

The NARBO Newsletter

(Network of Asian River Basin Organizations)

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

Activities (Thematic Workshop)

The NARBO has its First Set of Certified Peer Reviewers

Inocencio Arlene *

NARBO has its first batch of certified peer reviewers under its benchmarking initiative following the orientation and training held in Jatiluhur, Indonesia on October 31 to November 3, 2006. Fifteen senior officials from eight river basin organizations (RBOs) have been certified.

The NARBO performance benchmarking service was launched in Bali, Indonesia in September 2005 with the demonstration of the web-based application. This was followed by a presentation to the general NARBO membership at its second General Meeting in Jatiluhur in February 2006. Eleven RBOs volunteered to pilot the performance benchmarking service.

As a background, NARBO has identified performance benchmarking system with peer review process as one of its priority activities. In 2004, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the International Water Management Institute (IWMI), in collaboration with NARBO member organizations, spearheaded the development of the NARBO performance benchmarking service for river basin

organizations (RBOs) with peer review process, through a series of benchmarking activities. The performance benchmarking service for RBOs is a management support tool that enables the organization to: (i) track its progress; (ii) compare performance with similar organizations; and (iii) improve the efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery and achieve the highest level of performance.

The peer review process is viewed as a mechanism for improving the performance of organizations and for strengthening the cooperation among members. It consists of member RBOs visiting each other to discuss and review performance. The process involves self-evaluation where an RBO first assesses its performance using the NARBO benchmarking framework which covers the organization's mission, stakeholder concerns, internal business processes, learning and growth, and financial aspects. The peer review process is expected to: (1) provide an opportunity for dialogue and exchange of experiences, good practices and informa-



Group Discussion

tion among similar organizations, (ii) build capacity, and (iii) create synergy within the sector. It is also expected to build convergence, commitment, cooperation, confidence, and credibility through a transparent process, and replace a culture of assessments by external specialists with a process of learning together in partnership with respect and trust.

Given these expectations from peer review process and effectively the certified RBO peer reviewers, only the participants who met the following criteria and were highly recommended by their RBO heads were invited and accepted:

- hold a senior management position, i.e., make or influence decisions, possess a high degree of

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technical and administrative skills, knowledgeable of the activities and operations of the RBO including client needs, and able to contribute and foster knowledge-sharing during deliberations of the peer review team, and able to develop critical evaluations and strategies as necessary.

- have extensive experience in river basin work, i.e., with several years

of river basin planning and management experience, substantial knowledge of the water resources challenges and needs of the river basin, and able to apply technical skills to advise and support, and to develop critical analysis and strategies.

Twenty three (23) senior officials from eleven (11) river basin organizations in Indonesia, Thailand,

Vietnam, Philippines, Sri Lanka, South Korea, including one NARBO secretariat representative participated in the activity. Three staff from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) joined while one staff assisted the three staff from the International Water Management Institute (IWMI), who conducted the Orientation and training. Of the total participants, fifteen were certified:

Certified NARBO Peer Reviewers

November 3, 2006; Jatiluhur, Indonesia

Title	Name	Country	Designation	Organization
Ir	Subijanto, Tjoek Walujo	Indonesia	Director for Operations	Jasa Tirta I Public Corporation
Dr	Gurusinga, Djendam	Indonesia	President Director	Jasa Tirta II Public Corporation
Mr	Idrus, Herman	Indonesia	Head of R&D Bureau/Water Resources Specialist	Jasa Tirta II Public Corporation
Dr	Hutagalung, Waldemar	Indonesia	Director of Administration and Finance	Jasa Tirta II Public Corporation
Dr	Nurlaila	Indonesia	Head of Quality Management Bureau	Jasa Tirta II Public Corporation
Mr	Trihariono, Bambang	Indonesia	Senior Adviser, Quality Management Bureau	Jasa Tirta II Public Corporation
Mr	Quintos, Cesar	Philippines	Division Chief III	Laguna Lake Development Authority
Engr	de Silva, Ivan	Sri Lanka	Director General	Mahaweli Authority of Sri Lanka
Engr	Jayasinghe, J.A.S.A.	Sri Lanka	Executive Director, River Basin Planning & Management Division	Mahaweli Authority of Sri Lanka
Mr	Wellappili, Chulananda	Sri Lanka	Director, Planning & Monitoring Unit	Mahaweli Authority of Sri Lanka
Mr	Suaydee, Chamroon	Thailand	Chairman	Bang Pakong-Prachinburi River Basin Committee
Ms	Thongpook, Supaporn	Thailand	President	Ping River Basin Organization
Dr	Jompakdee, Wasan	Thailand	Chairman	The Coordinating Committee for the Protection of Ping River Basin and Environment
Dr	Nguyen Tat, DAC	Vietnam	Senior Project Manager	Dong Nai River Basin Organization, Southern Institute for Water Resources Planning
Mr	Thai Gia, Khanh	Vietnam	Water Resources Engineer, Chief of Technical Division	Red River Basin Organization

