

# The NARBO Newsletter

(Network of Asian River Basin Organizations)

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

## Activities (Thematic Workshop)

### PHILIPPINES hosted the 2nd Thematic Workshop

Evelyn Ayson \*, Elenito Bagalihog \*

The Network on Asian River Basin Organization (NARBO) conducted its 2nd Thematic Workshop on Water Allocation and Water Rights on June 5-9, 2006 in the Philippines. Twenty six (26) participants from seven (7) Asian countries such as Thailand, Indonesia, Vietnam, Lao PDR, Sri Lanka, Philippines and Japan participated in the said event which was held at the La Mesa Guest House, La Mesa Dam Eco-Park in Quezon City. The La Mesa Dam is an earth dam centrally located in Novaliches, Quezon City, Metro Manila. It was first erected in 1929 and then further raised in 1959 to a maximum water storage capacity of 505 million cubic meters (MCM). Its overflow level is an elevation of 80.15 meters. It is a vital link to the water requirements of 12 million residents of Metro Manila considering that 1.5 million liters of water pass through this reservoir everyday. The venue was purposely chosen as it is conducive to the theme of the workshop which is water allocation and water rights.

Japan Water Agency (JWA), Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Asian Development Bank Institute



Group photo in front of the La Mesa Guest House

(ADB) sponsored the said event and was hosted by the Philippines' National Water Resources Board (NWRB) and the Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA).

The 5-day Workshop covers presentations and discussions of the issues; effects of the issues; their importance; as well as the

causes of the issues which each participating countries had encountered on water allocation and water rights system. At the end of the workshop session, each country participants again presented proposals, recommendations and evaluations on the issues previously presented in the first part of the workshop.



Opening remarks by Mr. Alikpala



Session in the workshop

\* ) National Water Resources Board, Republic of Philippines

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Also, part of the workshop were field visits at Laguna Lake in the Province of Laguna which is at the southern part of Metro Manila and at the Angat Dam and Reservoir in Norzagaray, Bulacan which is at the northern part of Metro Manila.

Angat Reservoir in the Angat River has a catchment area of 568 sq meters and has a storage capacity of 850 MCM and regulates an aver-

age annual inflow of 1700 MCM. The mean annual rainfall in the area is about 4000 millimeter. The Reservoir has a multi-purpose functions : to provide irrigation to some 28,000 hectares of farmland; to supply domestic water requirement to some 12 million people living in Metro Manila; to generate hydroelectric power to feed the Luzon grid; and to reduce flooding to downstream towns and villages.

Angat River is the principal drainage way which originates from the Sierra Madre Mountain Range, flows down across the towns of Bulacan, then joins the Pampanga River at the town of Calumpit and finally discharges to the Manila Bay at Hagonoy, Bulacan. The basin has a total drainage area of 936 sq.km wherein the Angat Dam/Reservoir was constructed at about 60 km northeast of Metro Manila.



Angat Dam and Reservoir



Lecture on the role of Angat Dam

As a finale of the thematic workshop, a social party was given for the departing participants to mark the end of a successful workshop. Some participants gave song renditions while others just have conversation with fellow participants. The party lasted until 9:00 in the evening after which participants were brought back to Sulo Hotel where they were billeted. Next day each one went back to their respective countries.

## About Thematic Workshop ~ New Attempt of NARBO

Michitaro Nakai \*

### 1. Introduction

NARBO Secretariat has launched the thematic workshops from December 2005, which is a new attempt as well as one of the key activities of NARBO. The thematic workshop is aimed to provide more effective and beneficial activities for water resources management practitioners of NARBO member organizations. This article summarizes the thematic workshop to inform its outline and meanings of NARBO members broadly.

### 2. Objectives and Orientations

#### 2.1 Objectives

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. For that purposes, it is planned that participants are required preparing an action plan which summarizes their idea on improvement.

In addition, with regard to the thematic workshop, **we attach great importance to a self-reliant effort for problem solving made by participating countries themselves.** It is indispensable to consider problem solving with a self-reliant effort because NARBO basically adopts ownership principle. In addition, there is no common method of problem solving on water issues among each country because water issues usually reflect regional characteristics; therefore, it is appropriate that participants themselves, who must

know water issues of their own countries, consider the approach to improvement.

