

Member's Annual Report 2006

Date of preparation: 20 / March /2007
Name of the editor: Ms. Sukontha Aekaraj

1. About the organization

(1) Name of the organization: Department of Water Resources (DWR)

(2) Purposes and roles of your organization

a) Historical background of the organization:

Department of Water Resources was established in 2002 by grouping many water agencies into one agency.

b) Purposes and roles of the organization:

DWR was established to be a policy and regulatory body in water resources management. However, due to function and role of former agencies that were merged into one agency it has made DWR a mix role of policy and regulator on one hand and operator on the other hand.

(3) Outline of the organization

1) Number of staff:

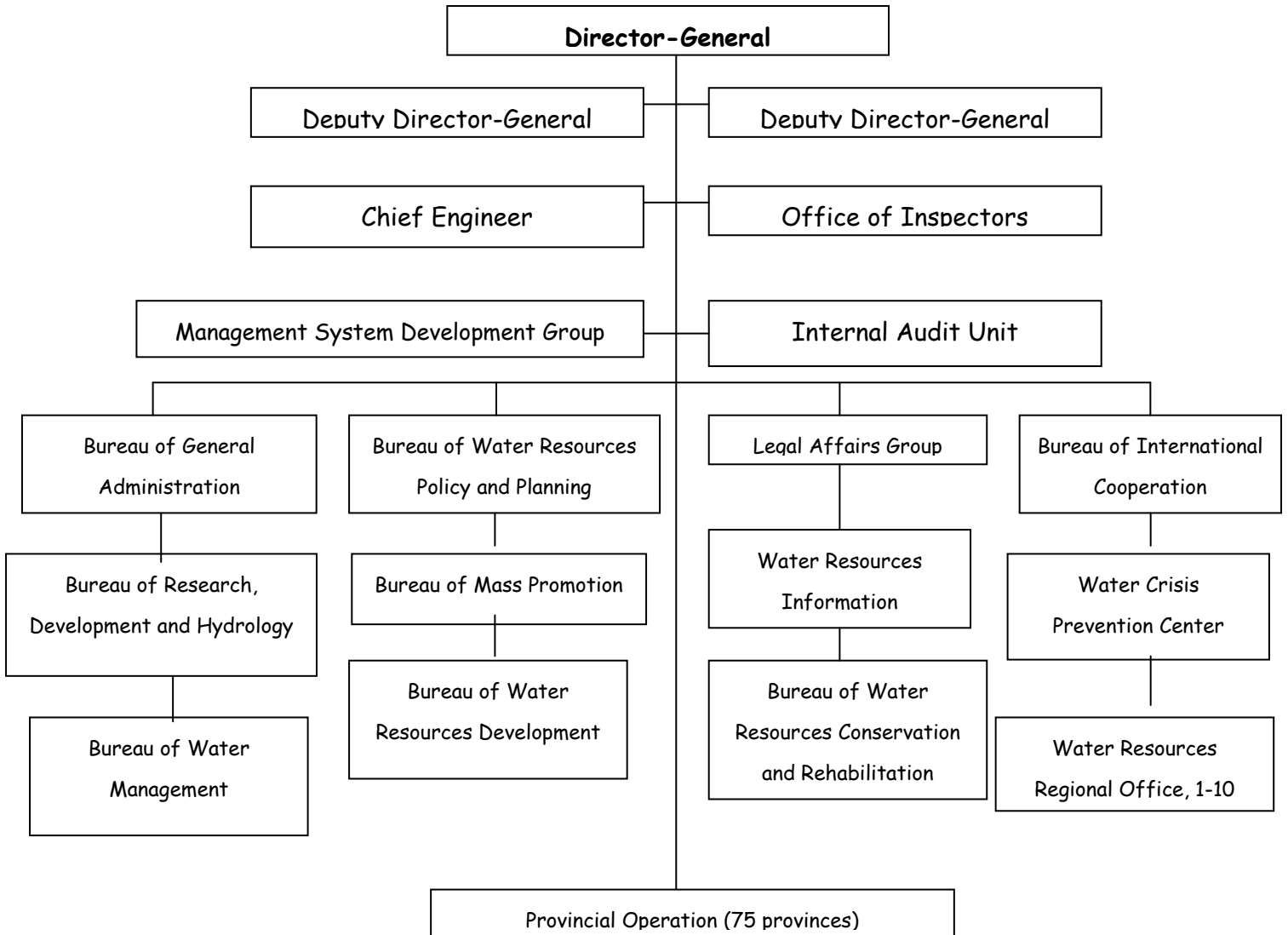
2,761

2) Amount of the annual budget in 2006:

USD 50.1 Million

3) Organizational chart

Department of water Resources



4) Ongoing projects

1) Formulating policy and strategies on water resources

In order to coordinate various agencies concerned in water resources, a policy on water resources management; and strategies and action plans on river basin management and flood mitigation have been formulated. In addition, a procedure for the river basin budgetary system has been established to be a mechanism for an integrated water resources management.

