

Annual Report
on
Regional Knowledge Partners(RKPs) Annual Report

Network of Asian River Basin Organizations (NARBO)
Secretariat

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SUMMARY

1.1. Department of Water Resources (DWR), Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Thailand

Objectives

1. Policy and strategy at national level is set for water resources management
2. People gain more knowledge and able to participate with full potential in policy-based water resource management.
3. People learn and participate in water resources conservation development for sustainable utilization.
4. To achieve organizations and resources management with good governance principles.

History

As one of the indispensable factors for human living, “water” used to be abundant and taken for granted. However, any countries have recently had to experience water shortage, resulting from the increasing world population, economic development and endangered ecological system, especially man-made deforestation that triggered off different forms of natural disaster.

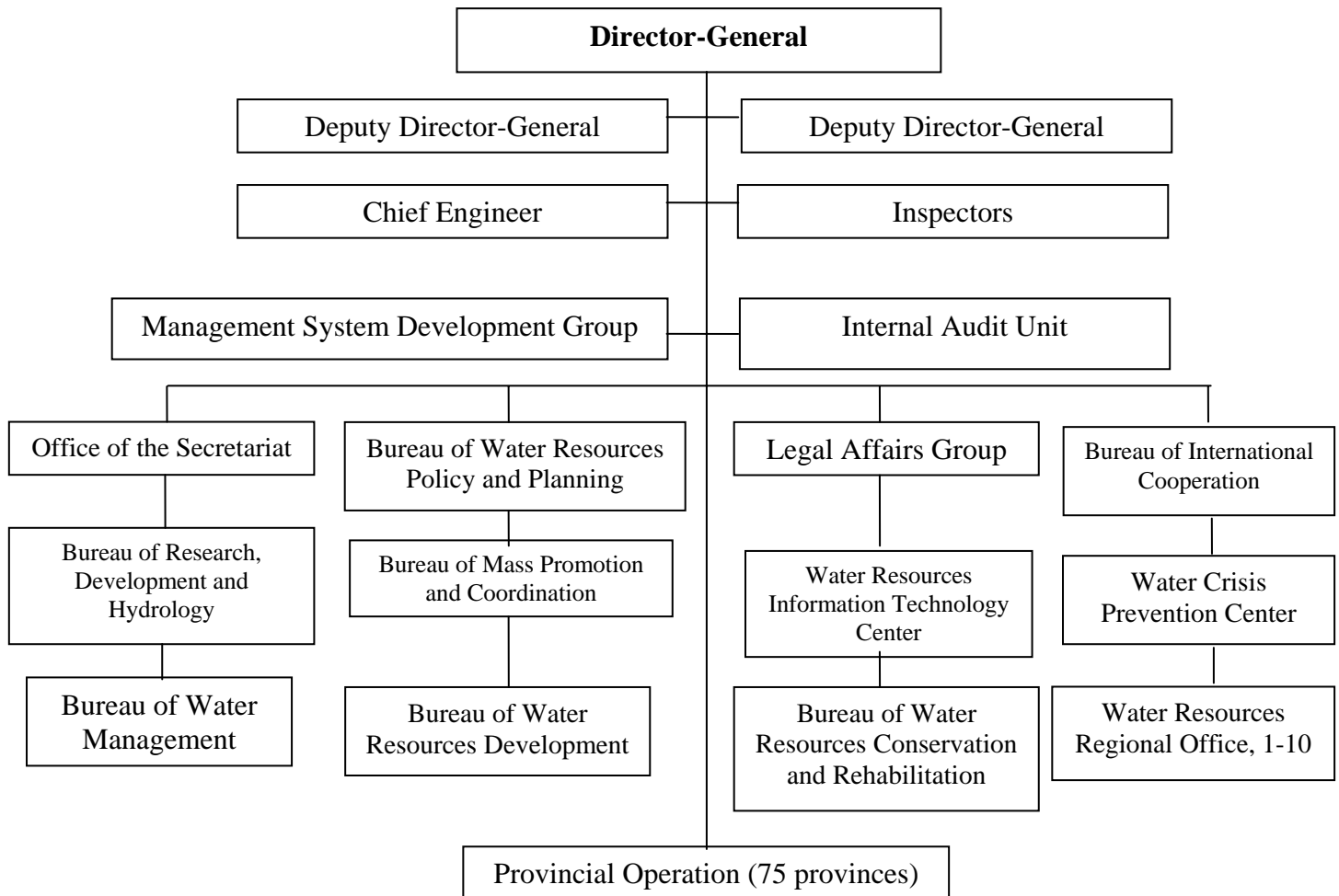
The awareness on disaster caused by water has been campaigned all over the world, including in Thailand. Although it could be manageable at some extent, this critical national issue cannot be overlooked anymore. Over 32 water management agencies nationwide acted together to tackle the problem. Nevertheless, the crisis was getting more and more serious because of aimless solutions and lack of either clear-cut policy or integrated management.

