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แห่งประเทศไทย

Department of Water Resources
and Its Role in Thailand 's Water Management



กรมทรัพยากรน้ำ

กระทรวงทรัพยากรธรรมชาติและสิ่งแวดล้อม

Department of Water Resources

Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment



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THAILAND'S WATER SITUATION

Thailand is still faced with water-related problems, i.e. water shortage, floods and water quality. All these problems have caused severe damage and adverse impact on the economy and people's way of life.

To deal with the recurring calamities, Thailand is divided into 25 major river basins and 254 sub-basins, with total coverage area of 512,000 sq.km. The total annual rainfall is 719,287 million cubic metres (mcm) while average rainfall is 1,424 mm/year. Average runoff is 213,423 mcm/year or equivalent to 3,425 mm/person/year.



The country's total channel storage capacity reaches 48,648 mcm or 33.7% of the annual runoff. The remaining runoff percolates, evaporates or inundates wetlands and natural water bodies, prior to discharge into the sea. The current water demand is 35,784 mcm/year or 574 mm/person/year on average. The major water requirements include domestic consumption, agriculture and industry. Apparently, the average water storage of 781 mm/person is relatively higher than the average water demand. However, the low efficiency in water distribution and the predominant open channel system have failed to deliver the much-needed water to the water shortage areas. Furthermore, water shortage in various river basins has worsened due to the fluctuation of water volume depending on the geography and season.

The severity of water crisis has increased, e.g. water scarcity for dry-season agriculture and consumption, floods and landslide in the wet season, and water pollution. Therefore, the Cabinet clearly stated Thailand's vision and National Water Policy. The 9th National Economic and Social Development Plan (2002-2006) has delineated guidelines on water resources management. Efficient use of water resources to ensure sustainability and equitability should be promoted by:

1. Management of existing water resources to fully benefit agriculture, production, and consumption and to aim at diversifying into water-efficient crop system together with increase in water use efficiency;
2. Provision of access to multipurpose water sources with peoples participation, from project conception to investment;
3. Study and establishment of guidelines on groundwater quality management and utilization according to its potential as well as survey and monitoring of land subsidence in order to declare groundwater control areas and solve the problem of decreasing groundwater;
4. Collection of raw water fee, starting from water use for industrial, commercial, and water supply purposes in parallel with campaigning and providing incentives for conservation of water resources and efficient water utilization;
5. Development of water resources forecast system to increase management efficiency which will contribute to solutions to water shortage, flood control, and water supply; and
6. Master planning for integrated water resources management in river basins, emphasizing water quality management and area management of critical river basins along with public and community participation in the implementation.

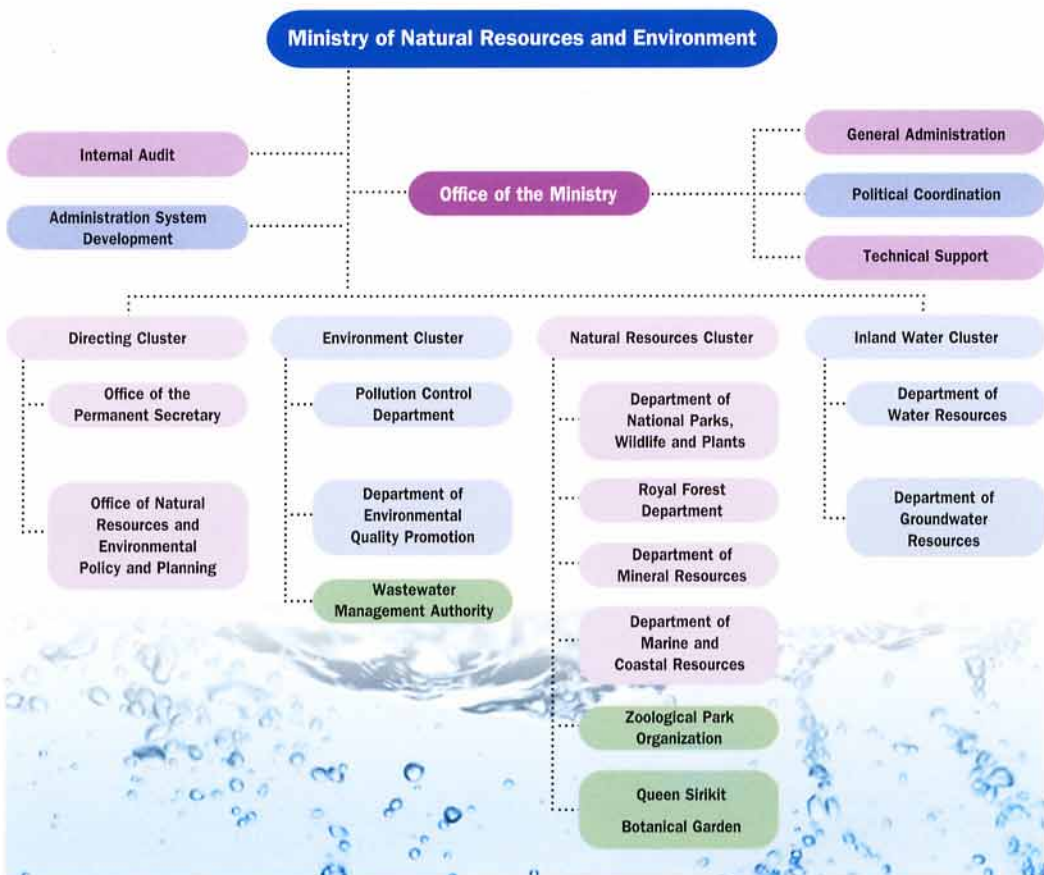


MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

Mandate

Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment is responsible for preservation, conservation and rehabilitation of natural resources and environment, management of sustainable use, and other matters as specified by law to be the authority and duties of the Ministry or governmental agencies under its authority.

