

**Water Financing Partnership Facility
 RETA 6498: Knowledge and Innovation Support for ADB's Water Financing
 Program**

PILOT AND DEMONSTRATION ACTIVITY

Activity Title: Stimulating Participatory Process for Water Allocation in the Bang Pakong River Basin	
Proposer: Dr. Siripong Hungspreug , Department of Water Resources, MONRE, Thailand	
Request Date: 28 November 2008	
Country: Thailand	Region: Southeast Asia
Activity Proposed Start Date: February 2009	Activity Proposed Duration: 12 Months
Cost Estimate:	

1. Background and Rationale:

The Bang Pakong-Prachin Buri and Upper Tonelesap River Basin is located in the eastern Thailand; connected to Saraburi, Nakorn Ratchasima and Burirum in the north; Cholburi and Chantaburi in the south; Saraburi, Bangkok and Samut Prakarn in the west and Cambodia in the east. The Basin covers 4 provinces namely Nakhon Nayok, Chachoengsao, Prachin Buri and Sakaeo. The north of the Basin is the mountain range that divides Nakorn Ratchasima provincial zone from those of Nakhon Nayok and Prachin Buri. In the south, there is a mountain range that originated tributaries of Bang Pakong River.

The Bang Pakong-Prachin Buri and Upper Tonlesap River Basin has a drainage area of 18,670 km², comprised of main Bang Pakong, Prachin Buri and Upper Tonlesap River Basin, which have drainage areas of 6,422 km², 9,592 km², and 2,656 km², respectively. The Bang Pakong river basin consists of three sub-basins: Nakhon Nayok, Thalot and Main Bang Pakong Basins while the Prachinburi River Basin is comprised of four sub-basins: Khlong Phra Sathung, Khlong Phra Prong, Mae Nam Hanuman, and Main Prachinburi sub-basin.

During Phase I PDA the Bang Pakong RBO had representatives of provincial and local administrations, private sector organizations and the relevant national government agencies, totaling about 40 members. Since completion of the Phase I study Thailand has proposed further changes to the approach to river basin organizations; however the emerging organizations are not expected to be less representative than earlier., although the actual number of members of the committee may be reduced.

The impact of the Bang Pakong Dialogue Initiative under an earlier PDA completed in 2006 is vast - deepening stakeholders understanding of water management and the need for closely working together in deciding the future of the river basin. It implanted the dialogue culture to local stakeholders and it changed their behavior to have more patience and discuss among themselves the problematic situations with back-up information in order to find the right solution out of previous conflicts.

The test and demonstration of WEAP (Water Evaluation and Allocation Program) model in water allocation led to many other activities for example collecting of water use data in individual villages, extending the dialogue process to include water pollution in many areas, and coordinating for water provision in areas facing water shortages.

It has led to a widening of awareness of government agencies concerned in coordinating with local stakeholders to solve some problems related to water management. The Royal Irrigation Department (RID) and Pollution Control Department (PCD) spent their budget in helping local stakeholders solve the problem of water pollution in Sarapi canal, one of the sub-basins. The Department of Water Resources (DWR) provided its budget in extending the study of using WEAP model in water allocation for the whole basin, expanding the dialogue process to be used in 11 sub areas where different problems occurred. With these efforts, water pollution in Sarapi canal gets resolved, the WEAP model for water allocation has been trialed in the whole Bang Pakong-Prachin Buri-Tonlesap river basins and in 8 sub-basins individually, and the dialogue used in 11 sub areas helps to create active networks in many targeted areas.

However, the most important element of water allocation - the law for water licensing/permitting is not yet been in place. Therefore, to fully operationalize the water allocation process, the other enabling tools need to be formulated. Many important elements for establishing a system of participatory water allocation in the river basin are still missing. One of them is a will to share responsibility of core agencies at different level; Local Administrative Organization at the local level, RID at the irrigated areas, and DWR and RBCs at the river basin level and also for enhancing broader stakeholder participation. To motivate them and coordinate their work, a tool on advocacy side needs to be provided, for example dissemination of knowledge, followed by distribution of a document of detailed policy with recommendations and suggested guidelines and regulations on water allocation.

This proposal is being proposed to take the form of PDA after-care which could help fix the system of water allocation in the river basin by funding the process of testing water allocation on the ground and formulating the supporting water allocation policy to be disseminated to different stakeholders as guideline and manual to achieve the target of operationalizing water allocation in the river basin. The procedure of producing it is through mutual consultations based on information derived from previous PDA and other government projects.

2. Objectives:

The overall objective of the PDA is to test and demonstrate on-the-ground participatory water allocation process to inform the formulation of corresponding water allocation policy and guidelines that will govern water allocation in Thailand's river basins. Specifically, the PDA aims to:

- a. to formulate an enabling tool for translating the previous trial and study on water allocation into tangible actions and results on-the-ground without the need for legislation,
- b. to motivate cooperation of all stakeholders in water allocation through active and continuous consultations based on knowledge derived from previous PDA;
- c. to plan for water allocation in dry season done by all concerned stakeholders, and

- d. to disseminate knowledge on water allocation to all concerned stakeholders at the national and basin levels in form of document produced under this project

3. Scope and location of Work / Description of Activities

This PDA will be implemented in the Bang Pakong – Prachin Buri – Tonlesap river basins. The previous PDA of Bang Pakong Dialogue Initiative was completed in 2006. It has had vast impact to water management in the basin and the stakeholders interest in this initiative has been raised. Networks of people have been created and mobilized and water allocation concept has been introduced.

