

NARBO Water Rights Workshop (May 2007)

Participants' Reflections

Indonesia

- Field visit shows some confusion about regulations between national licensing authority and local government organizations in the basin. Actual conditions not always follow regulations. The procedural side needs more consideration.
- Field visit shows experiences of transfer of permits from government to irrigation and private company. Indonesia still in transition stage: developing new regulations for such transfer, with questions about role of RBO.
- Field visit shows good reference and need for practical regulations. Need good coordination at basin level.

Lao PDR

- Workshop improves understanding for situation in each country. Field visit shows WR have much impact on actual situations.
- Good references! Should help in introducing basin approach in Lao PDR.

Philippines

- Field visit shows each organization has plans, but are they consistent with IWRM plan for basin? Appreciated good exchange between workshop participants with practical focus.
- Challenge is to find acceptable win-win solutions.
- LLDA-Ayala: who validated pricing arrangement? Annual negotiation of contract seems very frequent.
- WR system is adequate, but conflicts occur when information and communication are lacking among stakeholders.

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Sri Lanka

- A complex issue, no one solution for region. Cost recovery may differ by sector. In Sri Lanka, cost recovery from agriculture still difficult/not accepted.
- Further examples of transfer of rights would be useful, e.g. in irrigation.

Thailand

- Working definition of WR needs to be clear. WR can mean "basic entitlement" (in relation to human right) but if volume is large, cannot be considered human right.
- Environmental flow to be considered as part of WR.

Viet Nam

- Useful information from other countries. Overlapping role of two key ministries in Viet Nam still to be resolved (in practice). Water quality is an increasing problem in Viet Nam.
- Field visit shows how water is distributed among users. LLDA case impressive – how to manage water development and use lake water for various purposes.
- WR and allocation now more clear. Technical report useful for RBOs in Viet Nam. Practical application of WR still a challenge. Canals are often multipurpose. Field visit shows cases with separate uses. Situation more complicated with multipurpose infrastructure.

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JWA

- In Japan, customary rights protected by 1st in time, 1st in right. New users need to develop new water resources. 1 basin has 1 arbiter (in principle). In drought, a drought conciliation body helps to resolve problems in each basin (can be shown as case study)
- 2 factors are important to make WR work. 1) River administrator to serve water users in allocation, and also in flood management. 2) Extensive info available from surveys. Good information enables better management in the basin.
- RBOs should have several functions in relation to WRs.

IWMI

- field visit shows the actual complexities and the interactions between organizations. E.g. the large number of permits to be issued. What happens to pending applications? How do temporary "licenses" work?