ORGANIZATION CHART



Vision

The Ministry will restore the nature for the Thai society and vigorously promote the rehabilitation of natural resources and environment to be the national agenda and foundation of social and economic development by proactive integrated management of natural resources, environment and biodiversity. Emphasis is given to participatory approaches and good governance.

Mission

The Ministry will preserve, conserve, develop, and rehabilitate the natural resources and environment, aiming at sustainable use, by encouraging the public and stakeholder's active participation.

Department of Water Resources

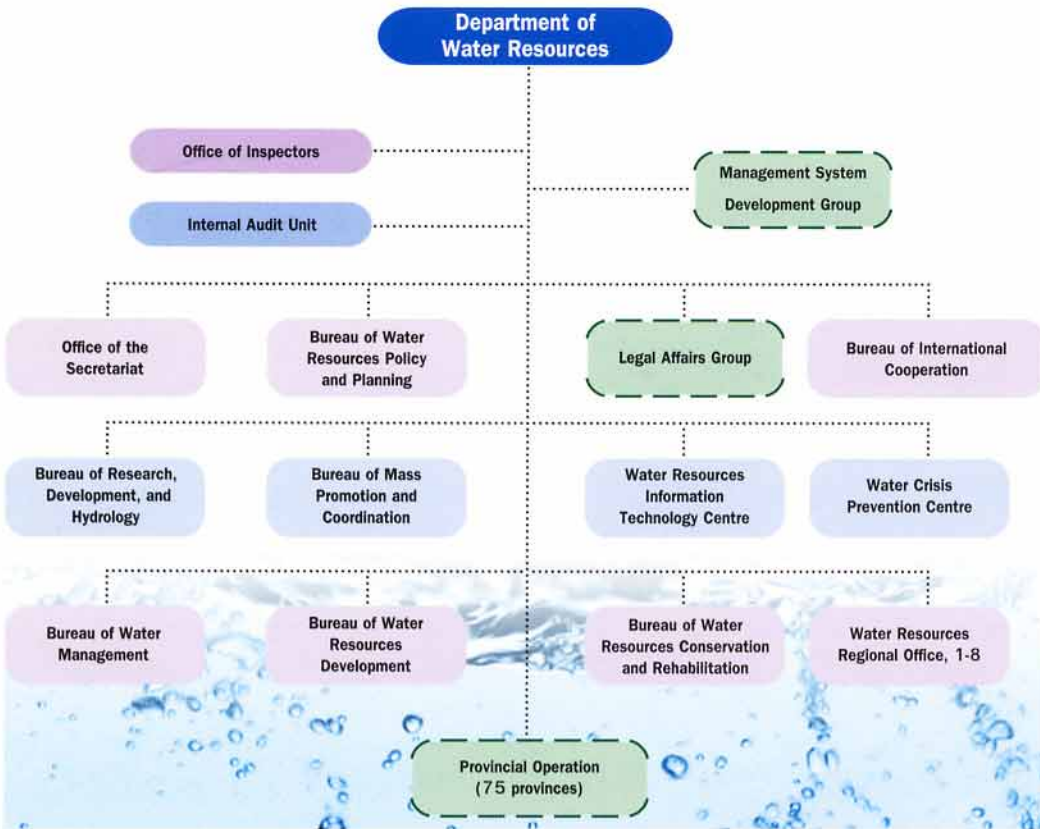
Mandate

1. To be the core agency in proposing policy, master plan, and measures for water resources management, development, rehabilitation, utilization and problem solving as well as directing and coordinating the implementation;
2. To set guidelines on preparation of action plans for water resources management, development, conservation and rehabilitation, with emphasis on public participation;
3. To study, research, survey, develop, conserve and rehabilitate water resources;
4. To monitor and evaluate water resources management in accordance with the policy, master plans, action plans and measures specified for national and basin levels;
5. To develop database and information network systems pertaining to water resources;
6. To specify or recommend amendments or additions to laws, rules and regulations relating to the management of the country's water resources;
7. To promote, disseminate, publicize, and transfer water-related technology including campaigns to build awareness and understanding among various organizations and stakeholders to fully realize the importance of water resources;
8. To coordinate with other countries and international organizations in relation to water resources;
9. To promote and provide technical support and advice on standards and legislation in relation to water resources management to government agencies and local authorities; and
10. To carry out other duties as stipulated by law or assigned by the Ministry or the Cabinet.

Urgent Mission

1. To review and revise the Draft Water Resources Act to support the fundamental law on water resources management, and to amend other relevant laws and regulations;
2. To establish water resources management organizations in every river basin countrywide within 2003;
3. To strengthen basin management organizations;
4. To formulate an integrated plan for basin-wide water resources management;
5. To create and develop information network systems for water resources management;
6. To prepare guidelines and plans for flood control and mitigation; and
7. To accelerate water resources development for consumption to meet basic requirements for people's livelihood.

ORGANIZATION CHART



Vision

The Department of Water Resources is the core agency aiming at the excellence of integrated water resources management with efficiency and sustainability, based on the good governance principle for people's well-being.

