

(4) The Asian Development Bank (ADB)

1) Outline of the Organization

The work of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) is aimed at improving the welfare of the people in Asia and the Pacific, particularly the 1.9 billion who live on less than \$2 a day. Despite many success stories, Asia and the Pacific remains home to two thirds of the world's poor.

ADB is a multilateral development financial institution owned by 64 members, 46 from the region and 18 from other parts of the globe.

ADB's vision is a region free of poverty. Its mission is to help its developing member countries reduce poverty and improve the quality of life of their citizens.

ADB's main instruments for providing help to its developing member countries are

- policy dialogue
- loans
- technical assistance
- grants
- guarantees
- equity investments.



ADB's annual lending volume is typically about \$6 billion, with technical assistance usually totaling about \$180 million a year.

ADB headquarters is in Manila, with 26 other offices around the world:

- 19 resident missions in Asia
- 3 sub-regional offices in the Pacific
- representative offices in Frankfurt for Europe, Tokyo for Japan, and Washington, DC for North America
- a special liaison office in Timor-Leste

ADB has more than 2,000 employees from over 50 countries.

2) Activities for NARBO in 2005

For 2005, ADB continued its support to the network (i) to achieve IWRM in river basins throughout Asia; (ii) to strengthen the capacity and effectiveness of RBOs in promoting IWRM; and (iii) to improve water governance.

ADB supported two trainings¹ on integrated water resources management (IWRM) resulting to 45 water professionals trained on various aspects of IWRM. The training in Sri Lanka in April 2005 strengthened

¹ The two trainings were: (i) Training Workshop on River Basin Management and Organizations for Mid-Career Water Professionals from South Asia, 24–29 April 2005, Negombo, Sri Lanka; and (ii) 3rd NARBO Training: Technology for IWRM – River Basin Approach, 14-18 November 2005, Daejeon, Korea.

the capacity of 27 water professionals from 6 South Asian countries of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka (i) to better understand the concepts and principles of river basin management (RBM); and (ii) to better understand the phases in establishing effective RBOs. The training in Korea in December 2005 strengthened the capacity of 18 water professionals in the area of developing and applying technology for IWRM; including hands-on experience on computer-based models on water resources management.

ADB recognizes the vital role that RBOs play in managing river basins. ADB also recognizes that for RBOs to meet greater challenges in the water sector, performance improvement is important. ADB thus supported the launching of NARBO's performance benchmarking system for RBOs in September 2005 at the 2nd Southeast Asia Water Forum (2SEAWF) in Indonesia. This side event at the 2SEAWF resulted to 16 water professionals from 9 RBOs trained on the on-line database and web interface of the NARBO benchmarking system. The performance benchmarking system for RBOs is expected to enable RBOs to track its progress, to enable comparisons with the performance of other organizations; and to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of their service delivery.

Also at the 2SEAWF, ADB supported another NARBO side event: the workshop on developing capacity in RBOs. The workshop helped more than 30 participants to better understand the capacity-building needs of RBOs including those related to institutional strengthening, water allocation, financing, technical aspects, and stakeholder participation. The workshop emphasized the need for: (i) exchange of information and experiences, (ii) joint efforts for capacity development, (iii) government support, and (iv) respect for traditions.

ADB participated in the NARBO Secretariat meeting in November 2005 in Tokyo, Japan. The meeting resulted to better preparations for the 2nd NARBO General Meeting scheduled in February 2006. The meeting discussed the planned activities of NARBO for the year and for the next two years. The meeting also resulted to the introduction by ADB of two additional NARBO activities: (i) Charting IWRM Progress in Asia; and (ii) Facilitating IWRM Investment Projects.

ADB supported the 1st NARBO Thematic Workshop on Water Rights and Water Allocation in December 2005 in Hanoi, Viet Nam. The workshop benefited 22 water professionals from 6 Asian countries of Indonesia, Lao PDR, Japan, Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam. The workshop discussions resulted to better informed water professionals on the status and challenges on water rights and allocation in participants' countries.

ADB continued to provide expertise through exchange of information and experiences, and technical advice. ADB provided valuable inputs on the further development of the NARBO website and on the improvement of the NARBO newsletter.