

Innovations and Advances in River Basin Management in Asia

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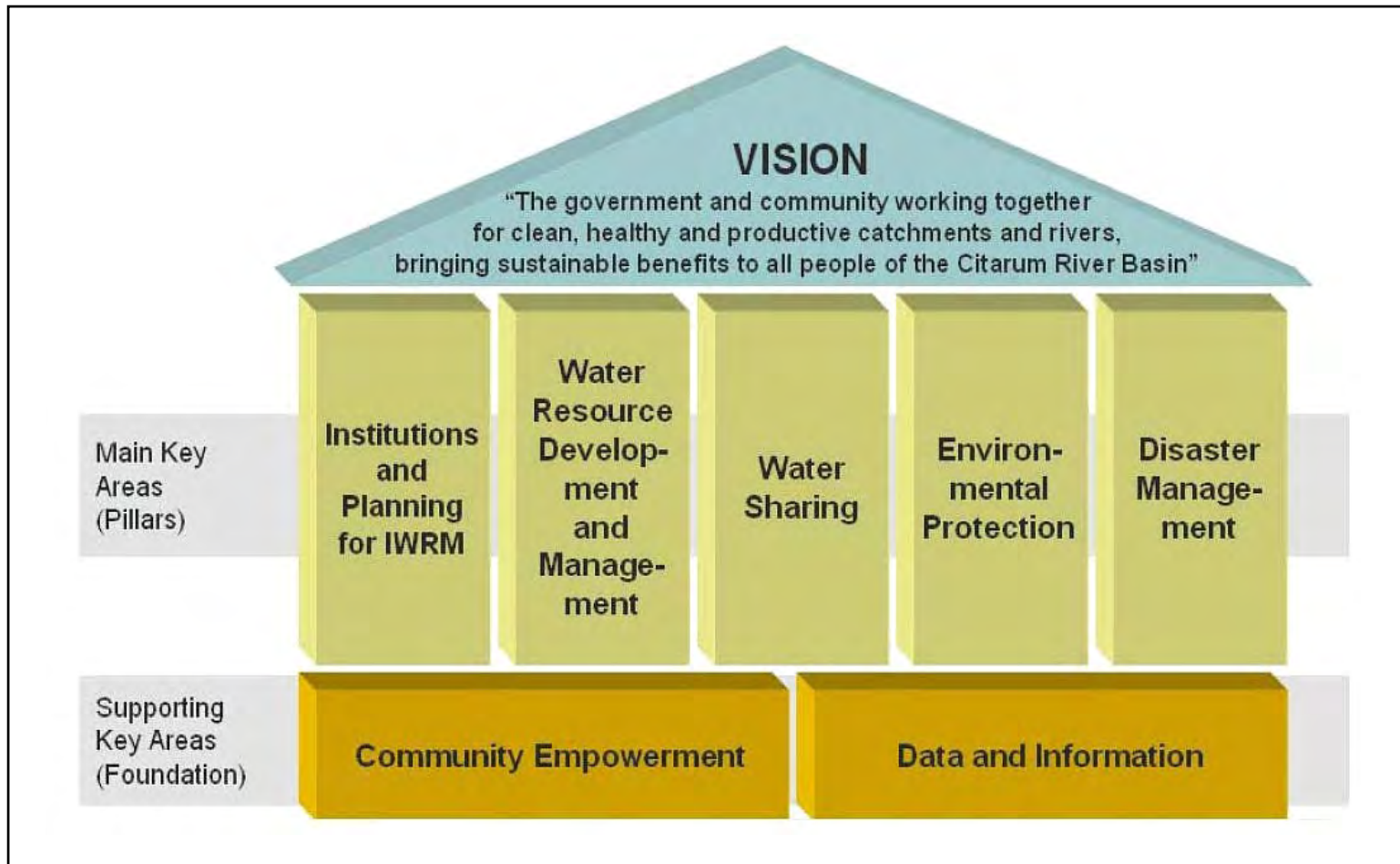
Objectives of river basin management

- **Water for food security** - national food security, household supplies, self-sufficiency and eradication of hunger;
- **Water for livelihood security** - macroeconomic growth , health, poverty alleviation, water (and sanitation) for all;
- **Water for environmental security** - environmental protection, disaster proofing and risk preparedness.