Mission

The Department proposes policies, plans and measures for management, development, conservation, rehabilitation, supervision, direction, coordination, monitoring and solving problems relating to water resources. Its responsibilities include technical development, setting of standards, and technology transfer pertaining to water resources at the national and basin levels.

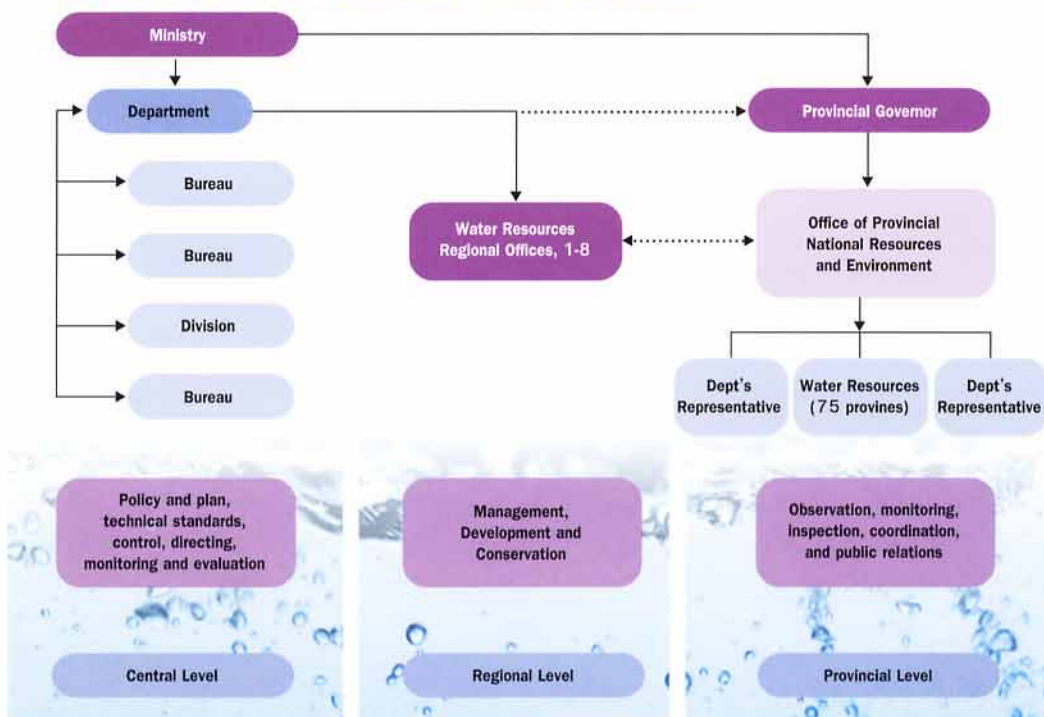
Policy

The Department will efficiently manage, conserve, restore and develop water resources including problem solving based on sustainability and good governance principles. Emphasis will be given to participation by local organizations, community, civil society, private sector network, and all sectors of the society, with the people's well-being as its overarching aim.

Strategies

1. To prepare recommendations, policies, plans, requirements, and measures for proactive integrated water resources management with participation of all sectors for sustainable development of the country;
2. To manage, develop, conserve and rehabilitate water resources all over the country to respond to the people's demand in parallel with management for sustainable use as well as prevention, alleviation and solving of water crisis.
3. To promote and support the strengthening and capacity building of stakeholders, local organizations and networks in managing water resources by public relations campaigns, dissemination of knowledge and technology transfer to ensure sustainable water resources management.

Organization and Line of Command of central, regional, and provincial agencies of the Department of Water Resources



Duties and Responsibilities of Line Agencies

1. Office of the Secretariat: This Office handles general administrative work of the Department, e.g. secretarial work, personnel administration, finance, accounting, budgeting, supply, buildings, vehicles, general administration and logistics, secretary, coordination, and public relations.

2. Bureau of Water Resources Policy and Planning: Main duties are to recommend policy and measures for management, development, conservation, rehabilitation, and solving problems relating to water resources. The Bureau's responsibilities also encompass recommendation of operational approaches, framework and measures as well as monitoring and evaluation of water resources management.

3. Bureau of Research, Development, and Hydrology: The Bureau is responsible for preparing plans for hydrologic research and development including flow volume and water quality analysis, collection of hydrological data, study and research for innovations, models, and technology of water resources management.

4. Bureau of Mass Promotion and Coordination: This Bureau focuses on promotion of people's participation in water resources management, conservation and rehabilitation, based on mechanism of river basin sub-committees as well as building awareness among government officers and the private sector.

5. Bureau of Water Resources Development: Main duties include project feasibility study, design of development network, management and improvement of operation and maintenance works as well as provision of technical support and advice on development and maintenance of water resources to other agencies.

6. Bureau of Water Resources Conservation and Rehabilitation: Main responsibilities encompass formulation of requirements and measures for water resources conservation, rehabilitation and maintenance as well as provision of technical support and advice to other agencies.

7. Bureau of Water Management: The Bureau takes charge of technical development, as well as evolution of standards, patterns, criteria, and technology pertaining to water management. It also provides technical support and advice to the public and private sectors.

8. Bureau of International Cooperation: The Bureau coordinates and exchanges knowledge and technical information as well as personnel with international organizations. Collaboration on external assistance projects is also included in its functions.

9. Water Crisis Prevention Centre: The Centre studies, analyses and recommends preventive and corrective guidelines and measures. Its functions also encompass coordination in preventing and solving water crisis.