These Certified Peer Reviewers are expected to: (a) be available to conduct peer reviews, (b) visit other RBOs, (c) work with other peer reviewers, (d) review other RBO self-assessment reports, (e) interview the top management, staff and

stakeholders of RBOs being reviewed, (f) hold dialogues with other RBO Self-Assessment teams, (g) write reports and present findings and recommendations to other RBO top managements, and (h) submit final peer review reports

to the boards or top managements of RBOs reviewed.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FIRST NARBO PEER REVIEWERS!!!

The 4th IWRM Training Course in Sri Lanka

Masahiro Sugiura *

The Forth NARBO training course was held in Sri Lanka from November 6 to November 10 for about 5 days with great cooperation with the Mahaweli Autholity of Sri Lanka. The training course was participated by 18 persons from six Asian countries-Bangladesh(2), Indonesia(2), Pakistan(1), Philippines(1), Vietnam(5), Sri Lanka(4) and Two JWA and one from ADB. The theme of this training was "Water fo all - Lessons Learnt and Meeting Future Challenges" which was very timely theme and relevent to all the South East Asia and South Asian countries.

1st day was devoted for giving some clear understanding about Past-Present & Future of Hydraulic Civilization of Sri Lanka and Current Water

Management in Sri Lanka-Overview, by presentations made by two eminent resource persons from Sri Lanka. Then country paper presentation was made by each organization participated. 2nd and 3rd day were devoted for Fields Program which was planned to visit Victoria-Randenigala-Rantembe complex and meet Farmers Organization to have very close interaction to understand the grass--



Visiting Farmers Organization (3rd day)

roots level situation of Water Management. 4th and 5th day programs were very attractive for them to actively participate for the sessions and finally concluding ceremony.

This training was definitely a good opportunity for the participants to learn from Sri Lankan experiences with water-related sector issues. (The course fee was US\$200 per person.)



Group Presentation (5th day)

*) NARBO Secretariat (Japan Water Agency)

The 3rd & 4th Thematic Workshop on Water Allocation and Water Rights

Michitaro Nakai *

1. Introduction

The 3rd and 4th thematic workshops on water allocation and water rights were held respectively in Thailand, November-December 2006 and in Japan, January 2007. This thematic workshop on water allocation and water rights is the 1st series of the thematic workshop, which consists of 4 times in total. Thus, with the completion of the 4th workshop the 1st series was finished. This article reviews these 2 workshops, and after that, concludes the 1st series of thematic workshop briefly.

2. The 3rd Thematic Workshop on Water Allocation and Water Rights

The 3rd thematic workshop on water

allocation and water rights was held on November 27-December 1, 2006 in Bangkok, Thailand (at Century Park Hotel). The 3rd host organization was the Department of Water Resources (DWR), the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE). 35 participants from 7 countries (Thailand, Vietnam, Philippines, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Lao PDR, and Japan) discussed each session theme actively, and we could reach the refined outcomes about the improvement for water allocation issues. In addition, we could obtain some important information on current status of river basin management in Thailand through the site visit.

The main objectives of the 3rd workshop were (i) To review of the 1st and 2nd thematic workshops, and (ii) To make proposals for approach to improving water allocation issues. In line with the objectives, we held 5 sessions (on 27 & 29 November and 1 December), in which participants gave presentations and we made discussions for clarifying how to approach to improvement of water allocation issues in each participant's country. Thanks to the participants' efforts, we were finally able to reach refined outcomes, which will be the basis for the final action programs of the workshop.

