

E-learning on Managing Water in Asia's River Basins-IWRM Based Online Training Courses 2013-2014

The 1st NARBO Technical Committee which was held in early April 2008 discussed strategic directions of capacity development activities of NARBO. Especially, the committee reviewed past IWRM training courses and recommended some important matters to be considered when NARBO secretariats develop the program of IWRM training course. The committee recommended 4 level training courses such as Basic Entry, Middle management, Senior RBO management and Regional IWRM advisor. Introduction of e-learning for Basic Entry was recommended to enhance the basic understanding of IWRM to the young practitioners by the committee. Based on these recommendations, ADB decided to introduce e-learning by using the Technical Assistance 6470 : “Managing Water in Asia's River Basins: Charting Progress and Facilitating Investment” which aims to catalyze further basin water investments under the Water Financing Program and demonstrate good practices in introducing IWRM in river basins across the region. The Economic and Technological Development Distance Learning Centre (CEDDET) Foundation which aims to use Information and Communication Technology and enable countries to share experiences and knowledge, thereby contributing to the ongoing reform and modernization of public administration and established as a joint initiative between the Spanish Ministry of Economy and Finance, Government of Spain and the World Bank in 2001.

The CEDDET Foundation has designed and implemented a capacity building program in collaboration with NARBO as well as Asian and European RBO. The program consisted of two IWRM-based online training certificated courses on ‘River basin management’ and ‘Environmental management’ for a group of 140 persons. Each course was offered online two times between October 2013 and April 2014. The course received over 260 applications from 88 organizations from 18 countries in Asia, and 140 trainees were selected after the evaluation.

Selected trainees was requested to read the text books which were developed by the lecturers nominated by NARBO thoughtfully and submit the reports which had answered the questions offered by the lectures and introduced their current issues on water. Then, trainees were requested to interact with other trainees through message board on the website. Lecturers also join the interaction and lead the discussion. After the interactions, trainees were requested to submit additional report which summarized the discussions through interaction. Lectures evaluate trainees by considering the attendance of the discussion, contents of the report and progress of the understanding and so on.



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116 trainees out of 140 selected trainees have completed the training, and 94% of participants gave satisfactory ratings about the overall training course. Majorities of trainees were from NARBO member organizations, and the training had contributed to enhance the understanding of IWRM among young practitioners and network among them through the message board of the online training courses.