

**Asian Development Bank  
Cooperation Fund for the Water Sector  
Six-Monthly Progress Report (January-June, 2004)**

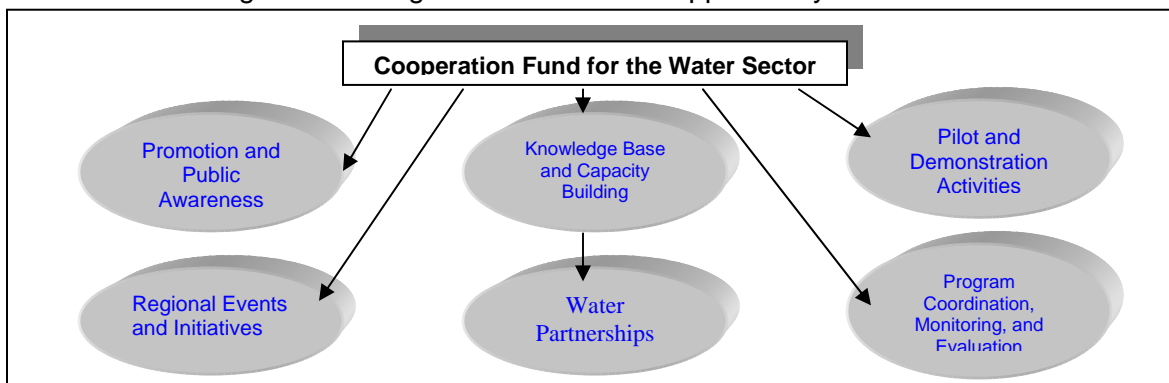
**I. INTRODUCTION**

1. **Background.** Established on 10 December 2001, the [Cooperation Fund for the Water Sector \(the Fund\)](#) is a multi-donor umbrella facility to help the Asian Development Bank (ADB) promote effective water management policies and practices at the regional, sub-regional, and country levels and thereby catalyze the implementation of ADB's water policy in the Asia and Pacific region. The activities under the six categories (Figure 1) of the Fund are designed to add value to the water projects carried out by ADB's regional departments and increase the synergy in ADB's water sector operations. These activities, including among others, the [January-June 2003](#) and [July-December 2003](#) progress reports can be found on ADB's water web site.

2. **Contributions to the Fund.** The Fund has to date received a total contribution of \$13.40 million. In December 2001, the Government of the Netherlands made an initial contribution of \$4.00 million for the Program's activities starting in 2002. A second contribution was made in December 2002 in the amount of \$4.00 million. Norway made its first contribution of Nkr 3.00 million (equivalent to about \$0.40 million) in August 2003 out of a commitment of \$2.00 million over 3 years. In December 2003, the Government of the Netherlands made a third contribution of \$5.00 million.

3. **Regional Technical Assistance (RETA) Projects.** The Fund's activities are supported and implemented through a series of RETA projects entitled *Promoting Effective Water Management Policies and Practices*. These RETAs are the modality through which ADB draws on the Fund. To date, three RETAs: [RETA 6031](#)<sup>1</sup>, [RETA 6093](#)<sup>2</sup>- Phase 2, and [RETA 6123](#)<sup>3</sup> – Phase 3 have been supported by the Water Sector Committee and approved by the ADB Board for a total of \$9.30 million.

Figure 1. Categories of Activities Supported by the Fund



<sup>1</sup> TA 6031-REG *Promoting Effective Water Management Policies and Practices*, approved by the ADB Board on 25 April 2002 for \$4.0 million from the initial contribution of the Government of the Netherlands.

<sup>2</sup> TA 6093-REG *Promoting Effective Water Management Policies and Practices-Phase 2*, approved by the ADB Board on January 2003 for \$1.0 million from the 2<sup>nd</sup> contribution of the Government of the Netherlands in support of the 3<sup>rd</sup> World Water Forum (3WWF), Japan, 16-23 March 2003.

<sup>3</sup> TA 6123-REG *Promoting Effective Water Management Policies and Practices – Phase 3*, approved by the ADB Board on 3 October 2003 for \$4.3 million comprising \$3.00 million from the second contribution of the Government of the Netherlands and \$1.3 million from the Government of Norway.

## II. ACHIEVEMENTS AND PROGRESS

4. **Progress.** The progress of the Fund implementation over the reporting period is highlighted under each of the six categories.

5. **Promotion and Public Awareness.** The ADB water web site (<http://www.adb.org/water>) continues to be updated and expanded frequently. The monthly average hits for the reporting period was close to 40,500 compared to around 18,000 in the last reporting period. The monthly electronic newsletter [Water for All News](#) was circulated to over 11,000 subscribers for the months of February, March, April, May and June with themes (i) [Water for the Poor – Setting the Rules and Finding the Money](#); (ii) [Lessons from ADB Water Week, Part I](#); (iii) [Lessons from ADB Water Week, Part II](#); (iv) [Leadership in Water Governance](#); and (v) [Integrated Water Resources Management](#), respectively. The e-newsletter featured stories on successful water initiatives in ADB developing member countries as well as articles and case studies on water actions on the ground. Three national water media workshops were held: (i) [Chennai](#), 22-25 February; (ii) [New Delhi](#), 26-29 February; and (iii) [Kuala Lumpur](#), 6 June. These workshops increased the understanding of journalists on water issues leading to greater media coverage, more informed assessment of key water issues, and better and more diverse articles on water. The total number of Asian journalists that have attended these workshops is now 172. The first phase of filming a documentary on flood mitigation in a community in the Tonle Sap in Cambodia was completed. Activities on distribution of the Water Voices video documentary series continued. Final editing of three publications for inclusion in the 'Water for All' publications series started. These publications are on (i) Floods and the Poor, (ii) Cooperation in Shared Water Resources in Central Asia, and (iii) Small Scale Private Water Providers.

