

9th NARBO IWRM training in Philippines

a) Outline

The 9th IWRM training was held from 12 to 19 May 2014 at One Tagaytay Place Hotel Suites in Tagaytay, which is located around 60km south of Manila in Philippines.

33 participants, who work for RBOs or governments, came from 11 countries (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam), expecting to study and enhance their knowledge about IWRM through Laguna Lake basin experiences. Total 8 days' training including 2 days' field visit (4th & 5th day) was carried out hosted by Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA).

Experts from LLDA and other relevant institutes, and NARBO members gave lectures not only on IWRM-related matters using "IWRM Guidelines", but Laguna lake basin's wide variety of subjects such as irrigation, flood management, water security, domestic water, water allocation, decision support system, stakeholder's participation, as case studies. During lectures, participants were very eager to learn and actively asked a lot of questions and expressed their views on these subjects.

Participants also introduced their posters about the current issues of their basin, proposed solution, and key for success, prepared in advance of training one by one from the 1st to 3rd day of the training.

What the hardest but the most important parts of the training might have been some group works. The subject of a final session of the training on the 8th day was about IWRM spiral of their own countries or basins. After presentations in regards to the outcome of group works by participants, they talked together about how to embed IWRM on their countries or basins with NARBO vice secretary general and NARBO secretariat.

After the last lecture of each day, NARBO secretariat wrapped up the seminar by using clicker system to know what to get from lectures and get frank but severe evaluation about all the lectures and the training including accommodations.

For example, the ratings of "Which learning modality do you enjoy most in this training?" were i) 24% for Understanding, ii) 4% for Critical analysis, iii) 17% for Application, and iv) 54% for Active contribution to group work and v) 8% for Presentation. In addition, the 97% participants achieved their learning objectives and overall satisfactory rating was almost 100%.

On the last day of the training, all the participants received a certification from NARBO vice secretary general "Dr. Kentaro Kido".



Group photo

b) Study Visit

On the 4th day, 14 May, participants visited Lake Pandin, San Pablo, Laguna and Sta. Cruz, Laguna. At Lake Pandin they learned the role of youth and women in lake conservation. In addition, at Sta. Cruz, they learned keys for success as disaster risk reduction.

On the second day, they visited Maynilad Water Treatment Plant, Muntinlupa City, Metro Manila and Teresa, Rizal. At the plant, they learned the processes for domestic use of Laguna Lake's raw water at the plant and how to manage integrated solid waste for lake water quality protection at Teresa.



The photo of the study visit at Teresa

c) Conclusion

Though IWRM has been introduced well in the Asian region, however RBOs are facing challenges on introducing IWRM to their own basin and IWRM is not yet working fully and effectively. NARBO secretariat believes good examples or case studies in other basins help RBOs embed IWRM to their basins, and there are many good examples in Asia region. Moreover, it is necessary to help RBOs understand “terms and conditions” of good examples to customize them for their specific challenges. NARBO secretariat expects that the IWRM training is good opportunity to start with IWRM and participants of the training get the momentum and keys to move IWRM process forward. Thanks to everyone related to this 9th training, the training was successfully finished without any problem. Especially, many thanks to LLDA, and course directors, almost all the lectures went on punctually.

The next step, NARBO secretariat will seek for how NARBO can follow up the participants to keep and improve the effect of the training with the strong network.