



UNESCO-IHE
Institute for Water Education



**Letter of Intent for Cooperation on
Developing Knowledge and Lessons for the
Asia-Pacific Water Forum**

This letter forms the basis of cooperation between the
**UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education,
Singapore Public Utilities Board, and
Asian Development Bank**

A. The Cooperation Partners

1. The UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education (UNESCO-IHE), the Singapore Public Utilities Board (Singapore PUB), and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) (hereinafter referred to collectively as "the Parties") have a mutual interest in managing knowledge and building capacity for integrated water resources management and the delivery of water services.

2. The Asia-Pacific Water Forum (APWF) is an independent, not-for-profit, nonpartisan, nonpolitical network. Its goal is to contribute to sustainable water management in order to achieve the targets of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in the Asia and Pacific region (the Region), by capitalizing on the region's diversity and rich history of experience in dealing with water as a fundamental part of the human existence. Specifically, the APWF shall champion efforts aimed at boosting investments, building capacity, and enhancing cooperation in the water sector at the regional level and beyond. The launch of the APWF in Manila in September 2006 was supported by the Japan Water Forum (the secretariat of APWF) and ADB.

3. UNESCO-IHE is a premier water knowledge institute in the world with a vision to serve as a gateway for water knowledge in a rapidly changing world. UNESCO-IHE has produced more than 13,000 post-graduate students in the water sector, of which the majority are from Asia. Many of its alumni are now holding influential positions and are directly or indirectly involved in water projects financed by ADB. The scope of UNESCO-IHE's education and research program covers both urban and rural water services, and basin water management, responding to the entire spectrum of capacity development requirements of ADB's Water Financing Program 2006–2010.

4. The Singapore PUB is the national water agency of Singapore. It manages water in an integrated manner, including the nation's reservoirs, waterworks, rivers, drainage system, water reclamation plants, and sewerage system, to optimize the use of Singapore's limited water resources. Its mission is to secure an adequate supply of water at an affordable cost for Singaporeans. It has adopted a proactive partnership approach by collaborating with the 3P (people, private, and public) sectors on a range of programs to ensure a sustainable water supply for Singapore, through the WaterHub launched in 2004. Singapore PUB has a wealth of experience in water management and is the lead organization for APWF's first key result area on knowledge management.

5. ADB is a premier broad-based development institution in the Asia and Pacific region, committed to reduce poverty through lending and nonlending activities to support pro-poor sustainable economic growth, good governance, inclusive social development, and environmental improvement. ADB has adopted its *Water for All* policy in 2001 and is implementing a Water Financing Program 2006–2010 that will increase and improve rural, urban, and river basin water investments and results in the Region, supported by reforms, capacity development, and regional cooperation.

B. Core Areas of Cooperation

6. The Parties acknowledge that the cooperation they seek to foster will facilitate the realization of their aims for improved water knowledge management and capacity development, and that their cooperation will support the first key result area of the APWF for developing knowledge and lessons, which has the following scope of activities.

7. Given the mutually supportive goals of the Parties in support of APWF, the parties desire to establish a basis for collaboration in the Asia and Pacific region in the following areas:

- Endeavor to establish APWF's Network of Water Knowledge Hubs in the Region. UNESCO-IHE will assist Singapore PUB and ADB in the establishment of the network of water knowledge hubs under the APWF, using UNESCO-IHE's extensive experience with knowledge networks in other regions. For a start, PUB's WaterHub serves as a knowledge hub which brings technology, learning, and networking under one roof for the water industry. The initial results of the collaboration may be presented at the first Asia-Pacific Water Summit in Japan in December 2007.
- Review of Water Capacity Development Experience. Singapore PUB and ADB will collaborate with UNESCO-IHE in a review of water sector capacity development experience in the Asia and Pacific region (as a contribution to UNESCO-IHE's planned global water capacity building review). UNESCO-IHE's leadership in this area is well recognized since it pioneered the concepts of water sector capacity building in 1991. The review of experience will cover the past 15 years. PUB can assist to organize capacity building programs at the WaterHub to share and exchange strategies (e.g. water resources management, water services, policies, and best practices) through workshops. ADB and UNESCO-IHE will also explore opportunities for further collaboration in capacity development.
- Development of Water Knowledge Products. The Parties will collaborate in developing three knowledge products (topics to be defined in the Work Plan). The collaboration is expected to initiate three series of APWF publications, on priority rural, urban, and basin water topics that are central to the implementation of ADB's Water Financing Program.