6. **Knowledge Base and Capacity Building.** Several initiatives continue to support the development of ADB's knowledge management work in the water sector, including:

- **Water Sector Network (WSN).** Membership to ADB's WSN totals 104 members for the reporting period. Notices of new materials on water activities and development in the Water Reference Center are circulated to the network on a monthly basis. Several water events were organized for WSN members, as follows:
  - (i) 'Training: Beyond Cost Recovery: Setting User Charges for Social, Economic and Financial goals', 22 April;
  - (ii) lunch seminar on the results of 'The World Bank Water Week', 18 March; and
  - (iii) lunch seminar on 'Gender in Water Operations Review', 19 February.
- **2<sup>nd</sup> ADB Water Week.** The 2<sup>nd</sup> ADB Water Week was held on 26-30 January 2004 with the theme "Water for the Poor: Setting the Rules and Finding the Money". Over 350 delegates from government, providers, NGOs, financiers, private sector, academic and research institutions and media participated and benefited from twelve technical presentations, four keynote speeches, panel debate, discussions and networking. The keyword was Change. Change in our paradigms and business processes are necessary, as the "business as usual" approach will not be adequate. The discussions resulted in the following action agenda for change in ADB operations:

Changing selection criteria: working with the right information, organizations and leaders. For better project design to benefit the poor, it is critical to get better information about the social, physical and institutional circumstances, including on existing informal water markets, incentives, and vested interests. Investments should be focused on capable organizations with good leadership.

Changing incentives and advocacy: empowering civil society as a catalyst of water sector reforms. Specific roles should be created for NGOs, academics, and journalists to help catalyze reforms and work in partnership with, rather than against government. When civil society becomes empowered with better information, resources, and influence, they can exercise their influence to catalyze reforms, even against entrenched and powerful vested interests.

Changing regulation: from independent to credible regulator. Unregulated water markets typically discriminate against the poor. Effective regulation can help the poor by ensuring that service provision is not captured by vested interests, and that they meet the needs of customers at affordable prices, especially for the poor. Although independence is desirable for regulators, experience shows strong resistance against establishing independent regulators from public sector agencies who are concerned about the loss of accountability and control. Independence is therefore difficult to achieve, and it is argued that pursuing credible regulators may be the next best objective.

Changing the rules to reward efficiency: linking formal and informal providers. We advocate that governments should recognize the importance of the small-scale water providers in the sector, and that policy and legislation can be changed to recognize the contributions made by these providers in extending services to the poor.

Changing the focus of lending: catalyzing water investments to the rural poor. The vast majority of Asia's poor live in rural areas and they are short-changed with the majority of ODA going to cities. The rural community is being left behind in terms of access to public services like health, education, and safe water provision. To meet the MDGs, we have to refocus our attention on the needs of the rural poor.

Changing the nature of water projects: investing more in non-structural interventions. Most governments and many development agencies still focus their water investments on building new infrastructure. Regrettably, well designed but poorly implemented or managed infrastructure projects often don't help the poor. More investment is needed in capacity building of sector organizations and civil society, and in nonstructural interventions that improve water security for the poor.

- **Water Information System.** Further work was undertaken on the design of ADB's water information system, including the testing of the [Knowledge Management Applications \(KMApps\)](#) for use by ADB staff in connection with ADB's water operations.
- **Water Sector Reforms.** The first phase of the report on Comparative Analysis of Water Sector Reforms was completed. The draft report (i) provides an overview of the status of the water sector and sector reforms in a sample of countries; (ii) maps out the scope of a future comparative analysis, and (iii) makes recommendations for follow-up work in a second phase.

7. **Pilot and Demonstration Activities (PDAs).** The PDA [Poverty Impact of Public Irrigation Expenditures](#) has been completed. A total of 9 PDAs are under implementation. From these 9 PDAs, 4 (Nos. 7,8, 9 and 10 in Table 1) started implementation in the reporting period. Seven additional PDA proposals were approved by the WSC in the reporting period. Figures 3 to 5 show the cumulative distribution of WSC-approved PDAs by subregion, subsector, and type.

