

## Member's Annual Report 2007

Date of preparation: 7/ April /2008

### **To our colleagues in NARBO,**

Greetings from Ho Chi Minh City,

The Dong Nai RBO 2007 Annual report, to be prepared by Mr Nguyen Xuan Phong my staff member will be sent to you, in due course.

The Cuu Long RBO has already submitted two reports concerning the Cuu Long Delta, namely *Flood Control Planning in the Mekong Delta* and *Assessment of Sea Level Rise in Coastal Regions of the CLD* prepared by myself (Dr To Van Truong, Director of the Southern Institute for Water Resources and Planning).

In accordance with CLRBO commitments and following on from the above two reports, please find below the 2007 Annual Report for the Cuu Long Delta RBO drafted by my staff member (Mr Pham Xuan Phuong, who left for field work on the Mekong Delta) and finalised by myself in his absence.

### **1.About the organization**

(1) Name of the organization and postal address of the office

- Cuu Long River Basin Organization (CLRBO), 271/3 An Duong Vuong, District 5, Ho Chi Minh City Viet Nam
- Phone: (84) 8 8 350 850; Fax: (84) 8 8 351 721; Email: [siwarp@hcm.fpt.vn](mailto:siwarp@hcm.fpt.vn) , Web : <http://www.siwarp.org.vn>

(2) The representative of the organization:

- DR. To Van Truong, Director of Southern Institute for Water Resources Planning (SIWRP); Chief of CLRBO standing office. Phone (84) 8 8323910; Mobie 0913908074

(3) Purpose and roles of our organization

The CLRBO was set up under a joint initiative of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) and the Mekong River Commission. It is supported and located at the SIWRP. The SIWRP is a leading research body in Vietnam, undertaking basin-wide integrated water research planning and management studies, water resources development planning at local, regional and provincial levels, hydraulic and hydrological modelling, water supply projects and has extensive experience and expertise in the Cuu Long Delta area.

a) Historical background of the organization

- Cuu Long River Basin Organization was established pursuant to

Decisions No.37/2001/QD-TCCB, signed by the Minister of MARD on April 9, 2001.

b) Purposes and roles of the organization

- The role of the CLRBO falls into three functions; planning, coordination and resolution of disputes over water resources. Most of the activities associated with these functions will be carried out by the Council Secretariat or by working groups coordinated by the Secretariat.

(4) Outline of the organization

**Number of staff:** Member staff of CLRBO are drawn from a vast line agencies, including:

- Ministries of; Industry, Construction, Health, Fishery, Transportation and Communication, National Security and Defence, Science-Technology and Environment, and the General Department of Meteorology and Hydraulics,
- Department of Water and Hydraulic Works Management, Department of Flood, Storm Protective Prevention and Dyke Management, Institute for Water Resources Planning, Standing Committee of Mekong River Commission Secretariat, Southern Institute for Water Resources Planning,
- Departments of Agriculture and Rural Development for Mekong, Dong Nai and Hong - Thai Binh River Basin,
- Planning Management Councils for Cuu Long River Basin, Dong Nai River Basin and Hong – Thai Binh River Basin,

In original, the staff member of CLRBO are:

- **Standing members:**

1. *HE. Nguyen Dinh Thinh, Vice Minister – Head of Cuu Long River Basin Planning Management Council (since deceased)*
2. *Mr. Pham Xuan Su, Director of Water and Hydraulic Works Management Department – Deputy Head of CLRSPMC (retired)*
3. *Mr. Le Duong Quang, Vice Director of Planning and Investment Department – Ministry of Industry*
4. *Mr. Vu Huy Thu, Vice Director of Fishery Resources Protection Department – Ministry of Fishery*
5. *Mr. Bui Dinh Khoa, Vice Director of Architecture and Planning Management Department – Ministry of Construction*
6. *Mr. Nguyen Huy Nga, Vice Director of Preventive Health Department – Ministry of Health*
7. *Mr. Le Van Thanh, Colonel, Officer of Action of Headquarters – Ministry of National Security and Defence*

