

Member's Annual Report 2007

Date of preparation: 20 /3 /2008

Name of the editor: Dr. To Trung Nghia

1. About the organization

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

Red – Thai Binh River Basin Organization (RRBO)

162A Tran Quang Khai street – Hoan Kiem – Hanoi

Vietnam

(2) The representative of the organization

Dr. To Trung Nghia – Director of Institute of Water Resources Planning

Head of the RRBO Office

(3) Purposes and roles of your organization

a) Historical background of the organization

Red-Thai Binh River system is the second biggest river system of Vietnam. The 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. In terms of hydrology, 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 25 million people (in 2005).

The Red River Basin Organization (RRBO) is a non-profit body under the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Viet Nam. The RRBO was established on April 9, 2001 according to the Decision No. 39/2001 by the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of Vietnam to implement river basin planning management in the river basin pursuant to Article 64 of the Law on Water Resources.

The RRBO officially put into operation since April 2004 when the Regulations on Organization and Operation was issued. Dr. Pham Hong Giang, former Vice Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development was the first Chairman of the RRBO and the current Chairman is Mr. Nguyen Ngoc Thuat, Vice Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development.

Office of the RRBO is based at the Institute of Water Resources Planning (IWARP) at 162A Tran Quang Khai Street, Hanoi. Dr. To Trung Nghia - Director of IWARP is also Head of the Office.

There are 2 sub-RBOs under the RRBO: Day Sub-RBO and Cau Sub-RBO. Day Sub-RBO (with 6 member provinces) was formed on December 1, 2005, in accordance with Decision 3365/QD-BNN/TCCB signed by Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development. Cau Sub-RBO (with 7 member provinces) was formed on May 11, 2006, in accordance with Decision 1363/QD-BNN/TCCB signed by Vice Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development.

b) Purposes and roles of the organization

RRBO was 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. Its tasks are to:

- Prepare and submit for approval the Red – Thai Binh River Basin Plan and monitor its implementation to ensure consistent management of the river basin plan with the administrative boundary;
- Coordinate with relevant Ministerial, sectoral and local agencies in baseline water resources investigation, inventory preparation and assessment of the Red – Thai Binh and in preparing, submitting for approval, and monitoring the implementation of river basin plans for tributaries of the Red – Thai Binh system;
- Propose resolution for water resources disputes in the Red – Thai Binh River Basin.

(4) Outline of the organization

1) Number of staff

RRBO comprises 50 members, including:

- Chairman: Mr. Nguyen Ngoc Thuat, Vice Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development
- Vice Chairman: Mr. Vu Van Thang, Director of Water Resources Department (MARD) and a Director of the Department of Water Resources Management of Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE)
- and 46 regular members.