10. Water Resources Information Technology Centre: Main functions are to study, design and develop software for network system management and information systems relating to water resources. The Centre also serves as a data centre of the Department.

11. Management System Development Group: The Group gives recommendations and advice on management system development strategies in consistence with the guidelines of Office of the Public Sector Development Commission as well as monitoring and evaluation of the development to meet the target.

12. Legal Affairs Group: This Group is in charge of local and international contracts and agreements pertinent to water resources. In addition, its responsibilities cover legal study and legislation including rules and regulations in compliance with the Department's mission, and provision of legal advice to relevant government agencies.

13. Internal Audit Unit: This Unit audits budget, logistic and asset management; evaluates performance; recommends monitoring procedures/measures; and coordinates with ministerial internal auditors in relation to audit meetings.

14. Office of Inspectors: Its responsibilities are to inspect, monitor, accelerate and evaluate performance; provide advice on operations, analysis, review of solutions to problems/obstacles; and recommend guidelines on solving operational problems.

15. Water Resources Regional Offices, 1-8: Main functions encompass formulation of river basin management plans and solutions, promotion and support of the establishment of water resources management organizations, and building capacity in water resources management. In addition, these offices serve as information and data centres at the river basin level.

16. Provincial Operation (75 provinces): These units collect and compile water resources data, and build the capacity of river basin organizations and water users groups. They also promote and disseminate knowledge on water resources to various agencies and the general public.

NATIONAL WATER VISION

Within 2025 Thailand will achieve sufficiency of quality water, with management, organization, and legal systems in place for sustainable and equitable use of water, taking into consideration people's quality of life and participation at all levels.

(Cabinet's Resolution : 25 July 2000)

NATIONAL WATER POLICY

1. To push for the enactment of Water Resources Act to be the fundamental law for the country's water resources management by reviewing and amending the existing Act and expediting the enforcement together with revising and amending other relevant laws and regulations to ensure conformity;

2. To establish national, river basin, and local organizations for water resources management with supporting legislation. The national-level organization will formulate policy, and oversee and coordinate the implementation of policy. River basin and local organizations will prepare basin-wide water management plans with emphasis on stakeholder's participation;

3. To emphasize appropriate and equitable water allocation for various purposes so as to meet the basic requirements of agriculture and consumption. Water utilization will be prioritized for each area to ensure efficient and sustainable use of water under the expressly stated rules of water allocation. Furthermore, water users will share responsibility in receiving services depending on the user's participatory capabilities and level of service;

4. To give clear directives for provision of water and water resources development to secure water availability in accordance with their potentials and water demand, with quality appropriate for every activity, taking into full consideration the conservation of other pertinent natural resources and environment;

5. To equitably provide and develop water resources for agriculture for all farmers in order to meet the basic requirements of agriculture and consumption, similar to other basic services provided by the government.

6. To develop and include water knowledge in the curricula of every educational level to build awareness among the general public of the great value of water, water use efficiency, and the necessity and duties to care for and conserve the environment of both natural and man-made water resources.

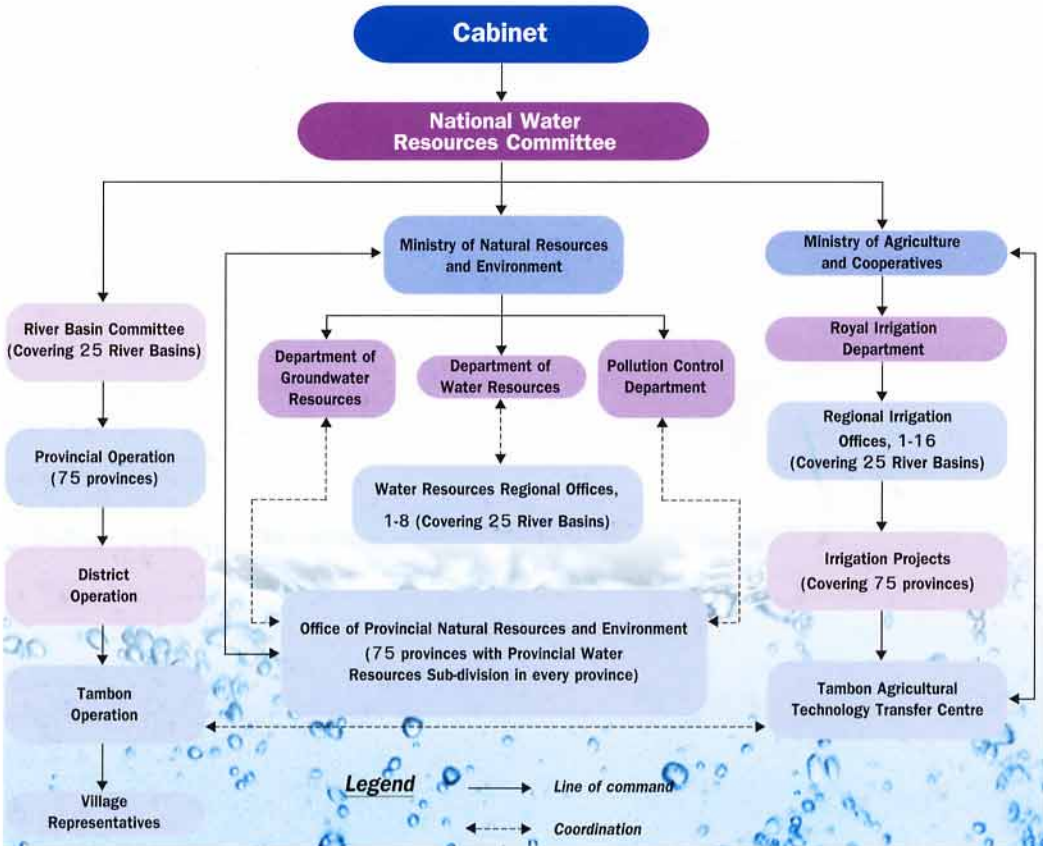
7. To support and promote public participation including clearly defining participatory approaches, rights and duties of the people, non-governmental organizations and state agencies in water resources management, i.e. water utilization, care and responsibility, water resources conservation, and water quality monitoring to ensure efficiency in water resources management.

