

The 2nd thematic workshop on Water Allocation and Water Rights, date on 5-9 June 2006, in Manila at Philippines.

(Session 2 the issues and causes)

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issues

- Organization: Weak co-ordination between line agencies within the sector and with those of other sectors and local authorities.
- Regal framework: Water rights system has not been well-functioned though this system was provided by the new Water and Water Resources Law (1996).

Issues

- Policy/plans at national level: Water sector policy is supporting to the reasonable and equitable water sharing, while recognizing the environmental accountability
- Policy/plans at basin level: Integrated basin plans haven't been established and integrated river basin planning study has not been carried out.

The problem derived from issues

- **Organization:** In this regard, water resources development planning and implementation in different water sub-sectors are possibly facing the problems of duplication, including financial duplication.
- **Legal framework :** Water extractions, especially major water uses, have no regulatory references, which imbalances the water uses among the water users and biological condition.

The problem derived from issue

- Policy/plans at national level: However, capacity to address and disseminate this policy is still limited.
- Policy/plans at basin level: Lack of the policy/plans at basin level.

Importance

- Present time the organization, legal frame work and policy/plans at national and basin level are priorities, because Lao PDR is on going develop country, It appears that some rivers in Lao PDR are now reaching a stage where river basin planning is becoming necessary due to increasing development (particularly hydropower), increasing interaction between watershed and water users (upstream / downstream),
EX: The Nam Ngum River Basin (NNRB) has been selected as a pilot basin in which to develop river basin planning procedures. Planning in this basin must therefore address the important water-related issues in the basin and must also develop and test planning procedures and legal and institutional arrangements which can be used or adapted to other basins in the future.

Causes of the issues

- **Organization:** Lacking capacity for developing coordination among the line agencies and lacking the institutional strengthening. Even though in recent years the Government of Lao PDR has taken steps to introduce and strengthen IWRM into the water sector, but there are a number of constraints existed that have to be overcome in the future. These include: analyzing the gaps and developing additional legislation, policies, strategies, plans, and other necessary regulations; re-arranging and strengthening institutional framework; improving data and information system; developing human resources; raising awareness and pursuing participatory approach, strengthening the monitoring and evaluation system, in recognizing the coordinated and strategic approach with respect to the water sector.

Causes of the issues

- Legal framework:
 - Legal aspect: Lack of secondary legislature related to water allocation/permission, water right and related procedures
 - Organizational aspect: Ambiguity of mandates related to the water resources management including water rights system

Causes of the issues

- Policy/plans at national level:
 - The introduction of policy on water resource management is lack of mechanisms on coordination and procedure in order to exchange data and information between the line agency participating in the use and development of water and water resources.
- Policy/plans at basin level:
 - The assessment of water resource and water resource management issues in the basin has not been conducted detailed.