

Annual Report
of
The Red River Basin Organization (RRBO)
2005
(Vietnam)

Foreword

Red – Thai Binh river system is the second biggest one in Vietnam (second to Mekong river). In the upstream, the river is formed by 3 main tributaries, i.e., Da, Thao and Lo rivers, all originate in Van Nam province of China. Red River Basin is situated at 20°–25°30' in the north latitude and at 100°- 107°10' in the east longitude. It is bounded by Truong Giang and Chau Giang rivers' basin of China to the north, by Mekong river basin to the west, by Ma river basin to the south, and by the Tonkin gulf to the east. Total river basin area is 169,020 km² including 81,240 (48%) km² in China territory, 1,100 km² (0.65%) in Laos territory, and 86,660 km² (51.35%) in Vietnam territory.

The part of Red River Basin in Vietnam territory covers 26 provinces and cities in the north region of Vietnam comprising cities of Hanoi and Hai Phong, and provinces of Ha Tay, Ha Nam, Nam Dinh, Ninh Binh, Hai Duong, Hung Yen, Thai Binh, Bac Kan, Bac Ninh, Bac Giang, Vinh Phuc, Phu Tho, Thai Nguyen, Tuyen Quang, Ha Giang, Lao Cai, Yen Bai, Lai Chau, Son La, Hoa Binh, Cao Bang, Lang Son, Quang Ninh, Dien Bien. Present population is about 28 people (in 2002). Total cultivated areas occupy 1.53 million ha accounting for 78% of the agricultural lands or 16.9% of natural areas.

Total annual run-off of the Red – Thai Binh river system represents 133.68 BCM, of which 81.86 BCM (or 61.2%) generate in Vietnam territory and 51.82 BCM (or 38.8%) come from outside Vietnam.

Being aware of the importance of water resources management at river basin level as being scientific and advanced, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of Vietnam on April 9, 2001 decided establishment of the Red – Thai Binh River Basin Organization (RRBO) to implement river basin planning management in the river basin pursuant to the Law on Water Resources. Dr. Pham Hong Giang, Vice Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development is Chairman of RRBO.

RRBO has its office based at Institute of Water Resources Planning (IWARP). Dr. To Trung Nghia, Director of IWARP is also Head of the RRBO Office.



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1. SUMMARY

1.1. Organization

1.1.1 Organization Name

Red River Basin Organization (RRBO)

1.1.2 Objectives

RRBO is set up to implement water resources planning management in Red-Thai Binh river basin in conformity with Article 64 of the Law on Water Resources.

1.1.3 History

On April 9, 2001 Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of Vietnam signed a decision on establishment of the Red – Thai Binh River Basin Organization (RRBO) to implement river basin planning management in the river basin pursuant to the Law on Water Resources. Dr. Pham Hong Giang is Chairman of RRBO.

1.1.4 Organization

RRBO comprises 50 members, including

- Chairman: Vice Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development
- Vice Chairman: Director of Irrigation Department

RRBO has its office based at Institute of Water Resources Planning (IWARP). Dr. To Trung Nghia, Director of IWARP is also Head of the RRBO Office.

On December 1, 2005, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development signed the Decision No. 3365/QD-BNN/TCCB on establishment of Day Sub-RBO under the RRBO.

1.1.5 Financial

Funds for operation of RRBO are provided from the State budget upon approval by Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD).

1.1.6 Projects

With direction of the RRBO leadership, the RRBO have carried out in 2005 various activities in view of water resources management in the Red – Thai Binh river basin, e.g.:

- To continue implementation of integrated water resources use planning for basins;
- To coordinate with Department of Water Resources (MARD) in implementing measures against droughts;
- To coordinate with Department for Dike Management and Flood control in prevention and control floods and typhoons;

- To well play the role of the steering committee in the Second Red River Basin Project funded by ADB;
- The RRBO Office closely coordinated with relevant Ministries, agencies and sectors, especially with provincial DARDs in effectively realizing its functions and responsibilities.

1.1.7. Installing Law or the articles of association

On April 9, 2004, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development signed the decision issuing “Regulations on organization and operation of river basin organizations”.

1.1.8. Related Legal System

The Law on Water Resources (WRL) which was passed at the General Assembly in May 20th 1998 and has taken effect since January 1st 1999 is the highest legislative base for water resources management.

At the end of 2004, MARD issued Rules on license granting for activities inside the protected areas of hydraulic works and Rules on jurisdiction and licensing on wastewater discharge into hydraulic works in order to promote effective water resources management.