8. To accelerate the planning of flood and drought relief and solutions including warning and setting of guidelines as well as efficient and impartial rehabilitation after disaster with due consideration to relevant land use and natural resources.

9. To provide budget for action plans according to the policy including researches, public relations, information and data collection as well as adequate and continual transfer of water-related technology to the public.

(Cabinet's Resolution : 31 October 2000)

WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION AND AGENCIES WITH WATER-RELATED MISSIONS



1. National Water Resources Committee (Kor Thor Chor or NWRC)

The National Water Resources Committee is a national-level organization established under the Office of Prime Minister's regulations on the National Water Resources Management, B.E. 2532 or called in brief "Kor Thor Chor or NWRC". The committee is chaired by Prime Minister and consists of members who are appointed by Prime Minister. The committee comprises one Deputy Prime Minister assigned by the Prime Minister to be the chairman, ministers, permanent secretaries, directors-general, heads of state enterprises, representatives of water users organizations of all sectors, technical experts, qualified persons, representatives of non-government organizations, etc. Director-General of the Department of Water Resources is a member and the committee secretary. Deputy Director-General of the Department of Water Resources as duly assigned and Director of Bureau of Water Resources Policy and Plan act as assistant secretaries.

Authority and Duties (summary)

1. To submit to the Cabinet for approval the objectives and policy on ensuring the availability of large-, medium-, and small-scale water resources to meet water demand;
2. To set guidelines and directives for government agencies, state enterprises and various organizations regarding formulation of plans or projects for water resources development or construction as well as coordination;
3. To scrutinize and approve plans, and to direct, control, supervise, and oversee implementation of plans and report its implementation in terms of water quantity and quality;

4. To consider and solve any urgent problems or impediments;
5. To prioritize water allocation and regulate the use of water from various sources to meet the requirements for consumption, hydropower generation, industry, agriculture, and others; and also to report to the Cabinet; and
6. To propose to the Cabinet any introduction or revision of rules, regulations or laws relating to construction or development, control, prevention, and conservation of water resources and water quality.

2. River Basin Sub-Committee

River Basin Sub-committee comprises members selected from government officials, state enterprise representatives, representatives of local organizations and water users organizations, stakeholders who work or live in the concerned river basins, and qualified persons who have knowledge and experience relating to water resources management. The appropriate number and proportion of membership depends on the local situation of each river basin. Chairman and secretary of the Sub-committee are to be appointed from the Sub-committee of the concerned river basin, and assistant secretaries may be included as necessary.

Authority and Duties (summary)

1. To submit to Kor Thor Chor comments on policies, plans, projects, and solutions to any problems or obstacles to the development, utilization, conservation, and any other necessary implementation relating to water resources management as well as any pertinent action of the concerned agencies in river basins;
2. To formulate water resources management plans and coordinate the formulation of such plans by relevant agencies in river basins;
3. To prioritize water allocation and specify water requirements as well as equitable and efficient water allocation measures;
4. To monitor and evaluate performance of the agencies relevant to water resources in river basins;
5. To compile statistics, data, comments, and recommendations regarding water resources management, development and conservation as well as solutions to water shortage, floods, and water quality problems;
6. To conciliate conflicts and solve problems; and
7. To conduct public relations, receive comments, and promote understanding among the general public of the performance or work procedure of the River Basin Sub-Committee.

3. Working Groups

Working groups consist of persons who are appointed by the River Basin Sub-Committee with specific duties and responsibilities. These people may be members of the River Basin Sub-Committee or other persons who are deemed to be appropriate by the River Basin Sub-Committee. However, one of its members must be a representative of farmers in each district. Initially, these specific working groups should focus on information, action plan, and public relations as well as other necessary aspects.

4. Provincial, District and Tambon Working Groups

Provincial, District and Tambon working groups comprise representatives from government agencies, water users groups from various sectors, i.e. agriculture, industry, commerce and tourism, local agencies (provincial administration organization, tambon administration organization, and municipality), educational institutes, qualified persons, technical experts, and NGOs. These representatives are selected and appointed, in an appropriate number, by the River Basin Sub-committee.

Authority and Duties (Summary)

1. To compile data on water resources and other relevant resources;
2. To propose requirements, work plans and projects relating to development, conservation, and rehabilitation as well as solutions to floods, droughts, and water quality problems in river basins;
3. To conduct public relations activities and disseminate knowledge and information pertaining to water resources in river basins; and
4. To help conciliate conflicts and disputes relating to water resources management.

Solutions to the Country's Water Crisis

Exploitation of natural resources has increased as a result of population growth, economic expansion, and change of land use from forests to crop cultivation and industry. This has led to recurring floods and droughts as well as worsening water quality. The Department of Water Resources identified approaches to solve the three types of ever-growing water crisis, with structural and non-structural measures.