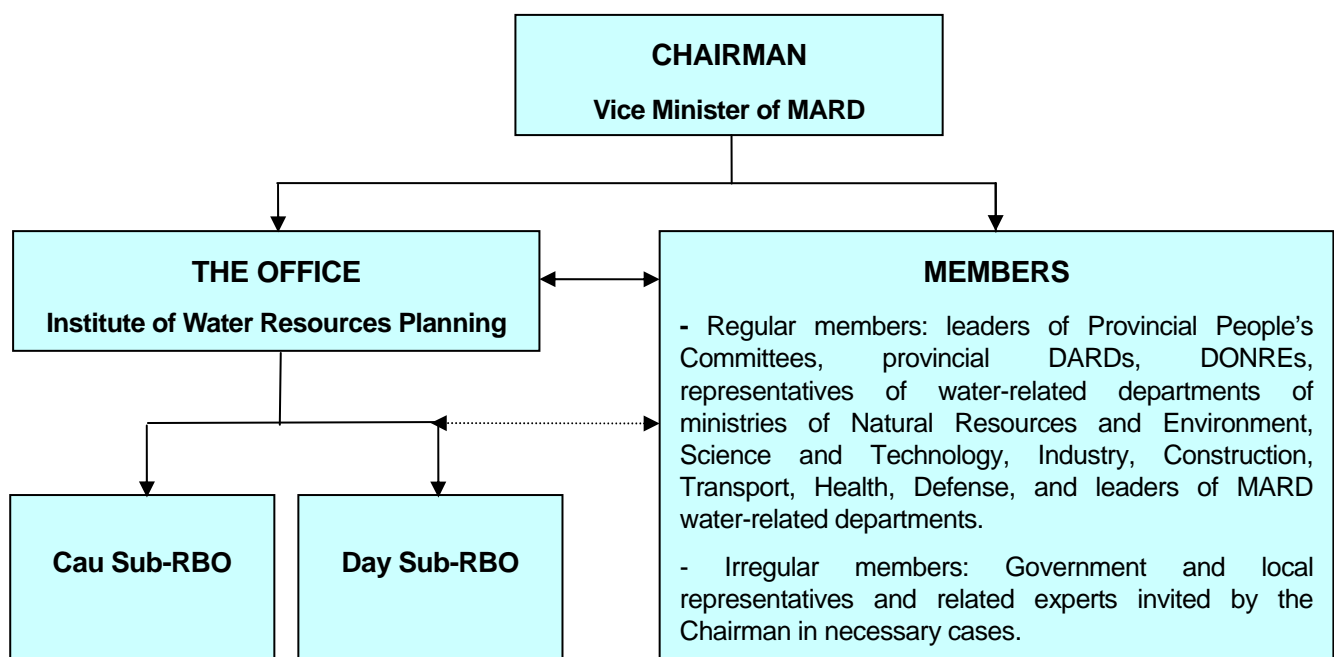
Members are directors of relevant Departments under MARD, directors of provincial Departments of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARDs) in the Red-Thai Binh river basin, and directors of relevant departments of ministries of Natural Resources and Environment, Industries, Fishery, Construction, Transport, Health, National Defense, and General Services of Hydro-meteorology.

In addition, there are 10 officers of IWARP working to run daily operation the RRBO Office.

2) Amount of the annual budget in 2007

Funds for operation of RRBO Office are provided from the State budget upon approval by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD). In 2007, total operation funds provided to the RRBO were VND250 million, equivalent to approximately US\$15,600 (including VND54 million or US\$3,400 for Day Sub-RBO and VND40 million or US\$2,500 for Cau Sub-RBO). The funds were just for regular operation of the Office. Funds to implement planning projects are from various sources including central budget, provincial budget, and others.

3) Organizational chart



4) Ongoing projects

- Review of the Water Resources Plan for Day – Nhue rivers,
- Water Resources Planning for the intercalated areas between Red and Hoa rivers,
- Review of the Water Resources Plan for Bac Hung Hai hydraulic scheme,
- Water Resources Planning for Ninh Binh province.

(5) Main events in 2007

- Continuous implementation of ongoing projects including (i) review of the Water Resources Plan for Day – Nhue rivers, (ii) water resources planning for the intercalated areas between Red and Hoa rivers, (iii) review of the Water Resources Plan for Bac Hung Hai hydraulic scheme, and (iv) water resources planning for Ninh Binh province.

- Completion of important projects including (i) Integrated Water Resources Planning for Red – Thai Binh river basin, (ii) water resources planning to facilitate cropping and livestock pattern transform for the Northern Coast, (iii) detailed water resources planning for resettlement areas of Son La hydropower project, (iv) floodway planning for Red river, and (v) water resources planning for river basins in Lao Cai province.
- Field visits to Cao Bang, Bac Kan and Thai Nguyen provinces as a regular activity to member provinces.
- Mission to Ha Nam, Nam Dinh and Ninh Binh provinces to inspect preparedness for natural disaster mitigation.
- Coordination with Water Resources Department (MARD) in realizing measures against droughts in the winter-spring crop in 2007.
- Coordination with the Department for Dike Management and Flood Control (MARD) in flood control activities. Missions were sent to provinces for inspection of rehabilitation and improvement of dike systems.
- Coordination with Ministries of Industry, Natural Resources and Environment, and with Electricity of Vietnam to complete the preparation of operational rules for multipurpose multi-reservoirs on the Red river system
- Leading and coordination with the two sub-RBOs in making water resources management plans at sub-basin level.
- Keeping the RRBO website updated to provide relevant information and facilitate information exchange among members and provinces;
- Issuing quarterly newsletters (issues 13, 14 and 15) to inform activities of the RRBO as well as new relevant water-related regulations and provisions;