River basin policy

- **Policy provides**
 - a shared sense of direction
 - a definition of roles, rights and responsibilities
 - a tool for progress monitoring.
- **Problem-oriented policies**
 - starting point in the basin '*as it is*'.
 - have a shorter time horizon
- **Development-oriented policies**
 - perspective of the basin '*as it could be*'.
 - have a longer time horizon

Structure of a river basin development roadmap



River Basin Organisations

- **Negotiation platforms** (for example between countries or states of a same federation);
- **Basin development agencies** (in charge of overall planning, construction, and management);
- **Regulatory or management bodies** (water-sharing, data collection, master plan, registration of users and granting of licenses, sectoral allocation plans...);
- **Stakeholder forums** (forum for negotiation, access to information, confrontation of viewpoints, conflict-resolution, etc).

Classification of River Basin Organisations

Category	Nature of organization	Mandate	Main functions
River Basin Authorities	Autonomous	Extensive mandate	Planning, Construction, Development, and management of resources in the river basin
River Basin Committees	Formal	Policy and planning but limited implementation	Policy, planning, allocation decisions, knowledge management, stakeholder participation
River Basin Councils	Informal	Limited to co-ordination and stakeholder participation	Facilitation of conflict resolution; stakeholder participation

RBOs in Asia

Country	RBCs/RBOs
Afghanistan	5 RBOs (covering 8 basins): North-Eastern basin, Northern basin, Western basin, Helmand basin and Kabul basin
Cambodia	Tonle Sap Authority – being established
China	7 major basins plus some small ones
India	RBCs/RBOs in preparation in several states
Indonesia	2 Type 1 (public corporation) RBOs, covering 3 basins; 31 Type 2 (central government) RBOs, covering 69 basins; 59 Type 3 (provincial government) RBOs; plus Type 4 (provincial/regency/city WR services) RBOs
Japan	7 Water Resources Development Plans being implemented by Japan Water Agency: Tone, Ara, Toyo, Kiso, Yodo, Yoshino and Chikugo River Systems
Laos PDR	Nam Ngum RBC (in preparation)

Malaysia	Sabah and Selangor Water Management Boards; state-level RBOs
Nepal	Kathmandu Valley Water Supply management Board; 3 river basin management offices in preparation: Koshi, Narayani and Karnali
Pakistan	Indus River System Authority
The Philippines	Laguna Lake Development Authority (1966); Lake Lanao Watershed Protection and Development Council (1992); Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission (1999), more under consideration
Sri Lanka	Mahaweli (Basin) Authority
Thailand	25 RBCs, Ping, Yom, Bang Pakong
Vietnam	8 major basin RBCs: Red - Thai Binh, Cau, Day, Ca, Vu Gia-Thu Bon, Sre Pok, Dong Nai, and Cuu Long; plus 61 inter-provincial and provincial RBCs

Transboundary RBOs

Examples:

- Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS)
- Joint River Commission (of India and Bangladesh) (1972),
- Central Asian Interstate Coordination Water Commission (ICWC) (1992)
- Mekong River Commission (covering the Lower Mekong Basin) (1995).

Lessons from RBOs in Asia

- Institutional reform for RBM is too often confined to the creation of the RBO
- Too much attention to creating the ideal RBO model, but not to the process of developing, managing, and maintaining collaborative relationships
- Essential function in RBM — strategic water allocation and water rights - has not received sufficient attention
- Asia did well at “within institutional reform”, but needs to do more to strengthen inter-agency collaboration and stakeholder participation

Lessons contd...

- there is no single model for river basin management or single institutional / legal setup that can be applied in all circumstances
- independent sector management often prevails even when inter-sector management would be more beneficial
- creation of RBOs with sufficient authority is difficult and time-consuming

Lessons contd...

- Demonstrate benefits from IWRM –address seasonality, trends, and irregularities, seeking balance between in-stream and off-stream availability and demand
- we see increased acceptance of the need to work together across administrative boundaries
- Several obstacles to IWRM-based management have been lowered or removed -
 - traditional water rights, or '*water as a free good*'
 - suitable knowledge base
 - within country experiments, results are encouraging

Lessons contd...

- participatory programs are generally implemented too late and are under-funded
- Community participation in basin management is an unharnessed potential
- Political leadership is essential for basin management and water security

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THANK YOU

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