

The World is facing a Water Crisis

## Water Challenges in Asia Pacific







Too Little Water

Too Much Water

Too Dirty Water

Increasing water demand, flood disasters, and deterioration of water quality

- Population growth, Urbanization, Economic development
- Climate change, Recent extreme hydrological events

Lack of proper facilities, poor governance structure to stop negative spiral wrt water related disasters

- Increased hydrological runoff from development and climate change
- Existing water infrastructure inadequate to cope with increased flows
- Shortcomings in legislation and institutional setups
- Poor planning and policies wrt water related disasters



### Water crises are often governance crises

- **Enough water** for human and nature needs ... if managed wisely!
- Coping with water risks, requires more than financing & hydrology
- ✓ Technical, financial & institutional solutions exist, but implementation is lagging.
- Governance: a means to an end: manage too much, too little and too polluted water

#### Water, a fragmented sector that is sensitive to multilevel governance

- ✓ Local and global issue, with multiple actors at different levels.
- ✓ Capital intensive, monopolistic intensity, market failures
- Interdependencies across multiple stakeholders are poorly managed
- ✓ Many countries struggle to understand/ clarify (and map) who does what

#### No one-size-fits-all but a need to "mind" and "bridge" the gaps

- Need for place-based policies & overarching frameworks, strategy and rules
- Taking stock of what works well and what does not work is crucial
- Stakeholders have a role alongside policymakers at different levels
- ✓ Need to match the type of governance structures to the type of water risks to face.
  - Beyond the question of WHAT to do to meet the water challenge, there is a need to think about WHO DOES WHAT, WHY, AT WHICH LEVEL and HOW

# What is Governance?

#### Governance

#### **United Nations Development Program, UNDP defn:**

 Governance is the exercise of economic, political and administrative authority to manage a country's affairs at all levels .... it comprises the mechanisms, processes and institutions through which citizens and groups articulate their interest, exercise their legal rights, meet their obigations and mediate their differences

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#### Governance

#### In Layperson terms

- Who does what? When? How? Why? At what scale? At which level (of government, society)?
- Laws, Regulations, Rules, Policy, Standards
- Institutions, Organizations, Stakeholders
- Processes, Work flow, Adequate and accessible information and data, Capacity building, Conflict resolution, Mediation
- Integrity, Transparency, Accountability
- Political will, Reforms

#### **Global discourse on Water Governance**

- Dates back to the Dublin Conference 1992
  - Dublin Water Principles

#### **Global discourse on Water Governance**

# **Dublin Principles**

**Principle No. 1:** Fresh water is a finite and vulnerable resource, essential to sustain life, development and the environment.

Principle No. 2: Water development and management should be based on a participatory approach, involving users, planners and policy-makers at all levels.

**Principle No. 3:** Women play a central part in the provision, management and safeguarding of water.

**Principle No. 4:** Water has an economic value in all its competing uses and should be recognised as an economic good.

#### Global discourse on Water Governance

- Dates back to the Dublin Conference 1992
  - Dublin Water Principles → IWRM





#### SDG #6: Ensure access to water and sanitation for all

Target	Description
6.4	By 2030, subsequently increase <u>water-use efficiency</u> across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity
6.5	By 2030, <u>implement IWRM at all levels</u> , including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate
6.a	By 2030, expand <u>international cooperation and capacity-building</u> support to developing countries in water- and sanitation-related activities and programmes, including water harvesting, desalination, water efficiency, wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse technologies
6.b	Support and strength the <u>participation of local communities</u> in improving water and sanitation management

#### Global discourse on Water Governance

- Org. for Economic Co-operation & Dev., OECD
  - OECD Multi-level Governance Framework "Mind the Gaps, Bridge the Gaps"
  - OECD Water Governance Initiative, WGI





