

**Letter of Intent**  
**for Collaboration to Improve Water Security in River Basins**  
**through the Network of Asian River Basin Organizations**  
**Between**  
**Japan Water Agency (JWA) and**  
**Asian Development Bank (ADB)**

1. This letter expresses our intention to continue and expand the collaboration between our organizations to help introduce integrated water resources management (IWRM) in river basins through the Network of Asian River Basin Organizations (NARBO). In 2003, during the 3<sup>rd</sup> World Water Forum, our organizations signed a letter of intent to establish NARBO, and this was followed by the launch of NARBO in 2004.

2. In the past five years, our organizations have collaborated to jointly serve as NARBO's secretariat, together with the ADB Institute (ADBI), to support NARBO activities including training programs and thematic workshops, twinning programs, exchange visits, performance benchmarking and peer reviews, and a website and newsletter. More than 60 organizations have already joined as members to date, and NARBO is increasingly recognized by river basin organizations (RBOs) and national water agencies in the region as a network that supports them in their work.

3. Guided by its *Water for All* policy approved in 2001 which fosters IWRM in river basins, ADB is implementing the Water Financing Program 2006-2010 to increase investments and support reforms, capacity development, and regional cooperation. Meanwhile, JWA is increasingly using its knowledge and expertise in water resources management in Japan to support developing countries to introduce IWRM in river basins. Furthermore, ADBI continues to support research and capacity development in developing countries with knowledge products, seminars and training workshops on key development issues.

4. Collaboration between JWA, ADB and ADBI for NARBO is also benefiting from active support by other organizations in Japan, including the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, the Japan International Cooperation Agency, the Japan Water Forum (Secretariat of the Asia-Pacific Water Forum), the International Centre for Water Hazard and Risk Management, and the University of Tokyo.

5. In recent years, the need to improve water security in river basins has become an increasingly pressing issue to water users, practitioners and leaders in the countries of the Asia-Pacific region. The need to adapt water resource management to climate change impacts, and to improve risk management and preparedness for water-related disasters, are requiring more attention and investment in the process of implementing IWRM, for which further capacity building is needed in NARBO member organizations and other partners and stakeholders.

6. Consequently, the challenge of improving water security has already been highlighted in the themes of the 1<sup>st</sup> Asia-Pacific Water Summit held in 2007 in Japan, and in the first edition of the Asian Water Development Outlook published by ADB in 2007. Water security will continue to be the theme for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Asia-Pacific Water Summit in 2010 and the second edition of Asian Water Development Outlook.

7. Therefore, as we continue our collaboration in support of NARBO, we intend to promote more projects and activities that improve water security in river basins through the IWRM process.

8. For our collaboration in the coming years, we intend to support NARBO in the following **key result areas**:

- (i) **Knowledge products and services.** Knowledge products and services, including for legal and institutional frameworks for IWRM in river basins, participation of stakeholders, adapting and optimizing river basin infrastructure to climate change and other changes, and other priority topics.
- (ii) **Capacity development.** Capacity development for RBOs and water agencies to improve water security, supported by guidelines, tools, performance benchmarking, peer reviews, twinning, training and workshops.
- (iii) **Regional knowledge hubs.** Collaboration with the Center for River Basin Organizations and Management, Indonesia, as NARBO's regional knowledge hub under the auspices of the Asia-Pacific Water Forum, and with other hubs supporting IWRM in river basins, including in research and comparative analysis of needs, practice, and experience in the region, and other hub products and services to clients in the region.

- (iv) **Investment projects.** Supporting investment projects that help to introduce IWRM in river basins as part of ADB's Water Financing Program. This is expected to include the preparation of demonstration projects to improve water security in three river basins in the region with long-term investment roadmaps and good practice that can be replicated in the region.
- (v) **Expert services.** Expert services by JWA to support river basin investment projects and knowledge services under ADB's Water Financing Program.
- (vi) **Leadership promotion.** Engaging with leaders in government, civil society and the private sector to support NARBO's work, including the promotion of good policies, strategies and investment projects for improving water security in river basins. Such engagement is expected to involve support from a NARBO Patron.
- (vii) **Asia-Pacific Water Summit.** Integrating the agenda for water security in river basins in the Asia-Pacific Water Summits and other relevant international events and initiatives.
- (viii) **"Ministers for Water" initiative.** Facilitating engagement by ministers and policy makers from water and related sectors who can promote water security in river basins through leadership initiatives in countries and in (sub) regional activities.

9. The scope of work and deliverables, implementation arrangements, and financing plans for activities in these key result areas will be confirmed through letters of agreement signed by designated officials of JWA and ADB.

10. In the implementation of activities to support NARBO in these key result areas, JWA and ADB will continue their collaboration with ADBI.

11. In addition to using our organizations' own human resources and budget, including for staff inputs, we will encourage proposals to be prepared to access resources of ADB's Japan Special Fund and Water Financing Partnership Facility to meet the additional costs of activities under the key result areas of this collaboration.

12. ADB and JWA do not intend to create legal relations by the signing of this letter of intent. Our intent is to continue identifying and facilitating opportunities for cooperation and collaboration.

13. When opportunities are identified for collaboration involving the provision or management of funds or the commitment of the resources of either party, these will be implemented in accordance with the provisions of one or more written agreements entered into by our organizations in accordance with their established practices and procedures.

14. The designated focal points for our collaboration continue to be the International Affairs Division of the Water Resources Engineering Department of JWA, and the Sustainable Infrastructure Division of the Regional and Sustainable Development Department of ADB.

Signed in Manila, this 12<sup>th</sup> of January 2009

Asian Development Bank

Japan Water Agency

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President

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President

Acknowledged by:

Network of Asian River Basin Organizations

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Chairperson

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Vice-Chairperson