

## Concept of the thematic workshop

### I Introduction and Rationale

1. NARBO secretariat has held the thematic workshop as the new attempt since 2005, which is one of the main NARBO activities. The workshop has the following features.

- Pragmatic and practical viewpoints are emphasized.

NARBO mainly consists of water related government agencies and river basin organizations, which are in charge of practical water resources management. Thus, it is desirable to hold the activities that can contribute to the practitioners of water-related organizations. Therefore, pragmatic and practical viewpoint is very important.

- Deep and continuous discussions are intended.

Firstly, in order to achieve an effect of the workshop, two-way communications are strongly recommended. For that purpose, we emphasize the discussions among the participants rather than typical workshop programs such as special lectures. In addition, it is necessary to discuss water-related issues continuously with spending sufficient time because they are often very complex. Therefore, the number of the thematic workshop will be several times against one theme, more than once, in order for the continuous discussion.

- Focused, specific and important themes related to IWRM are taken up.

In order to make discussions deeply, focused and specific themes are desirable, which also should be important ones in implementing IWRM.

- The scale of the workshop is relatively small.

In order to make discussions deeply, it is desirable that the scale of the workshop should be small. Therefore, the number of participants per one country will be planned to be limited.

- Simple style is preferable.

The financial resources of NARBO secretariat are quite limited and we intend to hold as many activities as possible. Therefore, the cost per one workshop should be reasonable.

### II Objective and intention

2. The objectives of the thematic workshop are; (i) sharing information on current status of participating countries, (ii) clarifying the problems in participating countries, and (iii) approaching the way for improvement in cooperation with participants.

3. In addition, Japan side has an intention to provide the experiences and knowledge on water resources management in Japan for NARBO member countries. Japan is located in the Asia monsoon areas same as the other NARBO member countries, thus, Japan and other NARBO member countries have similar meteorological and hydrological features. In addition, some NARBO member countries are now suffering from the various water-related

issues such as inappropriate water allocation, which Japan had suffered from after WWII. Therefore, it is significant to provide Japanese experiences and knowledge for NARBO members.

### III The way for conduct of the thematic workshop

4. With regard to the thematic workshop, **we attach great importance to the self-reliant effort for problem solving made by participating countries themselves.** In other words, we have to adopt the methods that participants themselves come up with the way for approaching improvement in line with each participant's country's situation.

5. Due to that, participants are strongly recommended not only to make efforts on the workshops but also during the interim period between each workshop to make internal discussions. Additionally, workshop outcomes, which will be prepared by participants themselves, are greatly expected to lead to the action plans for water resources management in each participating country.

### IV The thematic workshop on water allocation and water rights

6. According to the outcome of the research in 2004, NARBO secretariat recognized that the NARBO members had had keen interest in the issues on water allocation and water rights. Thus, issues on water allocation and water rights were taken up as the theme of the 1<sup>st</sup> series of the thematic workshop. This workshop has been planned to be held a total of 4 times in two years, and the expected outcome of each workshop is as follows.

- 1<sup>st</sup>- To identify the issues in participating countries
- 2<sup>nd</sup>- To analyze the causes of the issues and suggest the approaches to solution
- 3<sup>rd</sup>- To review the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> workshop and suggest the approaches to solution
- 4<sup>th</sup>- To draft the report to make a suggestion

7. All the workshops in this series have already completed. The details are as follows.

	Venue	Date	Number of participants
First	Hanoi, Vietnam	5-9, December, 2005	24 participants from 6 countries
Second	Manila, Philippines	5-9, June, 2006	26 participants from 7 countries
Third	Bangkok, Thailand	27 November – 1 December, 2006	35 participants from 7 countries
Fourth	Saitama, Japan	23-26, January, 2006	13 participants from 7 countries

### V Next Steps

8. The thematic workshop on water allocation and water rights is completed, but we

The logo for NARBO (Network of Asian River Basin Organizations) features the acronym "NARBO" in a bold, yellow, sans-serif font. The letters are slightly shadowed and set against a blue background that includes a stylized globe or circular graphic element behind the text.A horizontal banner with a blue background and a wavy, water-like pattern. On the left side, there are three small, square inset photographs: the top one shows a group of people in a boat on a river, the middle one shows a person in a boat, and the bottom one shows a person in a boat. To the right of these images, the text "Network of Asian River Basin Organizations" is written in a bold, pink, sans-serif font.

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should make most of the outcome for improving water allocation issues in attendants' counties. Firstly, NARBO secretariat proposes to hold extra workshop mainly focused on issues on water rights system to make in-deep discussion on that issues. Then, NARBO secretariat plans to request some attendants' countries to report the progress of the action programs in the next NARBO General Meeting, held in February 2008.