

## Report of the 2<sup>nd</sup> River Summit

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### 1. What is the International River Summit?

The International River Summit is biennial multi-partner national initiative spearheaded by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) - River Basin Control Office (RBCO), League of Cities of the Philippines (LCP), and the host city. DENR-RBCO is the lead national agency in rationalizing and integrating river basin management initiatives and creating an enabling policy environment for river basin governance. LCP is the local government association of Philippine cities.

The International River Summit traces its first initiative in Iloilo City when its local authorities spearheaded the summit on May 30-June 01, 2012.

### 2. What was discussed at the 2<sup>nd</sup> International River Summit, and how NARBO contributed to the discussion?

*The 2<sup>nd</sup> International River Summit was held in Marikina City, Philippines on November 19-21, 2014. Theme of the summit was 'Reviving Rivers, Rebuilding Civilization'. The theme captured the call to action on reviving our rivers not just on economic terms but equally important on social and cultural imperatives. The summit was co-organized by the Department of Natural Environment and Resources - River Basin Control Office (DENR-RBCO), League of Cities of the Philippines (LCP) and Marikina City. Intensive discussion to raise the serious challenge to bring back rivers into the development agenda was held.*

Objective of the 2<sup>nd</sup> summit was to i : To convene river stakeholders - national and local authorities, policy experts, river managers from both public and private sectors, the academe, leaders in clean water technology, and river advocates and students - and discuss important issues in managing river basins, ii : To foster information and knowledge exchanges of the latest technology and approaches on river basin governance from the different participating countries, iii : To build consensus that will address gaps in policy and implementation of river basin management at both national and local levels and to expand avenues for greater cooperation, and iv : To enhance capacities of both national and local agencies in mainstreaming river basin approaches into the development planning and advocacy campaigns.

To achieve the objectives to the 2<sup>nd</sup> summit, sessions to discuss i : *Developing Healthy Rivers*, ii : *Governance of the River Basin*, iii : *River Ecosystem Management*, iv : *Partnerships building for rivers*, v : *River ecotourism*, vi : *Biodiversity conservation*, vii : *Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction Management*, viii : *The Roles of Industries*, and ix : *River Culture*.

Mr. Kawasaki shared our activities to the audience as the session 6 ‘Water Partnership, Convergence and Governance’. Approximately 70 participants from government, international organizations and NGOs joined the session. The session had 4 speakers, and H.E. Dr. NEREUS O. ACOSTA JR, General Manager of the Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA) offered keynote remark and introduced LLDA activities. Audience recognized that how LLDA had contributed to disseminate the concept of IWRM and take actions even at the small scale river basin. Mr. Tadashige Kawasaki, secretariat of NARBO joined the session on behalf of NARBO. Mr. Kawasaki introduced NARBO’s contribution to OECD Water Governance Initiative by focusing on how to get consensus on IWRM process.

It was a wonderful opportunity to show how practitioner of IWRM are effectively working at river basin and taking an important role on water governance.

