

**Asian Development Bank  
Cooperation Fund for the Water Sector  
Six-Monthly Progress Report (July-December, 2003)**

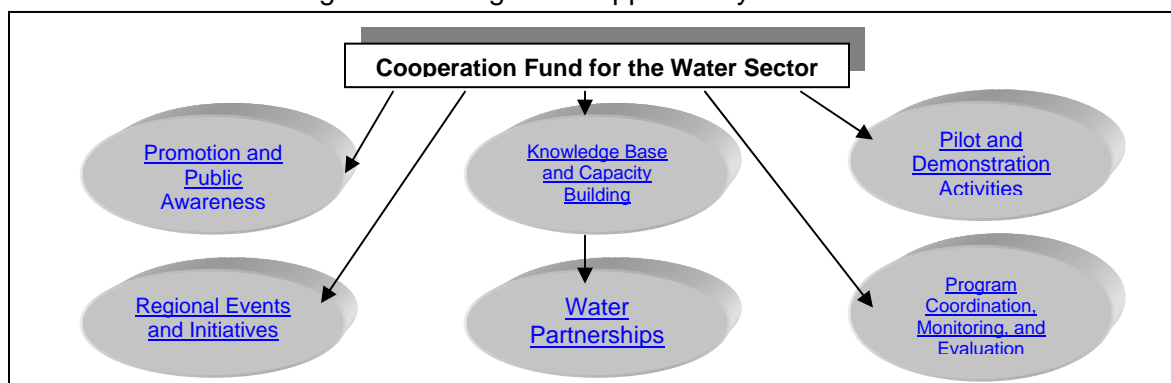
**I. INTRODUCTION**

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 progress report](#), 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 \$404,489.83) 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 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>), launched in 2002 for audience both within and outside ADB, was further expanded. The average number of hits per month for the reporting period was around 18,230. Regular updates and improvements on the web site continue. The monthly electronic newsletter [Water for All News](#) was launched last November. The newsletter highlights water sector reforms and events in the region. It also features stories on successful water initiatives in ADB developing member countries (DMCs) as well as articles and case studies on water actions on the ground. Newsletter issues for November and December with themes [Water for the Urban Poor](#) and [Women and Water](#), respectively, were circulated to around 630 subscribers. Two national water media workshops were held in [Viet Nam](#) and [Thailand](#), 9-12 November and 13-16 November, respectively. These workshops increased the understanding of journalists on water issues affecting their country, leading to greater media coverage, more informed assessment of key water issues, and better and more diverse articles on water.

### National Water Media Workshop, Hanoi, 9-12 November 2003

#### Success Indicators

**Number of journalists who participated: 31**

**Media coverage.** Included coverage in Danang Newspaper, Viet Nam News Daily and VnExpress.

**Positive feedback.** Below are some quotes which have been received.

*"On behalf of VnExpress, I would like to thank you very much for your offer of the journalist workshop. Back at my work yesterday, I was highly appreciated by our newspaper's board for my performance at the ADB event"* - **Nguyen Thanh Xuan, VnExpress e-Newspaper**

*"The workshop in Hanoi last week is still in my mind and I still remember your hospitalities. Some news about the workshop I covered in my newspaper and I hope to write about water issues in the future"* - **Nguyen Truong Uy - Danang Daily**

*"Thank you for your interesting journalist workshop. I was very impressed at the efficiency of your working team"* - **Cam Ly, Tuoi Tre (Youth) Newspaper**

**Foster a Community of talented journalists from throughout Viet Nam.** General feedback was that the attending journalists would like to join a regional or national network of journalists that reports on water.

**National Water Media Workshop, Chiang Mai, 13-16 November 2003**

**Success Indicators**

**Number of journalists who participated: 23**

**Media coverage.** Bangkok Post wrote a piece on the competing demands on the Ping River; BBC featured two pieces as a prelude to the 1<sup>st</sup> SEA Water Forum with recorded interviews with Bob Dobias and Wouter Lincklaen Arriens as well as follow-up interviews at the forum with IUCN, IWMI etc; and Inter Press Service featured a piece on the Thai water sector. Daily News, Khao Sod, Khom Chat Luek, Matichon and Manager (Phuchatkarn) Daily also featured articles on water.

**Positive feedback.** Kavi Chongkittavorn, one of Thailand's most respected journalists and writes regular columns on politics and social issues, said that he is particularly interested in promoting water issues in the future.

