

ACTION PROGRAM 2024-2026

Main Theme: Water-related Disaster Management through Structural and Non-Structural Water Infrastructure Development at the Basin Level to Enhance Water Security

Background:

NARBO member countries as well as other countries face water-related problems like flood disasters, food shortages and disease outbreaks, making it a crucial concern in line with Sustainable Development Goals and U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change, etc. Alarming projections indicate that by 2025, a third of the developing world will face water shortages. Even smaller nations experience acute water scarcity. While at the same time, for instance, in 2022, the number of people affected by floods, landslides and storms accounted for 375 million across the world. These underline the need for a proactive approach in managing water resources. Despite escalating natural disasters, including extreme weather events, our commitment to sustainable water management remains steadfast. This entails considering economic, social, and environmental dimensions while being attuned to prevailing societal conditions. Under this situation, it would be remarkable for the NARBO members if practice of NARBO Action Plans could bring substantial benefits, providing a platform to assess real-world situations of water-related disasters within NARBO member countries. It empowers the members to address these challenges effectively through discussions and shared perspectives. Additionally, it fosters collaboration and fresh insights among the members, ensuring a holistic approach to water resources management.

Source: The Emergency Events Database (EM-DAT), Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters, School of Public Health Université catholique de Louvain Clos Chapelle-aux-Champs, Bte B1.30.15, 1200 Brussels, Belgium

Concept / Framework:

IWRM, which plays an important role in strengthening Water Security, encompasses a wide scope of the matters concerned. Within this, NARBO mainly focuses on the water-related infrastructure development as one of measures to enhance Water Security during the next three-year period from 2024 to 2026, and then, the Action Plan will be framed in terms of the following perspectives.

1. NARBO secretariats will select one or two of NARBO members in response to their requests, and conduct a case study on the development of water-related infrastructure together with the relevant members for a certain period of time. However, as before, the result of the activities has to contribute to the development of IWRM projects and achievement of

international goals and targets on water such as shown in 6.5 of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and international initiatives such as OECD Water Governance Initiative, International Flood Initiative (IFI), Asia-Pacific Water Forum (APWF), ASEAN Working Group on Water Resources Management and so on.

2. RBOs often face major constraints such as restricted autonomy, limited financial resources, and lack of professional capacities. Therefore, in order to remedy such RBOs current situations and push RBOs into becoming drivers of sustainable IWRM as much as possible, NARBO secretariat chiefly plays a role of sharing the activity contents and relevant information on international discussions, publications and articles via NARBO Website, NARBO Friends on Facebook & member’s Website and e-Newsletter, etc.

A. Capacity Development in River Basin Organizations (RBOs) & Network Support			
Activities	Implementation	Plan Lead Agency	Notes
<p>1. Strengthening Water Security Focusing on Water Infrastructure Development</p> <p>IWRM encompasses a wide scope of the contents for Water Security enhancement. During three years from 2024, NARBO promotes the capacity development of RBO through various activities of water infrastructure development. toward strengthening Water Security.</p>	<p>NARBO Secretariat collaborates with NARBO members to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Clarify climate change impact on water resources management and status of construction and O&M of water-related facilities on basin level. ● Clarify issues (gaps between ideal and actual situations) and challenges (actions to bridge the gaps), and potential needs for the development. ● Support to prepare a master plan on water resources development and management from the project initiative to the O&M stage ● Support to formulate a road map for feasibility of the specific ODA project ● Clear the broad issues and challenges regarding the project from a view point of IWRM 	<p>NARBO Secretariat, National Secretariat, Knowledge Partners and the Host Organization</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● NARBO Secretariat supports the relevant RBOs to resolve their issues of water resources management in collaboration with National Secretariat and Knowledge Partners. ● Outcomes from this activity leads to not only another project initiatives but also new knowledge products.

