

Member's Annual Report 2006

Date of preparation: 5 / 3/ 2007

Name of the editor: Dr. To Trung Nghia

1. About the organization

(1) Name of the organization

Red – Thai Binh River Basin Organization (RRBO)



(2) Purposes and roles of your organization

a) Historical background of the organization

- Red-Thai Binh River system:
 - The second biggest river system of Vietnam;
 - An international river originates in China and runs through Laos and Vietnam before merging into the East sea.
- 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.
- Hydrologically, the basin consists of 5 sub-basins of Lo - Gam, Thao, Da, Thai Binh and Red rivers
- Administratively, the Red River basin covers 26 provinces with a population of 28 million people (in 2002).

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.

RRBO is a non-profit body under the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) of Viet Nam.

RRBO has its office based at the 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.

There are 2 Sub-RBO under the RRBO: Day Sub-RBO and Cau Sub-RBO.

Day Sub-RBO formed on December 1, 2005, in accordance with Decision No. 3365/QD-BNN/TCCB signed by Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development.

Cau Sub-RBO formed on May 11, 2006, in accordance with Decision No. 1363/QD-BNN/TCCB signed by Vice Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development.

b) Purposes and roles of the organization

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.

(3) Outline of the organization

1) Number of staffs

RRBO comprises 50 members, including:

- Chairman: Mr. Nguyen Ngoc Thuat, Vice Minister of Agriculture and

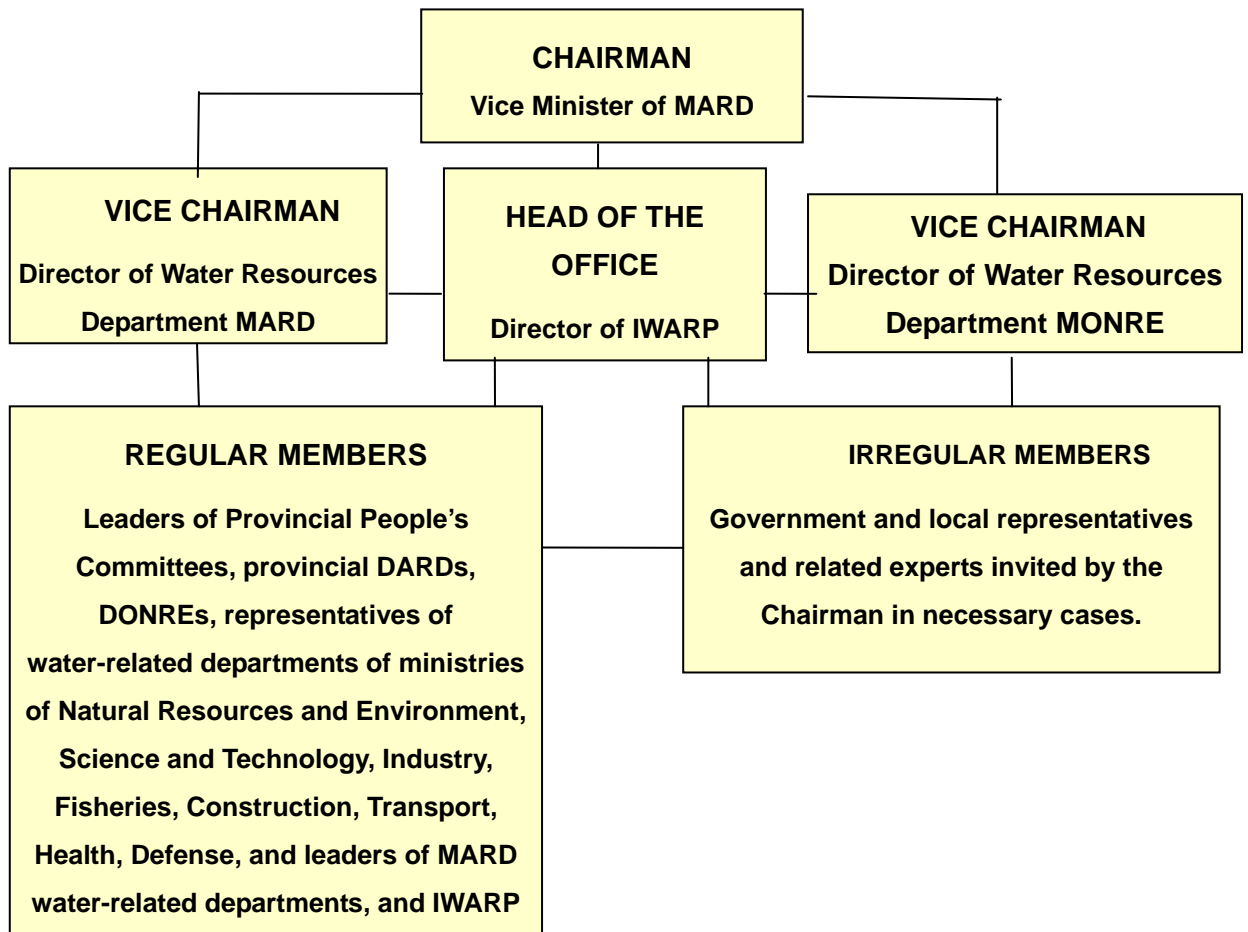
Rural Development

- Vice Chairmen: Dr. Pham Xuan Su, Director of Irrigation Department (MARD) and a director of the water resources department 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.