1.2. NARBO Activities

RRBO carried out the activity following in 2005:

- (1) The RRBO sent its staffs to attend the 2nd Southeast Asia Water Forum held in Bali, Indonesia from August 29 to September 3, 2005.
- (2) The RRBO Office coordinated with NARBO Secretariat, ADB, and ADBI organizing the 1st thematic workshop on Water Allocation and Water Right on December 5 – 9, 2005.

2. ORGANIZATION

2.1. Objectives

RRBO is set up to implement water resources planning management in Red-Thai Binh river basin in conformity with Article 64 of the Law on Water Resources. Details are as follows:

- To formulate, submit for approval and supervise Red-Thai Binh river basin planning to ensure consistency between river basin planning and administrative boundary;
- To coordinate with ministerial, sectoral and local agencies in water resources baseline investigation, inventory for the Red-Thai Binh river basin and in formulating, submitting for approval and supervising implementation of water resources planning for tributaries of the Red-Thai Binh river system;
- To recommend solutions for water disputes in the Red-Thai Binh river basin

2.2. History

- In accordance with Decree No. 73/CP by the government on November 1, 1995 on functions, responsibilities and organization of MARD;
- In accordance with the Law on Water Resources issued on May 20, 1998 and Decree No. 179/1999/Nd/CP by the government on December 20, 1999 on implementing the Law on Water Resources;
- Responding to the request by Directors of Irrigation and Organization and Personnel Departments;

On April 9, 2001 Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of Vietnam signed a decision on establishment of the Red – Thai Binh River Basin Organization (RRBO) to implement river basin planning management in the river basin pursuant to Article 64 of the Law on Water Resources.

2.3. Organizational Structure

RRBO comprises 50 members, including

- Chairman: Vice Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development
- Vice Chairmen: Director of Irrigation Department (MARD) and directors of departments of Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
- Members: directors of Department of Irrigation, Institute of Water Resources Planning, Department for Dike Management and Flood Control, directors of provincial Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) in the Red-Thai Binh river basin, and directors of relevant departments of ministries of Natural Resources and Environment, Industries, Fishery, Construction, Transport, Health, National Defense, and General Services of Hydro-meteorology.

In 2005, 5 members of the RRBO retired or moved to other agencies but new replacements were identified at the same time.

RRBO has its office based at Institute of Water Resources Planning (IWARP). Dr. To Trung Nghia, Director of IWARP is also Head of the RRBO Office. At present, 9 staffs of IWARP have been working for the RRBO Office. The Office has right to use its own stamp as stipulated.

On June 21, 2005, the RRBO Office held a preparatory meeting for establishment of the Day Sub-RBBO in Ha Nam province. Participants were representatives Provincial People's Committees, provincial DARDs, provincial DONRE and provincial Sub-Departments of Water resources from 6 provinces and city located in the Day river basin, i.e. Ha Nam, Nam Dinh, Ninh Binh, Hoa Binh, Ha Tay, and Ha Noi city. Upon consensus of the participants, the RRBO Office coordinated with the General Office of RBOs submitting to Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development the request to establish the Day Sub-RBO. On December 1, 2005, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development signed the Decision No. 3365/QD-BNN/TCCB on establishment of Day Sub-RBO under the RRBO. At present, preparation is being made to hold the first meeting in March 2006 for presentation of members and endorsement of the Operation Statute of the Day Sub-RBO.

2.4. Financial

Funds for operation of RRBO are provided from the State budget upon approval by Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD). In 2005, total operation funds provided for the RRBO were 170 million VND in equivalence to 10,625 USD. Generally, the operation funds are very limited resulting difficulties and unimplemented works. Equipment and facilities of the RRBO and its Office are very poor.

2.5. Projects

With direction of the RRBO leadership, the RRBO have carried out in 2005 various activities in view of water resources management in the Red – Thai Binh river basin, including the followings:

1. To continue implementation of integrated water resources use planning for basins: Red – Thai Binh river basin, Da river basin and the intercalated areas between Red and Hoa rivers.

In addition, the RRBO also continued implementation of water resources planning for transformation of crop and livestock patterns for the Northern coastal region. Investigations and detailed water resources planning for resettlement areas for Son La Hydropower project were also carried out.

2. Droughts were very serious early of 2005 in delta provinces of the basin. The RRBO coordinated with Department of Water Resources (MARD) in implementing measures against droughts. RRBO members actively realized guidelines of the Government in deploying drought counter measures for the winter-spring crop in 2005 and coordinated with the provincial steering committees for drought control in implementing necessary measures for specific locations.
3. The RRBO coordinated with the Department for Dike Management and Flood control in prevention and control floods and typhoons. The Department appraised and submitted to MARD the amendments and supplements for regular dike maintenance for provinces. The Department held trainings for dike protection workers on treatment measures in case of incidents to dikes, sluices, revetments and provided capacity building to leaders of dike management sections.

