Questionnaire IV (Country Report IV) For Session 3
-The experience of drought management

1. Please describe the experience of recent drought. Specific describe is appreciated.

(Country Name: **PHILIPPINES)**

The worst drought that occurred in the Philippines was in the year 1997-1998, when the Philippines felt the effects of "El Nino" phenomenon. During this period, there was low rainfall amount that caused excessive drawdowm of different reservoir's water level which resulted in the reduction of water allocation for domestic water supply, irrigation and hydropower uses.

The drought during this period resulted in:

- Massive crop failures (lowest of 43% in rice and 27% in corn production in the last 20 years.
- Damage to fisheries sector (loss of PhP7.24B when freshwater ponds dried up)
- Widespread hunger due to the drop in production of staple food.
- Forest fires (damage of PhP150 M)
- Water shortages in Metro Manila

2. If there is a legal or institutional framework of drought management in your country, please describe the outline of it. In addition, how have you (or your organization) coordinated the drought in practice?

(Country Name: **PHILIPPINES)**

In the Philippines, there is no law or provision in the Water Code (PD 1067) which specifically provides for water utilization in case of drought. By implication, however, drought may be considered as "times of emergency" where there is water shortage. The Water Code only provides for priority in use of water during such emergency. In times of water shortage, the Water Code provides that domestic water supply has priority over other uses. (Art. 22)

During the El Nino phenomenon of 1997-1998, releases of water from Angat reservoir for irrigation was temporarily suspended for eleven (11) months (i.e. December 1997 to October 1998) in favor of providing domestic water supply for Metro Manila.

Strategies and mitigation measures:

- Provide emergency income to affected farmers
- Rehabilitate irrigation networks to improve irrigation efficiency
- Planting of early maturing varieties and other alternative crops that consume less water
- Massive information campaign

- Water rationing
- Intensification of leak repair programs
- Water quality monitoring
- Cloud seeding operation
- Hydropower generation facilities shall be kept to their respective minimum allowable generating capacities
- Adopt rainwater harvesting and catchment measurems

Government Policy on Water Allocation during Water Shortages:

The Water Crisis Management Committee composing of water resources concerned agencies with NWRB as the secretariat is monitoring the actual water allocation among the water users.

In line with the government policy for optimum water resource utilization, the water releases for irrigation and domestic uses are first routed through the reservoirs hydroelectric turbine generators. Whatever, water is released for irrigation and domestic water supply constitute the water releases for hydroelectric power.

3. Do you have any special questions for other participants including NARBO Secretariat? Or, do you have what you want to discuss related to water allocation issues? If, so, please describe them freely.

(Country Name: **PHILIPPINES)**

None so far.