

NARBO Water Rights Workshop (May 2007)

ADB Reflections

- Working definitions – *water rights, allocation, authorized use*
- Licensing brings complexities: what approach to transition?; *'if its not broke, don't fix it'*; recognize constraints of institutional capacity / resources; will piloting work?;
- What are the risks of moving from an 'implicit' to an 'explicit' system? How are failures dealt with?
- Are explicit safeguards and proactive measures needed for the poor to meet MDG commitments and beyond? – e.g. formalize the basic right to water, benefit sharing mechanisms, ...
- Customary rights – how best to recognize them?
- Do new water allocations inevitably mean new resource development or revoking existing uses. Can compromises be made with existing users?
- How far can consultation go? Who takes the final decision? Any examples of win-win solutions?
- How to incorporate / protect environmental services of a river?
- Clarity needed on Implementation Rules and RBO roles - *Do's and Don'ts...*