



## Leadership in Water Governance: Focus on National Water Sector Apex Bodies

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### [Regional Meeting of National Water Sector Apex Bodies: Leadership in Water Governance](#)

National Water Sector Apex Bodies (NWSABs) can bring together government, civil society and other nongovernment stakeholders to promote effective water policies and guide national water sector reforms, said ADB's Lead Water Resources Specialist, Wouter Lincklaen Arriens, at the Regional Meeting of National Water Sector Apex Bodies.

The meeting brought together 50 representatives of NWSABs and water ministries from 13 Asian countries to discuss the role apex bodies can play in creating a strong and sustainable water sector. At the end of the event, participants agreed to:



- Pursue regional cooperation among NWSABs, beginning with the sharing of basic information among each other; and
- Develop performance indicators, peer review, and benchmarking make NWSABs more effective.
- ADB expects NWSABs to promote a national focus on water reform, guide the reform process to ensure participation and collaboration among all stakeholders, and facilitate policy dialogue and investment partnerships with development partners, including ADB.

View the [presentations](#) at the meeting.



### **[Direction and Experience in Water Sector Apex Body Development](#)**

Drawing on insights from his extensive experience with various national water sector apex bodies in the past 15 years, Alfred Birch, Advisor to Viet Nam's National Water Resources Council, recommended that

- NWSABs should strengthen integrated water resources management and water service delivery through advice to government on cross-cutting policy and institutional issues; and
- The location, chairing, membership and procedures of water sector apex bodies are critical to the effectiveness of NWSABs.

In response, participants of the regional meeting commented that NWSABs need an enabling environment to ensure performance and effectiveness under the prevailing circumstances in each country.

Read the [discussions](#) on Dr. Birch's recommendations.

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### **[Ongoing ADB Study: Comparative Analysis of Water Sector Reforms](#)**

The political environment has a significant impact on water reforms. It facilitates change if the leadership is so inclined or, conversely, it can reduce proposed reforms into a political "football" being bounced from one party to another. The political environment is one of nine factors analyzed in ADB's ongoing study on water sector reforms in its developing member countries.

The study attempts to answer three key questions:

- What works under what circumstances?
- What are the preconditions for success in pursuing reform initiatives?
- Are there commonalities that can be useful in subregional and cross-regional contexts for sharing of experience?



The study covers water sector reforms in 17 countries-- from oceanic Kiribati to landlocked Kyrgyz Republic and the People's Republic of China. The analysis focuses on 9 factors: political environment, activities of external support agencies, engagement of "elite" and officials, socio-economic environment, crisis events, performance gaps, reform approaches and stage/direction of change.

View the preliminary findings.

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### **[Profiles of National Water Sector Apex Bodies](#)**

National water sector apex bodies designed to guide national water sector reforms have already been established in several countries in Asia. They take the form of committees, councils, commissions, authorities and boards.

Read how some of these NWSABs describe their own progress, and insights from their experience.

- [Bangladesh: Water Resources Planning Organization](#)
- [Lao PDR: Water Resources Coordinating Committee](#)
- [Nepal: Water and Energy Commission Secretariat](#)
- [Philippines: National Water Resources Board](#)
- [Sri Lanka: National Water Resources Authority](#)

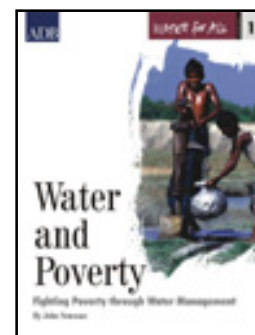
- [Viet Nam: National Water Resources Council](#)

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The series includes activity reports, compilation of case studies and recent statistics, papers and articles focusing on various water development issues.

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1-3 July

[1<sup>st</sup> African Development Bank Water Week](#) (Tunis)

Discussions at this event will be around the African Water Facility, Nile Basin Initiative and financing trans-boundary water development. Prior to the Water Week, a coordination meeting between the MDBs - Netherlands Water Partnership Programs will also take place on 30 June.

12-16 July	<p><b><a href="#">South East Asia Water Utilities Network Executive Committee and Planning Meeting</a></b> (Hanoi, Viet Nam)</p> <p>The meeting will further define the directions and activities of SEAWUN for the year.</p>
13 - 16 July	<p><b><a href="#">3<sup>rd</sup> South Asia Water Forum</a></b> (SAWAF-III) (Dhaka, Bangladesh)</p> <p>The focus will be on how to achieve the targets set by the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) and meeting the water related Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).</p>
26 July - 9 August	<p><b><a href="#">Training Program on IWRM and Strengthening of River Basin Committees</a></b> (Bangkok and Chiang Mai, Thailand)</p> <p>The training program will strengthen river basin committees and enable water professionals in the region to integrate IWRM concepts into the planning process</p>
6 June	<p><b><a href="#">ADB National Media Workshop on Water - Malaysia</a></b> (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia)</p> <p>A day-long media workshop on water issues will be held on 6 June, enabling journalists to take what they have learned out of the workshop and utilize them while attending the Malaysian Water Week.</p>
26-30 January	<p><b><a href="#">ADB Water Week 2004</a></b> (ADB Headquarters, Manila, Philippines)</p> <p>The ADB has organized its 2<sup>nd</sup> Water Week to stimulate knowledge development in the water sector, particularly on the issue of water for the poor. The theme for the 2004 ADB Water Week is "Water for the Poor: Setting the Rules and Finding the Money."</p>

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For comments or more information contact: [water@adb.org](mailto:water@adb.org)

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