

**LESSONS LEARNT FROM THE 2ND NARBO WORKSHOP ON
EFFECTIVE RIVER BASIN AND ORGANIZATION**

BY
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**BANGLADESH WATER DEVELOPMENT
BOARD,
MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES**

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The workshop started on 25th April, 2005. Mr. CL Abernethy gave a general overview of the river basin management and organization. Why the river basin planning is needed. The Basin Planning provides the most basic development of water resources under the influences of one or more major rivers and what are the objectives of river basin management.

The objectives of river basin management are as of protection of resources, managing of demand, protect the poor and protecting the environment. After a general overview I prepared the country paper for presentation including objectives, issues and constraints in my country.

Ranjith Ratnaake (Lanka Jalani and K Jinapla (IWMI) gave a short presentation on how to gather institutional information in the field.

A case study was done by me. Maha Oya River Basin has taken as case study basin. Maha Oya is the 3rd largest river basin in Sri Lanka with a basin area of 1528 km² falls within in four provinces, 5 districts and 24 Divisional Secretariat Divisions. It originated from hill around Aranayake, Bible rock and Kadugannawa and maximum rain fall 3800mm per annum. There are 103 number of rivers in the basin. The Mahaoya river basin has divided into three subbasins namely upper, middle and lower reach. I was concerned with the upper reach.

On 27-04-05 we visited the upper reach of Mahaoya river basin we also visited the Divisional Secretary offices of Aranayake and Mawanella Divisional Secretary office. We visited the Ambalakanda water supply plant, Mayura auto service center, Maha Oya intake Kapugoda, some urban drainage systems and also disposal of rubber factory. The following observations were made:

- a) Coordination of organization
 - i. Difference types of authorities
 - ii. Private sector agencies
 - iii. NGOs and beneficiary organizationsBut effective coordination was not observed
- b) Environment and water quality
 - i. No baseline data available in all the relevant fields
 - ii. Soil erosion in the catchment area
 - iii. Urban pollution
 - iv. Industrial waste
 - v. Negative impacts of mini hydropower projects
 - vi. Lack of concern for aquatic biodiversity
 - vii. Sand and clay mining

From field visit and the case study I received the above information which should be considered in Maha Oya river basin area.

The knowledge, lessons and new ideas I had gathered from the NARBO second training workshop River Basin Management Organization which will be used in my personal position and also organizations in Bangladesh. The knowledge and idea will be applied in process of planning and managing water resources and comprehensive integrated analysis of hydrological, topographical, social, political, economic, environmental, and institutional factors.

As I am the project director of two projects namely, 1) Small Scale Flood Control Drainage and Irrigation Project, and 2) River Protection and Development and Town Protection Project, the knowledge and new ideas will be applied to improve irrigation facilities, drainage system, agriculture, homestead settlements, and poverty alleviation of rural poor through increased food production.

Human health improved resulting from

- i) water supply and sanitation in cities, towns and rural area,
- ii) clean up and prevention of water pollution.

Improvements in livelihoods resulting from

- i) flood protection,
- ii) erosion, drainage and flood control,
- iii) coastal protection,
- iv) disaster management and
- v) irrigation development.

FUTURE RECOMMENDATION

In my opinion it is strongly desired that Workshop like this under the NARBO secretariat should be held in all other countries like Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Afghanistan. It has been observed that whole region of South Asia has similarities in the RBM problems. These needs to be managed at national as well as transboundary level. NARBO should actively play its role in whole of the region.