#### 2.2 Orientations

The orientations of the thematic workshop are as follows;

- 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, NARBO secretariat means to facilitate participants' deep discussions in the workshop, which can contribute to the participants' self-reliant consideration. Also, continuous



\* ) Asian Development Bank Institute



and consistent discussions should be held because water issues are often complex. For that purpose, workshops are held for total of three or four times against one issue, and main members should be stable.

- 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.
- Small and simple style is preferable. The financial resources of NARBO secretariat are quite limited, but we intend to hold as many activities as possible. Due to that, the number of participants will be limited (two participants per one country), and we will not hold gaudy ceremonies or parties, which will contribute to saving costs. Also, limiting the number of participants will contribute to active discussion among participants.
- The host organization rotates among the participant's organizations. Participants' organization's taking on the host organization of the thematic workshop can have following merits; (i) Costs for the workshop can be saved, (ii) NARBO member can recognize the sense of ownership, and (iii) NARBO members can find their own water issues through participating in planning for the workshop.

by doubt about the general ways of trainings or workshops on water resources management. In other words, we recognize issues on the general trainings or workshops as follows.

- Academic organizations often play a leading role in organizing them; so scholarly aspects tend to be emphasized. As a result, their contents are often conceptual, which are not understandable from the viewpoint of practitioners.
- Scales of such trainings or workshops are often large; so, participants tend only to listen to lectures or speeches of resource speakers. As a result, it is difficult to keep two-way communications.
- Themes are too big and conceptual (i.e. IWRM implementation), so points of the argument often become unclear.
- Gaudy ceremonies or parties are often held, which causes considerable expenditure about such trainings or workshops.

Therefore, in some cases, we often cannot help doubt the usefulness of such trainings or workshops for considering the expensive organizing costs. From these perspectives, we give the above 5 orientations to



Field visit in 1st Thematic Workshop on Water Allocation & Water Rights

The above 5 orientations were led

the thematic workshops.

### 3. The Thematic Workshop on Water Allocation and Water Rights

Now, ongoing thematic workshop is "The Thematic Workshop on Water Allocation and Water Rights". We plan to hold the thematic workshops for 4 times in total during December 2005 to the beginning of 2007, and 2 workshops have finished already.

The theme, "Water Allocation and Water Rights", was selected on the basis of the research on the needs for NARBO activity, carried out in 2004. According to the research, NARBO secretariat recognized that there were quite a few member organizations which have interest in water allocation issues including water rights system. Therefore, we decided "Water Allocation and Water Rights" as the theme of the first series of the thematic workshop.

Government officials and practitioners on water resources management attended the thematic workshop on water allocation and water rights, from 6 countries (Vietnam, Philippines, Thailand, Indonesia, Lao PDR, and Sri Lanka). In first and second workshops, participants have shared the water-related situation each other through sessions and field trips, and discussed actively the ways for improvement to realize an appropriate water allocation. Workshop materials were posted on the NARBO website (<http://www.narbo.jp>).

The venue, date and expected outcome of each workshop are shown in the below table.

First	Hanoi (Vietnam)	5-9 December, 2005	To identify the issues in participating countries
First	Hanoi (Vietnam)	5-9 December, 2005	To identify the issues in participating countries
Second	Manila (Philippines)	5-9 June, 2006	To analyze the causes of the issues and suggest the approach to improvement
Third	Bangkok (Thailand)	27 November- 1 December, 2006	To review the 1st and 2nd workshop and suggest the approach to improvement
Forth	To be determined	January, 2007	To draft the report to make a suggestion



1st workshop in Vietnam



2nd workshop in Philippines

**4. Next Steps**

NARBO secretariat regards the thematic workshop as an effective and low-cost activity which can give direct and good impact on the practical business on water resources

management. Therefore, we mean to promote this thematic workshop as one of the main activities of NARBO. Then, we mean to launch a new activity, “The Thematic Workshop on Facility Management for

Water Resources Infrastructure” from the beginning of 2007. Your active participation would be appreciated.