In compliance with the Office of the Prime Minister’s regulations on Water Resources Management (B.E.2532), the National Water Resources Committee (NWRC) was therefore appointed for policy formulation and strategic planning in respect to the efficiency of water resources development, utilization and conservation as well as the strengthening of the harmonious relationship and cooperation framework among relevant government agencies.

Further to the bureaucratic reform at the end of 2002, the Department of Water Resources was established as a governmental body for integrated water resources management. Principally, the Department works as policy advisor that prepares the master plan on raw water resources study, research, development, conservation and rehabilitation. Also the Department tasks include the promotion and support of community participation in the form of River Basin Sub-Committee as stated in the government’s policy so that the public involvement will be enhanced in all processes starting from public forum to solicit people’s opinions on the conception, direction, implementation, monitoring and assessment of work plan in order to seek public consent to the state’s implementation that provides their community with an efficient and sustainable development.

Organization Structure

ORGANIZATION CHART Department of water Resources



Financial

All major activities of the Department of Water Resources including water resources policy and planning section, water resources management, water supply and development and capacity building for water resources management organization has implemented through the annual budget allocated by Thai government.

Projects

Bang Pakong Dialogue Program

The Bang Pakong River Basin (BPRB) is located just east of Bangkok. There are 3 main rivers in BPRB namely Nakorn Nayok River, Prachinburi River and Bang Pakong River. It is cover the overall areas of Prachin Buri, Chachoeng Sao and Nakorn Nayok Province and also cover some areas of Srakaew, Chonburi and Chantaburi Province. Most of people earn their life by agriculture, fishery, livestock and also laborer in industry plants. Due to the economics growth rapidly together with the natural location of the river basin, many problems on natural resources and environment occurred including water pollution, salinization, natural resources, environment and ecosystem degradation that lead to water scarcity in the Bang Pakong River Basin.

To alleviate and solve the above mentioned problems on water resources in the Bang Pakong River Basin, the National Water Resources Committee appointed the Bang Pakong-Prachinburi and Tonlesap River Basin Sub-Committee on 21st August 2003 with 36 sub-committee members in total.

Representatives from government agencies, local government organization, agricultural, business and industrial water-user groups, natural resources or environmental non-government organizations, educational institutions or well-qualified persons.

Bang Pakong Dialogue program is one of the means to alleviate the water resources problems with focus on public participation in the Bang Pakong River Basin.

1.2. Topics

Department of Water Resources has implemented on water resources management as follows:-

1. Water Shortage Solving
2. Standard Design for Water Supply System / Water tank and cost estimate
3. Reduction of Duration and Steps for water supply concession permission
4. Development of 2 curricula namely Water Supplier Training and Water Supply System Management Personnel
5. Capacity Development of Personnel on village water supply system and water supply concession business
6. The Media for the Capacity Building Training for the Authority Units such as handbooks, Technical Paper, Folder and Video

2. ORGANIZATION

2.1. Department of Water Resources' Purposes and the extension of the projects

1. Policy and strategy at national level is set for water resources management
2. People gain more knowledge and be able to participate with full potential in policy-based water resource management.
3. People learn and participate in water resources conservation development for sustainable utilization.
4. To achieve organizations and resources management with good governance principles.

2.2. The legislation backing up the Department of Water Resources and related organizations

The Cabinet had agreed in principle on 25 July, 2000 to launch the good management, organization review and improvement of legal system to obtain the equitable water resource utilization. According to the Cabinet Resolution on 31 December, 2000, it was approved of the national water policy to promote drafting of the Water Act enacted as the core law for the National water resource management.

The Water Act will be the master law of the country which whenever enforced will affect directly to the people. Therefore, the public hearings are needed in order to obtain acceptance and to prevent conflict. According to the Good Governance Decree 2003, the Department of Water Resources has organized 15 times of public hearings all over the country cover the 25 major river basins with more than 200 attendants for each time. The process is based on participatory approach with people, organizations/institutes, and involved stakeholders. The contents comprise various articles of the Act.

2.3. Department of Water Resources' History – From establishment to present

Due to the water resources crisis problems including flood, drought and water shortage occurred all over area in Thailand, the National Water Resources Committee (NWRC) was appointed for policy formulation and strategic planning in respect to the efficiency of water resources development, utilization and conservation as well as the strengthening of the harmonious relationship and cooperation framework among relevant government agencies.

