

## Questionnaire II (Country Report II) – For Session 1

### ~ Events or cases of troubles related to water allocation in participants' countries (Except for drought)

1. Please describe the legal and institutional framework of water allocation in your country simply.  
I.e. water-related law, government organizations responsible for water resources planning, development or management

(Country Name: Thailand)

**The basin management:** Water resources are managed by many organizations with different policies that sometimes overlap or are in conflict. The unclear policy, legal and institutional framework governing basin areas makes it difficult to effectively implement basin management. There are numerous agencies involved in basin management, and none has clear responsibility for basin management and development. There is no long-term national water resources management plan, and no targets and objectives have been set for the various agencies.

**The project management:** The irrigation projects of all sizes that are handled by the Royal Irrigation Department. The lack proper management of water delivery which makes a change of priority in irrigation development difficult. There are many agencies implementing small-scale water development projects such as; The Department of Energy Development and Promotion manages the pumping schemes and the Department of Mineral Resources manages and controls the use of groundwater. The exception of small-scale projects which local people are involved at the inception, the process of water resources development through projects has proven unacceptable to local people and other stakeholders, as they need more information and more participation in decision-making.

The following is that government organizations responsible for water resources planning are included. This is a main framework that summaries from the Irrigation Law.

1. A minister: Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operatives
2. A director general of a department: Royal Irrigation Department
3. A governor
4. A district officer
5. A village chief
6. A village headman
7. Officer of Royal Irrigation department

2. Please describe events or cases of troubles related to water allocation. For example,
- Water conflicts among different water uses in a river basin
  - Water conflicts among same water uses, especially agriculture (e.g. Water User Associations), in a river basin
  - Water conflicts between upstream users and downstream users
  - Water conflicts between new water user and existed water users
  - Troubles which was resulted from water transfer
  - Troubles derived from increasing water demand

The number of letters and characters are not limited. Also, specific description is appreciated. If necessary, please attach maps.

(Country Name: Thailand)

Since, in Thailand, there is the diversity in demands for water and there are the limitations and opportunities of the different areas of the country, they are driving water management into many different (and sometime conflicting) directions, causing inefficient use of resources. More water is demanded from all sectors. There are many reasons for increasing water demand such as population growth and expansion of industry and services. In recent years, there are many area that faced water shortages in agriculture and domestic consumption during the dry season. The water shortage is result from the increasing water demand. To achieve development target, the demand for water has increased rapidly in every sector. Rapid economic growth has led to conflicts between people in many sectors, especially during the dry season.

For the case of agriculture, water demand is about 80% of water supply or the demand for irrigation was 58,171 million m<sup>3</sup> in 1993 and will be about 61,746 million m<sup>3</sup> by 2006, an increase of about 6 percent. The irrigated area will have increased by 45 percent that is from 4.832 million hectare (30.2 million rai) to 7.024 million hectare (43.9 million rai) during that period. The share of irrigation water in the total water supply will have declined from 74 percent in 1993 to 68 percent in 2006. This declining trend reflects the competition for water from other sectors and points to more serious water shortages in agriculture. For domestic water, there was 3,118 million m<sup>3</sup> in 1993 and it will increase to 6,593 million m<sup>3</sup> by the year 2006 that is a more than 100% increase. The water demand per person per day was 153 liters in 1993 and will be about 262 liters in 2006.

3. Please describe your idea about the cause/reason of the troubles.

I.e. lack of institutional framework, lack of water infrastructure, lack of human capacity, or lack of budget etc. The number of letters and characters are not limited.

(Country Name: Thailand)

There are five troubles that can be listed.

First is the issue of management mechanism at basin level. Cause of this problem is the unclear policy, legal and institutional framework governing basin areas. These problems make it difficult to effectively implement basin management. Furthermore, inadequate and sometimes conflicting legislation is also a problem. Although there are numerous agencies involved in basin management, none has clear responsibility for basin management and development.

Second is the participation of stakeholders. Cause of this problem is that there is not acceptance for the current process of project identification and formulation of line agencies from local population and other stakeholders. They would like to have more information from line agencies and greater participation in the decision-making process. Many large-scale projects do not go through this public process and cannot proceed.

Third is the involvement of stakeholders in the development process. Cause of this problem is that all public water projects are intended to serve and benefit the users, but those projects may have adverse effect on some other groups or resources. Then, the opinion of all concerned parties or stakeholders is significant to consider because it's a way to get them involved from the early stage of project formulation and to keep consulting them throughout the development process.

Fourth is the conflict management. Cause of this problem is that public hearings or consultations are important for stakeholders because of the more democratic practice of public involvement in water resources development. The conflicts centre on environmental issues, compensation for those affected by the projects and demands from interest groups. In recent year, there is also a lack of mechanism for conflict management.

Finally is the sense of ownership and sharing of responsibility. Cause of this problem is that the users or beneficiaries do not appreciate the projects and have little sense of ownership because water is freely accessible and the government provides all water resources projects free of charge for long time. The users or beneficiaries think that if it's a government project, it belongs to the government, so let the government take care of it. Then, people do not feel responsible for the upkeep of the project.

4. 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: Thailand)

The water allocation issues:

- Demand side management
- Flood control management in rainy season
- Modernization of the irrigation system: Non- structure development and structure development
- The priority of project development which is set by the project evaluation results.
- Who is the mainly organization for water allocation in basin? How to set this organization?  
And the first step and what time to do?
- The water cost in development country.