries.

Finally, I wish this training course will be fruitful for all of you. I expect your positive involvement to the training.

Thank you very much for your attention.