

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

1. Please describe the experiences of recent severe drought. Specific describe is appreciated.

(Country Name: **Thailand**)

There are two examples for this part as following.

The drought in the eastern part of Thailand in year 2005: The eastern part of Thailand is one of the industrial zones. So when drought occurred in year 2005, many industries have been affected. There water received not enough water for their production and effect to the Thailand's economic. The government solved this problem by diverse water from the other river basin, but this can only relief the suffering from drought.

The Chao Phraya river basin, dry season cropping cultivation is planned to set the targeted areas in response to storage water level in Bhumibol and Sirikit reservoir dams each year. The Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives has appointed the committee to plan and promote dry-season cropping. The committee consists of representatives from the Department of Agriculture Extension, the Office of Agricultural Economics, the Department of Agriculture, Department of Energy Development and Promotion, The Office of Permanent Secretary, Bank for Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives, Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand and the Royal Irrigation Department to be responsible for making plans on dry-season cropping cultivation every year and following the plans. The discussion meeting and determine the policy of dry-season cropping cultivation will be held in every year.

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? (For example, intervention of government, negotiation among stakeholders)

(Country Name: **Thailand**)

A number of government agencies are involved in water resources management and use in Thailand. At the national level there are four major boards and committees, which are responsible for policy planning and coordination of water resources. The three most dominant ministries in terms of water management are Agriculture and Cooperatives (MOAC), Science Technology and Environment (MOSTE), and Industry (MOI). Consequently it makes things more complicated and confusing resulting in work duplications and lack of appropriate owner of work in some situations.

There are many government agencies and private parties involved in the development and exploitation of the Basin's surface and groundwater resources, but cooperation and coordination between them is weak. Even when cooperation between operating agencies leads to plans for drought, they are often challenged by the various interested parties affected. The result is often a compromise that postpones the problem to a later date. In view of the lack of coordination, the government decided to establish a central agency in water resources management in order to formulate plans, coordinate plan implementation and carry out other works concerning management of water resources. The Office of the National Water Resources Committee (NWRC) was established in November 1996. Since its establishment, the NWRC has worked to strengthen the mechanism of integrated water resources management in Thailand. A notable step forward was the drafting of a water resources law that was recently submitted to the Cabinet. In order to implement the law, a river basin organization or commission will be established in each of Thailand's river basins. This recognizes the need for decentralization as an important step in water resources management. According to the draft law, each river basin commission will consist of qualified persons drawn from public and private sectors. A commission will set policy on water resources planning, development, operation of facilities, and water allocation, and it will oversee all related activities in the river basin including the resolution of water conflicts between various users.

The priorities of water usage in every activity which was depended on storage water level and the significance of activities as follows.

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| Priority 1 | for water supply in the city and community including domestic consumption of people living in the river basin as well as for the industry |
| Priority 2 | for agriculture using little water |
| Priority 3 | for salinity control |
| Priority 4 | for the second rice cultivation |
| Priority 5 | for water transportation and sailing boats |

The priority of water allocation for agriculture is considered in terms of priorities of activities as follows.

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| Priority 1 | for having marine animals and fish ponds |
| Priority 2 | for using water in vegetable and fruit gardens |

Priority 3 for field crops cultivation

Priority 4 for dry season paddy cultivation

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: **Thailand**)

The special questions:

- What is the main problem in drought area? (water source or water delivery)
- What shall we do when the drought is happen?

How to operate the reservoir for dry season? (The water storage is full supply level in starting dry season)