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<p>2. IWRM Training and Workshops</p> <p>- Training courses contribute to the promotion of establishment of RBOs, capacity development of RBOs and improve IWRM at basin level through strengthening institutional capacity of RBOs and their staff - Thematic workshops under the umbrella of IWRM need to be organized</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● IWRM Training to be implemented on a regular basis ● Programs to be developed with the Host Organization, the National Secretariat, Knowledge Partner Organizations and Academic Institutes by considering host country's interests and international agenda and to be used for 'IWRM Spiral' in "IWRM Guidelines at River Basin Level ("IWRM Guidelines") and NARBO 'IWRM Indicator' ● Result of activities must contribute to the development of IWRM projects and achieve international goals and targets on water such as shown in 6.5 of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and contribute to international initiatives such as OECD Water Governance Initiative, International Flood Initiative (IFI), Asia-Pacific Water Forum (APWF), ASEAN Working Group on Water Resources Management and so on ● Collected case studies to contribute to the development of sequel to "IWRM Guidelines" and other guidelines which will be initiated by international organizations ● Programs to contribute and be conducted in collaboration with ADB's TA9095 and the donor's program ● Result of the training and workshop to be shared among staff in participants' organizations by holding the internal meetings supported 	<p>NARBO Secretariat, National Secretariat, Knowledge Partners and the Host Organization</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 'IWRM Spiral' in "IWRM GUIDELINES" and 'IWRM Indicator' are used as main materials for capacity development activities ● NARBO Secretariat with National Secretariats to introduce case studies and advanced technologies by enhancing collaboration with academia and other international networks ● Members to facilitate their staff to apply and contribute to registration fee and to sharing what they have learnt with their colleagues on an organizational basis ● Leadership program by IWC to be considered ● IWRM Certification to be linked with IWRM Training Courses and disseminated through National

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	by the National Secretariat <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Effective method such as E-Learning to be explored for the training courses 		Secretariat
3. RBO Performance Benchmarking - Provides a demand based benchmarking service for RBOs to assess and continuously improve their performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Manage and develop the implementation of the NARBO RBO performance benchmarking service and apply IWRM Indicator to RBOs who have strong interests in applying it. ● Regular base monitoring should be conducted with support of CRBOM with NARBO Secretariat and the National Secretariat 	CRBOM, NARBO Secretariat and National Secretariat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Modified indicator which fits with the country or basin situation to be developed and applied
4. Communication and Interactions - Keeping and enhancing the NARBO network contributes to complementing ODA activities. Communication through multiple tools is the foundation of NARBO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● NARBO Website (http://www.narbo.jp), NARBO Friends on Facebook & member's Website, e-Newsletter, publications and reports to be stimulated ● Members to provide NARBO Secretariat with information, news and topics on IWRM frequently for NARBO website and Newsletter ● Information on international discussions, publications and articles on IWRM and Water Governance to be disseminated through multiple methods ● Active participation to the discussions on IWRM through SNS and more opportunities to be developed ● Information related to NARBO also to be disseminated through 	All members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Information on Scholarship and other useful information also to be also shared

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	member's websites and newsletters		
<p>5. Twinning Programs and Advisory Visits to RBOs</p> <p>- are the mutually beneficial programs for experience and knowledge sharing and capacity development, involving exchange visits, staff exchange, and joint projects</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mutually beneficial programs for knowledge sharing and capacity development, involving exchange visits, staff exchange, and joint projects to be developed and conducted through Twinning Programs ● Enhance making LOI for implementing Twinning Program with facilitation of NARBO Secretariat and National Secretariats ● Explore further substantial outputs in using current scheme for mutual benefits and develop IWRM projects and achieve international goals and targets on water 	RBO members, National Secretariat and NARBO Secretariat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Initiated, arranged and financed by RBO members themselves ● NARBO Secretariat and each National Secretariat can facilitate initial actions ● Result of activities to be shared with other members through website and newsletters
<p>6. National Secretariat</p> <p>- are encouraged to be established aiming to achieve localized water resources management and foster domestic industry on water, supported by NARBO Secretariat and Steering Committee to enhance collection and dissemination of information and experiences on IWRM</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The established National Secretariat to provide demand based knowledge and capacity development services that meet NARBO member's and its clients' needs and support ● NARBO activities in their country and localized water resources management which fits with the region Member organization in the country to support activities of National Committee in every aspect 	National Secretariat, NARBO Secretariat and Steering Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Collaboration with institutes, universities and other international organizations and networks in the country will be considered
<p>7. Steering Committee (SC)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● SC meetings shall be convened by Secretary General if necessary ● SC to provide guidance on strategic direction of NARBO's activities including role of National Secretariat, NARBO operation and management 	The NARBO Secretariat and	

