

# NARBO: Launching the Network of Asian River Basin Organizations

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Presentation by

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# Need for RBOs



- Empower stakeholders in river basin planning and management
- Allocate water between uses and geographical areas
- Balance interests
- Increase the water security of the poor

# Need for RBOs



- Develop and finance sustainable water resources projects that are justified in the public interest
- Improve water quality in rivers
- Manage floods, more than protection

# Need for RBOs



- Conserve watersheds, wetlands, ecosystems, fisheries
- Increase public awareness on water
- Incorporate water in education, like stream watch

# Need for RBOs



- Administer water rights
- Build on sound traditional and modern local practices
- Devolve IWRM to the lowest appropriate level = the river basin, making IWRM happen

# Experiences in the Region



- India
- Indonesia
- Japan
- Korea
- Laos
- Philippines
- PR China
- Thailand
- Viet Nam
- Other countries...

# Different RBO Models

- Committees
- Commissions
- Authorities
- Tribunals
- Corporations
- International
- Large/Small and Established/New
- Stakeholder Forums, Local Initiatives



# What do RBOs need?

- Mandate and vision
- Legal basis and guidelines
- Stakeholder representation
- Leadership and clear policies
- Motivated and capable staff
- Technical and non-technical skills
- Financial resources
- Influence in water project decisions
- Across and beyond the water sector

# RBO Networking Needs

- What are the networking needs among large/established and new/small RBOs?
- Sharing information: website, communication
- Structured learning opportunities: staff exchange, training, study visits, advice
- Joint initiatives: advocacy, guidelines, sourcebooks, benchmarking and ISO certification of RBOs
- Others...?

# Who Should be Involved?

- **RBOs:** the core members of NARBO
- **Facilitators:** national water agencies and water sector apex bodies
- **Knowledge partners:** national, regional, and international
- **Financial supporters:** including national, bilateral, and multilateral
- **Advocates and Watch Dogs?** Civil society organizations, the media, ...

# Announcement of NARBO

- 3<sup>rd</sup> World Water Forum, March 2003
- Letter of **intent** to establish NARBO was signed by WARDEC (now JWA), ADB, and ADBI in Otsu City on the shores of Lake Biwa
- Signals the **commitment** of Japan, ADB, and ADBI to NARBO as a key follow-up initiative to the 3<sup>rd</sup> World Water Forum
- KOWACO said it wants to join

# NARBO Goal

Help achieve IWRM in river basins throughout the Asia-Pacific region, especially in developing countries



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# NARBO Objective



Strengthen the capacity and effectiveness of the RBOs in promoting IWRM and improving water governance by promoting the exchange of information and experience among RBOs, their associated water sector agencies, and knowledge centers

# Planned Scope of Activities

## Regional:

- IWRM advocacy and awareness
- Sharing information, practices, lessons learned in IWRM



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# Planned Scope of Activities

## Country/Subregion:

- Supporting enabling policies and action plans for RBOs
- Building capacity of RBOs for IWRM
- Supporting RBOs in safe and efficient operation of water facilities and services
- Fostering cooperation in transboundary river basins



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# How will NARBO work?



- Responding to RBO needs and requests
- Structured exchange and learning
- Initial focus on monsoonal Asia (East, Southeast, and South Asia)
- Support from JWA, ADB, ADBI, ..., and the member RBOs

# Getting NARBO to Work



- **Launching** – Inception workshop in Chiang Mai, Thailand, November 2003
- **1<sup>st</sup> General Meeting** - Indonesia, February 2004, to decide on organization, activities, priority actions
- **Funding** - available for start-up in 2004
- **Secretariat** – JWA, ADBI, ADB

# What Matters Most...

Water management is about

- People
- Getting Organized
- Making Better Decisions
- and Implementing them

**CHANGES ARE NEEDED!**



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# Working for Change

- IWRM and NARBO are about change
- Changing how water will be managed tomorrow
- Changing people and institutions
- Better institutions will offer young people the right challenge, incentive, and skills to become water managers and enjoy a career in river basin organizations

# Launching NARBO

- A better future of water management in the Asia-Pacific region
- By changing the way we work, plan, make decisions, and implement them
- Networking to help a new generation of water managers make IWRM a reality



# Secretariat



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