

## FOREWORD



First of all, I would like to extend my appreciation to all NARBO members for your continuous support and participation in NARBO activities in 2010 & 2011. These two years have been a period of consolidation and many meetings, seminars and training workshops were organized to build up capacity among our members as we work towards implementing IWRM in our river basins. In addition, NARBO participated in a number of international events and in the process, has raised its profile at the regional and global arena. The details of all these activities are in this Biennial Report.

Immediately after the 4<sup>th</sup> General Meeting in Makassar, Indonesia in November 2010, the new Management Team got to work to map out a plan of action for the ensuing period. A Management Team Meeting was held in January 2011 to brainstorm on the future direction of NARBO and to develop NARBO's Action Plan for 2011-2012. The consensus from the Meeting was that NARBO is entering a new stage and NARBO needs to refocus on its core-business.

Looking back to the NARBO activities in 2010 & 2011, NARBO organized 4<sup>th</sup> General Meeting in Indonesia November 2010, 1<sup>st</sup> Management Team Meeting in January in 2011, 1<sup>st</sup> NARBO IWRM Executive Retreat on Leadership in River Basins and International Seminar on Corporate River Basin Organizations in Asia in Indonesia, June 2011. In addition, NARNO co-organized some events like International Workshop on Water & History in Japan, December 2011. At the 1<sup>st</sup> NARBO IWRM Executive Retreat on Leadership in River Basins and International Seminar on Corporate River Basin Organizations, many discussions were made and NARBO identified important lessons and many good suggestions on appropriate models for RBOs. This kind of retreat and Seminar has proven to be very useful and should be continued into the future.

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After the launch of the IWRM Guidelines which was published by UNESCO in cooperation with NARBO in 2010, the Spiral Model of IWRM is increasingly being disseminated in not only the Asian region, but also in other regions of the world. The IWRM Guidelines was translated into Spanish, and is being used at JICA Training as a Text book, and from the feedback obtained, has gained a reputation as an easy to understand reference material for JICA trainees.

NARBO was a co-organizer for the International Workshop on Water & History with the subject: "How should we learn from water and history for sustainable development?" which was held at Tokyo Development Learning Center of the World Bank from Dec 13 to 14, 2011. I was invited as a speaker as a representative of NARBO to this event. I realized again the importance of water for human. Humans have been developing water resources management since the beginning of human society. Occasionally society has struggled to achieve sustainability, but overall our efforts at managing water resources have brought us economic wealth and a better quality of life to society. Now, we are facing big challenges like climate change adaptation, the pressure of population increase and urbanization, protection of environmental issues, and prevention and mitigation of natural disasters. To cope with these challenges, water will continue to play a pivotal role. Hence, the approach of IWRM is inevitable to achieve a healthy and wealthy society in the future.

The year of 2013 has been proclaimed as a "The International Year of Water Cooperation" by the United Nations. The objective of this International Year is to raise awareness, both on the potential for increased cooperation, and on the challenges facing water management in light of the increase in demand for water access, allocation and services. We can find the word "Cooperation" in both the title and objectives in this International Year. "Cooperation" is always in demand every sector and every stage. NARBO was established to foster these kind of cooperation among RBOs and water-related government officials in the Asian region. As 2013 is not so far away, I strongly appeal to all NARBO members and the NARBO Secretariat to work together and cooperate in various fields, and in raising awareness of IWRM to the world, as well as to bring in potential member for NARBO. NARBO on its part, should increase the cooperation among

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NARBO members, other regional and international networks so that NARBO would be more visible and influential.

I hope that this NARBO Biennial Report of 2010/2011 will serve as a record of your valuable inputs to improve and enhance our activities in achieving IWRM in our river basins. I would also like to record my thanks and appreciation to the Management Team and our NARBO Senior Advisors for their invaluable advice and contributions, and to our NARBO Secretary-General and the Secretariat staff for their dedication and hard work without which our activities could not have been so successful.

Chairperson of NARBO

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Keizrul Bin Abdullah". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "K".

Mr. Keizrul Bin Abdullah

