

FOREWORD



First of all, I would like to thank all NARBO members for the trust and support to NARBO activities in 2009. Since I was elected as NARBO Chairperson at the 3rd General Meeting in Solo, Indonesia last February 2008, I have supported and was part of many activities as a response to the member's requirement, which are in line to NARBO's action plan.

Looking back at the NARBO activities in 2009, for the activity on IWRM training program, the 5th and 6th IWRM training courses were successfully carried out in Viet Nam in February and December, respectively. As well as the activity on Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to provide guidance to ensure quality of NARBO's IWRM Training Program, and on strategic direction of NARBO's activities, the 2nd Technical Advisory Committee Meeting was held in Singapore in June. Personnel exchanges based on the twinning program between the Japan Water Agency (JWA) and the Mahaweli Authority of Sri Lanka, on the one hand; and JWA and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Viet Nam, on the other, were also conducted. Moreover to provide and share good practices and lessons learned on IWRM related activities, the 16th, 17th and 18th newsletters were issued in March, April and August respectively with the active contributions from NARBO Members

NARBO has substantially contributed to the formulation of IWRM Guidelines at River Basin Level, which was organized by UNESCO and launched at the 5th World Water Forum in Istanbul, in March 2009. The set of Guidelines were used as reference material in the 6th IWRM training. As a member of the Steering Committee in preparing the Guidelines, I would like to inform that we are currently discussing to publish another volume which would tackle "environment" and "climate change". It is expected that NARBO's IWRM training will benefit and be more productive with the application of these additional volumes.



Water Security is a pressing issue in most of our member basins, therefore Asian Development Bank (ADB) and JWA has signed a letter of intent (LOI) in January 2009 to collaborate in improving water security in river basins, which would among others conduct demonstration projects to improve water security in three river basins in the region with long-term investment roadmaps and good practice that could be replicated in the region. NARBO expects to extend its activities to improve water security in collaboration with KnowledgeHubs under the auspices of the Asia-Pacific Water Forum, especially with the Center for River Basin Organizations and Management (CRBOM), Indonesia. Initial activity is expected to include research and comparative analysis of needs, practice and experience on IWRM in the region.

According to the Status Report on IWRM completed by UN-Water in May 2008, the progress of implementing IWRM is not satisfy yet. Besides, it is anticipated that extreme events such as "flood" and "drought" will occur more frequently due to global climate change. Therefore collaboration with other initiatives need to be more activated. It has been six years since NARBO was established, and I am confident that NARBO will continue its steady progress to improve the quality of its activities and achieve its objectives.

I hope that the NARBO Annual Report of 2009 will serve as a valuable input to improve and enhance your activities in achieving IWRM in your river basin.

Chairperson of NARBO

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mochammad Amron", written over a horizontal line.

Dr. Ir. Mochammad Amron, M. Sc

