

Preface

These are the documents presented or generated at the 2nd Training Workshop of the Asian Network of River Basin Organizations (NARBO), which was held at The Beach Hotel, Negombo, Sri Lanka from 24 to 29 April 2005.

The theme of the workshop was "River basin management and organizations." The workshop was intended for mid-career professionals working in these subjects, in South Asian countries. There were 27 participants, from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

The workshop was sponsored by the Asian Development Bank; the Japan Water Agency; the Asian Development Bank Institute; the Korea Water Corporation, and the International Water Management Institute, in collaboration with NARBO, the Global Water Partnership (South Asia Region), Lanka Jalani (Sri Lanka National Water Partnership), and the Mahaweli Authority of Sri Lanka. The International Water Management Institute co-ordinated the arrangements for hosting it in Sri Lanka, with Mr Ian Makin, of IWMI's South-east Asia Office in Bangkok acting as Co-ordinator.

The training team consisted of Mr Charles L. Abernethy, consultant on irrigation and water resources management, in Sri Lanka (Team Leader) ; Dr Prachanda Pradhan, chairperson of the Farmer-Managed Irrigation Systems Promotion Trust, Nepal ; Dr Madar Samad, of IWMI-India in Hyderabad ; and Mrs Mallika Samaranayake, of the Institute for Participatory Interactions in Development, Colombo, Sri Lanka.

A one-day field visit was conducted, in the Maha Oya basin. Thanks are due to Mr Ranjith Ratnayake and Mr S. M. B. Niyangoda, of Lanka Jalani, for making the necessary introductions to facilitate this visit, and identify informants, and to the IWMI team of research staff, Mr K. Jinapala, Mr B. R. Ariyaratne and Mr P. Somaratne, for careful preparation of all details of the day. Thanks are also given to the many people in that basin who gave their time for informing the visiting participants, and answering many questions about the management of that basin.

The course was conducted largely through participatory work in small groups, followed by plenary discussion of reports generated by those groups. Presentations about the experiences of other countries were made, in the evenings, especially from Indonesia (which currently holds the chair of NARBO), from Japan, and from the host country, Sri Lanka. On the day following the field visit, four speakers came to explain the context and background to the issues seen in the Maha Oya basin ; two of these statements gave local perspectives, and two explained national policies.

The documents presented here are grouped into four sections. Section 1 contains the general arrangements, such as the programme and the list of participants. In Section 2 there are 14 presentations that were made during the week, some of which are in text, some as slide sequences, and some in both forms. Section 3 outlines the four rounds of group-work, showing the tasks that were set to the groups, and the reports that they made. Section 4 describes the field visit, including the reports made to the full group, next day, by the three sub-groups that had visited different parts of the basin.

Ian W Makin
Co-ordinator

Charles L Abernethy
Team Leader