Table 1. PDAs Approved by the WSC

No.	Title	Country	Activity Officer	Cost (\$)
<b>Completed</b>				
1	<a href="#">Poverty Impact of Public Irrigation Expenditures</a>	Viet Nam	P. Smidt, MKRD	50,000
<b>Under Implementation</b>				
2	<a href="#">Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and Environmental Impact Study</a>	Timor-Leste	A. Hinduja, PARD	50,000
3	<a href="#">Water Management Information Dissemination and Extension for Irrigated Agriculture</a>	Philippines	C. Wensley, SERD	50,000
4	<a href="#">Education for Sustainable River and Water Conservation</a>	Solomon Islands and Vanuatu	D. Ponzi, PARD	50,000
5	<a href="#">Promoting Gender Equality for Poverty Reduction through Improved Irrigation Management</a>	Nepal	K. Yokoyama, SARD	45,000
6	<a href="#">Development of Pro- Poor Rural Water Actions in Collaboration with CARE</a>	Viet Nam	A. Siddiq, MKRD	50,000
7	<a href="#">Development of Pro- Poor Rural Water Actions in Collaboration with World Vision</a>	Viet Nam	A. Siddiq, MKRD	50,000
8	<a href="#">Private Sector Participation-Enabling Conditions for the Establishment of the Samoa Water Authority Wastewater Division</a>	Samoa	N. Convard, PARD	50,000
9	<a href="#">Operational Research on Decentralized Wastewater Management and its Dissemination</a>	Nepal	K. Tamaki, SARD	50,000
10	Developing and Testing Environmental Education and Awareness Methodologies and Tools for the Tonle Sap Basin	Cambodia	O. Serrat, MKRD	50,000

	<b>Contracting Documents Still to be Processed</b>			
11	<a href="#">Pilot Household Sanitation Systems for Small Island Environments</a>	Maldives	E. Mayerhofer, SARD	50,000
12	<a href="#">Water Sector Reforms and its Implementation</a>	Indonesia	M. Rahman, SERD	28,000
13	<a href="#">Building Gender Responsive Water Supply and Sanitation Services</a>	Nepal	A. Shrestha, SARD	45,000
14	Rationalizing Tariffs for Private Sector Water Utilities	Philippines	R. Frauendorfer, SESS	50,000
15	Bang Pakong Dialogue Initiative	Thailand	W. Lincklaen Arriens, RSAN	50,000
16	Clean River Program for Urban Poor	People's Republic of China	S. Handayani, ECRD	50,000
17	Facilitating Irrigation Sector Reform in Chhattisgarh	India	T. Panella, SARD	33,500
18	Sustainable Management of Water Resources in Areas of Punjab	Pakistan	A. Tayyab, SARD	50,000
19	Institutional Development for Local Water Governance	Philippines	S. Muramoto, SERD	50,000
20	Decentralized Wastewater Treatment Facility for the Lilo-an Public Market	Philippines	S. Muramoto, SERD	50,000