**Useful distribution outlet for the 'Water Voices' film series.** Following the showing of 'Upstream, Downstream', Thai Television Channel 11 expressed interest in showing the film and requested a copy.

**Foster a Community of talented journalists from throughout Thailand.** General feedback was that the attending journalists would like to join a regional or national network of journalists that reports on water.

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, formed in 2002, expanded to 110 members in the reporting period. Regular seminars are organized for members on water issues and development.
- **2<sup>nd</sup> ADB Water Week.** Following the success of ADB's 1<sup>st</sup> Water Week in December 2002, preparations were undertaken for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Water Week on 26-30 January 2004. With the theme "Water for the Poor: Setting the Rules and Finding the Money", the Water Week will stimulate knowledge development and information sharing in the water sector, particularly on the issue of water 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. The system (i) allows storage, search, and retrieval of information, (ii) helps evolve information into knowledge, and (iii) allows users to input and inter-link their information with other information. There are currently seven modules being developed for the WaterNet application: (i) Profiles, (ii) Operations, (iii) Lessons Learned, (iv) Indicators, (v) Correspondence, (vi) Calendar, (vii) Archive; and (viii) Forum.
- **Sector roadmaps.** In the reporting period, water sector roadmaps were prepared for Cambodia, Pakistan and Viet Nam. A water sector profile was also prepared for Bangladesh.

7. **Pilot and Demonstration Activities (PDAs)**. The Fund's support to PDAs continues. A total of six PDAs are now being implemented. From this six PDAs, four PDAs (Nos. 3, 4, 5 and 6 in Table 1) started implementation in the reporting period. Two PDA proposals were approved by the WSC in the reporting period (Nos. 4 and 9 in Table 1). Another 16 proposals are in the pipeline. Figures 3 to 5 show the cumulative distribution of WSC-approved PDAs by subregion, subsector, and type.

- For the PDA [Promoting Gender Equality for Poverty Reduction through Improved Irrigation Management](#) in Nepal, the activities completed were: (i) review and analysis of drip irrigation adoption and diffusion in Nepal; (ii) institutional assessment of likely support agencies in the government, non-government and private sector to support and promote drip irrigation in Nepal; and (iii) selection and formation of poor women and disadvantaged farmer groups for pilot testing drip irrigation implementation.
- For the PDA [Private Sector Participation-Enabling Conditions for the Establishment of the Samoa Water Authority Wastewater Division](#) in Samoa, the implementation is well underway with positive progress within the Samoa Water Authority (SWA) as it organizes itself to take on the challenge of delivering sanitation and wastewater management services. Review of necessary tariff structures, cost recovery options, and overall financial management has been undertaken through extensive dialogue between the Government and the SWA. Public relations activities have involved informal consultations with community members and government and traditional leaders. A formal public relations plan is under development.
- Progress and final reports are being followed up for the earlier approved PDAs. Generation of lessons learned will follow.

Table 1. PDAs Approved by the WSC

No.	Title	Country	Activity Officer	Cost (\$)
<b>Under Implementation</b>				
1	<a href="#">Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and Environmental Impact Study</a>	Timor-Leste	A. Hinduja, PARD	50,000
2	<a href="#">Poverty Impact of Public Irrigation Expenditures</a>	Viet Nam	P. Smidt, MKRD	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="#">Private Sector Participation-Enabling Conditions for the Establishment of the Samoa Water Authority Wastewater Division</a>	Samoa	N. Convard, PARD	50,000
<b>Under Processing</b>				
7	<a href="#">Pilot Household Sanitation Systems for Small Island Environments</a>	Maldives	E. Mayerhofer, SARD	50,000
8	<a href="#">Operational Research on Decentralized Wastewater Management and its Dissemination</a>	Nepal	K. Tamaki, SARD	50,000
9	<a href="#">Development of Pro- Poor Rural Water Actions in Collaboration with an NGO</a>	Viet Nam	A. Siddiq, MKRD	50,000
10	<a href="#">Water Sector Reforms and its Implementation</a>	Indonesia	M. Rahman, SERD	28,000
11	<a href="#">Building Gender Responsive Water Supply and Sanitation Services</a>	Nepal	A. Shrestha, SARD	45,000