Prevention and Solution to Water Shortage and Floods

1. Non-Structural Measures

- 1.1 Control of large-scale reservoir operations to be in accordance with the available water volume;
 - 1.2 Control of land use to suit the crop cultivation and water availability, e.g. growing of crops which require less water such as field crops, vegetables, etc., during droughts;
 - 1.3 A fund should be jointly set up by the government, local people, and the private sector in each area to finance a study of preventive measures and provide assistance to the affected people;
 - 1.4 Strict law enforcement to ensure highest efficiency in flood protection and mitigation;
- and
- 1.5 Watershed rehabilitation and conservation.

2. Structural Measures

- 1.1 Construction of flood dikes and drainage systems to protect urban areas without adverse impact on other areas;
- 1.2 Construction and dredging of drainage canals, as appropriate to local conditions, in order to increase drain capacity; and
- 1.3 Construction of large-scale reservoirs to help reduce floods in each river basin.

Prevention and Solution to Waste Water

1. Non-Structural Measures

- 1.1 Set standards of water and waste water quality to be applicable to all river basins;
- 1.2 Promotion of people's participation in observing and watching waste water incidents in each basin;
- 1.3 Amendment of laws relating to waste water and strict enforcement; and
- 1.4 Raising of public awareness of water resources conservation.

2. Structural Measures

- 2.1 Construction of waste water treatment system prior to discharge into water bodies;
- 2.2 Improvement of existing waste water treatment systems; and
- 2.3 Construction of water pollution monitoring station in each river basin.

INTEGRATED PLAN/MASTER PLAN FOR WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT IN RIVER BASINS

Principle and Rationale

At present, there is no integrated water resources management (IWRM) plan to serve as a framework for managing water resources and other relevant resources in each river basin. The IWRM plan will delineate plans and projects presenting development measures and solutions to problems of each area. In the past, many agencies had a role in water resources management and each had its own duties and responsibilities in tackling problems. At present, there is still no long-term direction and consistent work procedure.

The Department of Water Resources is responsible for the overall water resources management of each river basin of the country. It realizes that a basin-wide IWRM plan is needed to comprehensively cover every aspect of managing water resources and other relevant resources in every area. Work plans and projects under the IWRM plan will be a framework for implementation. The concerned executing agencies are assigned to consistently and systematically fulfil their duties as specified in the IWRM plan.

Objectives of the Integrated Plan

1. To formulate integrated water resources management (IWRM) plan to be a framework for implementation by agencies and organizations at various levels so that its implementation will be uniform and in harmony with development of other resources and the environment.
2. To present an overview of river basins with respect to supply and demand as well as solutions and approaches of water resources management, with participation of local organizations, people and relevant agencies in formulating the integrated plan.

Scope of the Study of Integrated Water Resources Management Plan

The study aims to formulate integrated water resources management (IWRM) plan, taking into consideration other related resources, the 9th National Economic and Social Development Plan, National Water Vision, and National Water Policy. The following aspects will be addressed.

1. Survey of baseline economic and social conditions, natural and man-made water resources – both surface water and groundwater resources, as well as existing problems in river basins, and other data necessary for water resources management;
2. Study and analysis of potential water resources in each sub-basin as well as classification of the water resources that are developed and to be developed in harmony with other relevant potential resources, e.g. land, forest, the environment, etc.;
3. Collection and analysis of study results and project plans which were carried out by various agencies to prepare a summary of past works and guidelines for further implementation;

4. Coordination with River Basin Management Sub-committee, local organizations, and stakeholders in inquiring about and receiving comments on problems, requirements, and water resources management approaches. This will provide a guideline for preparing a framework for integrated planning, e.g. water resources development plan, water resources management plan, flood mitigation plan, water quality conservation and problem solving plan;

5. Recommendation of structural and non-structural measures to solve problems taking into account work plans for 5, 10, 15 and 20 years. These plans present preliminary project details which are accepted by local organizations, people, and relevant government agencies.

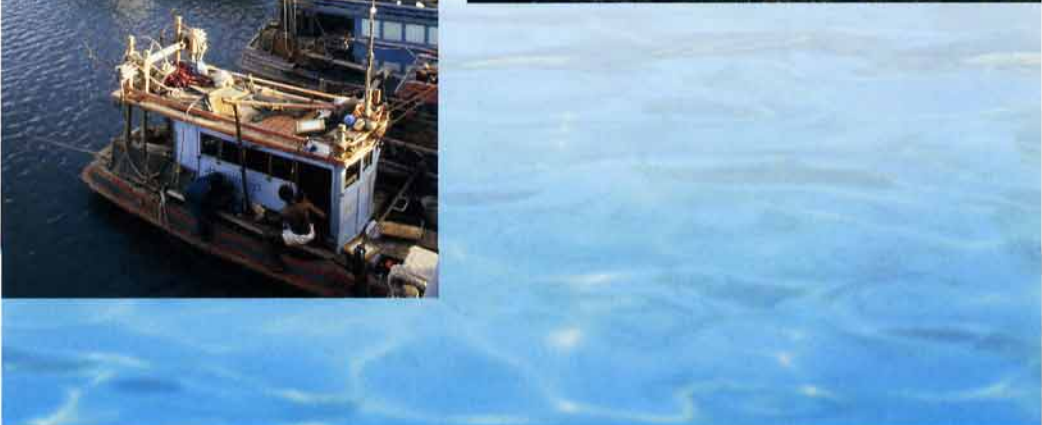
Target of the Integrated Plan

Fiscal year 2002: Upper Ping, Lower Ping, Pasak, Bang Pakong-Prachin Buri river basins, and the east coast;

