

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

At first, I would like to express our special thanks to the Red River Basin Organization for arrangement of the workshop and for giving me this opportunity.

Good morning ladies and gentlemen.

Welcome to the first NARBO thematic workshop in Hanoi, Vietnam.

I am SHINDOU, NARBO secretariat from Japan Water Agency.

NARBO was established on February last year.

46 organizations from 12 countries in Asian monsoon region are now participating in NARBO.

Based on the NARBO Action Program, various activities are being carried out.

I believe that this thematic workshop is one of most important activities of NARBO in order to approach solution of specific issues in water resources management in monsoon Asia region.

As you know, water plays various roles. Water is an indispensable resource for people to live and to develop, and at the same time it is an important element that constitutes the environment of the area. In this context, Asian region is now facing serious and complex issues on water resources management.

Asian countries have various similarities in status of water resources. Therefore, NARBO was established for sharing and exchanging our experiences, knowledge and information each other.

However, each country or region has its own geographical and meteorological features; a history of water use, regional cultures and customs, and various value judgements on water. Also, each country or region has a different situation of economic development.

Accordingly, IWRM suitable for your country can be achieved only by your effort.

Japan also experienced a lot of issues about water resources and dealt with them in the past. Japan Water Agency has been making effort to overcome these issues for over 40 years.

Actually, I am a little bit worrying that this thematic workshop will not go well because the workshop is quite ambitious attempt.

However, as NARBO is networking activity, the workshop should be carried out in ownership point of view and positive participation.

In this context, I would like to emphasize three characteristics of the thematic workshop.

At first, the thematic workshop deeply discusses major specific issues on water resources management.

Secondly, the thematic workshop is carried out in continuous step by step process to approach solution. After this first workshop, you are requested to have internal discussion and study in your organization, and then second one will be held.

Thirdly, the participants of the workshop are requested not only attending workshop, but also managing workshop, differed from common workshops.

Accordingly, participants will be requested to take roles of facilitators and reporters in the workshop.

Outcome of the workshop will be formulated through all of participants' efforts.

Finally, I hope this workshop will be successfully and I am grateful for the Red River Basin Organization's valuable effort for it.