8. *Mr. Nguyen Ngoc Duc, Director of Southern Meteorological and Hydraulic Station – General Department of Meteorology and Hydraulics*
9. *Mr. Le Huu Khang, Vice Director of Riverway General Department – Ministry of Transportation and Communication*
10. *Mr. Le Minh Sat, Vice Director of Science and Agricultural Technology Management Department – Ministry of Science-Technology and Environment*
11. *Mr. Le Ngoc Tang, Vice Director of Water and Hydraulic Works Management Department*
12. *Mr. Do Ngoc Thien, Vice Director of Flood, Storm Protective Prevention and Dyke Management Department*
13. *Mr. Nguyen Hong Toan, General Secretary –National Mekong River Committee of Vietnam*
14. *Mr. To Van Truong, Director of Sub-Institute for Water Resources Planning and Chief of River Basin Planning Management Council Secretariat*
- ***Non-standing members:***
15. *Mr. Nguyen Quoc Ly, Vice Director of Long An Agriculture and Rural Development Department (promoted to Director)*
16. *Mr. Phan Van Nghiep, Vice Director of Tien Giang Agriculture and Rural Development Department (retired)*
17. *Mr. Huynh The Phien, Vice Director of Dong Thap Agriculture and Rural Development Department (now Director of Tram Chim National Parks)*
18. *Ms. Tran Thi Luan, Director of Ben Tre Agriculture and Rural Development Department*
19. *Mr. Nguyen Van Thanh, Director of Vinh Long Agriculture and Rural Development Department (since changed position)*
20. *Mr. Le Van Tai, Vice Director of Tra Vinh Agriculture and Rural Development Department*
21. *Mr. Nguyen Van Dong, Vice Director of Can Tho Agriculture and Rural Development Department (promoted to Director of Hau Giang DARD)*
22. *Mr. Quach Van Nam, Director of Soc Trang Agriculture and Rural Development Department*
23. *Mr. Nguyen Tan Hung, Vice Director of An Giang Agriculture and Rural Development Department*
24. *Mr. Duong Minh Lich, Vice Director of Kien Giang Agriculture and Rural Development Department (since changed position)*

25. Mr. Ngo Chi Dung, Vice Director of Ca Mau Agriculture and Rural Development Department (promoted to Director of Ca Mau DARD)

26. Mr. Luong Ngoc Lan, Vice Director of Bac Lieu Agriculture and Rural Development Department (promoted to Director)

- **Representative office (Secretariat board members)**

1) The secretariat board has been established, pursuant to the decision of the Chief of CLRBO, for carrying out the tasks of the Standing Office. Members of secretariat board are as follows:

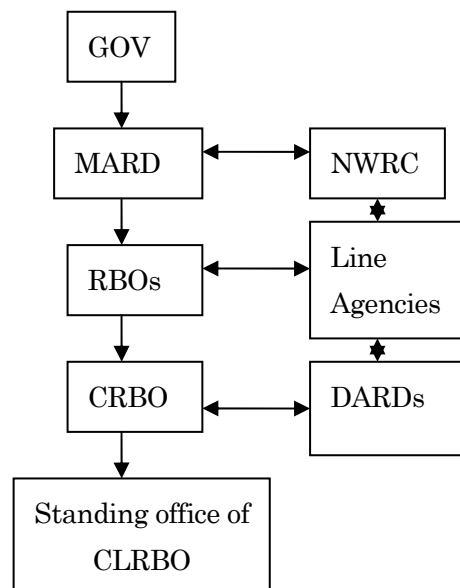
- Mr. Pham Xuan Phuong, Deputy chief of Cuu Long Delta Planning Division
- Mr. Luong Quang Xo, Chief of Cuu Long Delta Planning Division
- Mr. Nguyen Tat Dat, Deputy Director Centre for Water Resources Constructing and Technology Transfer
- Mr. Nguyen Huy Khoi, Deputy Chief of Division of Technical and General Affairs
- Mr. To Ha Thang, International Co-operation and Planning Division

2) Amount of the annual budget in 2007

Annually CLRBO has received a budget of approximately 200,000,000 VND (USD 34,000) from MARD, to be used for annual tasks of CLRBO office.

