

FORM OF ABSTRACT

1. Workshop Registration

Please fill out this form below for workshop registration and send to the NARBO Workshop Secretariat (Japan) and the Organizing Committee by e-mail on or before February 12, 2004.

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Notice:

This registration form is exclusive use of the IWRM Workshop, but not for the NARBO General Meeting.

1-1. Information on Speaker

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1-2. Abstract

Presentation Title	Water Resources Management in Lao PDR
Session NO. 1	
<p>Please describe the outline of your presentation with about 500 words and point out six key words.</p> <p>Water Resources Management in Lao PDR Abstract</p> <p>In Lao PDR water is a vital input for the country's economic development. Optimal use of water resources is a critical factor in realizing the Government's dual strategic objectives of poverty reduction and sustainable economic growth plans. Water resources in Lao PDR also have regional significance – over 34 percent of the total Mekong river flow is generated in its watersheds.</p> <p>The Government has introduced various legislative and institutional measures to manage water resources more efficiently and effectively. However, the most significant institutional problem in the water sector is the inadequate coordination. There are 12 central agencies that are directly involved in water sector management.</p> <p>Water quality is not yet a problem but it needs to be monitored closely. The basin's upper watersheds are critical for sustainable development and human welfare. They contain important biodiversity and are home to a variety of ethnic minority groups who are among the poorest in the country. Many of these watersheds are already under pressure and at current use levels, these activities are unsustainable therefore an integrated development approach ought to be fostered.</p> <p>Optimal use of water resources in the country is the long-term goal of the country. Two immediate objectives of the Project are to: (i) foster and institutionalize the IWRM approach in the mainstream management process, (ii) support investment interventions in relatively degraded parts of river basin.</p> <p>The philosophy of IWRM is based on the Dublin Principles. The overriding criteria are economic efficiency in water use, equity and access for all, and sustainability of vital ecosystems.</p> <p>Since the Government's development strategy emphasizes poverty reduction and economic growth through improved management of water resources, application of the IWRM approach is necessary to reinforce links and synergies between water and land use, the environment, and sustainable development. The Government has approved the <i>Water and Water Resources Law</i> (the Water Law), documented issues relevant to river basin planning and management through consultations and developed a strategy by preparing a <i>1998 National Water Sector Profile</i> and <i>1998 Water Sector Strategy and Action Plan</i>. As a first step to build capacity to implement these policies and plans, the Government established Water Resources Coordination Committee in February 1998.</p>	

The 2001 *Decree to Implement the Law on Water and Water Resources*, issued by the Prime Minister, defines the structure of water resources planning and management at the national and river basin levels.

IWRM will be a unifying theme in the water resources management. This will require support to agencies to clearly define their roles in IWRM and to build up a body of well-trained staff with the necessary financial and technical resources.

Lao PDR has made good progress in recent years in developing water resources policy, legislation, regulations and guidelines. However, some of the policy remains at a general level and the policy and legislation need to be accompanied with detailed implementation plans which indicate agency responsibilities and, where necessary, further capacity building.

Six key words : IWRM

Coordination

River Basin

Institution

legislation

Sustainable Development