Figure 3. Regional Distribution of WSC-approved PDAs

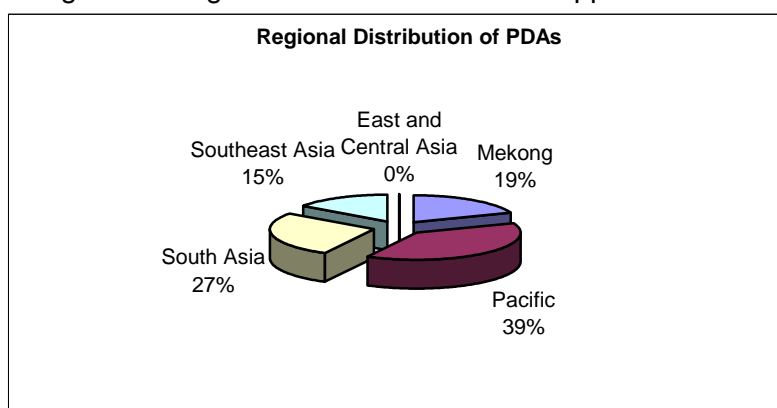


Figure 4. Sub-sector Distribution of WSC-approved PDAs

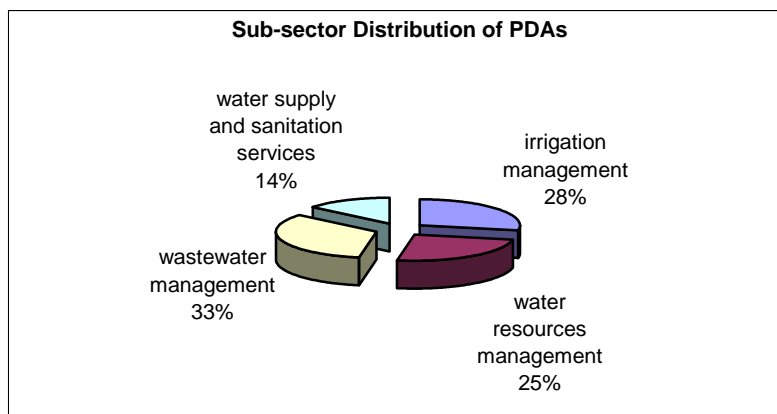
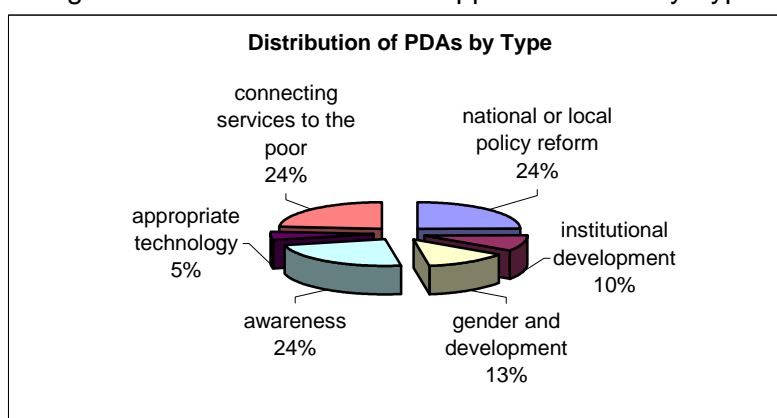


Figure 5. Distribution of WSC-approved PDAs by Type



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 3WWF follow-up initiative is a country-focused program aimed at catalyzing and improving the quality of investments in water security for the rural poor. A strategy paper has been prepared drawing on the initial lessons learned in Viet Nam, to describe in practical terms how the Partnership can be operationalized in the DMCs. As of October 2003, the following activities have been undertaken: (i) **National-level Water and Poverty Assessment**, which provided an overview of water and poverty trends and relationships in Viet Nam; (ii) preparations for the **National Dialogue on Water and Poverty**, which aims to build a knowledge base and establish consensus on the approaches and actions needed for pro-poor water management and poverty-focused IWRM; and to be facilitated by the Viet Nam Water Partnership; and (iii) inputs to the formulation of the **Viet Nam National Water Resources Strategy**.
- [Water for Asian Cities Program](#). This is a water and sanitation initiative in Asian Cities that will address the need for pro-poor investments. The [ADB and UN-Habitat Consultations, ADB HQ, Manila, 12-17 September](#) undertook the first review of the program six months after its inception. From the consultations, ADB and UN-HABITAT identified priority actions for the next 6 months. [Country Initiatives](#) are currently in various stages of collaboration. The review noted initial progress through

collaboration in the preparation of a water supply and sanitation project in India. Further opportunities for collaboration are being explored, including in India, PRC, Sri Lanka, Indonesia and central Asian republics.