In this after-care project, all components of water allocation will be analyzed and consulted with the stakeholders both existing networks and new comers from every sector. The River Basin Committee will be a core agency in this activity. Detailed policy, plan, and manual which the different sector players have to adopt as a blueprint for effective water allocation will be formulated. It is very important that social rule be adopted in place of law that is missing. This PDA will create activities that enhance such rule where acceptance and willingness of concerned stakeholders will lead to water allocation policy, utilizing knowledge that already exists.

Activities will consist of

- establishing a PDA task force comprising of representatives from DWR and RBCs
- choosing location for testing and demonstrating water allocation process
- establishing a working group on water allocation
- choosing the scenario for water allocation during dry season of 2009 (December 2008 – May 2009)
- monitoring water level at selected gauging stations
- formulating rules including MOU on
 - Water use efficiency in agriculture
 - Compensation for absence of water distributed
- writing a report (guideline and manual in Thai) on
 - Plan and step for water allocation (include proposed rules and MOU)
 - Lesson learned on practicing of water allocation
 - Roles of concerned agencies and other stakeholders
 - A step forward in catalyzing all concerned stakeholders to create a system of water allocation

All of these activities will be done in a participatory process and in the report there will be an explanation for back-up justification in every step in order that this difficult topic is understandable to all parties. Along with them meetings will be held as appropriate either focus groups or broader consultations and RBCs will be at the core of these meetings. Through these meetings policy, plan, and manual for water allocation of the river basin will be gradually developed, and fine tuning with all stakeholders. It will be adopted in the last meeting and published for later dissemination. During the project, drafted plan on water allocation will be tested and improved so that it will be adopted as a guideline for use by both government officials and the RBC concerned.

The project report will be divided into 3 phases for reporting to ADB: inception, mid-term and final report.

4. Implementation Schedule

Activity	Timeline (month)											
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1. Orientation meeting	x											
2. Establishing a taskforce	x											
3. Choosing location	x											
4. Inception report to ADB	x											
5. Establishing a working group		x										
6. Choosing the scenario		←→										
7. Meetings 2-3 times within a month and a half to set the process		←→										
8. Monitoring water level			←→									
9. Meetings in between item 8 and 11			x	x								
10. Mid-term report to ADB						x						
11. Formulating rules		←→										
12. Meetings 2 times						x		x				
13. Writing a report (in Thai)		←→										
14. Report dissemination and explanation									←→			
15. Final meeting												x
16. Final report to ADB												x

5. Institutional Management Arrangements

This PDA will introduce how water will be allocated in a systematic way and also strengthening the RBCs and their networks in the Bang Pakong, Prachinburi, and Tonlesap river basins. This PDA will be implemented through a Project Taskforce (PT) within the Department of Water Resources that will undertake supervision and coordination of the activities. The PT will continue beyond the PDA to replicate the procedures and methodologies with other basin committees to expand sound allocation plan.

6. Proponent Qualifications

The Department of Water Resources of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment

is responsible for implementation of integrated water resources management in Thailand. The Department is mandated to implement improved water management procedures in all river basins in Thailand. This PDA will support the Department in promoting stakeholders participation in river basin management, strengthen the RBCs, promoting efficient and equitable water allocation to avoid conflicts between users, and increasing awareness of IWRM principles and practices with line agencies and other stakeholders.

7. Expected Results (outputs/outcomes/effects/impacts):

Outputs: Guideline and Manual for Water Allocation

Outcomes: Action on water allocation will be practiced with decision made by the RBC using the model formerly developed and newly formulated policy and plan. DWR and RBCs will be strengthened through direct involvement in the development of water allocation practice. Water allocation process will be highlighted at river basin level.

Impacts: Water will be more efficiently used and equitably allocated. A more efficient and transparent basin management approach in the RBC's, with improved implementation of interventions and reduced stakeholder conflicts.

8. Measurable Performance Indicators:

Performance indicators for the PDA will be:

- A working group on water allocation comprising representatives of major stakeholders
- Water level is monitored at selected gauging stations
- Proposed rules and MOU concerning water allocation
- A Guideline and Manual Document on Water Allocation in Thai language
- Dissemination and explanation of the document to agencies and concerned stakeholders

9. Stakeholders Participation

Stakeholders in the river basin will be directly involved in nearly every step of the project's activities through focus group meeting, broad consultations, and review meetings.

10. Scope for Replication/Use in Other Countries:

Experiences of the Bang Pakong's water allocation can be replicated/used in other countries where law for water allocation does not exist. In some countries even the law exists there is a problem of implementing it on the ground the project can be useful in these cases. It can be presented to the other countries if its task force is funded to present these experiences or there will be a visit to the basin/Thailand.

11. Cost Estimates

Expenditures	Amount
1. Consultants/Specialists Services and relate	13,740

expenses	
- 3 man-month @ USD 2,500	7,500
- 10 travels	
4 days x 2 times x USD 260 (2 persons)	2,080
2 days x 8 times x USD 260 (2 persons)	4,160
2. Service Contractors such as translator, assistant researcher, secretary, etc.	13,000
- assistant researcher 10 man-month @ USD 1,000	10,000
- translator 2 man-month @ USD 1,000	2,000
- secretary 2 man-month @ USD 500	1,000
3. Conferences, workshops, seminars, surveys, and related expenses	17,200
- 8 workshops x 40 participants x USD 50	16,000
Resource person	
- 8 workshops @ USD 150	1,200
4. Purchasing and/or renting of office equipment and supplies for direct use by the project	1,500
5. Rental and associated costs for office space	-
6. Other costs such as reports and communication	4,560
Total	50,000

Note: Contingency is not allowed so please try to provide enough buffer within each expenditure item to allow for any cost changes