3) Organizational chart

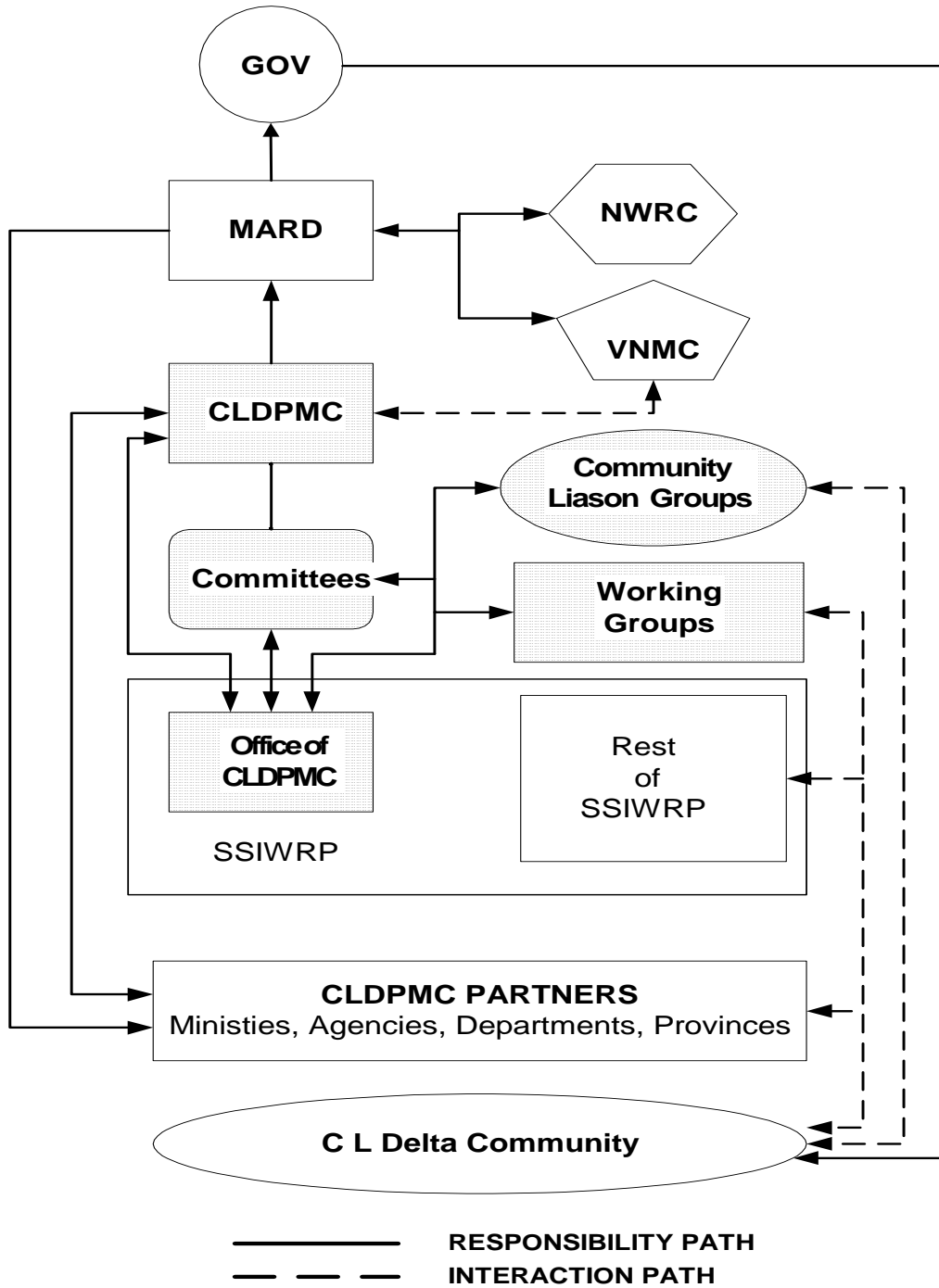
- **Existing organization chart**



- Organization chart proposed by AusAID project**

During 2000-2003, AusAID provided funds for capacity building and preliminary RBO Cuu Long activities. At that stage, CLRBO focussed efforts on improving background knowledge regarding water resources in the Cuu Long Area.