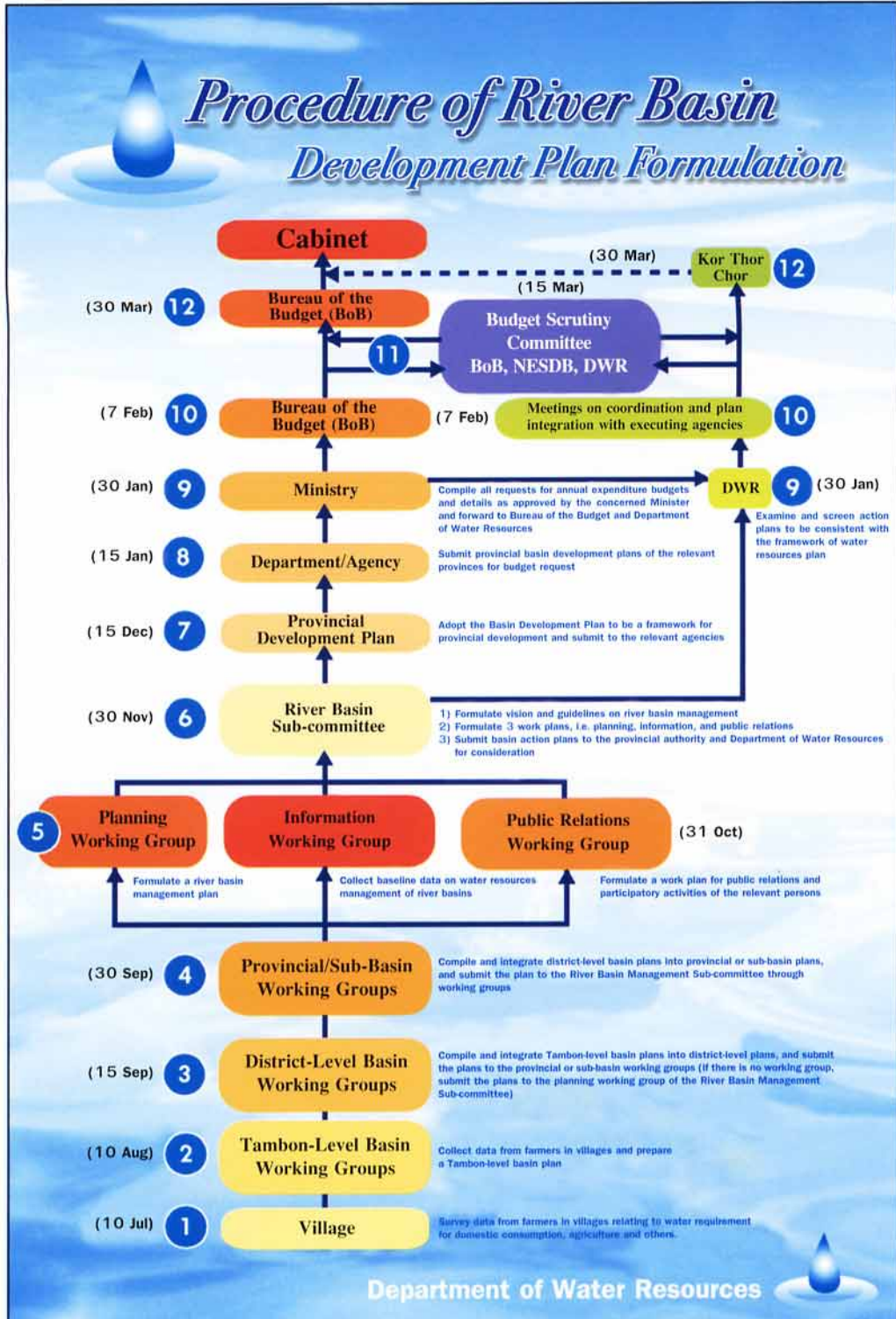
Fiscal year 2003: Yom and Nan river basins; and

Fiscal year 2004: Wang, Sakae Krang, Lower Chao Phraya, Tha Chin, Mae Klong, Mekong, Chi, and Mun river basins.

In subsequent years, integrated plans will be completed for other remaining major basins, i.e. Kok, Salawin, Phetchaburi, Upper Chao Phraya, Tonle Sap, the coastal area of Prachuap Khiri Khan, Tapi, the eastern-western coasts of the South, Songkhla-Pattani lake



Formulation of River Basin Development Plan and Planning Procedure



THAILAND AND MEKONG BASIN DEVELOPMENT

The Mekong River is transboundary in nature as it originates in Tibet Highlands, China, and traverses Yunnan, Myanmar, Lao PDR, Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam before it reaches the South China Sea. Its total length is approximately 4,200 km. The Mekong River Basin is home to more than 52 million people. In Thailand, the Mekong Basin occupies 180,749 sq.km. (112.96 million rai) or about 35.1% of the whole country, and about 23 million people are living in the Basin.

In 1957, four Lower Mekong countries, i.e. Lao PDR, Thailand, Cambodia, and Vietnam, had signed a cooperation agreement. "The Committee for Coordination of the Lower Mekong Basin" or "the Mekong Committee" or "the Lower Mekong Development Committee" was inaugurated to be the focal point of coordination, aiming at development of water resources in the Lower Mekong Basin for the mutual benefits of the riparian countries and people living in the Basin.

