

# Methodology of seeking after the approach to improvements

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## I Background

This paper is about the methodology of seeking after the approach to improvements, which indicates the description of the proposals of the improvement plans for water allocation issues. The final goal of the thematic workshop is “Proposal of approach to improvement”. Then, the proposals have to lead the problem solving; that is, **they should be applicable to the real situation of each participant’s country.** Moreover, strategies for realizing the proposals as well as proposals themselves are very important. Thus, strategy development needs to be considered. The methodology should be set up from such viewpoint.

## II Methodology

### Introduction

With regard to proposals of the approach to improvements, it is effective to consider in the following order.

- (i) Grasping issues
- (ii) Analysis of the causes of the issues
- (iii) Proposals of solutions (approach to improvement) and process
- (iv) Evaluation of the proposals considered in the step (iii)
- (v) Preparation for the “Action Plan”

We have already finalized (i) in the 1<sup>st</sup> workshop in Vietnam, and we will deal with (ii)-(v) in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> workshop (The step (v) will be dealt with in only the 3<sup>rd</sup> workshop). In the below, these items will be explained in detail.

### Grasping issues

The first step is to define the issues, that is, it is necessary to clarify what the issues are. This is the step of “Grasping issues”. This time, the discussion papers have been prepared the same as the 1<sup>st</sup> workshop, in which issues are sorted out with several categories, policy, legal framework, organization, financial, technical, participation, and others.

With regard to the step (i), specific and accurate descriptions of the issues are needed. I recommend that the participants look into again the issues from the viewpoint of specificness and accuracy though we have finalized this first step in the 1<sup>st</sup> workshop. For example, some participants listed the overlap of government mandates as an issue, but in this case, it should

be clarified what kind of mandates overlaps which organizations, and what the practical troubles are derived from the mandate overlaps.

In addition, we have to select the prioritized issues to be solved from the grasped ones because we will not be able to propose the solution of all the issues in all together. Due to that, the grasped issues need to get sorted out in order of importance (for example, high, middle and low).

### **Analysis of the causes of the issues**

The next step is to analyze the causes of the issues grasped in the step (i) because issues can have their causes, which just have to be solved. It is also quite natural that the analysis of the causes should be specific as well as accurate. Then, accurate and specific analysis of the causes can lead to the proposals considered in the step (iii).

### **Proposals of solutions (approach to improvement) and process**

Third, proposals of solutions and processes (or procedures) for them should be carried out on the basis of the analysis conducted in the step (ii).

Proposals should be considered to remove the causes analyzed through the step (ii). For example, you may propose the establishment or revision of new legal frameworks if the lack or dysfunction of a certain framework is the cause of the water allocation issue. The proposals need to be specific. The objectives of the proposals are also important.

At the same time, it is necessary to confirm the processes/procedures for realization of the proposals. The processes/procedures have close relationship with the feasibility of the proposals.

### **Evaluation of the proposals considered in the step (iii)**

Forth, proposals and processes/procedures for realizing them (considered in the former step) need to be evaluated from viewpoints of effectiveness and feasibility. That is, proposals needs to be effective against the issues, and also needs to be feasible.

- Effectiveness of the proposal against the cause
- Sustainability (from the viewpoint of organizational capacity, finance, environment and others)
- Fairness
- Basin wide viewpoint
- Consensus building (at local level as well as at national level)
- Others (If you find other necessary evaluation items, please add.)

After this evaluation, we will be able to recognize obstacles, difficulties or problems against the realization of the proposals. Thus, we need to consider the ways for overcoming such obstacles, difficulties or problems. **The considered ways are just the strategies for the proposals.** This strategy affair will be treated in the next workshop.

### **Preparation for the “Action Plan”**

Finally, “Action Plan” for approach to solution will be prepared on the basis of the outcome obtained through the step (i)-(iv). We plan to deal with this step in the 3rd workshop.

If you have questions or comments, please contact.