

Asia-Pacific Day and Follow-up Activities in Southeast Asia

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26 January 2004

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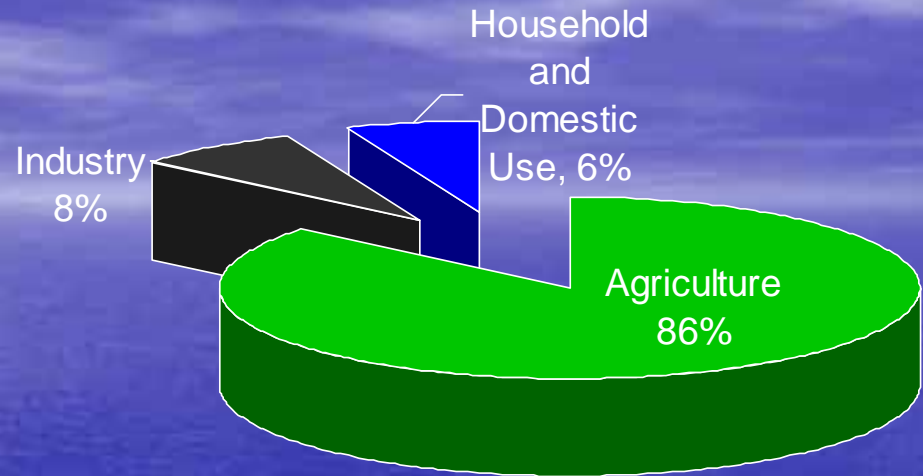
ASIA-PACIFIC DAY REPORT

Key Issues

- **Water resources management will be an increasingly challenging task in Asia and the Pacific – due to the growth in both water demand and population**
- **Water scarcity compounded by pollution is a key issue to be addressed for the region's sustainable future**

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- **From all available freshwater resources in the region:**



- **One in three Asians – does not have access to safe drinking water source w/in 200 m of home**
- **90% of people deprived of immediate access to water or sanitation live in rural areas**
- **Region is constantly subjected to drought, flooding and pollution**

Actions

- **Strengthen transparency in WRM, by active participation of water users and decentralization to ensure equitable access to water**
- **Focus on natural disasters as key concerns and give priority for action in terms of increased investments for flood and drought mitigation**

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- **Develop more and effective cooperative relationships in utilizing trans-boundary water resources**
- **Promote institutional development, capacity building and public awareness**

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Specific Recommendations for DCs

- High water stress countries – shift to higher-value, less water-intensive crops;
- Countries are urged to give high priority to investment for wastewater treatment and reuse;
- Improve local skills for industrial transformation by developing educational and information infrastructure; and
- Provision of safe drinking water to all rural populations.

Session on Water Governance: Issues and Actions in SE Asia

(organized by GWP SEATAC)



Global Water Partnership
Southeast Asia Technical Advisory Committee

Water Governance Session Report

Key Issues

Six key issues in water governance:

1. **Effective River Basin Management;**
2. **Effective Stakeholder Roles;**
3. **Effective Regulations in Water Mgt.;**
4. **Prioritization of Water Allocation;**
5. **Introducing Financial and Economic Instruments; and**
6. **Capacity Building for Effective Water Governance**

Water Governance Session Report

Key Issues from Discussion:

1. **Drafting of national water laws and privatization of water systems should undergo stakeholder consultation process; and**
2. **Management of shared rivers should include upstream-downstream (inter- and intra-country) issues and stakeholders**

Water Governance Session Report

Actions:

- Establishment of ASEAN Working Group on Water Resources Management (AWGWARM) to promote IWRM and facilitate effective water governance;
- Governance dialogues at the national and regional level; and
- Enhancement of national water policies and water laws




Water Governance Session Report

Commitments:

- Through AWGWARM, enhance the process of water reform in the region;
- Conduct a regional forum and share information and experiences through the SEA Water Forum ; and
- Enhance capacity building through establishment and operations of the SEA Network on Capacity Building for IWRM (SEACapNet)



A detailed map of Southeast Asia and surrounding regions, including parts of Burma, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, the Philippines, and Indonesia. Major cities like Bangkok, Hanoi, Manila, and Jakarta are labeled. The Philippine Sea and North Pacific Ocean are also shown. A blue horizontal line is drawn across the middle of the map, underlining the title text.

Follow-up Activities in Southeast Asia

FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES

- **Establishment of SEACapNet Working Committee**
 - ❖ **GWP SEATAC as Interim Secretariat**
 - ❖ **Assisted in the establishment of the Vietnam CapNet (VietCapNet), and in planning of establishing country CapNets in Cambodia, Lao, and Thailand**
 - ❖ **MOA between SEACapNet, SEATAC, AIT and SEARCA drafted. The MOA provides for the development and implementation of a regional training course on IWRM and on the establishment of management of river basin organizations**

FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES

➤ First Southeast Asia Forum Convened on 17-21 November 2003 in Chiang Mai, Thailand

 **Attended by 480 participants from SE Asia, China, Japan, Europe, South Asia, US and Africa**



 **Featured seven key themes:**

- 1. Water and Sanitation Services for Health;**
- 2. Water, Environment and Ecosystems;**
- 3. Water and Food;**
- 4. Community and Local Management of Water Resources;**
- 5. Conflict Resolution and Basin Organizations;**
- 6. Integrated Coastal Area and River Basin Management; and**
- 7. Climate, Floods and Droughts**

FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES



A Forum Declaration was produced which contain specific recommendations to be taken to further improve and advance better practices for water management in the region



FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES

- **Inception Meeting of the Network of Asian River Basins Organization (NARBO) convened by JWA, ADB and ADBI on 20 Nov 2003.**



(webpage: www.narbo.jp)



NARBO's objectives:

- ❖ **to promote the exchange of information and experience among river basin organizations (RBOs) and their associated water sector agencies in Asia and**
- ❖ **to strengthen their capacity and effectiveness in promoting IWRM and improving water governance**

FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES

➤ Convening of the First Ministerial Meeting on Water Management on 20 November 2003




A Ministerial Declaration was adopted by the Ministers, which noted among others:

- the increasing demand and competition for water among various users often to the disadvantage of the poor and vulnerable people,
- governments' determination to cooperate in sustainably managing the region's water resources

FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES

➤ **Second AWGWRM Meeting held on 20-21 November 2003**

 **ASOEN has endorsed the ASEAN Long Term Strategic Plan for Water Resources Management**

 **Proposal on 'Development of the ASEAN Strategic Plan of Action on WRM' has been approved for funding support**



... some of the activities of the project include - conduct of national assessments, a regional consultative workshop and development of regional project proposals to implement the ASEAN Strategic Plan on Water Resources Management

Conclusion:

- Southeast Asia has initiated the implementation of most of the commitments made during 3WWF
- More has still to be done especially on the enhancement and implementation of national water policies and water laws
- Monitoring and follow-up of the actions, projects and initiatives of the 3WWF and the SEA Water Forum will be continued by the SEA Regional Water Partnership (SEARWP)



Thank You !!!