

The NARBO Newsletter

<http://www.narbo.jp/>

(Network of Asian River Basin Organizations)

THE FIRST GENERAL MEETING OF NETWORK OF ASIAN RIVER BASIN ORGANIZATIONS (NARBO) NARBO officially established with 43 member organizations

Preface

The first General Meeting of Network of Asian River Basin Organizations (NARBO) was held in Batu, East Java, Indonesia from February 24 to 26, 2004. It was promoted by Japan Water Agency (JWA), Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI), and supported by Directorate General of Water Resources, Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development, Government of Indonesia, and Jasa Tirta I Public Corporation (PJTI). Among around 130 participants from 16 countries, 43 organizations from 13 countries signed on Agreement to Membership in NARBO and 8 organizations signed on Expression of Interest for Membership, and NARBO was officially established. The NARBO Secretariat is composed of JWA, ADB and ADBI, and its headquarters is to be located at JWA, Japan.

Background and need for establishment of NARBO

Over the past decades, a series of regional and global water conferences have underlined the need to adopt and operationalize the approach of integrated water resources management (IWRM). It is defined by the Global Water Partnership as “a process to improve the planning, conservation, development, and management of water, forest, land and aquatic resources in a river basin context, to maximize economic benefits and social welfare in an equitable manner without compromising the sustainability of vital environmental systems. In order to achieve IWRM, it is required that IWRM will be undertaken at river basin level with the involvement of stakeholders, and it is highly expected that River Basin Organizations (RBOs) have a vital role to contribute to it.

While an importance of IWRM had been widely recognized, a network to assist RBOs in Asia in their work of introducing and operationalizing the IWRM



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approach did not exist. Consequently, RBOs lacked opportunities for exchanging information and experience on water resources management at river basin level, and had been trying to promote IWRM individually.

Under the circumstances, the 3rd World Forum was held in Japan in March 2003. The establishment of NARBO originates from this forum where JWA, ADB and ADBI signed a Letter of Intent to collaborate in launching it with recognition of needs to cooperate and support RBOs in order to promote IWRM in Asia. Afterward, those three organizations made inquiries to governmental agencies, RBOs and other related organizations in Asia about intentions to participate to NARBO and asked their cooperation. The first NARBO General Meeting, which is an inaugural meeting, was held after the Inception Meeting held in Chiang Mai, Thailand, November 2003.

Objective of NARBO

Objective of NARBO will be to help achieve IWRM in river basins throughout Asia. It is also to strengthen the capacity and effectiveness of RBOs



Venue of NARBO General Meeting, Royal Orchids Garden Hotel in Batu, Indonesia

in promoting IWRM and improving water governance, through training and exchange of information and experiences among RBOs and their associated water sector agencies and knowledge partner organizations in Asia and to advise on the establishment of RBOs in Asia.

Scope of NARBO Activities

Scope of NARBO Activities is followings.

1. Advocacy and raising awareness for IWRM among RBOs, water sector apex bodies, and leading water sector agencies in the region, mainly through regional workshops.
2. Sharing of information, good practices, and lessons learned for IWRM among the participating organizations, mainly by operating databases and a website for IWRM exchanging information, and by sending a newsletter by email as well as posting on the website and holding (sub) regional workshops.
3. Supporting NARBO members to improve water governance, including the enabling policy, institutional, and legal framework for IWRM, and the formulation of the action plans.
4. Building capacity of RBOs in implementing IWRM, mainly through staff exchange and training among participating organizations.
5. Supporting RBOs with technical advice in regard to the planning, conservation, development, and the proper and efficient operation and maintenance of water resources facilities, to improve IWRM.
6. Fostering regional cooperation for improved management of water resources in transboundary river basins.



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NARBO Members

NARBO members consist of RBOs, national and federal/ provincial/ local governmental organizations in charge of water administration, water sector apex bodies and leading water agencies, which are followings.

- a. RBOs, defined as organizations that have been officially recognized by the government of their country as having a mandate to promote and implement IWRM at the river basin level.
- b. National and federal / provincial / local governmental organizations in charge of water administration in the countries which implement or are interested in promoting and implementing IWRM at the level of river basins. This includes water sector apex bodies and leading water agencies.
- c. Regional knowledge partner organizations with expertise in promoting and supporting IWRM, such as international RBOs and research and training organizations.
- d. Inter-regional knowledge partner organizations with expertise in promoting and supporting IWRM.
- e. Bilateral and multilateral development cooperation agencies promoting and supporting activities related to IWRM at the level of river basins.