**Information from members**

**RED – THAI BINH RIVER BASIN ORGANIZATION OF VIET NAM WITH THE NEW SUB-RBOs**

Truong Trong Luat \*, Nguyen Thuy Hang \*

The Red – Thai Binh River Basin of Viet Nam comprises of 26 provinces in the North of Viet Nam with about 25 million people (there are in total 64 provinces with about 83 million people in the whole country). (Please refer to the NARBO Newsletter Issue No.6 for general information).

The Red – Thai Binh River Basin Organization (the RRBO) is responsible to manage basin-level water resources development planning with following tasks (excluding those mentioned in the NARBO Newsletter Issue No.6):

1. To assess alternatives of water resources planning projects and water

resources basic investigation projects and then submit to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and state competent authorities for approval;

2. To assess and monitor implementation of integrated water resources planning projects, including irrigation, drainage, flood control alternatives and water resources conservation in the Red – Thai Binh River Basin;

3. To coordinate with related agencies of ministries, sectors, and localities in implementing water resources planning projects approved by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development or the Government;

4. To coordinate with related agencies to establish management regulation of databases serving management, exploit, use and water resources conservancy in the Red – Thai Binh River Basin;

5. To propose capacity building and awareness programs in management, protection, exploitation, and use of water resources for organizations and individuals in the Red – Thai Binh River Basin;

6. To report to Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development and related ministries about water use, management, and protection in the Red – Thai Binh River Basin.



As illustrated in the map above, the Red – Thai Binh River Basin is formed hydrologically by five sub-basins which are characterized by different water-related issues. For instance, the Da, Thao and Lo-Gam rivers’ basins are characterized by floods and flash floods, the Upper Thai Binh river basin (Cau river basin) by water

shortage, and the Red River Delta (half of it is the Day river basin) by water pollution and water logging. In order to well realize the assigned tasks and to deal with the specific problems in each sub-basin, two sub-RBOs for the two sub-basins with the most critical water-related-issues have been established under the

RRBO recently, they are Day sub-RBO and Cau sub-RBO. The two sub-RBOs are to help the RRBO’s Chairman in implementing the above-mentioned tasks in the specific sub-basins. Main features of the two sub-RBOs are described in the following table.

\* ) Red - Thai Binh River Basin Organization Office

## Main features of the Cau sub-RBO and Day sub-RBO

Features	Day Sub – RBO	Cau Sub-RBO
Location, area, population	a sub-basin of the Red River Delta, south of Hanoi capital city, 7665 km <sup>2</sup> , 9 million persons	exactly the Upper Thai Binh River Basin, north of Hanoi capital city, 6030 km <sup>2</sup> , 5.2 million persons
Date of establishment	December 1, 2005	May 11, 2006
Member provinces	6 including Hoa Binh, Ha Tay, Ha Nam, Nam Dinh, Ninh Binh provinces and Hanoi city	6 including Bac Kan, Thai Nguyen, Vinh Phuc, Bac Giang, Bac Ninh provinces and Hanoi city. (Hai Duong province also wants to join)
Office	Ha Nam Provincial Department of Agriculture and Rural Development	Thai Nguyen Provincial Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
Number of representative members	51	61
Functions	to help the RRBO's Chairman in implementing his tasks of river basin water resources planning management	to help the RRBO's Chairman in implementing his tasks of river basin water resources planning management
Main problems in the sub-basin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- river water pollution caused by industries, handicraft production, and agricultural activities,</li> <li>- ground and surface water contamination from agro-chemical residues,</li> <li>- frequent floods and inundation causing huge damages to socio-economic activities within the Red River flood diversion areas.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- serious water shortage in the dry season</li> <li>- water pollution resulting in water quality deterioration due to population growth, agricultural development, industrialization and urbanization</li> <li>- destruction of watersheds, erosion, occupation of riverbanks, and water logging and flooding in the rainy season.</li> </ul>
IWRM at basin level	Supported by the 2nd Red River Basin Sector Project funded by the Asian Development Bank (Component 1: IWRM in the Cau river basin). Activities focus on dealing with water shortage and issues like irrigation performance, overall water balance, crop diversification, potential shift to aquaculture, options for water shortage and water allocation.	Supported by the 2nd Red River Basin Sector Project funded by the Asian Development Bank (Component 3: IWRM in the Nhue-Day river basin) Activities include a water quality sector review, water quality monitoring and water quality management, as well as an assessment of ambient water quality conditions in the Industrial Corridor between Hanoi and Hai Phong.