- [Gender in Water Partnership](#). This partnership will catalyze the implementation of ADB's policies on gender and development and water; and achieve universal access to safe water and sanitation for all. The [Letter of Agreement](#) between ADB and the Gender and Water Alliance (GWA) was signed in November 2003. It defines the [areas for collaboration](#), which includes, among others, operations review and pilot and demonstration activities. For Operations Review, GWA is preparing to assess the extent to which ADB water operations have mainstreamed gender into the design of investment projects and into provision of advisory assistance to DMCs. The assessment will take the form of a Gender Scan which will be guided by an overall framework that links water, gender, poverty reduction and environmental management. The pilot and demonstration activities will cover activities that ADB and GWA will jointly undertake to test, document, demonstrate and replicate good gender practices in water projects. Proposals are under consideration.
- [Network of River Basin Organizations \(NARBO\)](#). This network initiative aims to support river basin organizations in knowledge sharing, capacity building and the achievement of IWRM in river basins throughout Asia. An inception meeting was held in November 2003 during the 1<sup>st</sup> Southeast Asia Water Forum in Chiang Mai, Thailand. The meeting supported the launch of NARBO, welcomed the joint secretariat by JWA, ADB and ADBI and accepted the Indonesian offer to host the first NARBO General Meeting and Workshop in Malang, Indonesia on 24-26 February 2004. The general meeting will: (i) confirm the NARBO Charter; (ii) select the NARBO constitutional body; (iii) formulate the NARBO action plan; and (iv) conduct a workshop on IWRM.
- Support was provided to the Mekong River Commission Secretariat in the conduct of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Flood Forum, 28-29 October. The forum provided a venue to (i) share lessons learned from floods; (ii) exchange information about completed, ongoing and planned flood management and mitigation initiatives in the Lower Mekong Basin; (iii) review the planned course of action for a national as well as regional perspective; and (iv) exchange experience and ideas about flood management within the theme of *'make flood related information flow faster than flood water – flood forecasting and dissemination'*.
- Support was provided to the Global Water Partnership Southeast Asia Technical Advisory Committee (GWP-SEATAC), October 2002 - March 2003, for strengthening community-based institutions that have demonstrated replicable and sustainable strategies in integrated water resources management (IWRM) in three countries in the region and for documenting their activities. The activities were completed and the report was submitted last December. The activities demonstrated that: (i) watersheds should be preserved for more effective water management; (ii) introduction of IWRM in the local education curriculum is important; (iii) participatory watershed management should involve local residents to plan, implement and benefit from the water projects, while sharing and enhancing the knowledge of other local stakeholders as well; (iv) basin committees, under an appropriate regulatory regime, provide the institutional backbone and structure for stakeholders to be adequately

represented in the decision-making process; (v) successful IWRM requires a balance between conservation and different types of water utilization; and (vi) government support to community-initiated programs is crucial towards increasing sustainability and further drawing community members into the programs.