2) Water resources conservation and rehabilitation

Preserving water and soil moisture, trapping sediment in upper watershed through building of check dam is one of the measures for water resources conservation and rehabilitation and also for environmental preservation. In remote areas DWR 's project of weir construction to provide water for domestic and agricultural uses is among its mandates.

3) Early warning system for flood and landslide risk areas

The automatic early warning systems are installed at different stations and received the signal information of rainfall from the rainfall measure station located at the upstream areas. In case there is heavy storm that caused high rainfall at a certain level that tends to cause flood and landslide, the system will send out warning signal to the warning stations and distribute the information to all communities immediately so that the evacuation can be done in time.

4) Bang Pakong river basin integrated water management

Bang Pakong Dialogue Program has been implemented to establish social process for solving water resources problems with focusing on public participation in the Bang Pakong river basin. DWR is now a coordinating body for a project of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, which pull the resources of each Department concerned together in solving water and environmental problems of the Bang Pakong river basin. This project includes water allocation implementation for the Bang Pakong river basin.

5) Capacity building for the River Basin Committee

In Thailand, 29 River Basin Committees (RBCs) are established and DWR Regional Offices are responsible for the RBCs secretariat works. Members of RBCs, their secretariat and other local government units need capacity building to strengthen their performance. DWR has formulated training program for such stakeholders. To strengthen RBCs performance, a development of a package of an integrated basin project plan has been and will be prepared in a participatory way that can be submitted for budget requesting.

(5) Big events in 2006

- 4 Officials from DWR attended the 4th World Water Forum in Mexico.
- On 20 September 2006, DWR organized an event of River Conservation Day. The celebration happens same date every year and many activities concerning water were organized for the purpose of awareness raising in conserving water resources.

2. About NARBO activity

(1) Activities your organization implemented in 2006 as the member

Participating 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Thematic Workshop on Water Allocation and Water Rights and hosting the 3rd Workshop in Bangkok during 27 November – 1 December 2006.

(2) The contact person and organization's web-site

1) The name of the contact person and contact number (including e-mail address)

Mr. Somboon Burapatani, email: mnre603@mnre.go.th

2) Your organization's web-site URL (English and local language)

<http://www.dwr.go.th>

(3) Resolutions and expectations for NARBO activities in 2007

1) Your organization's resolutions

- Documentation of a story of water resources management particularly in a context of river basin management that contributes to NARBO for sharing with the others.
- In June 2007 the officials from DWR will go to New Zealand for a research trip on water allocation, an information derived can be shared in the Newsletter.

2) Expectations of NARBO activities

- A promotion of newly developed RBOs to learn from more advanced RBO and it needs to be identified that the advance can be classified in many ways and judging. It can be more advance in term of firm mandate, or supporting law, or technical progress, or participatory management, or watershed management, or etc.
- The above learning process can be a first hand learning i.e. study visit, a research study, or other forms of learning process.

(4) About the NARBO web-site (<http://www.narbo.jp>)

1) Whether you can access to the NARBO web-site.

Yes

2) Whether you can access to the ADB's web-site (<http://www.adb.org/>) and the ADBI's web-site (<http://www.adbi.org/>)

Yes

3) Who can access NARBO web-site usually?

Anyone who has an internet access and has English language background.

4) How often do you access to the NARBO web-site on the average?

Once a month or more.

5) What content are you interested in most and what information do you want to get from the NARBO web-site?

- Experiences of Japan in water resources management particularly within the river basin context are interesting and many of them can be shared as documents on NARBO website.
- Experiences in member countries that can be categorized into many fields.

6) What do you think we need to do to get more hits to the NARBO web-site?

- Giving information as mentioned above, it might need writers who are professional services.

7) What do you think we need to do to stimulate information exchange among members through the NARBO web-site?

- Apart from content, style of writing is the other factor that induces more attention and again this might need a professional writers.