The storms numbers 6 and 7 directly affected the North Region, especially causing destruction of sea dikes of Quang Ninh, Hai Phong, Thai Binh, Nam Dinh and Ninh Binh provinces among them Nam Dinh provinces were most seriously affected. In realizing guidelines of Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, relevant departments and agencies including the Department for Dike Management and Flood control, Department of Water resources, Institute of Water Resources Planning, Water resources Research Institute, Water resources University sent staffs experienced in treatment of dike, sluices and revetments to provinces to coordinate with localities in mitigating damages in the 5 provinces. Those departments and agencies closely cooperated with localities to well perform their tasks and timely repaired destroyed sections. However, the 2 storms with wind grades of 10 to 11 were too strong and occurred during high tide periods causing dike breaks in Hai Hau and Nghia Hung districts of Nam Dinh province. Rehabilitation activities were done in good collaboration between provinces and relevant departments and agencies aiming to ensure dike safety in the rainy season of 2005.

4. The RRBO well played the role of the steering committee in the Second Red River Basin Project funded by ADB and contributed to its success.
5. The RRBO Office closely coordinated with relevant Ministries, agencies and sectors, especially with provincial DARDs in effectively realizing its functions and responsibilities. Main activities are listed below.
 - The RRBO organized mission to supervise and speed up flood control and natural disaster mitigation activities to Ha Nam, Nam Dinh and Ninh Binh provinces, then preparing field visit reports to the Central Committee for Storm and Flood Prevention and Control mentioning activities done, ongoing and proposed in order to well implement flood prevention and control and natural disaster mitigation activities in 2005.
 - The RRBO carried out 4 field visits to 4 provinces, i.e., Son La, Dien Bien, Lai Chau and Lao Cai, having discussion with local members of the RRBO and provincial DARDs to understand: (i) provincial water resources activities serving production and life, water resources development serving transformation of livestock and crop patterns, flood control and natural disaster mitigation, water quality and environment protection, etc, as well as their results and constraints, (ii) provincial hydraulic work management and recommendations to the RRBO and MARD.
 - The RRBO Office preliminarily studied into integrated measures for water pollution treatment in Nhue – Day river system and submitted a report to MARD to advise operation of the system.
 - The RRBO Office published issues of newsletters presenting activities of the RRBO, water resources management activities in the Red – Thai Binh river basin, relevant legal documents and information from the NARBO.
 - The RRBO Office also updated the RRBO website at www.rrbo.org.vn in Vietnamese and English with information on water resources, activities by the RRBO and counterpart agencies, official documents concerning water resources planning and management, and NARBO activities. The RRBO Office also uploaded discussion papers at RRBO workshops and meeting to facilitate information sharing among provinces of the basin.
 - Staffs of the RRBO Office took part in workshops and meetings held by the 2nd Red River Basin project as well as in other concerned activities.

2.6. Installing Law or the Articles of Association

On April 9, 2004, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development signed the decision issuing “Regulations on organization and operation of river basin organizations”. The regulations provide for responsibilities, organization and operations of RBOs of Red-Thai Binh, Dong Nai, and Cuu Long rivers and other RBOs established by decisions of Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development. RBOs are non-profitable agencies under MARD.

In Chapter 2 on Responsibilities, powers and organization of RBOs, it is stipulated that RBOs have following responsibilities:

- To assess planning alternatives and baseline water resources investigation, inventory projects in respective river basins; to recommend to MARD and other competent authorities appropriate options.

- To assess implementation results of planning projects in order to recommend finalization and complement on integrated water use, irrigation, drainage, flood control and water resources protection in respective river basins.
- To coordinate with relevant agencies in realizing and supervising implementation of water resources planning projects approved by competent authorities.
- To coordinate with relevant agencies in setting up regulations on database administration serving water resources management, exploitation, utilization and protection in respective river basins.
- To recommend capacity building and awareness enhancement programs on water resources management, exploitation, utilization and protection for organizations and individuals in respective river basins.
- To synthesize and report situation on water resources exploitation, utilization and protection in respective river basins to Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development and other relevant ministries and agencies.

2.7. Related Legal System

Water is a natural resource of special importance, the essential component of life and the environment deciding the existence and sustainable development of the country on the other hand; water may also cause disaster to humans and the environment. In order to increase the managerial efficiency of the State: raise the sense of responsibility of the State agencies, economic organizations, political organizations, People's Army units and all individuals in the protection, exploitation and use of the water resource: prevent combat and overcome the harmful effects of water.

Pursuant to the 1992 Constitution of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam: The Law on Water Resources (WRL) was passed at the General Assembly in May 20th 1998 and has taken effect since January 1st 1999 is the highest legislative base for water resources management.