Figure 3. Regional Distribution of WSC-approved PDAs

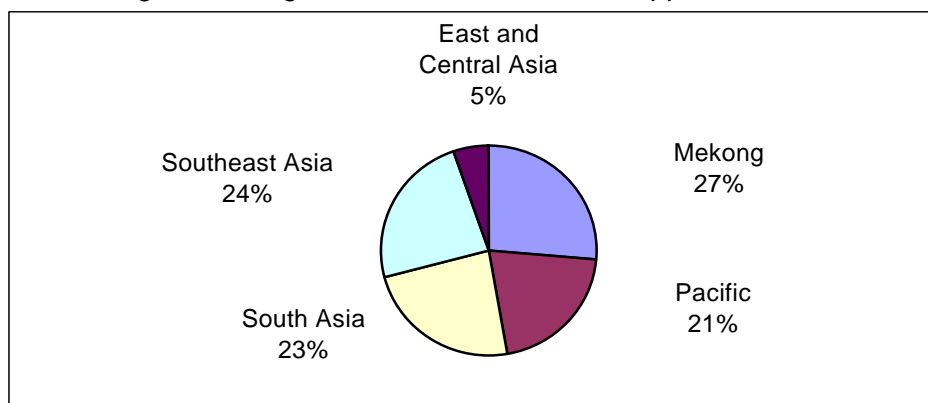


Figure 4. Sub-sector Distribution of WSC-approved PDAs

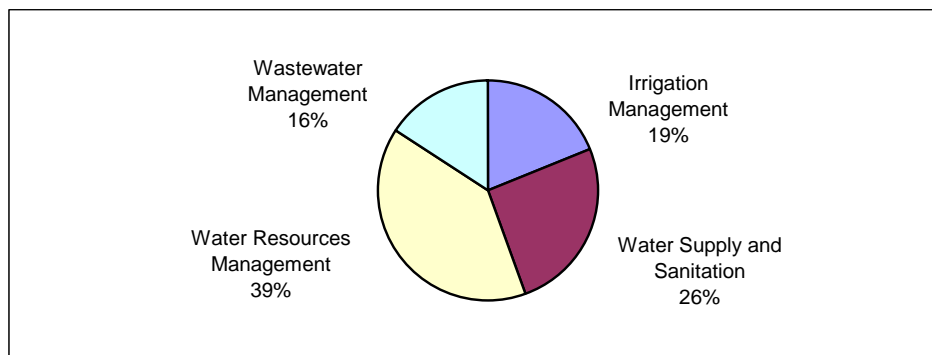
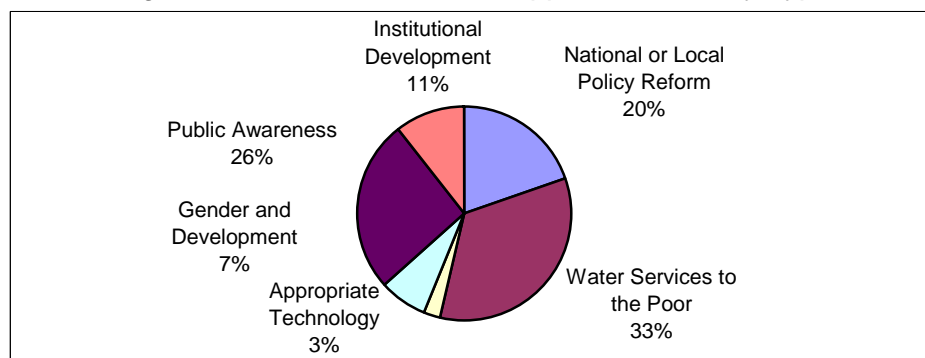


Figure 5. Distribution of WSC-approved PDAs by Type



8. **Water Partnerships**. Several activities were undertaken in the reporting period to initiate or strengthen national and regional water partnerships.

- **Water for the Poor-Partnerships for Action**. This initiative has made good progress in Viet Nam, and demand from ADB operations department is coming up in other countries. The partnership work in Viet Nam has to date resulted in the following activities: (i) a national water and poverty assessment to link the national poverty reduction strategy to the water sector, including a review of capacity constraints at provincial level; (ii) a national dialogue process on water and poverty organized by the Viet Nam Water Partnership to sharpen the poverty reduction focus in the preparation of the national water resources strategy and to build a knowledge base and consensus on the approaches and actions needed for pro-poor water management and poverty-focused IWRM; (iii) a joint donor review of the water supply and sanitation sector focusing on poverty reduction; (iv) NGO collaboration in the PPTA for the design of the central region water resources sector project, focusing on the identification of pro-poor investment components, participatory processes, and capacity building at provincial and district levels; and (v) scooping of possible added-value support in the design of other ADB pipeline projects in Viet Nam's central region with the support of bilateral donors.

- [Water for Asian Cities Program](#). This is a water and sanitation initiative in Asian Cities that will address the need for pro-poor investments. This initiative is moving but rather slowly. In partnership with the UN-Habitat, more progress on the ground with interested cities can feed into ADB's operational program.
- [Gender in Water Partnership](#). The initial phase of the gender in water operations review (gender scan) was completed in February which focused on the following activities:

Review of key policies and documentation – these include ADB's policy commitments to gender mainstreaming set out in the **1998 Gender Policy** and commitments to mainstreaming gender in the water sector set out in the **2001 Water Policy**; operational procedures for gender mainstreaming incorporated in the **1997 Operational Guidelines** and a **Gender in Water Checklist prepared in 2000** to assist staff in mainstreaming gender in the context of water supply and sanitation.

Review of sample water related loans – these include 25% sample of water-related loans constituting 20 projects; project documentation and interviews with project officers;

Project document review will extend into tracking gender-related commitments made in the project document and how they were fulfilled during project implementation. Field visits will be made to two countries in July – Viet Nam and Sri Lanka – to gain understanding of factors influencing the implementation of gender-related commitments as well as to gain a greater understanding of the processes and issues involved in mainstreaming gender in particular countries. The final report on the gender scan is due in August.

- [Network of Asian River Basin Organizations \(NARBO\)](#). The network aims to assist river basin organizations (RBOs) and their associated water sector agencies in implementing Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and improving water governance in river basins throughout Asia. The NARBO was officially established during NARBO's 1<sup>st</sup> General Meeting in February 2004 in East Java, Indonesia where 43 organizations signed up as members. The NARBO Charter was ratified by the NARBO members. It serves as provisional guide for NARBO's start-up phase to meet immediate needs. A draft NARBO Action Plan was formulated. One of the identified activities in the action plan is a program of training courses, focusing on both technical and non-technical subjects, to help build the capacity of RBOs in implementing IWRM and put IWRM concepts into practice. The NARBO Secretariat (consisting JWA, ADB and ADBI) started the implementation of the action plan with the preparations for the 1<sup>st</sup> regional training program on IWRM. It held discussions with the Thailand Water Resources Association and had field visits on 24-26 March 2004 to some relevant areas in Chiang Mai. The 1<sup>st</sup> regional training program targets representatives from Southeast Asia and aims to (i) equip the water-related professionals in the region to have a good understanding of the IWRM concepts; (ii) present case studies and field experiences on actual water management at a basin and country level; and (iii) enable the participants to translate the IWRM concepts into the planning process.

