



Republic of the Philippines

3rd NARBO THEMATIC WORKSHOP

WATER RIGHTS AND WATER ALLOCATION

Session 2 – PRESENTATION

REVIEW OF THE FORMER WORKSHOPS (1)

A presentation by:

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Issue No. 1

LACK OF COORDINATION AND CONFLICT IN THE MANAGEMENT OF WATER RESOURCES AMONG DIFFERENT GOVERNMENT AND NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION

Bad impact or real trouble derived from the issue (Concrete Example)

An example of the trouble caused by this issue may be demonstrated in the following:

Some local government unit such as barangays are implementing programs like water supply system.

Without coordination from the NWRB which is tasked by law with the regulation of water resources, water is extracted without permit and the volume of water extracted is not recorded in the NWRB data.

So that, when an applicant applied for a water permit on the same source, what appears in the NWRB data is that the water has not been appropriated.

When a permit is granted, the permittee will insist on extracting water granted to him by the NWRB.

The local government, on the other hand, would insist on the implementation of its program to supply water to the community.

Had there been coordination between the Local Government Units and the NWRB there would be no conflict in the allocation of water resources.

Causes of the issues

This issue causes conflict in the use of water between different sectors such as domestic use, agricultural use, hydropower use, etc. due to the following:

- a) Fragmented approach in water resources management and development;
- b) Inconsistencies in the implementation of water related policies;
- c) Overlapping of water related plans, programs and activities.
- d) Absence of policy instrument mandating the adoption and institutionalization of IWRM.

Proposal No. 1

Review mandates, roles and responsibilities, plans and programs of water-related agencies.

Proposal No. 2

Fast track the adoption and institutionalization of IWRM in water-related agencies and institutions.

Proposal No. 3

Create enabling policy environment for IWRM adoption and operationalization in LGUs.

Remarks

The issue was changed to consolidate Issues Nos. 1 and 2 to the Philippine Presentation during the 2nd Thematic Workshop.

Likewise, the proposals were changed upon the suggestion of the Secretariat.

Issue No. 2

DIFFICULTY IN IMPLEMENTING INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT PLANS

Bad impact or real trouble derived from the issue (Concrete Example)

Integrated water resource management thru river basin approach is an effective mechanism to ensure sustainable water supply and efficient allocation of water resources within the basin.

Difficulty of implementing integrated water resources management plans would result in disharmony among stakeholders which has different approaches in the management of water resources and encourage water use conflicts thereby greatly affecting the sustainability of water supply within the basin.

A concrete example of this is when water is used for hydropower and domestic purposes.

Without an integrated management plan, each user would implement each program in the use of water without regard to the needs of other users.

This would result in a conflict of water use specially during dry season when water is scarce.

Causes of the issues

- a) Limited financial support and participation from various stakeholders;
- b) Highly centralized regulation and allocation of water resources;
- c) Lack of IEC and awareness campaign for stakeholders;
- d) Lack of comprehensive strategic plans for priority river basin to organize and create RBO's.

Proposal (1)

Establish mechanisms to synchronize plans, programs and activities of agencies and organizations involved in the management of water resources within the basin.

Proposal (2)

Prepare water resources plan for priority river basin.

Proposal (3)

Enhance stakeholders' awareness and broad-based knowledge of water resources management and development.

Remarks

Likewise the proposals were changed upon suggestion of the Secretariat.

Issue 3

DIFFICULTY IN IMPLEMENTATION OF WATER RIGHTS SYSTEM

Bad impact or real trouble derived from the issue (Concrete Example)

This issue is one of the problems of the NWRB in the effective regulation and management of water resources.

Sad to say, there are more illegal appropriators of water in the Philippines than the one issued by the Board.

An example of difficulty in the implementation of water rights system in the Philippines is the refusal of some non-government organizations or indigenous people to recognize the water permit issued by the Board to appropriate water within their ancestral domain believing that all natural resources including water within their ancestral domain are owned by them.

Hence, not only that they do not allow other people to use water in the area, but they also appropriate water without securing a water permit.

Causes of the issues

- a) Lack of information dissemination on the policies and laws related to water rights system;
- b) Lack of human and financial resources to monitor and enforce the policies;
- c) Lack of cooperation with some local government units;
- d) Some water related laws are susceptible to different interpretations;
- e) Highly centralized responsibility in water allocation.

Proposal (1)

Education and information campaign need to be institutionalized to keep compliance of laws, rules and regulations and policies.

Proposal (2)

Strict implementation of the laws, rules and regulations and policies issued by the Board.

Proposal (3)

Establish financial mechanism.

Proposal (4)

Establishment of RBOs or River Basin Councils.

Remarks

Proposal no. 4 was changed upon suggestion of the Secretariat.

THANK YOU