Also, 2 presentations were given



Group Discussion



Site-visit (Khlong Tha Dan Dam)



Meeting with Bang Pakong RBC Staff

*) ADB Institute

from Japan side (on 27 November). One is "Outline of groundwater management", presented by Mr. Masayuki Sato, Deputy Director, Water Resources Policy Division, Water Resources Department, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport; and the other is "Outline of the River Law", presented by Michitaro Nakai, ADB Institute. Many participants seemed to have keen interest especially in groundwater management affair, thus participants made a lot of questions and discussions about that.

In addition, we made site-visit in the Bang Pakong river basin (on 30 November), going to the 2 venues (i) The Water Resources Regional Office 6 in Prachin Buri Province, and (ii) The Khlong Tha Dan Dam Project in Nayok Province. Especially in the site visit for the Water Resources Regional Office, we could obtain information on the River Basin Commission and the Water Evaluation and Planning System (WEPS), which are quite useful.

3. The 4th Thematic Workshop on Water Allocation and Water Rights

The 4th thematic workshop on water allocation and water rights was held on 23-26 January, 2007 in Saitama, Japan (at Japan Water Agency (JWA) Headquarters). The 4th host organization was JWA. 13 participants from 7 countries (Thailand,

Vietnam, Philippines, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Lao PDR, and Japan) participated in the workshop.

In this 4th workshop, we mainly focused on holding presentations on drafted action programs for approach to improvement of water allocation issues by each participant. Thus, participants gave presentations on their action programs based on the outcomes of the previous workshop intensively, and made discussions actively (on 24 & 26 January). Participants' drafted action programs, which are to be the workshop outcome, could become more polished ones through the discussions among participants.

Also, special lecture was given by Professor Tsuneaki Yoshida, Graduate School of Graduate Science, University of Tokyo (on 23 January). The theme of the lecture is "Japan's Experience in Water Resources Development - A Case Study on the Aichi Canal Project financed by the World Bank".

In addition, we visited 3 water-related projects within the Tone and Ara river basins, the Tone Canal Project in Saitama Prefecture (on 24 January), the Kasumigaura Lake Development Project in Ibaraki Prefecture, and the Inba-Marsh Development Project in Chiba

Prefecture (On 25 January). In the field trip in Chiba Prefecture, we held the discussion session with members of the Water User Association (Inba-Marsh Land Improvement District).

4. Conclusion

Thanks to the participants' efforts, we could complete the 1st series of thematic workshop successfully. Also, we could reach excellent outcomes through the workshop, which will be posted onto the NARBO website in the near future, <http://www.narbo.jp/>. Also, we could obtain important information on water allocation and water rights issues in participants' countries through discussions and field trips, which must be useful for the future NARBO activities.

Finally, we'd like to express our thanks for all the participants and all the staffs concerned of the host organizations of the thematic workshops (The Red River Basin Organization (Vietnam), the National Water Resources Board, the Laguna Lake Development Authority (Philippines), and the Department of Water Resources (Thailand)). Also, secretariat hopes that we will have close relationships with each other in the future.

Thank you very much.



Welcome Party (Chiba Canal Comprehensive Project Office)



Making a Presentation on the Action Program



Site-visit (Tone Canal)

Information from members

NARBO Forest after one year

Waldemar Hutagalung, Herman Idrus, Mardjuki Surachmat, Reni Mayasari, and Erni Murniati *



Welcome back to NARBO FOREST!
It has been quite a while after the 2nd General Meeting of NARBO that took place in Jatiluhur, Indonesia. As part of the meeting, NARBO FOREST was launched involving the young and rising stars that emerge to safeguard the environment specifically water resources.

Within an area of 2 ha, various tropical and local fruit trees were planted by different individuals representing a symbolic figure of all component of the stakeholders. The functions of forest for conservation, protection and production were created in this newly born forest.

The NARBO FOREST gives opportunity to share not only to the government institutions, particularly Jasa Tirta II Public Corporation but also to the community surrounding the area the information and good practices on how to conserve water resources and get benefits from the development.

This is due to the fact that water conservation cannot be done by only single component. As the triangle of IWRM, it collaborates mutual interaction between economics, social, and environment.