9. [Regional Events and Initiatives](#). The Fund supported the participation by developing member countries (DMCs) and ADB staff in the following regional events:
- **Hydro Conference 2003, Croatia, 2-5 November.** The conference dealt with the positive aspects of hydropower development in relation to sustainable development, poverty alleviation, and social and economic development. ADB gave two presentations dealing with (i) ADB financing instruments and its role in encouraging private-public partnerships; (ii) ADB regional cooperation and integration programs; and (iii) ADB experiences on stakeholder participation and partnerships. The conference provided a useful venue for discussing issues with the major players in the hydropower sector on their respective policies and strategies, and for sharing best practices in hydropower development initiatives. In addition to presenting ADB's perspectives on the hydropower development, the conference also helped to network with individuals and institutions actively involved in the sector and to facilitate knowledge management.
  - **Water for the Poorest Conference, Stavanger, Norway, 4-5 November.** The conference contributed to moving the poverty and water agenda forward through multi-stakeholder dialogue - with emphasis on IWRM and small-and-medium-scale water supply and sanitation solutions using local or other appropriate and affordable methods and technologies. The conference recognized that, in the context of the MDGs, IWRM plans of all countries should (i) maximize the potential of water in poverty reduction; and (ii) consider IWRM as a process. The conference also recognized that sanitation needs to be more than just building toilets: issues of hygiene and water quality are also critical; and that more innovative financial mechanisms are necessary. ADB's participation helped to define the strategy of its Water for the Poor initiatives.
  - [1<sup>st</sup> Southeast Asia Water Forum, Thailand, 17-21 November.](#) The Forum's theme was "strengthening regional capacity through best practices in IWRM". ADB convened the session [Water Supply and Sanitation Services for Health](#) where four presentations were made. The findings and recommendations of this session touched the areas of policy, tariffs, management, community participation, gender, capacity building and awareness, and private sector participation. All these areas reflect the elements of ADB's water policy. The forum succeeded in bringing stakeholders together, particularly grass-roots representatives. ADB's sessions were well received and included a focus on poverty and gender work.
  - **International Conference on the Research Theme of 'Water in Agriculture Production in Asia for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century', Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 25-28 November 2003.** The conference provided a platform for dialogue, communication and collaboration on issues of hydrological flow of the Mekong, water management, and irrigation schemes. Discussions focused on the themes of the conference, namely: (i) agricultural systems and efficient water use; (ii) water and land resources (management and quality); and (iii) improving agricultural productivity under water constraints. The conference also outlined the challenges that lie ahead for the

Mekong River Commission, and served as an important event for ADB to explain its water policy to stakeholders.

- **First National Congress on Philippine Lakes (Lakecon 2003), Tagaytay City, Philippines, 25 - 28 November.** The Conference identified (i) major lake-specific IWRM issues that will serve as inputs for research and development planning and policy advocacy; and (ii) data and research gaps in lakes and lake resource management. Lakecon 2003 also organized the Philippine Lake Network (PlaNet). Participants appreciated ADB's support to help implement IWRM in lakes.

10. **Program Coordination, Monitoring and Evaluation**. The **WSC**, under responsibility of the Agriculture, Natural Resources and Social Sector Division (RSAN) and supported by RSAN's water team<sup>4</sup>, has five subcommittees<sup>5</sup> and four interdepartmental working groups<sup>6</sup>; supervised by the **Fund's Steering Committee**<sup>7</sup> (SC). It continues to actively coordinate and monitor the activities in the six categories of the Fund. Refer to the organizational structure in Figure 6.

11. WSC met ten times during the reporting period, and a total of 18 meetings for the year. The major milestone of the WSC this year was the completion of the Board Information Paper on the **Interim Review<sup>8</sup> of ADB's Water Policy Implementation: Report of the In-house Study by ADB's Water Sector Committee**. The draft paper was presented to the Fund's SC last 27 August. It was also subjected to a WSN workshop on 10 September. Finally, the WSC cleared the Board Information Paper on 12 November for submission to Management and Board circulation. The WSC also established the interdepartmental **ADB Water Financing Working Group** to respond to the recommendations of the World Panel on Water Infrastructure Financing.

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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 operations adviser; (iv) water policy adviser; (v) web site manager; (vi) finance manager; and (vii) knowledge management adviser.