On 5 April 1995, four riparian countries signed the 1995 Mekong Agreement or Agreement on the Cooperation for the Sustainable Development of the Mekong River Basin. The Agreement provides a legal framework and specifies mandate, financial and management organizational structures of the Mekong River Commission in relation to coordination among member countries. The scope of cooperation covers all fields of sustainable development, utilization, management and conservation of water and related resources of the Mekong River Basin. It aims at environmentally sound, economically prosperous, and socially just Mekong River Basin, which will ultimately raise the people's quality of life.

The Mekong River Commission (MRC) was set up as an intergovernmental agency of the Indochina to coordinate the Mekong basin development in accordance with the 1995 Mekong Agreement. The

MRC consists of three permanent bodies: the Council, the Joint Committee (JC), and the Secretariat.

1. The Council consists of one member from each country at ministerial level. The Council makes policy decisions and provides other necessary guidance concerning promotion, support, co-operation and co-ordination of joint activities and programmes in accordance with the 1995 Mekong Agreement.

2. The Joint Committee consists of one member from each country at no less than Head of Department level. The Joint Committee is responsible for the implementation of the policies and decisions of the Council, and for the supervision of the MRC Secretariat.

3. The MRC Secretariat is the operational arm of the MRC under the supervision of the Joint Committee. It provides technical and administrative services to the Council and the Joint Committee.



The Mekong River Commission formulated the First Strategic Plan for 2001-2005, with 4 goals.

1. To establish and implement “rules” for water utilization and interbasin diversions;
2. To establish a dynamic basin development planning process;
3. To establish and promote environmental and socio-economic management and
4. To establish an effective organization capable to promote partnership with other institutions in basin-wide development and coordination.

The Strategic Plan for 2001-2005 consists of 3 core programmes, one support programme and 5 sectoral programmes as follows:

Core Programme:

1. **Basin Development Plan (BDP)** to serve as a tool and planning process for formulating strategic framework and development projects in the Mekong River Basin;
2. **Water Utilisation Programme (WUP)** to establish rules for water utilization among member countries;
3. **Environment Programme (EP)** to monitor and evaluate the Mekong Basin ecosystem.

Support Programme: Integrated Capacity Building Programme (CBP) to improve the MRC's potentials to accomplish its mission; and

Sectoral Programme: Fisheries Programme, Agriculture, Irrigation and Forestry Programme, Water Resources Management Programme, Flood Management Programme, Navigation Programme, and Tourism Programme.

The Mekong Basin Development Project will serve as a firm foundation for sustainable development of the region, thus building closer international friendship. It also provides a forum for joint consideration and solving of problems and conflicts that may arise from the utilization of water and related resources in connection with the Mekong River. With the above concept and its implementation, MRC was awarded the Thiess International Riverprize in recognition of its outstanding achievement in river management. Besides, the MRC is another platform for Thailand to increase its role in the international community.



Concession for Water Supply Operations

Background

Concession for water supply operations is a business operation under laws on the control of businesses affecting the public safety or well being according to the Announcement of the National Executive Council No. 58 dated 26 January B.E. 2515 (1972). When the bureaucratic reform took place in 2002, laws were revised to be consistent with the prescribed duties and responsibilities, i.e. Royal Decree on the transfer of bureaucratic administration and power to conform to the Act on Improvement of Ministry, Bureau, and Department, B.E. 2545, and a Royal Decree amending provisions to conform to the transfer of bureaucratic power under the Act on Improvement of Ministry, Bureau, and Department, B.E. 2545. Consequently, the Minister of Natural Resources and Environment shall have the power to approve a concession for water supply operations.



Application for Concession for Water Supply Operations

In applying for a water supply concession, the government will select concessionaires who must be fully qualified as stipulated by laws, i.e. any person who will operate water supply operations has to first obtain a concession from the government except water supply operated under the Metropolitan Waterworks Act B.E. 2510 (1967) and the Provincial Waterworks Act B.E. 2522 (1979).

For water supply operations, concessionaires are required to strictly abide by conditions of the water supply concession agreement. Officials from Bureau of Water management, Department of Water Resources, and Office of Provincial Natural Resources and Environment will be responsible for checking and overseeing water supply operations of the concessionaires. If any concessionaire is found to have committed a breach of the Agreement, the violating concessionaire will firstly be given a warning to expeditiously remedy concessionaire will be fined. If the default concessionaire fails to pay fines, prosecution will be instituted to enforce the fines and the compliance with the conditions of the concession agreement or to revoke the water supply concession.

The Announcement of the National Executive Council No. 58 stipulates provisions of water supply concession as follows:

1. Water supply is public utility;
2. Water supply operation is prohibited unless a concession is approved by the Minister of Natural Resources and Environment; and
3. Violators will be subjected to imprisonment and fine.

The oversight of water supply concession to ensure the best and fair service for consumers will be done inspection as follows:

1. Checking of service, e.g. any interruption of water distribution, capability to provide a 24-hour service, any problem of application for connection;
2. Examination of water supply quality to ensure consumers' safety based on the water quality standard in accordance with the industrial No.257, Volume 1-2521;
3. Checking and analysis of tariff to derive an accurate and fair tariff for all concerned; and
4. Auditing of account of water supply system to ensure accuracy, transparency, and fairness among all concerned.

There are 5 cases of water supply operations as follows:

1. Application for water supply concession;
2. Application for renewal of water supply concession;
3. Application for transfer of water supply concession;
4. Application for expansion of concession area of water supply operation; and
5. Application for adjustment of water tariff or meter maintenance fee.





กรมทรัพยากรน้ำ

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