

**NARBO Annual Report of
the Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI) 2005**

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1. Background

Announced at the third World Water Forum in March 2003, the Network of Asian River Basin Organization (NARBO) was officially established in February 2004 to promote integrated water resources management (IWRM) in monsoon areas in Asia. The Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI) has been acting as the NARBO secretariat in collaboration with the Japan Water Agency (JWA) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) since the establishment, and contributed to the NARBO activities such as IWRM trainings and workshops as one of the NARBO promoters.

The goal of NARBO is to help achieve IWRM in river basins throughout Asia. The objective of NARBO is to strengthen the capacity and effectiveness of River Basin Organizations (RBOs) in promoting IWRM and improving water governance, through training and exchange of information and experiences among RBOs and their associated water sector agencies and knowledge partner organizations. Also, this objective and the development of NARBO are in accordance with the aim of ADBI, which helps build capacity, skills, and knowledge related to poverty reduction and other areas that support long-term growth and competitiveness in developing economies in Asia and the Pacific.

This paper summarizes the NARBO activities carried out by ADBI in 2005 as well as the organizational outline of ADBI, in conformity to the NARBO charter and its work plan.

2. Organization

2.1 Objectives & functions

ADBI was established in 1997 to respond to two needs of developing member countries:

- Development management training, and
- Exchange of ideas on policy issues

The objective of ADBI shall be to identify effective development strategies and to improve the capacity for sound development management of the agencies and organizations in the Developing Member Countries (DMCs) of ADB engaged in development work. To accomplish its objectives, ADBI shall have the following functions:

- (a) organization and conduct of training programs, seminars, conferences and lectures in development policy and management for middle to top level policymakers and officials of public, private and other entities engaged in development works in the DMCs of ADB;
- (b) conduct of research on development issues with strategic implications for development thinking and policy formulation, including identification and distillation of best practices, and production of learning methods and materials related thereto;

- (c) dissemination of the results of such research, training, seminars and conferences through various types of media and publications;
- (d) provisions of assistance to the staff of ADB, as may be requested, on such matters related to development policy and management capacity building and good governance; and
- (e) such other functions which advance the objective of ADBI as may be approved from time to time by the Board of Directors of ADB.

ADB I has helped build capacity, skills, and knowledge related to poverty reduction and other areas that support long-term growth and competitiveness in developing economies in the Asia-Pacific region since 1997. Looking to the future, a key aim for ADB I is to become a center of excellence for the creation and dissemination of information and knowledge on development in Asia and the Pacific.

2.2 Organizational structure

ADB I consists of 3 departments, (i) Administration, Management and Coordination, (ii) Capacity Building and Training, and (iii) Research. At present, 38 staffs work at ADB I: 15 Japanese administrative staff, including temporary staff, 13 internationally recruited staff, 5 visiting researchers, and 4 research and capacity building associates. There are also some on- and off-site consultants. Also, as of December 2005, the Dean of ADB I is Dr. Peter McCawley. Additionally, ADB I is supported by an independent 7-member Advisory Council that meets twice a year.

2.3 Finance

ADB I is currently funded by the Government of Japan. The approved budget for 2006 is \$14.2 million.

2.4 ADB I's work

ADB I's work covers applied research, policy seminars designed to disseminate policy, best practices, and a range of capacity buildings and training initiatives. With regard to the details, please see the ADB I's website (<http://www.adbi.org/>).

3. NARBO activities

3.1 Introduction

ADB I contributed to the NARBO activities such as the training and workshop in 2005 from the viewpoint of promoting IWRM, which is expected to ensure the water governance. In addition, JWA seconded a water resources expert in order to strengthen the NARBO activities.

3.2 NARBO IWRM training

ADBI organized the Second NARBO IWRM training course on “River Basin Management and Organizations” held from April 25 to 29 in Negombo, Sri Lanka, in collaboration with the Institute of Water Resources Management, ADB, JWA, Global Water Partnership-South Asia and Lanka Jalani. Also please see the NARBO website regarding the details of the training (<http://www.narbo.jp/>).

3.3 The Second South East Asia Water Forum

NARBO Associate took part in the Second South East Asia Water Forum from 29 August to 2 September in Bali, Indonesia. In the NARBO member meeting during the period of the Forum, he gave a speech to promote the thematic workshop on water allocation and water rights mentioned in the next chapter.

3.4 The thematic workshop on water allocation and water rights

ADBI organized the 1st thematic workshop on water allocation and water rights in collaboration with the Red River Basin Organization, JWA and ADB, which was held from December 5 to 9 in Hanoi, Vietnam. Appropriate water allocation and development of water rights system consist of implementation of IWRM. Therefore it is important to take up the issues on water allocation and water rights as the theme of the workshop. Also, the concept of the thematic workshop is attached herewith (Appendix). Also, please see the NARBO website regarding the details of the workshop (<http://www.narbo.jp/>).