- [National Water Sector Apex Bodies: Leadership in Water Governance](#). The first regional meeting of national water sector apex bodies in Hanoi on 18-21 May 2004, with Viet Nam's Office of National Water Resources Council, acting as host agency presented the first-phase results of ADB's program of comparative analysis of water reforms in countries across the region. The regional meeting resulted in requests for regional support by ADB for apex bodies in the region to help them play their role at national level in catalyzing water policy and sector reforms, ensuring water and poverty linkages, and promoting civil society's participation in the water sector. The meeting ended with specific agreements on the activities that will be pursued to strengthen regional cooperation among apex bodies:

Developing Performance Indicators and Benchmarks. Performance benchmarking would be a good exercise to assess how apex bodies are faring and in which areas they need to improve. A priority next step is the development of performance indicators both for the benchmarking exercise and the peer review process.

Peer Review. Reviewing the performance and functions of apex bodies may be more effective if carried out by invited peers rather than by external consultants. Thailand volunteered to be the pilot country to undergo the peer review. Mechanics of the peer review will have to be drawn up and will be closely linked with the benchmarking exercise.

Cross Visits and Regional Exchanges to Raise Awareness. Raising the awareness of decision-makers and politicians is a possible key to getting their support. Priority activities on awareness raising and advocacy could focus on cross visits or exposure trips.

Support for Developing Guidelines and Sourcebooks. Tools, guidelines and sourcebooks would assist apex bodies with their current and emerging roles. These tools can be distributed via the website as well as CD copies.

Joint Training and Workshops. Joint training of staff of apex bodies on relevant subjects such as water policy, water law, strategy and regulation was a pressing capacity building need. A training needs assessment was necessary.

Involvement of Media and Strengthening Public Relations. More media involvement could help with awareness raising not only among politicians and decision-makers but also for the general public. Developing and agreeing on core messages and launching a regional coordinated media campaign are key activities that could benefit from regional cooperation. Each apex body should consider investing in public relations. The development of a NWSAB website would be helpful.

- **Southeast Asia Water Utilities Network (SEAWUN)**. The network was organized in August 2002 to help water utilities in the region improve service delivery, operational and management efficiency and financial viability. ADB's program of support for SEAWUN was approved by the Water Sector Committee in April 2004, and a Letter of Agreement between ADB and SEAWUN was subsequently signed. The program will enable ADB to support SEAWUN's efforts to (i) expand its membership, (ii) strengthen the planning and management capacities of its Secretariat, (iii) build the technical and managerial capacity of its members, and (iv) promote knowledge management by establishing performance benchmarks for the

region. SEAWUN has recently launched its website (<http://seawun.org/bpg/default.asp>), is finalizing the terms of reference for its performance benchmarking exercise, and has released the first announcement/ call for papers for its [Inaugural Convention on Water and Wastewater in South East Asia](#), scheduled on 9-10 March 2005 in Hanoi, Viet Nam.

9. [Regional Events and Initiatives](#). The Fund supported the organization and/or participation by developing member countries (DMCs) and ADB staff in the following regional events:

- [Participatory Irrigation Management \(PIM\) Pathways for Progress, 30 March - 2 April 2004; La Hong City, Quang Ninh Province, Viet Nam](#). ADB's Viet Nam Resident Mission organized this workshop in coordination with Viet Nam's Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD). The workshop was in support of ADB's water policy that *participation will be the cornerstone of ADB's country water sector strategies; and that institutional arrangements for participation will be strengthened*. The following short-term actions were identified: (i) create an institutional framework that facilitates policy development related to PIM through stakeholder consultation; (ii) develop and clarify norms, principles and mechanisms for participatory irrigation design, operation and maintenance; (iii) facilitate and coordinate PIM at national and provincial levels; and (iv) integrate into the draft strategic framework the policy framework and roadmap developed during the workshop. The workshop provided an impetus to operationalizing the Viet Nam Government's PIM strategy in the 30+ provinces covered under ongoing and planned ADB-supported projects.

- **Central Asian International Scientific Conference on Water Partnerships in Central Asia, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 26 – 28 May**. ADB staff participated in this conference. The conference was in support of ADB's water policy *to promote gender and development activities and to ensure that water sector activities are gender-responsive at policy and institutional levels*. The conference fits well under ADB's Gender in Water Partnership initiative. The conference's special session on Gender and Water provided a better understanding of gender and water issues and identified opportunities for the implementation of gender sensitive water programs in the region. The discussions affirmed commitment and cooperation of the various organizations to start an informal gender and water network to implement activities in (i) raising awareness of gender issues; (ii) developing knowledge and understanding of gender issues in water management; and (iii) exchanging experience and best practice of gender sensitive water management.

- **Workshops on: (i) Addressing Existing Dams, 14-15 June; and (ii) Ensuring Compliance, 15-16 June - Nairobi, Kenya**. ADB staff participated in these workshops of the UNEP Dams and Development Project. The results of the workshops will feed in ADB's current work on dams and development particularly in further refining its policy on large scale water projects and in the preparation of a management e-paper on dams and development. The workshops (i) explored ways to reduce dam safety risks in a cost-effective way, involve stakeholders and ensure transparency in dam safety monitoring and supervision; (ii) clarified the roles of various stakeholders in ensuring compliance and in implementing mitigation measures; and (iii) identified principles and criteria concerning structural and non-structural approaches for the optimization and efficient production of dam benefits. The workshops facilitated discussions with NGO representatives which proved extremely useful in getting a better understanding of

varied perspectives necessary for a more constructive dialogue in future NGO collaborations with ADB.