As shown in the diagram below, technical studies were conducted simultaneously with community surveys. This information was collected, analysed and reported back to the committees, and RBO stakeholders.



#### 4) Ongoing projects

Due to budget limitations, CLRBO could not enforce its responsibilities as mentioned in the initial purpose and responsibility. Therefore, CLRBO activities were combined with those of the Southern Institute for Water Resources Planning. Ongoing projects are as follows:

- Water Resources Planning for an area of the Southern Ca Mau Peninsula
- Research on the Water Resource of the Cai Lon – Cai Be Rivers
- Water Resources Planning for the Bac Lieu Province
- Water Resources Planning for Aquatic cultivation/production for the coastal area of the Cuu Long Delta
- Water Resources Planning for the Hau Giang City etc

#### (5) Main events in 2007

- Review all water resource management projects in the Mekong Delta.
- Organise seminars, workshops and forums to build knowledge in local provinces.
- Participate in key water resource projects conducted by SIWRP
- Provide technical expertise for trans-national development projects, in collaboration with An Giang University (development of rice security program in Sierra Leone, West Africa).

## **2.About NARBO activity**

- Daily contact person:

Mr. Pham Xuan Phuong, chief of Secretariat board;

Phone: (84) 8 098 3044327; Email: huubang51@yahoo.com

#### (1) Activities implemented in 2007:

- Flood control planning for the Plain of Reeds area
- Integrated Water Resources Planning for the Long Xuyen Quadrangle
- Pre-Feasibility study for the system work of demarcation fresh – saline areas
- Identification of trans boundary flood issues in the CLD part
- Update CLD Water sector profile and CLD metal data base
- Completion of the Ca Mau Peninsula water resource planning studies
- Organise seminars and workshop regarding water resource management and planning.
- Comprehensive field surveys and collation of all basic data across social, environmental, economic and water resource factors.

(2) Resolutions and expectations for NARBO activities in 2008

- Provide financial support for CLRBO to attend seminar workshops and other NARBO events
- Provide documents from Trans-national bodies (ADB, World Bank, JICA etc) to improve CLRBO knowledge base.
- Communicate important findings/developments of all member RBOs in the region, to improve efficiency of RBO operations.

3) CLRBO resolutions

- Collect all background data relevant to water resource planning in Mekong Delta
- Periodically report to NARBO all activities
- Attend seminars, workshops and all other activities organised by NARBO
- Exchange knowledge and experience from our RBO to other RBOs
- Facilitate the transfer of key findings, initiatives and knowledge to local committees working within regions of the CLD

### **3. Questions to RBO members**

(1) Areas which your organization has improved the performance in 2007

- Improved background understanding of the study area.
- Improved technical and English skills and knowledge of CLRBO staff
- Improved inter-RBO cooperation and information sharing regarding water resource planning.

(2) The way in which your organization was able to do so

- Attending seminars, workshops and training
- Recalibrating methods, by assessing the performance of projects and field work and learning from experience
- Organise meetings/conferences with other RBOs

(3) Main constraints/obstructions of CLRBO are:

- CLRBO is currently under the supervision of MARD, however it is unclear in the future if this will remain the case, or if CLRBO will be transferred under MONRE supervision
- Insufficient number of skilled staff
- Functions, responsibilities of CLRBO overlap with that of SIWRP
- Funding for activities is insufficient

Regardless of the reorganisation of RBO activities in the Government

framework, our institute will require strong cooperation with NARBO and other concerned agencies to train staff and implement water resource initiatives in the Mekong Delta .

#### **4. Conclusions**

We greatly appreciate the support NARBO has given, helping improve the capacity of CLRBO to manage water resources, resolve land use conflicts and design detailed technical studies.

CLRBO activities in 2007 continues to run smoothly, with significant advances in background understanding of the Cuu Long Delta. This is largely due to improvements to field data collection and management processes. In addition, detailed understanding of key hydrological processes (flooding, saline intrusion, soil erosion etc...) has improved due to studies conducted by SIWRP and CLRBO.

Key hinderances include, insufficient funding to carry out all required studies, and some uncertainty regarding the status of CLRBO in the broader national Government framework.

**Dr To Van Truong**  
**Director SIWRP**