

CAPACITY BUILDING ROLES IN RIVER BASIN ORGANIZATION

1. INTRODUCTION

Institutional Capacity Building is a means of enhancing performance. It is the sum of efforts to nurture, enhance and utilize the skills and capabilities of people and institutions at all levels, locally, regionally and internationally, so that they can make better progress towards a broader goal. At the basic conceptual level, building capacity involves empowering and equipping people and organization with appropriate tools and sustainable resources to solve their problems, rather than attempting to fix such problems directly. When capacity building successful, the result is more effective individuals and institutions that are better able to provide products and services on suitable basis (GWP, 2000).

For an RBO to become effective in the management of water resources in the river basin, it is imperative that it should be enhanced of its capacity in the areas of IWRM advocacy, fostering participation, its ability to motivate people, stake holders and create linkage with legislators and policy makers.

2. VISION

Any successful river basin organization should be supported by a strong capacity building program considering the following components:

- Sustainability in term of ecological and environmental with multiple objectives consideration,
- Equity among user groups and their spatial location,
- Harmony in information, knowledge, and understanding in order to participate together in a friendly manner,
- Optimum both economic benefits and social welfare for not only local level but also on regional and national levels.

3. TARGET GROUPS

In order to implement capacity building, we need to identify the weakness of each group of stake holders in relation to their roles in river basin organization. Such group are the following :

a. Water Users

Farmers should use water efficiently and receive a fair distribution. Water utilities institution are providing adequate water to customers and responsible about the conservation of water. Industries must reduce their effluents to the water body. Water development must consider all objectives including tourism enhancement.

b. Government Agencies

Government rules and regulations must be effectively implemented and staff must have adequate skills in performing their responsibilities.

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c. Village Leaders

They should have a capability of understanding issues in the area and be able to present to the other parties (if needed). They may also be a middle man to deal with the conflict and its resolution.

d. Youth

The sustainability of good water management practice must be continued by education and transfer of knowledge and embed in the youths' mind.

4. CONTENTS

4.1 Technical

The responsibility of RBCs are planning, allocation, conflict resolution, protection of the water resources, and public relation. Therefore, the stake holders particularly water users should understand about planning process, pollution control, monitoring and evaluation at the basic level. The knowledge will elevate their performance to a closer level to the other members such that the duty of RBO can be performed smoothly, efficiently and economically. In addition basic concept of IWRM may also be trained to all stake holders.

4.2 Awareness and education campaign

Raising the awareness in the value of water and related resources and ecological and environmental concerns is a key for sustainable management. People should realize that the rights have to come along with duty and responsibility. In order to receive the water for various uses everybody have to participate and protect the water resources quantitatively and qualitatively. For example in irrigation project farmers may need to pay and participate in the maintenance of ditch or lateral. As a return they have the right to receive adequate amount of water and fair among user. If there are water shortage or inequity they may complain and get an improvement in service.

The education campaign must be operated on a broad scale regarding many issues. A particular target group is the young generation since the sustainability of good practice relying heavily on the future generation. The education need to be implemented through school, community and institution to foster the same message.

4.3 River basin characteristics

People tend to know and interest more about their own area and discipline. Most river basins are extremely large therefore stake holders need to be informed about the physical, hydrological including the constraint and limitation of that system. The basic information are size, area and length of the river, water supply, water demand, river network, monthly and annual flow etc. Overall and site specific problems such as flood, salt water intrusion, water shortage, and water quality may also be emphasized. If people have similar understanding and information, the consensus on various issues may be possible and conflict resolution will be easy.

4.4 Institution

Water user may not understand and be informed about the administration, regulation, policy, and strategy so the institution must be strengthened. This component may also include the participation approach within the context of river basin. The feeling of being the owner of the basin by stake holders is also an precious element in good management of river basin. At the same time the line agency need to recognize their responsibility and work in a mibilize manner. Some incentives may be needed for this issue.

4.5 Change of mindsets

It is important to be sure that all parties have some understanding about all other domain. Otherwise the decision will be based on only their own domain without mutual understanding. The areawide information is also equally important to the multidiscipline such that there are less conflict between upstream and downstream water user in any scales. People will understand more about the chain effect of one thing to the others in the system. The new paradigm concerning multidiscipline and mutilevel management may be acheived if behavior change is successful.