Since their establishment, the two sub-RBOs have held their first meeting in May (for the Day sub-RBO) and in July (for the Cau sub-RBO) where they set out clear action programs to involve their member provinces, especially their representatives members to contribute to the course of IWRM in their respective basins and to deal

with their specific water-related issues. The role of the sub-RBOs is also stressed when every decision of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development on water infrastructure investments in the two rivers' basins from now on will be based on the internal consensus of the sub-RBOs themselves. In-depth discussions and

a close collaboration are expected to be promoted among the members within their sub-RBOs and with the RRBO that help to further intensify activities by the sub-RBOs and by the RRBO for the ultimate purpose of sustainable development in the Red – Thai Binh River Basin.



Hoa Binh reservoir, one of the most important water infrastructures in the Red – Thai Binh river basin



## From the secretariat

### New Acting Secretary General – Mr. Yasutaka HAMADA –

Dr. Masafumi FUKUDA, the Secretary General of NARBO, left his post of the Executive Director at Japan Water Agency (JWA) on August 1, 2006 and he conveyed his resignation as the Secretary General to the secretariat. After his resignation, the secretariat nominated Mr. Yasutaka HAMADA, Executive Director at JWA, as the new Acting Secretary General and he was appointed the NARBO Acting Secretary General by the Chairperson according to the NARBO Charter "Article 4.4 Secretariat (3) (b)". Mr. HAMADA took his office as the Acting Secretary General on October 1 and the secretariat is happy to introduce him to all members on this occasion.

#### Message from Mr. HAMADA

My name is Yasutaka HAMADA, the successor of Dr. FUKUDA, the former Secretary General and I was appointed as the Acting Secretary General by the Chairperson, Dr. Basuki on October 1 according to the charter. First of all, I would like to express my thanks to Dr. FUKUDA, the former Secretary General, for his great contributions to NARBO activities during his 2 years and 7 months tenure.

I try to do my best to fulfill the duties for the further development of NARBO activities together with the secretariat under the guidance of the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairperson.

I worked in the water works administration in the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare (the former Ministry of Health and Welfare) to improve the water resources management for many years. I'm really happy to establish and promote IWRM in the river basins in Asia with my knowledge and experiences.

For NARBO activities, each member's active involvement especially in information exchange and sharing based on the ownership is indispensable. All of us have to remember this again and join forces with each other to promote NARBO activities much further.



### The 4th NARBO IWRM Training Program in Sri Lanka – Water for All –

"The 4th IWRM Training Course in Sri Lanka" will be held on 6th – 10th November, 2006 in Sri Lanka. The Mahaweli Authority of Sri Lanka (MASL) takes a role of recipient organization in this training. MASL has a large stock of knowledge and experience on pragmatic water resources management through the implementation of the Mahaweli Ganga Development Program, which is the largest integrated rural development multipurpose program ever undertaken in Sri Lanka.

In this training course, the experiences of MASL and the lessons learnt from disaster in Sri Lanka will be introduced. Also the participants from other countries will report their countries' situations concerning this theme and have the discussion in the practical view among the participants. To enrich the training course, your active participation and preparation for the training are indispensable.

The 2nd announcement & the detailed program is available on the web-site.

#### Liaison

Mr. Sudharma Elakanda (Recipient Organization) e-mail: narbo@mahaweli.gov.lk

Mr. Masahiro Sugiura (NARBO Secretariat) e-mail: narbo@water.jp

Note: 1. The due date of the application is over now.

2. The registration fee (US\$ 200) is needed to participate in the training.



## Network of Asian River Basin Organizations

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