3.5 Placement of JWA's official

In order to promote the NARBO activities and research to propose the future action plans for NARBO, ADBI accepted the secondment of a JWA's staff, Michitaro Nakai and has placed him as NARBO Associate since May 2005. The NARBO Associate is expected to contribute not only to the research activities on water resources management in the monsoon Asia areas from the political, legal and administrative viewpoint, but also to the capacity building activities such as the 1st thematic workshop on water allocation and water rights mentioned above.

3.6 Web posting

NARBO activities such as IWRM training or workshop are introduced through the ADBI's website.

4. Conclusions and next steps

As mentioned above, ADBI has accepted the staff secondment from JWA as NARBO Associate since May 2005. Thanks to that arrangement, ADBI could play the leading role in conducting some NARBO activities such as the thematic workshop on water allocation and water rights.

ADBI emphasizes on the information and knowledge dissemination through the publications and ICT. Therefore, in 2006, ADBI will further disseminate the advanced experiences and knowledge on IWRM to the DMCs through the publications and ICT as well as conduct IWRM trainings and workshops.

Concept of the thematic workshop

I Introduction and Rationale

1. NARBO secretariat has held the thematic workshop as the new attempt since 2005, which is one of the main NARBO activities. The workshop has the following features.

- Pragmatic and practical viewpoints are emphasized.

NARBO mainly consists of water related government agencies and river basin organizations, which are in charge of practical water resources management. Thus, it is desirable to hold the activities that can contribute to the practitioners of water-related organizations. Therefore, pragmatic and practical viewpoint is very important.

- Deep and continuous discussions are intended.

Firstly, in order to achieve an effect of the workshop, two-way communications are strongly recommended. For that purpose, we emphasize the discussions among the participants rather than typical workshop programs such as special lectures. In addition, it is necessary to discuss water-related issues continuously with spending sufficient time because they are often very complex. Therefore, the number of the thematic workshop will be several times against one theme, more than once, in order for the continuous discussion.

- Focused, specific and important themes related to IWRM are taken up.

In order to make discussions deeply, focused and specific themes are desirable, which also should be important ones in implementing IWRM.

- The scale of the workshop is relatively small.

In order to make discussions deeply, it is desirable that the scale of the workshop should be small. Therefore, the number of participants per one country will be planned to be limited.

- Simple style is preferable.

The financial resources of NARBO secretariat are quite limited and we intend to hold as many activities as possible. Therefore, the cost per one workshop should be reasonable.

II Objective and intention

2. The objectives of the thematic workshop are; (i) sharing information on current status of participating countries, (ii) clarifying the problems in participating countries, and (iii) approaching the way for improvement in cooperation with participants.

3. In addition, Japan side has an intention to provide the experiences and knowledge on water resources management in Japan for NARBO member countries. Japan is located in the Asia monsoon areas same as the other NARBO member countries, thus, Japan and other NARBO member countries have similar meteorological and hydrological features. In addition, some NARBO member countries are now suffering from the various water-related issues such

as inappropriate water allocation, which Japan had suffered from after WWII. Therefore, it is significant to provide Japanese experiences and knowledge for NARBO members.

III The way for conduct of the thematic workshop

4. With regard to the thematic workshop, **we attach great importance to the self-reliant effort for problem solving made by participating countries themselves.** In other words, we have to adopt the methods that participants themselves come up with the way for approaching improvement in line with each participant's country's situation.

5. Due to that, participants are strongly recommended not only to make efforts on the workshops but also during the interim period between each workshop to make internal discussions. Additionally, workshop outcomes, which will be prepared by participants themselves, are greatly expected to lead to the action plans for water resources management in each participating country.

IV The thematic workshop on water allocation and water rights

6. According to the outcome of the research in 2004, NARBO secretariat recognized that the NARBO members had had keen interest in the issues on water allocation and water rights. Thus, issues on water allocation and water rights were taken up as the theme of the 1st thematic workshop. This workshop has been planned to be held a total of 4 times in two years, and the expected outcome of each workshop is as follows.

- 1st- To identify the issues in participating countries
- 2nd- To analyze the causes of the issues and suggest the approaches to solution
- 3rd- To review the 1st and 2nd workshop and suggest the approaches to solution
- 4th- To draft the report to make a suggestion

7. The 1st thematic workshop on water allocation and water right was held in December 2005, in Hanoi, Vietnam. 24 participants from 6 countries attended the workshop, and participants were able to identify and share the issues on water allocation and water rights with discussion. The final outcome of this workshop is uploaded onto the NARBO website.

V Next Steps

8. With regard to the thematic workshop on water allocation and water rights, we have the following plan.

- 2nd workshop: 5-9 June 2006, Manila, Philippines
- 3rd workshop: October 2006, the venue is TBD
- 4th workshop: January 2007, the venue is TBD

9. Through the 4 workshops, participants will be required to write the reports about the recommendation for the improvement of the water allocation issues in their home countries.

Also, these reports are the outcomes of the workshop. In addition, the outcome is expected to lead the water resources policy in their countries.

10. In addition, NARBO secretariat has an intention to hold additional thematic workshops. So far, NARBO secretariat is plan to take the theme of water facility management, with which JWA is quite familiar.