

## MY LEARNINGS

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I had the opportunity to attend an international training workshop on river-basin management and organizations from April 25-29, 2005 at Negombo, Sri Lanka. This workshop was jointly organized by Network of Asian River Basin Organizations (NARBO), International Water Management Institute (IWMI), Asian Development Bank (ADB), ADB Institute, Japan Water Agency, South Asia Water Partnership and Sri Lanka Water Partnership “Lanka Jalani” and Mahaweli Authority of Sri Lanka.

During the entire period of Training Workshop the participants were involved in the information sharing process regarding WATER, RIVER BASINS, RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT AND RIVER BASIN ORGANIZATIONS, in a interactive manner with the help of presentations, charts, videos and field trip.

During the training workshop we tried to understand what is River Basin Management and what are River Basin organizations, how the participants from different countries (Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Indonesia and Japan) see the river basin management in their countries and we had the opportunity to share that information amongst other participants through group work and discussions, through presentations from Sri Lanka, Japan and Indonesia and case studies from other countries we learned what kind of organizations, what appropriate structures and what level of coordination are needed for a successful management of river basin.

We come to know that

- i. It is a long time process for which we must have a “Road Map” involving many steps, agreements and adjustments.
- ii. Involvement of “Every Person” is must for a successful management model.
- iii. Without a vision for many decades of years in future we cannot attain sustainability of our River Basin Systems.
- iv. There will be hindrances, challenges, and resistances to the process of change and it must be taken a normal.

In this training workshop with detailed presentations, field visit and meetings with stakeholders of Maha Oya river basin we tried to understand the problems, issues, efforts for their resolutions at community level, at organizational level and at Government level. Groups consisting of members from different countries look these situations with great interest and a sense of learning.

As I am working right at the level of Area Water Partnership (AWP), River Basin Organizations (Lower Indus Basin Organization) and Country Water Partnership (Pakistan Water Partnership) in different capacities I hope I will be able to apply the knowledge gained here at policy, design, implementation and institutional level in my country to achieve the goal of Integrated Water Resource Management and Sustainable Development.