

## Announcement

### Thematic Workshop on Water Rights

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Date of workshop	29-31 May 2007
Venue	Manila, Philippines
Recipient Organization	National Water Resources Board (NWRB)

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#### Liaison:

##### Asian Development Bank

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#### Participants

Participants will mostly come from selected "core members" of the thematic workshop on water allocation and water rights. Other participants include water professionals with in-depth knowledge or experience on water rights. **Participation is by invitation only.**

#### 1. Background and Rationale

Effective water rights system should be pursued not only to achieve appropriate water allocation among water users but also to prevent water use conflicts, waste of water,

environmental degradation, etc.

Increased water demand and water use conflicts are occurring in many countries in the Asia monsoon region; and the introduction and implementation of water rights system have become a regular challenge. Unfortunately however, the extensive interest on this topic has been in stark contrast to the relatively few successful experiences so far in the region.

Water rights concerns are of particular interest to most of the member countries of the Network of Asian River Basin Organizations (NARBO). NARBO held the Thematic Workshop on Water Allocation and Water Rights 4 times from December 2005 – January 2007. The series of workshops resulted to (i) draft action plans to address water allocation challenges in each attendant's country, (ii) cross-learning from shared experiences and practices; and (iii) increased interest and better understanding of water allocation. The concept paper of the Thematic Workshop on Water Allocation and Water Rights are attached herewith (Appendix 1).

## **2. Proposal to Hold the Thematic Workshop on Water Rights**

Following the completion of the four workshops on water allocation and water rights, NARBO Secretariat proposes to hold a fifth one mainly focused on water rights. In this workshop, NARBO Secretariat aims to have in-depth discussion on water rights, and to finalize a technical paper on the subject that will be useful to NARBO members. The workshop aims to gather inputs from participants regarding specific country cases and experiences, with recommendations how to take the water rights agenda forward into implementation.

## **3. Tentative Workshop Program**

- Date: 29-31 May 2007
- Venue: Asian Development Bank HQ in Manila
- Tentative Agenda (Appendix 2)
  - Day1 Opening Session, Explanation and Discussion on Draft Technical Paper (DTP), and Presentation on Water Rights System of Each Country
  - Day2 Field Trip
  - Day3 Discussion for Finalizing DTP and Closing Session
- Field Visit Refer to Appendix 2
- Expected Participants (Appendix 3)

## **4. Draft Technical Paper**

ADB will prepare a draft technical paper on water rights. The paper, including guide questions, will be circulated to participants in advance.

**5. Hotel Accommodation**

The Richmonde Hotel  
21 San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Center  
Pasig City 1600, Metro Manila, Philippines  
Email: [trh@richmondehotel.com.ph](mailto:trh@richmondehotel.com.ph)  
Web page: <http://www.richmondehotel.com>  
Tel. (632) 638-7777  
Fax. (632) 632-8567

**6. Transportation**

Airport transfer will be arranged by ADB through the hotel.

**7. Supported Expenses**

Overseas government organizations and RBO members of NARBO can be supported on below cost items from NARBO Secretariat and resource organizations; but self-financing by participants is expected.

- 1) Airfare of international flight for overseas participants (economy class via most direct route), as needed;
- 2) Accommodation (actual cost or max. \$60 per day);
- 3) Subsistence allowance (max. \$15 per day), as needed; and
- 4) Airport transportation (only one way); and
- 5) Incidental cost (\$40), which includes the cost for internal transportation and visa application, as needed.

The cost for the OC as secretariat fee will be provided from NARBO Secretariat based on the "Guideline on Financial Support by NARBO Secretariat".

- Appendix 1: Concept Note of the Thematic Workshop on Water Allocation and Water Rights
- Appendix 2: Tentative Agenda
- Appendix 3: Participants' List