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	<p>system, and Financial guidelines.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● SC has a function of Nomination of NARBO Officials Notable experts in the region to be invited to SC meetings 	Steering Committee	
<p>8. Nomination Committee (NC) - Nomination Committee needs to be established based on NARBO Charter</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Nomination process of NARBO officials to be transparent and evaluation to be just and fair. ● All member organizations to participate in the nomination process and to contribute by sending the nomination letter 	NARBO Secretariat	

B. Advocacy and Raising Awareness on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM)			
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<p>1. Workshops, Conferences and Seminars on IWRM - Need to be held to cover the hot topics of IWRM and the details need to be decided by the demand and necessity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Conduct workshops on the topics closely related with IWRM such as climate change and water-related disasters based on the suggestions/opinions from member organizations or proposals from knowledge partner organizations or international organizations including international initiatives ● Opportunities and contribution to OECD Water Governance Initiative, High-level Expert and Leaders Panel on Water and Disasters (HELP), IFI, the 5th Asia-Pacific Water Summit and the 12th World Water Forum to be considered for collaboration 	NARBO Secretariat, National Secretariat and Knowledge partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● NARBO Secretariat with National Secretariats introduces case studies and advanced technologies by enhancing collaboration with academia and other international networks.

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<p>2. Localization of IWRM Guidelines</p> <p>- Needs to be formulated by considering UNESCO's "IWRM Guidelines"</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● NARBO Secretariat with National Secretariat and Knowledge Partner organizations to provide useful reference materials Localized IWRM Guidelines to be shared with other regions through NARBO network 	<p>NARBO Secretariat, National Secretariat and Knowledge partners</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● HELP Davao's action programs to be considered for collaboration
<p>3. Ownership of NARBO</p> <p>- Needs to be promoted to secure sustainable activities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Members to active contribution and participation to NARBO activities based on NARBO Charter 	<p>All members</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Members to offer proactive opinions and proposals for the step-up
<p>4. Contribution to achieve international goals and target related to water for sustainability and collaboration with international initiatives</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Share Practitioners' voices and experiences on the fields to the international level discussions ● Take concrete actions to achieve goals and target on water in Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030), the 29th, 30th session of the Conference of the Parties(COP29, 30), and so on. ● Consider recommendations such as Green Growth and quality infrastructure investment in implementation of the project for the future collaboration opportunities ● Enhance collaboration with UN-Water, ASEAN, GWP (Global Water 	<p>NARBO Secretariat</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Members to offer case studies that should be disseminated for international society as practitioners

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	<p>Partnership), OECD, Donor agencies including ADB, JICA and the World Bank, international initiatives such as HELP (High-level Expert and Leaders Panel on Water and Disasters), IFI, existing networks such as APWF, WEPA (Water Environment Partnership in Asia) and AWCII (Asia Water Cycle Initiative) to help RBOs and projects for IWRM in river basins.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Explore collaboration with research institutions, researcher groups and universities on climate change ● Collaborate with RBOs and networks in other regions in improving water security in their basins for the future ● Support pilot implementation and disseminate good practices 		
5. Transboundary Water Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Explores opportunities to foster transboundary water resources management (within the boundary and between the neighboring countries) through information sharing and exchange of experiences and offers good practices as inputs for regional study on charting ● Enhance collaboration with international organizations, global initiatives and networks and Academic Society on this field 	NARBO Secretariat	
6. Charting Progress and Facilitating quality Investment for IWRM - Accelerate sustainable economic growth and improve the living standards in river	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Fostering water-related industry for sustainable quality operation and management of water-related facilities to be encouraged ● Use of NARBO events for developing IWRM project supported / implemented by donor organizations to be sought 	NARBO Secretariat and National	

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basins through efficient, effective, and sustainable water resources management, environmental conservation, and water-related disaster risk reduction with high standard of quality.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cooperation on ADB's TA for NARBO members and the result of past TA to be shared with members through NARBO ● The capacity of government agencies and other stakeholders concerned to be strengthened for the implementation of the future investment programs 	Secretariats	