Among these, the organizations under (a) are considered as RBO members, and (b) to (e) are considered as partner members. Partner members will participate in NARBO as promoters and supporters of IWRM and RBOs, and as knowledge partners to RBOs.

The first General Meeting of NARBO

a. Venue

The General Meeting was held in Batu, which is located close to headwaters of Brantas River in East Java. It is about two hours ride from Surabaya, the second largest city in Indonesia, and is a quiet highland resort with beautiful scene at about 900 m elevation at the foot of Mt. Arjuna. The Royal Orchid Garden Hotel & Condominiums, which held the meeting, is a well equipped resort hotel with two halls; Panderman Hall with 540 capacity and Arjuna Hall with 150 capacity.

b. Program

Refer to **Table-1** which shows the program of the first NARBO General Meeting. The first General Meeting started with a Reception Dinner hosted by JWA, ADB and ADBI in the evening on February 23. It offered a good opportunity for all participants to get acquainted each other before the meeting on the following day.



Panderman Hall



Arjuna Hall

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Session on NARBO Charter, selection of NARBO Constitutional Body and IWRM Workshop which aimed to discuss about NARBO Action Plan were held on February 24 and 25.

Participants went on a field trip to Brantas River Basin, which is working area of PJTI, for one day trip starting from early morning on February 26.

Participants

Around 130 participants from 16 countries attended the first General Meeting. Refer to **Table-2** which shows numbers of participants in categories.

Opening Ceremony

Welcome Remarks by Mr. Socheh, President Director of PJTI, which is an RBO of Indonesia that is a hosting country, opened the meeting on February 24. Then Dr. Takeyoshi Sadahiro, Director of International Affairs Division, Management and Planning Department, Japan Water Agency (JWA), gave report on the establishment of NARBO.

Table-2 Numbers of Participants

Status	Number
National government and RBO	55
International and regional knowledge partner organization	9
Promoter	11
Observer	38
Others	13
Total	126

Table-3 Numbers of Organizations

Status	Member	Interested
River Basin Organization (RBO)	13	2
Government Organization (GOV)	15	5
Regional Knowledge Partner (RKP)	12	1
Inter Regional Knowledge Partner (IRKP)	2	0
Development Cooperation Agency (DAC)	1	0
Total	43	8

Following it, Opening Addresses were given by promoters; Dr. Toru Kondo, President of JWA, Mr. Wouter T. Lincklaen Arriens, Lead Water Resources Specialist of ADB, Mr. Raymond Z. Renfro, Director, Capacity Building and Training of ADB. It followed with Keynote Address by Dr. Moch Basuki Hadimuljono, Director General, Directorate General of Water Resources, Ministry of Settlement and Regional Infrastructures, Government of Indonesia that is a hosting country.

Signing Ceremony of the NARBO Charter

NARBO Charter was presented and explained by NARBO Secretariat and it followed by Q and A Session. Dr. Tsuneaki Yoshida, Professor of Takushoku University, who acted as a Chairperson, asked an approval of the Charter and it was approved as it was. On the basis of this approval, 43 organizations signed on Agreement to Membership in NARBO and 8 organizations signed on Expression of Interest for Membership in NARBO. Upon signing, representatives of JWA, ADB and ADBI came up to the front and signed on the Agreement. Then a master of ceremony called out each organization for signing. Refer to **Table-3** which shows numbers of organizations signed on those Agreements.



Signing Ceremony of the NARBO Charter

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Signing Ceremony of the NARBO Charter



Chairperson:
Dr. Moch Basuki Hadimuljono

Selection of NARBO Constitutional Body

Signing Ceremony was followed by Selection of NARBO Constitutional Body. The followings are selected and approved for Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary-General and Vice Secretary-Generals.