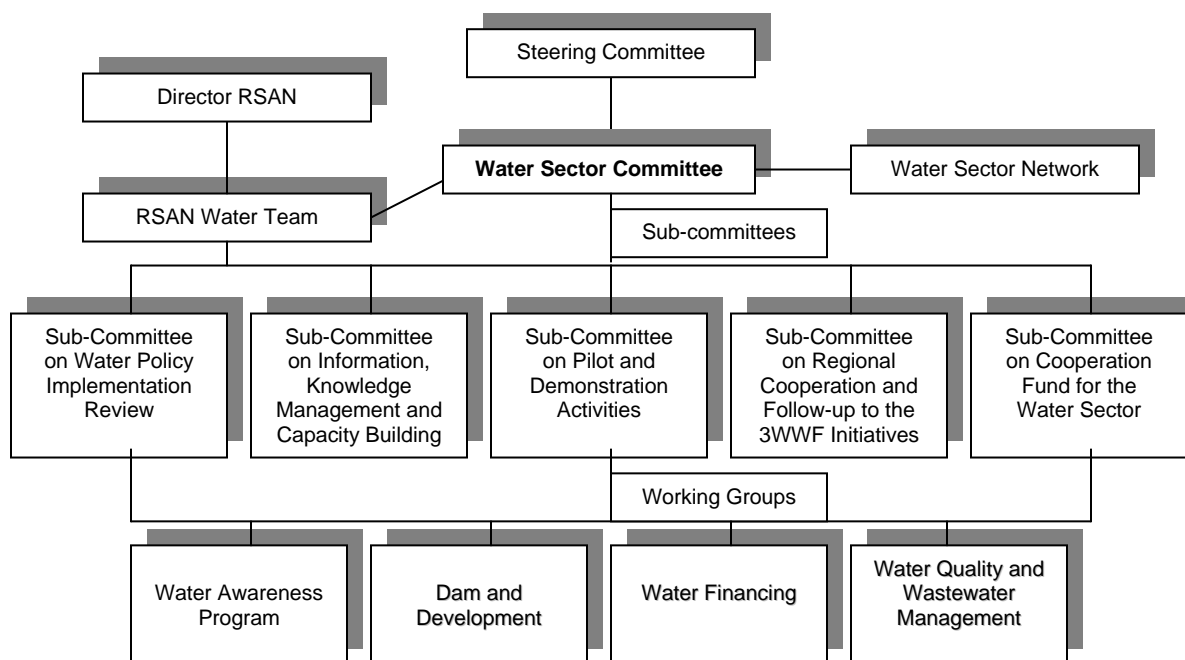
<sup>5</sup> Membership to the five sub-committees is exclusive to WSC members.

<sup>6</sup> Membership to the four interdepartmental working groups is open to the Water Sector Network (WSN) members.

<sup>7</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.

<sup>8</sup> The review process involved several deliberations by the WSC starting with a *Concept Note* in 2 April 2003. The in-house review was based on (i) desk analyses of project documents by the policy review team; (ii) surveys among regional departments (RDs); and (iii) validation and confirmation by operations staff. The scope of the review included (i) water sector assessments and policy dialogue in DMCs, (ii) design of loan and TA projects, (iii) ADB's poverty reduction strategy, (iv) internal ADB actions, (v) impact on policy implementation of ADB's 2002 reorganization, and (vi) the impact of the Cooperation Fund for the Water Sector on operations.

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



12. Consultations were continued through email 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.

13. **Netherlands Water Programme Evaluation Mission<sup>9</sup> to ADB Headquarters, 29 October.** The Mission discussed with several staff, including the Water Sector Committee, the Fund and the Dutch development cooperation policy for the water sector, and reported to the Netherlands with positive feedback on ADB's work using the Fund.

14. **Annual Consultation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway<sup>10</sup>, ADB Headquarters, 3 December.** The consultation discussed the progress of implementation of the Fund, including concerns on: (i) gender focus; (ii) links and cooperation with other MDBs; (iii) generation and dissemination of lessons learned; (iv) extent of use by DMCs of existing information system; (v) capacity training needs and development; (vi) links with the Millennium Development Goals review panel; and (vii) examples of how the Fund provides synergy in ADB water operations. The feedback received from the Norwegian representatives was positive.

### III. FINANCIAL REPORT

15. Of the six approved categories under the Fund, the demand for the 'Promotion and Public Awareness' has been highest to date amounting to around \$2.52 million. This accounts

<sup>9</sup> Consisted of Bert van Woersem (lead) and Lau Schulpen.

<sup>10</sup> Attended by (i) Ingrid Glad, Assistant Director General, Multilateral Bank and Finance Section, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), Norway; and (ii) Belle Ingild, Sr. Executive Officer/Adviser, Multilateral Bank and Finance Section, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), Norway.

for roughly 28% of the total allocation of \$9.10 million; followed by 'Regional Events and Initiatives' in which demand amounted to approximately 20%.