2) Amount of the annual budget in 2006

Funds for operation of RRBO are provided from the State budget upon approval by Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD). In 2006, total operation funds provided for the RRBO were 252 million VND in equivalence to 15,750 USD, in which Day Sub RBO were 51.677 million VND in equivalence to 3,230 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.

3) Organizational chart



4) Ongoing projects

- Maintaining close cooperation with Ministries and sectors, especially provincial Departments of Agriculture and Rural Development in effectively implementing functions and tasks of the RRBO;
- Carrying out integrated water resources use planning for sub-basins in the Red-Thai Binh river basin;
- Organizing field visits to capture water use situation of provinces in the Red – Thai Binh river basin then to propose approaches and measures for IWRM planning in the future;
- Coordinating with the Departments of Water Resources, and Dike Management and Flood Control (Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development) in flood control and natural disaster mitigation;
- Keeping the RRBO website updated to provide relevant information and facilitate information exchange among members and provinces;
- Issuing quarterly newsletters to inform activities of the RRBO as well as new relevant water-related regulations and provisions;

- Coordinating and assisting the Day and Cau sub-RBOs in setting forth approaches for IWRM planning in respective sub-basins;
- Maintaining a regular and effective cooperation with the NARBO and active participation in NARBO activities;

(5) Big events in 2006

1. Day sub-RBO established according to the Decision No. 3365/QĐ-BNN/TCCB by Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development on December 1, 2005 was official come into sight on May 5, 2006 gathering representatives of 6 member provinces and city (Ha Tay, Ha Nam, Ninh Binh, Nam Dinh, Thai Binh and Hanoi).
2. Decision on Cau sub-RBO establishment was made on May 11, 2006 by Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development according to the Decision No. 1363/QĐ-BNN/TCCB. The first meeting of Cau sub-RBO was held on July 5, 2006 with presence of representatives of 6 member provinces and city (Thai Nguyen, Bac Kan, Vinh Phuc, Bac Giang, Bac Ninh and Hanoi).
3. The preparation of the operation procedures for multi-reservoirs on Da and Lo rivers was completed in collaboration with the Ministries of Industry, Natural Resources and Environment, and Electricity of Viet Nam. The aim is to ensure safety and socio-economic development.
4. Ongoing implementation and completion of water resources development planning projects for the Red-Thai Binh river basin, for the North Coast Region, for the resettlement areas of Son La Hydropower Plant, for the intercalated areas between the Red and Hoa rivers, for the Bac Hung Hai irrigation scheme, and Red river Floodway planning project.
5. Good cooperation with the Department of Water Resources (Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development) in working out measures against severe droughts in 2006.
6. Good coordination with the Department of Dike Management and Flood Control (Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development) in flood and storm prevention control in 2006, particularly the prompt joint activities and measures after typhoons Nos. 6 and 7 which destroyed the sea dikes of Quang Ninh, Hai Phong, Thai Binh, Nam Dinh and Ninh Binh provinces.
7. In coordination with relevant ministries and sectors, and provincial Department of Agriculture and Rural Development especially, the RRBO Office proposed investment projects with government bonds and ADB loans for the Ministry approval for the 2006-2007 plan.
8. Field visits to Hai Duong, Hai Phong, Thai Binh and Hung Yen provinces.

2. About NARBO activity

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

The RRBO received and guided the JWA mission in their working visit from 19 to 21 February 2006 to understand IWRM situation, especially flood control and water management in Viet Nam.

In 2006, representatives of the RRBO Office participated in NARBO events including the 2nd NARBO General Meeting (Indonesia, February), 2nd and 3rd NARBO thematic workshops on Water Allocation and Water Rights (Philippines, June and Thailand, November), Pilot benchmarking workshops (Indonesia, October and Sri Lanka, December), 4th NARBO training course (Sri Lanka, November).

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

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

The contact person: Ms. Nguyen Thuy Hang

Tel: (84.4) 8261767

Email: lunevn@hn.vnn.vn

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

Name of the web-site: www.rrbo.org.vn

(3) Resolutions and expectations for NARBO activities in 2007

1) Your organization's resolutions

The RRBO will maintain a regular and close cooperation with the NARBO and active participation in NARBO activities.

2) Expectations of NARBO activities

- study tours on river basin management for RBOs to learn experiences from China, Japan, and from each others;
- Advanced training course on river basin management for the RRBO Office and RRBO members;
- Staff exchange among RBOs to stimulate experience exchanges;
- Capacity building for the RRBO in particular and for new RBOs in general in the field of water resources management and allocation as well as water legislations

(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 accesses NARBO web-site usually?

Member of the RRBO and staffs of the RRBO Office visit NARBO website very often.

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

Twice a week.

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

- NARBO activities
- NARBO newsletters
- NARBO workshops and training courses

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

More frequent update of NARBO and its Secretariat activities

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

It would be beneficial to set up a forum on the website for RBO information exchange and also to share and discuss ideas of common interests.