- **ICID 2nd Asian Regional Conference: Irrigation in a Total Catchment Context, Sharing the River, 14-17 March 2004, Australia.** ADB staff participated in this conference. The conference supported ADB's water policy of fostering an integrated management of water resources. It emphasized (i) involvement of all stakeholders; (ii) importance of legal and social catchment considerations to ensure sustainability of the project; (iii) macro-scale consideration for integrated irrigation system into whole catchment; and (iv) full economic, environmental, and social analyses before implementation of an infrastructure program.
- **World Bank Water Week, 24 - 26 February 2004, Washington D.C, US.** The event supported ADB's water policy of *improving and expanding the delivery of water supply and sanitation services*. ADB staff participated and facilitated Session 19: 'Strengthening the Role of the Local Private Sector in Delivery of Water Supply and Sanitation Services'. With the main theme of "Diving into Implementation", 25 sessions discussed various topics: challenges of sanitation and hygiene, financing and cost recovery, role of the public and private sectors, and water resources management and development. The event was very useful in understanding the emerging challenges and opportunities for the water sector and learning lessons in its various dimensions – hence providing valuable inputs to ADB's water operations.
- **Malaysian Water Week and Global Water Partnership's Consultative Group Meeting, 6-11 June 2004, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.** ADB staff participated in this event and made a keynote presentation, and also supported the journalists workshop and media relations. The water week promoted and shared knowledge and experiences in the implementation of IWRM among partners from various disciplines.

10. **Program Coordination, Monitoring and Evaluation.** The WSC continued to actively coordinate and monitor the activities in the six categories of the Fund. The WSC is supported by the Water Team<sup>4</sup> of the Agriculture, Natural Resources and Social Sector Division (RSAN). The WSC has five subcommittees<sup>5</sup>; and is supervised by the Fund's Steering Committee<sup>6</sup> (SC). WSC has met six times during the reporting period. Major milestones of the WSC for the reporting period were the (i) completion of the **Water Sector Annual Report 2003**; and (ii) submission of the interim water policy review to the ADB Board following approval by ADB Management.

11. Consultations with other multilateral development banks (MDBs) that have established similar water funds, including with the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, and the African Development Bank, were continued through email.

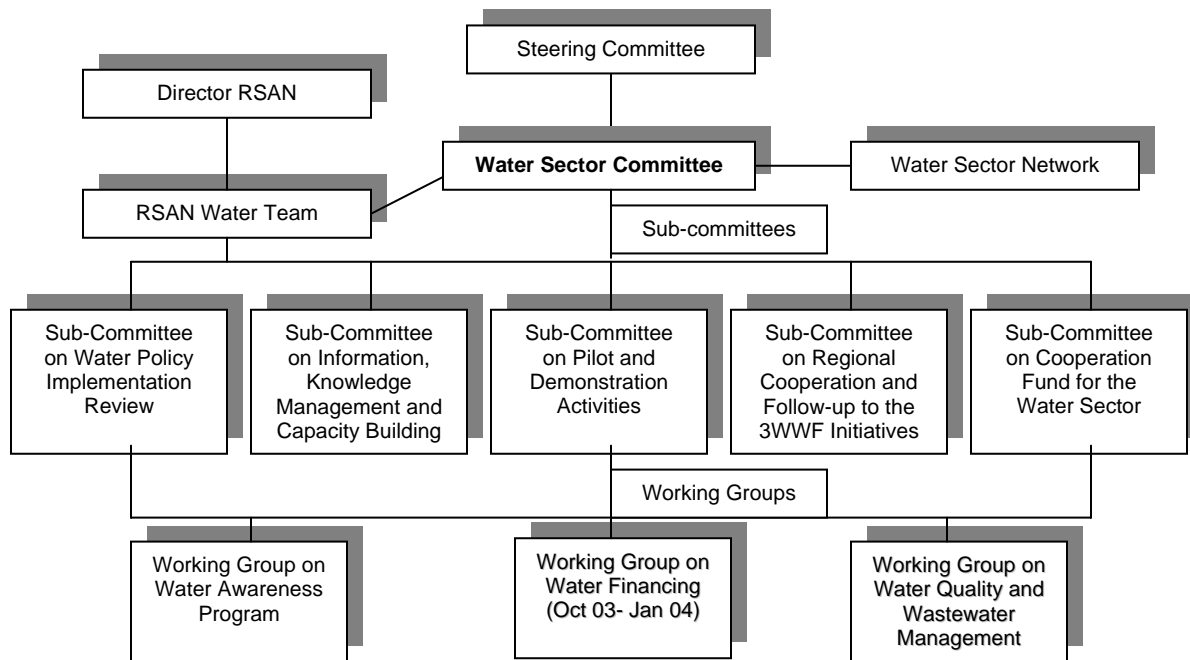
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<sup>4</sup> RSAN's water team is comprised of (i) lead water resources specialist and Chair of the WSC; (ii) principal water supply and sanitation specialist and Alternate-Chair of the WSC; (iii) water team leader; (iv) water operations adviser; (v) water policy adviser; (vi) web site manager; (vii) finance manager; and (viii) knowledge management adviser.

