

Appendix 4

The Letter of Intent

Letter of Intent for Collaboration
On
Network of Asian River Basin Organizations
Between
The Water Resources Development Public Corporation, Japan (WARDEC),
The Asian Development Bank (ADB), and
The Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI)

This letter expresses our intention to collaborate in establishing a Network of Asian River Basin Organizations (NARBO). The need for partnerships for action to achieve Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) was recognized at the 3rd World Water Forum held in Kyoto, Osaka, and Shiga, in the Yodo River Basin, Japan, in March 2003. Several developed and developing countries in Asia have already established river basin organizations (RBOs) to implement IWRM. The 3rd World Water Forum highlighted the need to support these RBOs through knowledge sharing and capacity building, especially in developing countries.

Participation in NARBO will be focused on RBOs in developing countries in Asia. Regional centers of expertise for IWRM will be invited to join NARBO as knowledge partners. Collaboration will also be pursued with inter-regional knowledge centers. The organization, program of activities, and financing of NARBO will be determined in consultation with interested RBOs and partner organizations. Financial and other support for NARBO's activities is expected to be provided on a parallel basis from WARDEC, ADB, ADBI and other collaborating partners, with contributions from the RBOs joining as members. It is expected that support for some of NARBO activities in ADB's developing member countries may be drawn from the ADB's Cooperation Fund for the Water Sector, subject to ADB's regular approval procedures. Collaboration with ADBI is expected to be in the development of water

sector policy research, capacity building, training, networking, and dissemination.

It is expected that NARBO establishment will be accomplished in 2003 involving preparatory consultations and an initial regional workshop.

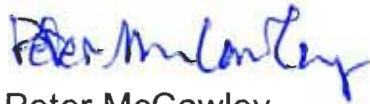
Signed at 3rd World Water Forum, Otsu, Japan, on 21st March 2003



Myoung-Ho Shin

Vice President of

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Peter McCawley

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