Chairperson:

Dr. Moch Basuki Hadimuljono

(Director General, Directorate General of Water Resources, Ministry of Settlement and Regional Infrastructures, Indonesia)

Vice-Chairperson:

Mr. Palitha T. Senarantne

(Director General, Mahaweli Authority of Sri Lanka)

Secretary- General:

Dr. Masafumi Fukuda

(Executive Director, JWA)

Vice Secretary- General:

Dr. Takeyoshi Sadahiro

(Director, International Affairs Division, JWA)

Mr. Wouter Lincklaen Arriens

(Lead Water Resources Specialist, ADB)

Mr. Toru Tatara

(Special Adviser to the Dean, ADBI)



Vice-Chairperson:
Mr. Palitha T. Senarantne



Secretary- General:
Dr. Masafumi Fukuda

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(from left to right)

Vice Secretary- General:

Mr. Toru Tatara

Mr. Wouter T. Lincklaen Arriens

Dr. Takeyoshi Sadahiro

Chairperson of Selection of NARBO Constitutional

Body: Dr. Tsuneaki Yoshida

- a. Advocacy, raising awareness, and exchange of information, good practices on IWRM (e.g. NARBO Website, Newsletter)
- b. Capacity Building (e.g. Training courses for IWRM)
- c. Support for NARBO Activities (e.g. Technical Advisory Committee)

Refer to **Table-5** which shows Draft Framework and Proposal for NARBO Action Plan.



IWRM Workshop



Discussion on NARBO Action Plan

IWRM Workshop and NARBO Action Plan (draft)

IWRM Workshop was held after selection of NARBO Constitutional Body. The workshop was aimed to discuss NARBO Action Plan, and participants exchanged their opinions on the basis of presentations made by appointed speakers from RBOs, governmental agencies and knowledge partners. IWRM Workshop consisted of three parts; Plenary Session with the theme on “IWRM Framework and Implementation” on the first day, Parallel Sessions with the theme on “National Framework for IWRM” and “RBO’s Experiences to Implement IWRM”, and following Plenary Session to discuss Proposal for NARBO Action Plan on the second day. Refer to **Table-4** which shows IWRM Workshop Program. NARBO Action Plan for 2004-2005 (draft) was proposed with three main pillars in response to the results of the Workshop, these are;

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Field Trip

Participants went on a field trip to working area of PJTI on the last day of the meeting. They were divided into two groups, and one visited upper stream area of Brantas River Basin and the other visited down stream area through the courtesy of PJTI. The routes of each trip are followings.

<Upper stream area of Brantas River Basin>

Headquarters of PJTI – Sengguruh Dam – Sutami Dam – Lahor Dam – Sand Pocket – Selorejo Dam

<Down stream area of Brantas River Basin>

Selorejo Dam – Irrigation Area – New Lengkong Barrage – Headquarters of PJTI

PJTI made great contribution to the first General Meeting of NARBO by undertaking its arrangement and operation. Jasa Tirta Public Corporation was established in 1990 under Government of Indonesia in order for water resources management and flood control in Brantas River Basin with 11,800 km². It was transformed to PJTI in 1999, and its working area expanded to cover Bengawan Solo River Basin with 16,100 km² after 2002. At present, its scope of works are water quantity and quality management, forest conservation, management of water resources development facilities such as dams and barrages in the river basins. Headquarters of PJTI is situated in Malang, and it holds more than 500 qualified and experienced employees. Dams at 11 sites, of which two is rubber dam, and barrages at 5 sites are under PJTI's charge. There was an explanation that PJTI is facing a serious problem to maintain the function of reservoirs because a volume of sediment in reservoirs is exceeding appropriate level. Volcanic eruption, which occurs every decade and deforestation, which makes deterioration of mountain terrain, cause this, consequently volcanic products and sediment discharge flow into reservoirs with rain and accumulate. This problem is also observed in other countries, and an effort to solve it will be an issue on IWRM.



New Lengkong Barrage

Future Plans

After one year from the 3rd World Water Forum, NARBO was officially established as a new network to promote IWRM in an appropriate manner in monsoonal areas of Asia. A draft of NARBO Action Plan for the period until next General Meeting, which is for two years ahead, was produced at the first General Meeting. NARBO Secretariat has just set about building NARBO Website and database to enable member organizations to share and utilize information. The secretariat has also been examining a program and an approach for training for human resource development in order to hold one within this year. What kind of functions should Website and database include? What kind of information should be shared and utilized? How should information be processed? What type of training for human resource development is needed? We would like to hear from you. Please tell us your opinions and ideas so that we can improve contents of NARBO Action Plan. We are determined to make considerable achievement in NARBO's activities by setting the plan into action responsibly.

We are grateful to all participants in the first General Meeting of NARBO, who gathered from various countries to make active and meaningful discussion. We particularly appreciate Organizing Committee Secretariat, which consists of staffs of PJTI, for their great efforts to arrange and operate the meeting.