<sup>5</sup> Membership to the five sub-committees is exclusive to WSC members.

<sup>6</sup> The SC is comprised of directors of the concerned operational divisions in ADB's regional departments. It approves the detailed design and implementation arrangements of major components with a cost of more than \$400,000.

Figure 6. Organizational Structure of the Cooperation Fund for the Water Sector



### III. FINANCIAL REPORT

12. Of the six approved categories under the Fund, the demand for the 'Promotion and Public Awareness' has been highest to date amounting to around \$2.44 million. This accounts for roughly 27% of the total allocation of \$9.10 million; followed by 'Water Partnerships' the demand of which amounted to approximately 18%. Of the total planned allocation, only \$2.5 million or 27% is so far uncommitted as of 30 June 2004.

13. Figures 7 and 8 show the allocation and commitments of the Fund in the six categories.

Figure 7. Fund Allocation and Commitments by Category

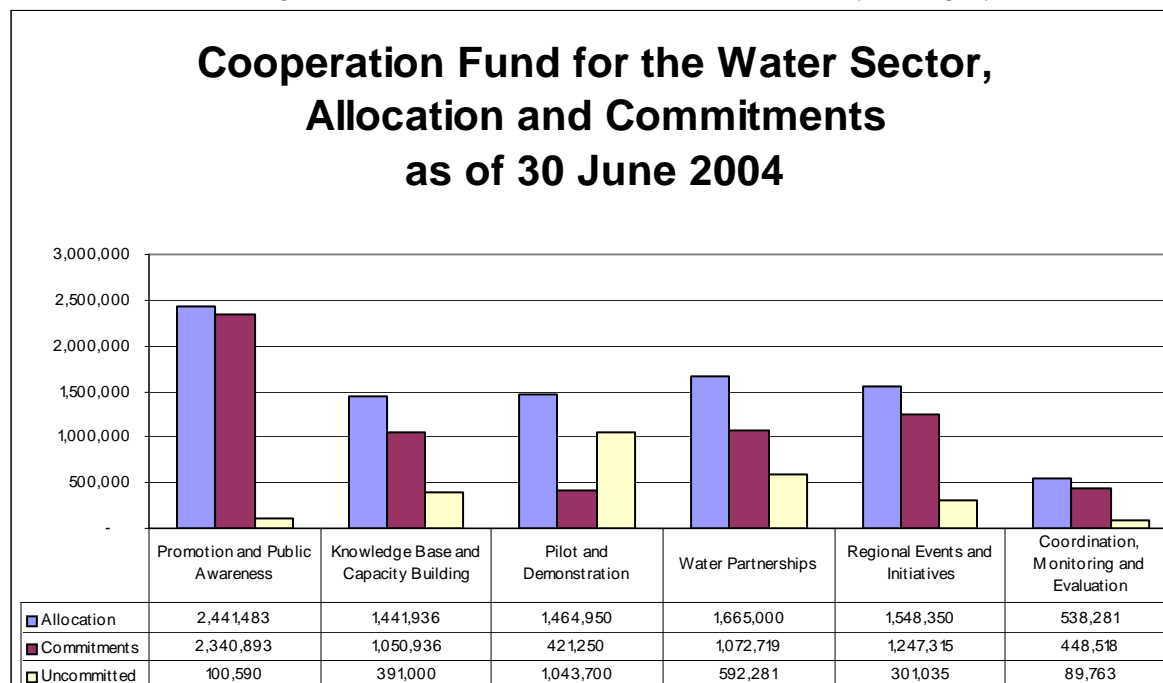
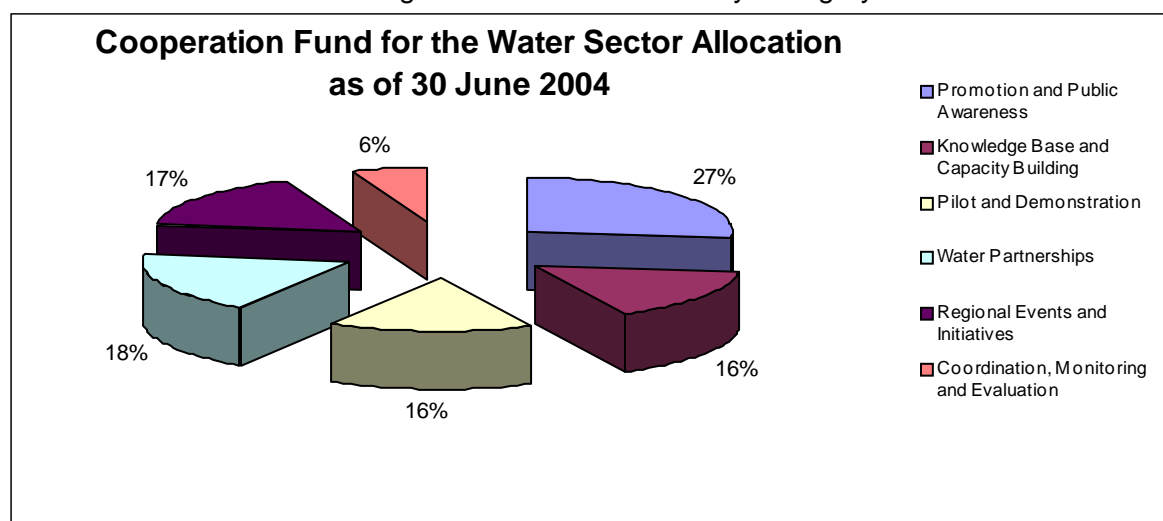