Website of RRBO



RRBO newsletter issue 16

2. About NARBO activity

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

a) The name, position, phone & fax number, e-mail address of the contact person

Ms. Nguyen Thuy Hang

Division for Technical and General Issues – Institute of Water Resources Planning
RRBO Office

Tel: 84-4-8261767

Fax: 84-4-8252807

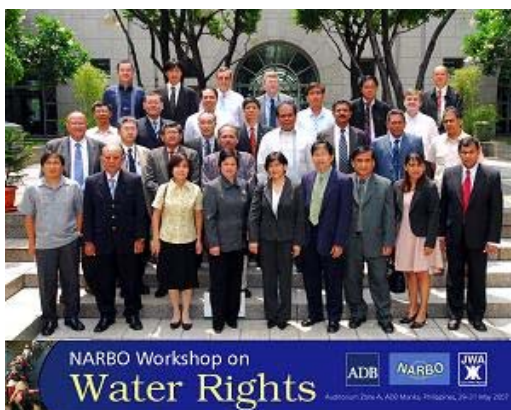
E-mail: lunevn@hn.vnn.vn

b) The organization's web-site URL (English and local language respectively)

www.rrobo.org.vn (for both English and Vietnamese)

(2) Activities your organization implemented in 2007 as the member

- Receiving IWMI mission to strengthen cooperation among water management organizations and carry out Performance Benchmarking Tool and Self-Assessment Orientation (30/1/2007 to 8/2/2007)
- Self-assessment process (February to May 2007)
- Peer Review mission (12-15/6/2007) for the RRBO (including field visits to the two sub-RBOs)
- Participation in NARBO workshops and training
 - Thematic workshop on Water Rights in Philippines (29-31/5/2007)
 - The 4th Thematic Workshop on Water Allocation and Water Rights in Japan (23/1 - 26/1/2007)
 - The 1st Thematic Workshop on Sustainable Management for Water Resources Infrastructures in Vietnam (11-14/6/2007)



At the workshop on Water Rights



NARBO Peer Reviewers working with Day Sub-RBO

(3) Resolutions and expectations for NARBO activities in 2008

<Please refer to NARBO Action Plan 2008-2009 in the website>

1) Your organization's resolutions

<Please write about your resolutions or how your organization contribute to NARBO activities as the member>

RRBO has maintaining and will maintain a regular and close cooperation with NARBO and active participation in NARBO activities, for instance

- Participating in NARBO activities,
- Holding NARBO activities in collaboration with NARBO Secretariat
- Providing resource persons for NARBO thematic workshops.

2) Expectations of NARBO activities

<Please write about what your organization expects of NARBO activities>

- More intensive experience exchanges through study tours on river basin management for RBOs to learn experiences from other members, especially from Japan, China, Thailand,
- Advanced training course on river IWRM and related topics for the RRBO Office and its members. Community development, analytical skills and management skills are also very important for successful IWRM.
- Staff exchange among RBOs to stimulate experience exchanges and strengthen cooperation.
- 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

3. Questions to RBO members

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

- Stakeholder involvement
- Data sharing

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

- Stakeholder involvement: There is a principle set for member provinces and organizations to have voice in preparation, planning, design, and implementation of water-related project in the basin. Every project using budget funds must be agreed by stakeholders before it is invested in.
- Data sharing: Relevant information and data collected through regular meetings, reports and field visits are shared among members. RRBO website and newsletters are seen as useful means to disseminate relevant information to

RRBO members and those who are interested in. In particular RRBO website was highly appreciated by NARBO Peer Review for its contents and regular update.

(3) In what way NARBO has helped your organization

Being selected as one of the RBOs for piloting the performance benchmarking tool is really helpful for RRBO to recognize its strengths and weaknesses and from that RRBO knows and plans what to do next for better performance.

NARBO communication system (including website, newsletter, notice, etc) is a good example for RRBO to learn and improve its own.