Keep your Spirit High!

Mr. Sasahara stated in his article that NARBO FOREST exhibits the Spirit of RBO, Spirit of NARBO, and Spirit of IWRM (see: Newsletter – Eight Issue).

NARBO FOREST is pioneering the cooperation in order to increase

aware-ness and technical advice on the sustainable aspect of the watershed.

Meanwhile, high expectation of the project creates a great responsibility. Mr. Hutagalung emphasized that the most important factor now to make the project successful and become a model for future development are persistence and determination. Without close collaboration and active participation from the society and continuity of proper maintenance of the area it won't be successful. Mr. Herman Idrus and Mr. Mardjuki Surachmat as the front line of duties have responsibility to keep the spirit high.

Learn from Nature!

The fence had been built in the border of the 2 ha of the NARBO FOREST in order to protect the young trees from the animal mostly goats, cows, and buffalos.

In the area, a house had been built and is intended as a guarding post

and also is operated as the exhibition room where we can learn the history of the development and learn how to conserve water as part of the IWRM.

Up to now, there are more than 70 trees that are growing in the area. Some of them were planted during the 2nd General Meeting. The area is only 2 ha but it has possibility for further extension.

Several man forces are employed to protect and maintain the environment. Regular maintenance such as grass cutting is carried out to preserve the environment.

After 1 year running, NARBO FOREST is not only located in the scenic view that attracts people to visit and enjoy the panorama, but also in the future we can take pleasure in eating the fresh from the trees of exotic fruits!

We wait for your return and see you again in NARBO FOREST!



A house had been built as an exhibition room and also a guarding post.



Mr. Waldemar Hutagalung, Mr. Herman Idrus, and Mr. Mardjuki Surachmat during field observation of the NARBO FOREST.



Regular maintenance of the area.

*) Jasa Tirta II Public Corporation

From the secretariat

APHW Conference in Thailand Minoru Arai *

1. Introduction

The 3rd APHW Conference was held in Bangkok, Thailand during October 15th – 19th, 2006. Mr. Minoru Arai of NARBO Secretariat participated in the conference and made a presentation on the outline of NARBO and the activities. He appealed the importance to strengthen the relationship between NARBO and APHW for the purpose of promoting IWRM in monsoon Asia.

2. About APHW

The Asia Pacific Association of Hydrology and Water Resources (APHW) is non-governmental organization founded in September 2002. The Association is an Inter Regional Knowledge Partner of NARBO, which provides a forum and acts as a catalyst for a discussion on education research, and policy development in the fields of hydrology and water resources management. APHW activities consist of promotion of hydrological studies in Asia Pacific region, research on water utilization and management methodologies, organization of conferences and workshop, establishing education programs, data and information sharing, and publication of journals.

3. Outline of the Conference

The conference was held in cooperation with the National Research Council of Thailand (NRCT) under the theme entitled “ Wise Water Resources Management Towards Sustainable Growth and Poverty Reduction”. In parallel with the conference, an International Symposium on “Managing Water Supply for Growing Demand” was organized at the same venue by Thai National Committee for IHP-UNESCO, Thailand National Commission for UNESCO and Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Thailand.

4. Appeal from NARBO

The conference began with the opening speech by Dr. Musiaka Secretary General of APHW. Following the opening session, the special sessions divided into every theme were held.

Mr. Minoru Arai of NARBO Secretariat attended the special session 6 “Asian Initiatives and Predictions of Hydrology and Water Resources – Predictions in Ungauged Basins” and made an oral presentation entitled “NARBO Practice of IWRM with River Basin Organization (Activities and Standpoint of NARBO)”. He explained the “Thematic Workshop” as one of the representative NARBO activities and made an appeal for the importance to strengthen the relationship between NARBO and APHW for the purpose of promoting IWRM in monsoon Asia.



Opening Session



Presentation by Mr. Arai

*) NARBO Secretariat (Japan Water Agency)

Member's Annual Report 2006

"The deadline of the NARBO members' annual report 2006 is March 31. As of March 1, only two members submitted the annual report.

The secretariat prepared the simple form of the annual report on NARBO website, so please download the format from the website and submit the annual report no later than March 31."