Further to the bureaucratic reform at the end of 2002, the Department of Water Resources was established as a governmental body for integrated water resources management. Principally, the Department works as policy advisor that prepares the master plan on raw water resources study, research, development, conservation and rehabilitation. Also the Department tasks include the promotion and support of community participation in the form of River Basin Sub-Committee as stated in the government's policy so that the public involvement will be enhanced in all processes starting from public forum to solicit people's opinions on the conception, direction, implementation, monitoring and assessment of work plan in order to seek public consent to the state's implementation that provides their community with an efficient and sustainable development.

2.4. The constitution of the Department of Water Resources and the number of staff

- Draft Water Act is now on the process of implementation. The meeting on public hearing have just finished 15 times all over the area in 25 major river basins of Thailand with more than 200 attendants for each time. It will become the master law on water resources management after the process of approval by the cabinet.

- The Department of Water Resources consist of 2,827 staffs.

2.5. The financial system and the size of the annual budget

The Department of Water Resources has formulated the Integrated Water Resources Budget Plan for the fiscal year 2005 based on budget frame for 3 main areas including water resources management, supply and development of water resources and also water efficiency enhancement and is allocated at the amount of 711.780 million Baht.

3. TOPICS

3.1. Training

Department of Water Resources had developed 2 curricula as follows :-

1) Water Supplier Training : the course aimed to give precise understanding on new technology related to safe water supply, production control and system maintenance, which could be implemented in the same guideline to lead to good quality of people life and good health.

2) Water Supply System Management Personnel : the course aimed to give knowledge and precise understanding on water supply system management performed by the Water Supply Business Management Board or the local authority units. It is expected that the knowledge gained from the course could be applied as the guideline for the utmost efficiency in water supply system management, which might result in successful and sustainable business.

The Department of Water Resources had also developed 2 capacity development training course as follows :-

1) Training on village water supply system in order that the personnel will have precise understanding in the village water supply system including control and inspection for acceptance procedures.

2) Training on water supply concession business in order that the entrepreneurs will have precise understanding in the permission process for water supply concession. Also it aimed to give clear understanding for the government officials in charge of this task in technical and legal aspects, Ministry Rules, and Regulations concerned with water supply concession so that proper suggestions could be given to the service receivers.

Training courses on integrated water resources budget plan have been organized as well.

3.2. New Projects

- 1) Royal Initiative Projects and Royal Project Foundation
 - 1.1 Project of Hilly Area Agricultural Development Station, Chiang Mai Province, Thailand
(Construction of weirs and water distribution systems)
 - 1.2 Project of Water Supply System Construction in many areas of Thailand
- 2) Standard Design for Water Supply / Water Tank and cost estimation. The Department of Water Resources has developed the standard design and cost estimation in form of CD which will assist the local authority to conveniently adopt and save costs.
- 3) Project for Establishment of Water Operation Center for Water Crisis Prevention and Alleviation. Its targets are to establish the operation center for water crisis prevention and alleviation as well as to improve the database system and Geographic Information System (GIS) database for 9 major river basins namely Ping, Wang, Yom, Nan, Pasak, Thachin, Chao Phraya, Chi and Mun river basins. The Management Information System (MIS) to follow up water situation and forecasting system for Decision Support System (DSS) on implementation of flood, drought, water pollution management are to be established in 7 major river basins namely Ping, Wang, Yom, Nan, Pasak, Thachin and Chao Phraya river basins.
- 4) Project of Water Scarcity Solving for Domestic and Consumption Uses by Village Water Supply System. It aimed to provide clean water for domestic and consumption purpose to people and also promote people for good health.
- 5) Project of Natural Resources and Environment Conservation and Rehabilitation. Its objectives are to solve the problem of stream's shallowness and water shortage problem of villagers and also mitigate flood for riparian communities.
- 6) Project of Early Warning System Formulation for Flood and Landslide Risk Areas. It aims to follow-up environmental condition, monitoring and warning on flood and landslide. Its objectives are also to standardize the monitoring and warning system model that are being developed.

3.3. International Conference

- 1) Ministerial Meeting on Managing Water Resources in Southeast Asia in November 2003
 - 1.1 1st Southeast Asia Water Forum
 - 1.2 1st Ministerial Meeting on Managing Water Resources in Southeast Asia
 - 1.3 2nd ASEAN Working Group on Water Resources Meeting
- 2) Bang Pakong Dialogue Program (BPDP)
The Department of Water Resources was granted from Dialogue on Water, Food and Environment and UNEP, the amount of 25,000 US\$ to handle the BPDP. The Workshop and the consultative meeting have been organized for the stakeholders of the Bang Pakong – Prachin Buri and Tonlesap river basin to seek for mutual agreement in basin management. In addition, grant amounting to 50,000 US\$ was allocated by ADB to organized workshop that allow stakeholders to seek for water allocation guidelines, strengthen the capacity of the basin committee, stakeholders and promote people participation.