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

Figure 7. Fund Allocation and Commitments by Category

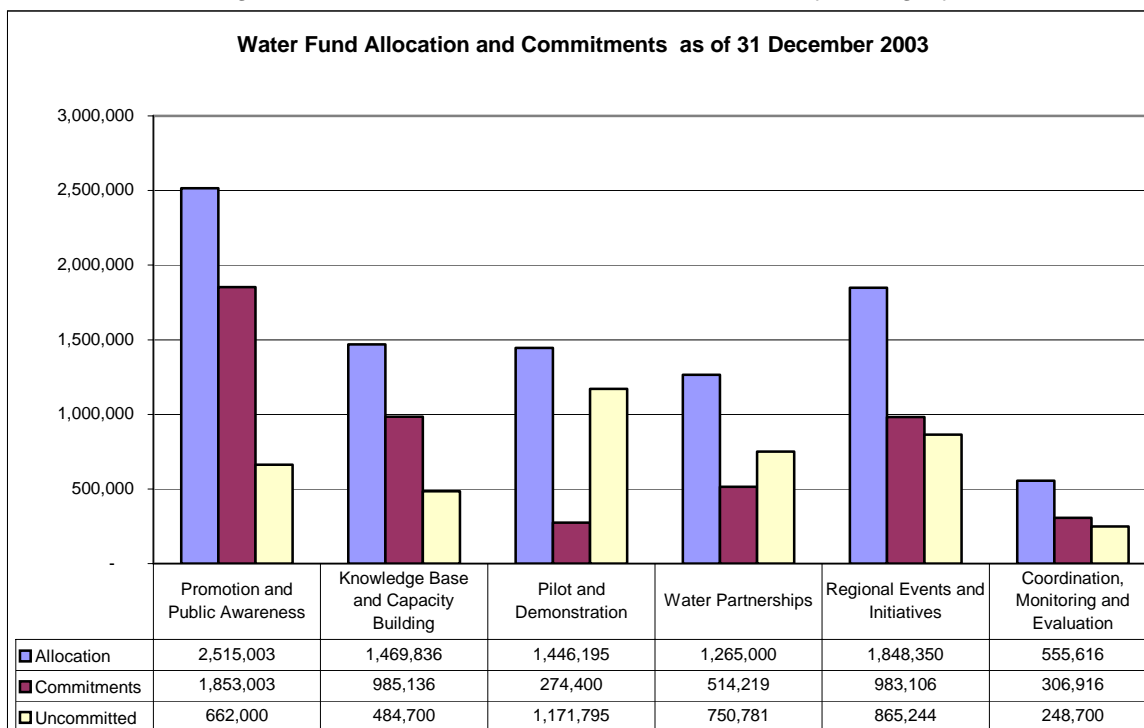
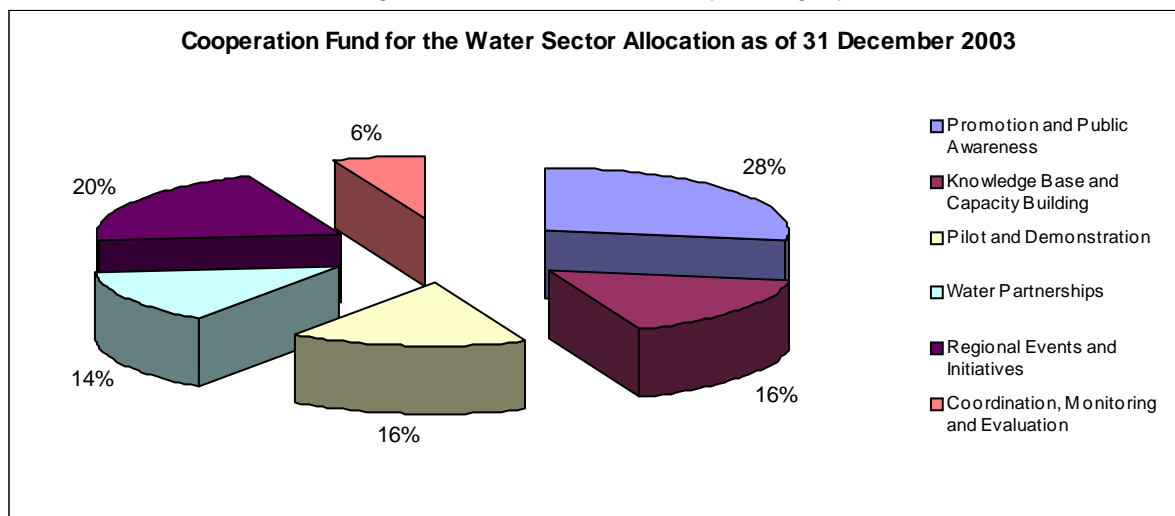


Figure 8. Fund Allocation by Category



#### IV. CONCLUSIONS

17. The progress of the Fund implementation is considered satisfactory to date, with positive feedback received from the Netherlands water program evaluation mission and the annual consultation with representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway. The Fund continues to demonstrate a good influence on ADB's water operations and in adding value to the implementation of ADB's water policy. Demand on the use of the Fund by ADB's regional departments is increasing. The Fund is adding value to ADB's water operations in complement to ADB's TA resources.