Figure 8. Fund Allocation by Category



#### IV. CONCLUSIONS

14. The progress of the Fund's implementation is considered fully satisfactory to date, and ADB staff received further encouragement from the positive feedback received from the Netherlands Water Program Evaluation in its report to Parliament. The Fund adds value to ADB's water operations, complements ADB's TA resources and supports the implementation of ADB's water policy. Demands on the use of the Fund by ADB's regional departments are increasing steadily.

## V. OUTLOOK

15. **Promotion and Public Awareness.** WAP Phase 2 will continue to disseminate ADB's water policy and key development messages in the water sector, increase public awareness and stakeholder dialogue on water reform issues, improve press coverage of water issues and initiatives, and support community-level water education pilot activities in ADB-financed water projects. Updating and expanding the ADB water web site and distribution of the Water for All News electronic newsletter will also continue. Two journalist networks on water will be pursued this year. Further work will also go into finalising a possible collaboration with the developing world newswire, Inter Press Service where alumni from the journalists workshops will be assisted to write water stories. Two video documentaries are expected to be completed: (i) Tonle Sap flood management; and (ii) on ADB's water policy.

16. **Knowledge Base and Capacity Building.** Activities will be undertaken to further develop ADB's water information systems in support of ADB's water operations, including links to other water knowledge centers outside ADB. Support will be given to comparative analysis of water sector reforms in the region.

17. **Pilot and Demonstration Activities.** ADB's regional departments will be supported to further pilot and demonstrate new approaches in water policy, sector assessment and reforms in connection with country strategy and program formulation, and project preparation and implementation.

18. **Water Partnerships.** Several activities will be undertaken under water partnerships:

(i) **Water for the Poor – Partnerships for Action.** Plans will be firmed up to replicate this initiative to other countries such as Bangladesh, Cambodia, People's Republic of China, Sri Lanka, Cambodia, Lao PDR and Tajikistan.

(ii) **Network of Asian River Basin Organizations (NARBO).** Activities will focus on (i) training courses on IWRM, in Thailand (Jul-Aug) and Sri Lanka (Dec); (ii) workshop on web site design and implementation, in Thailand (Aug); (iii) workshops on benchmarking, in Indonesia (Oct and Nov); and (iv) training course on RBO experiences, in Sri Lanka (Nov).

(iii) **National Water Sector Apex Bodies (NWSAB).** Activities will focus on (i) developing performance indicators and benchmarks; (ii) peer review; (iii) cross visits and regional exchanges to raise awareness; (iv) support for developing guidelines and sourcebooks; (v) joint training and workshops; (vi) involvement of media and strengthening public relations; and (vii) second regional meeting. These activities will be held within the first quarter of 2005, with preparatory work to start this year.

(iv) **Southeast Asia Water Utilities Network (SEAWUN).** Activities will focus on (i) maintenance and strengthening of SEAWUN Secretariat operations; (ii) development and maintenance of a website and database (Oct); (iii) conduct of SEAWUN promotion and awareness campaigns to enlist members (Jul 2004 to May 2005); (iv) conduct of annual SEAWUN convention on water and wastewater, Viet Nam (Mar 2005); and (v) management of a SEA water utilities performance benchmarking program.

**(v) Gender in Water Partnership.** Activities under the partnership will continue until October 2004. New activities will also be pursued: (i) training on integrating gender issues and plans into ADB loans and technical assistance projects across the water sector (Aug and Oct); (ii) joint publication with the Gender and Water Alliance (GWA) on case studies from the gender and water review; (iii) pilot and demonstration activity - Women and the Media; (iv) regional workshop for exchanges on good practices for Gender and Water; (v) upscaling ongoing RETA on "Promoting Sustainable and Equitable WSS" in Vietnam and Sri Lanka; and (vi) Gender in Water Regional Trainings and Capacity Building for Resident Mission Staff.

19. **Regional Events and Initiatives.** The Fund will continue to support the organization and/or participation by developing member countries (DMCs) and ADB staff in various regional fora and events.

20. **Program Coordination, Monitoring, and Evaluation.** Exchange visits will be done with other MDBs and development partners to ensure coordination and to facilitate joint activities that benefit ADB's water operations. Regular consultations with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands and Norway governments on the progress of Fund implementation will be pursued.

21. Preparation work is expected to commence for the fourth phase RETA, to continue to promote effective water management policies and practices and thereby catalyze the implementation of ADB's water policy in the Asia and Pacific region.