

PHILIPPINE DISCUSSION MATERIALS FOR SESSION 2 (ISSUES AND CAUSES)

Engr. Evelyn V. Ayson
Chief, Evaluation Section
Water Rights Division
National Water Resources Board

ORGANIZATION

ISSUE #1: Lack of coordination among water related agencies

Problems caused by the issue (Effects):

- 1. Fragmented approach in water resources management and development.
- 2. Inconsistencies in the implementation of water related policies.
- 3. Overlapping of water related plans, programs and activities.

Importance: High

- 1. Several agencies are involved in the development and management of water resources.
- 2. Each agency has its own plans, programs and activities (sectoral approach).
- 3. Lack of financial and human resources.

ISSUE #2: Conflict in the management of the water resources among different government and non-government organization within the region

Problems caused by the issue (Effects):

- 1. Confusion among water users on which agency has the responsibility to regulate/allocate water resources in a particular area.
- 2. Ineffective implementation of laws and policies on water resource regulation and allocation.

Importance: High

- 1. Several agencies are involved in different water resources activities.
- 2. Different interpretation of each agency's mandate.
- 3. Interlocking laws, policies, Executive Orders and other executive issuances.

POLICY AND PLANS



Problems caused by the issue (Effects):

- 1. Inefficient allocation of water resources.
- 2. Ineffective regulation of water extraction.
- 3. Creation and establishment of RBOs hampered.
- 4. Different approaches in the implementation of plans and programs within a river basin.
- 5. Plans and programs not fully implemented.

Importance: High

- 1. Limited financial support and participation from various stakeholders.
- 2. Highly centralized regulation and allocation of water resources.
- 3. Lack of IEC and awareness campaign for stakeholders.

ISSUE #4: Lack of comprehensive strategic plan for priority river basins to organize and create RBOs.

Problems caused by the issue (Effects):

- Not fully implemented the MTPDP and other international commitment on IWRM that is to establish additional river basins in the country.
- 2. Ineffective allocation of water resources.
- 3. Uncoordinated implementation of programs, plans and activities within the basin.

Importance: High

- 1. Comprehensive water resources plan for priority river basins has not been prepared.
- 2. Lack of coordination and stakeholders participation in the formulation of integrated plan.
- 3. Lack of financial support from the government to initiate and implement the plan.



Problems caused by the issue (Effects):

- 1. Lesser water for allocation due to scarcity of water.
- 2. Severe damage to crops resulting to loss of income to the farmers.
- 3. Lower food production.

Importance: Low

- 1. The drought management plan is only implemented during the effects of El Niño occurrence.
- 2. Limited IEC and awareness campaign on drought related effects.



LEGAL FRAMEWORK

ISSUE #6: Difficulty in the implementation of water rights system.

Problems caused by the issue (Effects):

- 1. Water use conflicts.
- 2. Unregulated water resources abstraction.
- 3. Over extraction of water resources.
- 4. Depletion of water resources in terms of quality and quantity.

Importance: Middle

- 1. Lack of information dissemination on the policies and laws related to water rights system.
- 2. Lack of human and financial resources to monitor and enforce the policies.
- 3. Lack of cooperation with some local government units.
- 4. Some water related laws and policies are susceptible to different interpretations.
- 5. Highly centralized responsibility in water allocation.

ISSUE #7: Prioritization of domestic use in times of emergency over other uses.

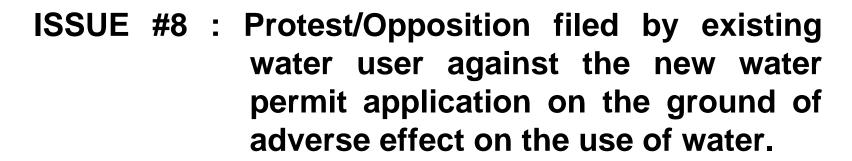
Problems caused by the issue (Effects):

- 1. Conflicts among different water sectors especially domestic use and agricultural use.
- 2. Other water users will be deprived of the use of water.
- 3. Severe damage to crops and other agricultural products.

Importance: Middle

- 1. According to the Water Code, domestic water use has priority in time of emergency thus it asserts its preferred position.
- 2. Lack of alternative measures on how to manage the limited supply of water.
- 3. Limited water supply in times of emergency (unharnessed alternative source of water supply).

PARTICIPATION

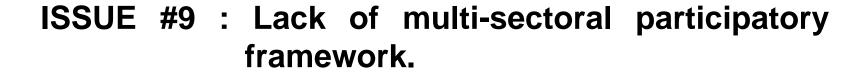


Problems caused by the issue (Effects):

- 1. Causes delay in the water rights application and allocation processing.
- 2. Increase in number of pending water permit applications for processing.
- 3. Increase in the number of unresolved water use conflicts.
- 4. Unregulated water extraction.

Importance: Middle

- 1. Limited awareness on available data/information with regards to water source under protest.
- 2. Lack of coordination between new applicants and existing water users within the river basin.
- 3. Lack of awareness on existing laws, rules and regulations and procedures.



Problems caused by the issue (Effects):

- 1. Lack of cooperation from various stakeholders.
- 2. Ineffective water allocation and implementation of water rights system.
- 3. Water Use Conflict among different sectors i.e. water supply and agriculture.

Importance: Middle

- 1. Lack of technical capability of NWRB staff to prepare the framework.
- 2. Limited financial resources to conduct consultations/trainings.
- 3. Plans and programs could not be fully implemented.