#### V. OUTLOOK

18. **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 to 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. Following a series of workshops in 2003 carried out in Cambodia, Thailand and Viet Nam, two National Journalist Workshops on Water Issues – Chennai (Feb. 22-25, 2004); New Delhi (Feb. 26-29, 2004) will be conducted. Consolidation of the journalist network will be pursued, to cover the following activities: (i) explore water wire service concept with Interpress Service (IPS); (ii) share contact details between the journalists; (iii) ensure journalists receive Water for All News e-newsletter; (iv) use the policy briefs/fact sheets and the ADB water web site to share stories and events, etc similar to the Water Media Network site (<http://www.worldbank.org/wbi/sdwatermedianetwork/>) but with more up to date information; (v) provide a newsgroup on Yahoo for the journalists, as interim measure. Two video documentaries are expected to be produced: (i) Tonle Sap; and (ii) ADB's water policy.

19. **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. A water sector capacity building program will be developed to enhance core competencies in DMCs and ADB using a recently completed survey among operational staff, and regional and country directors.

20. **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.

21. **Water Partnerships.** Several activities will be undertaken to initiate or strengthen national and regional water partnerships, as follows:

- **First General Meeting of the Network of Asian River Basin Organization (NARBO), Brantas River Basin, Malang, East Java, Indonesia, 23-25 February 2004.** (<http://adb.org/Water/NARBO.asp> and <http://www.narbo.jp>). The meeting will finalize the [NARBO Charter](#), constitute the body and develop NARBO's action plan. Follow-up activities will be undertaken as needed.
- **National Dialogue - Water for the Poor: Partnerships for Action, Viet Nam, January-June 2004.** The dialogue aims to clarify and support local efforts in water and poverty reduction, specifically in identifying achievements and issues, and discussing strategic assistance at the provincial level. The dialogue would contribute to strengthening the role of poverty reduction through discussing priorities for water management, and suggesting specific goals and targets towards achieving the comprehensive poverty reduction and growth strategy.

22. **Regional Events and Initiatives.** The following events will be supported for the next reporting period:

- **ADB's 2<sup>nd</sup> Water Week, 26-30 January 2004.** This Water Week aims to stimulate knowledge development in the water sector, particularly along the issue of water for the poor. The theme for the 2004 ADB Water Week will be "Water for the Poor: Setting the Rules and Finding the Money."
- **Workshop on Water Rights, Viet Nam, 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2004.** This is a follow-up activity from an earlier workshop held in early 2003. The activity will include a review of the various papers to identify recommendations that could be applicable in Viet Nam. A paper will be prepared and will be discussed at a workshop.
- **Viet Nam Workshop on Participatory Irrigation Management (PIM) : "How to Operationalize PIM", Viet Nam, 9-12 March 2004.** This workshop aims to provide an impetus to operationalize the Viet Nam government's participatory irrigation management (PIM) strategy in the 30+ provinces covered under ongoing and planned ADB supported projects. The workshop covers (i) sharing regional PIM experiences, (ii) identifying the main constraints for operationalizing the PIM strategy as perceived by the provinces; and (iii) developing a "road map" for operationalizing PIM under ADB's Viet Nam water sector projects.
- **National Water Forum, Manila, 22 March 2004.** The Forum seeks to consolidate most critical water sector issues in order to draw up a list of priority reforms and policy recommendations to be enunciated under a Presidential directive. Under consideration.

- **Dialogue on Basic Policies on Water Resources Development and Management of the Philippines (with special reference to Water for Food and the Environment), Manila.** Under consideration.
- **Follow-up activities to NARBO.** Under consideration.

23. **Program Coordination, Monitoring, and Evaluation.** Exchange visits will be pursued with the World Bank's water partnership program and with similar initiatives of the 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.

24. Preparation work is expected to commence for the proposed 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.