8. To facilitate the development and implementation of the cooperation and its activities, the three parties will jointly develop work programs and letters of agreement, as appropriate. The implementation of this Cooperation shall initially be for a period of two years commencing on the date of signature of this Letter of Intent. Before the end of the period the three parties will review the Cooperation and decide on a possible extension of the Cooperation.

C. Contributions

9. The Parties will each contribute financial and human resources to launch this cooperation. ADB expects to contribute \$300,000 from its Water Financing Partnership

Facility to the cooperation, to support costs of travel, workshops, consulting services, printing and dissemination, and other inputs to be agreed. Singapore PUB expects to provide \$60,000 in kind through in-kind-contributions. UNESCO-IHE expects to contribute \$150,000 through in-kind contributions. This letter of intent does not create any legal obligation for funding by the Parties. A work plan will be prepared to identify the specific activities and contributions by each party and the cooperation will be subject to the parties entering into one or more letters of agreement.

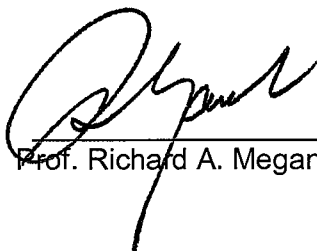
10. We, the undersigned, confirm our full support for establishing the cooperation on developing knowledge and lessons for the Asia-Pacific Water Forum. We stand ready to work on the development of the work plan and in implementing agreed activities to support this objective.

Signed on 15 June 2007 in Delft, the Netherlands
at the 50th Anniversary Symposium of the UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education:

for UNESCO-IHE

for Singapore PUB

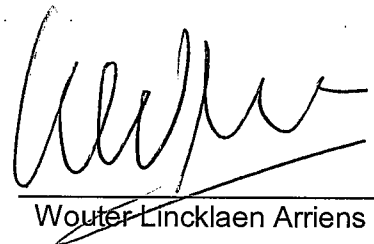
for Asian Development Bank



Prof. Richard A. Meganck, PhD



Ng Han Tong



Wouter Lincklaen Arriens

Asia-Pacific Water Forum – Key Result Area 1: Developing Knowledge and Lessons

“APWF will recognize and strengthen a network of knowledge hubs in the region to do basic and applied research, capacity development, and training in addressing key issues in water services and water resources management.

The knowledge hubs will deliver knowledge-based products and services that meet the short-term practical needs of water organizations like utilities and river basin organizations, and also strategic policy oriented studies on water management in the region to inform ministries and planning agencies in the medium to long term.

APWF will arrange for collaboration between selected knowledge hubs to produce high-quality analyses of experiences in the region on a small number of high-priority complex topics. The results and recommendations from such analyses will be targeted to inform governments, private sector, civil society, and water sector organizations in their project planning and implementation.

The network’s knowledge hubs will work autonomously, guided by a set of simple operating principles for accreditation and quality assurance as agreed under the APWF framework. In turn, APWF will seek to expand the network of existing institutions in priority areas.

APWF will generate and disseminate a menu of options for water policies and practices to governments in the region, based on a compilation of national water policies, strategies for rural and urban water services and for water resources management in river basins, and an analysis of experiences in implementing these policies in countries of the Asia-Pacific region and beyond. Policies for specific issues, such as cost recovery, water rights, and a selection of projects and technologies could also be included. It is hoped that multilateral and bilateral institutions and networks will support this selected programs under this KRA.”

Source: APWF Website

Initial Activities of Cooperation

UNESCO-IHE, Singapore PUB and ADB intend to start their collaboration with a workshop in Singapore or Manila in the third quarter of 2007 to consult leaders of key water knowledge institutions in the Region on the development of the network of knowledge hubs and the development of the knowledge products as an APWF series.

Collaboration on the review of capacity building experience will commence after UNESCO-IHE has secured funding for the global capacity building review. A workshop to start this collaboration is expected in the first quarter of 2008 in Manila or Singapore.

The in-kind contributions to be provided by UNESCO-IHE and Singapore PUB will include the salary costs of their staff involved in the cooperation activities.

The parties will keep the Governing Council and the Secretariat of the Asia-Pacific Water Forum informed of the Work Plan and progress of the cooperation.