

Thank you for your introduction.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I am Shinsuke Ota, Vice-President of the Japan Water Agency. I am speaking to you on behalf of our President, Toshiki AOYAMA, who cannot be here because Japanese Diet is in session today. I would like to express my thanks, as the JWA representative, relating to the agreement on a twinning program entered into by the Indonesian NARBO and the JWA. This agreement represents the first twinning program in NARBO's activities, and we are very happy to be the counterpart organization involved. I would also like to thank NARBO Chairperson Dr. Basuki, Mr. Sukrasno, Executive Director of the Indonesian NARBO Secretariat, and all the members of Indonesian NARBO for their efforts in realizing the twinning agreement.

Japan and Indonesia have long enjoyed a strong relationship. In particular, Japan has collaborated with Indonesia in the area of water resources, assisting in water resource development and irrigation projects in many areas of the country. Japan is also currently working with Indonesia on water-related projects regarding Empowerment of Water User's Association in South Sulawesi, The study of capacity development for the Jeneberang river basin management and Others.

Further, in the Brantas River basin, JWA, as a River Basin Organization, has also been closely involved with Jasa Tirta I (one) Public Corporation from the time that body was established. Based on our cooperation so far, I hope that more exchanges will take place between our organizations through this twinning program.

I also hope that other NARBO members will enter into twinning programs as well. The activities of river basin organizations are extremely important for establishing IWRM. IWRM activities are rooted in their respective areas' history and society and may differ depending on countries.

On the other hand, different areas in the Asian monsoon region share many similarities, and they have extensive experience and information which should be shared. NARBO was established to support the activities of river basin organizations in the Asian monsoon region. It is a network through which river basin organizations, government bodies, academic institutions and international cooperation organizations can share their experience and information and mutually improve their capabilities.

JWA is Japan's only River Basin Organization, working to develop and manage water resources in Japan's major river systems. Established in 1962, it has over 40 years' experience in water resource management and has improved people's lives through its activities. I believe that JWA has a wealth of experience and information it can share with the Asian Monsoon Region. The Asian Monsoon Region is experiencing many difficult and complex water-related problems today. The 3<sup>rd</sup> World Water Forum, held in Tokyo in March 2003, aroused our determination to look outward more than we previously had, and to contribute for solution of water issues throughout the world and in Asia in particular. Based on this decision, we promoted establishment of the NARBO with ADB and ADBI.

We promise to make active contributions toward the development of NARBO.

Thank you for your listening.