The Law on Water Resource is a general legal document with a large scope of regulation, including management, protection, exploitation and use of water resource, prevention and reservation and of water-caused adverse consequence. Under this law, water resource comprises of surface water, rainfall, underground water and seawater within the territory of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. The law regulates that water is subject to the people's ownership and the State's integrated management.

In order to assist effective water resources management, MARD issued at the end of 2004 and early of 2005 following regulations and circulars:

- Regulation on license granting for activities to be carried out in the protection area of hydraulic works: this regulation stipulates authority and license granting procedures for organizations and individuals to carry out activities in the protection area of hydraulic works.
- Regulation on authority and license granting procedures for wastewater discharge into hydraulic works: this stipulates authority and procedures for license granting, renewing, amending, suspending, withdrawing for organizations and individuals using water for production, commerce, research, hospitals, municipalities, residential areas and other activities and discharging wastewater into hydraulic works.

- Guideline circular on establishment, strengthening and development of water user associations so that every hydraulic work has its owner for good protection and exploitation of hydraulic works, for completeness and synchronism of management that can help farmers to effectively use water.

3. NARBO ACTIVITIES

3.1. NARBO Activities

RRBO carried out following activities in 2005:

- (1) The RRBO sent representatives to participate in the 2nd Southeast Asia Water Forum held in Bali, Indonesia from August 29 to September 3, 2005. In the first session on August 29 with the topic “Improving water security for the poor thanks to achieving Millennium Development Goals”, Vice Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Chairman of the RRBO, Mr. Pham Hong Giang gave a speech on “Mainstreaming water supply and sanitation into poverty reduction programs”. At the Forum, the session “Capacity building of RBOs” for better water resources management in Asia hosted by NARBO Indonesia was one of important side events where Mr. Vu Hong Chau, Deputy Director of Institute of Water Resources Planning, representative of the RRBO had an introduction of the RRBO.
- (2) The RRBO Office coordinated with NARBO Secretariat (ADB, ADBI and Japan Water Agency) organizing the 1st thematic workshop on Water Allocation and Water Right on December 5 – 9, 2005 in Viet Nam. The Workshop convened 24 participants from 6 countries, i.e., Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam. The workshop closed successfully and was highly evaluated by the NARBO Secretariat in view of the cooperation during the workshop preparation.

3.2. RRBO Website

Website of RRBO is found at <http://www.rrbo.org.vn>

The website built at the end of 2004 provides in Vietnamese and English update information on water resources, activities of RRBO and its partners as well as official legal documents on water planning and utilization and related links to members of RRBO.

3.3. RBO Centers of Excellence

3.4. RBO Exchange Visits, Staff Exchange Programs, Twinning Programs

Due to limited financial funds for its operation, RRBO couldn't organize any study tour to river basins in Asia and in the world.

3.5. ISO certification

3.6. Trans-boundary Water Management

4. WORKSHOPS

4.1. Summary meeting of the RRBO for the 1st half of 2005

On July 17, 2005 the first 6-month summary meeting of the RRBO was held at the Ministry of National Defense's Palace – Hanoi. Dr. Pham Xuan Su – Director of the Water Resources Department (MARD) – Vice Chairman of the RRBO and Dr. To Trung Nghia – Director of Institute of Water Resources Planning (MARD) co-chaired the meeting. Present at the meeting were 55 representatives including 25 participants from localities in the basin, 27 from central organizations and ministries and 3 from the ADB3 project.

4.2. General meeting of 2005 of the RRBO

On January 17, 2005, the general meeting of RRBO in 2005 was organized at the Ministry of National Defense's Palace – Hanoi. Mr. Nguyen Ngoc Thuat, Vice Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, chaired the meeting.

Participants were 62 including members of RRBO, representatives of relevant ministries, sectors and agencies, provincial DARDs, DONREs of 23 provinces of the Red-Thai Binh river basin.

APPENDIX

1. WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

1.1. Legal Framework for River and Water Resources Management

1.2. Implementation Scheme for Water Resources Management

Responsibilities for Water Resource Management and Service Delivery Functions

Responsibility	Ministry / Agency
State management of water resources	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MoNRE)
Irrigation	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD)
Drainage	
Flood protection	
Rural water supply	
Watershed management	
General land use planning	MoNRE
Urban water supply and drainage	Ministry of Construction
Hydro meteorological, surface, groundwater, and water quality data collection	MoNRE
Water quality	MoNRE and others
Hydropower; reservoir operation	Ministry of Electricity , MARD
Budget, planning, investment allocation and coordination of international assistance	Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Planning and Investment
River channels and water transportation	Ministry of Transport
Drinking water standards and regulation	Ministry of Health