

Irrawaddy Capacity building and professional development for inclusive governance and management of water and ecosystem services in the Ayeyarwady River Basin

The research Program on Water, Land and Ecosystems of The Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research is a research-for-development initiative that seeks to improve the governance and management of water resources by generating and sharing the knowledge and practices. The program is implemented in four river basins: the Salween, Irrawaddy, Mekong and Red in greater Mekong region. Through the programme, capacity to implement water-related projects will be developed in an appropriate manner (<https://wle-mekong.cgiar.org/about/our-focus/>).

Myanmar is now exploring the feasible development methodology by considering the sustainability. Recently, Myanmar developed a Water Policy with concept of IWRM. The project under the programme of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research aims to contribute to enhancing capacities for inclusive governance and management of water and ecosystems services in the Ayeyarwady River Basin through capacity development of key Myanmar water related organizations such as national government and municipal government, and water professionals and individuals at university, civil society and NGOs. UNESCO Institute for Water Education (UNESCO-IHE) leads the projects with many partner organizations including Ministry of Transport, Government of Myanmar and NARBO.

1st batch of the capacity development activities named 'fellowship programme' was launched at September 2015 and ends in June 2016. Approximately 30 fellows from government, academia, private sector and NGOs joined and will graduate the program. Fellows were requested to make research papers related with the Ayeyarwady River Basin, and lecturers supported them to complete it through lectures at the trainings and consultation by e-mail. In 2016, 2nd phase of the fellowship programme has already been scheduled.

NARBO has contributed to the programme as one of the partner organizations and offered lectures on IWRM in Asia at the 1st training course in September 2015 and 2nd training courses in October 2015 as the 1st batch of the programme. The programme aims to develop 'IWRM Certification' which is expected to contribute to the capacity development of water professionals in Myanmar, and NARBO is cooperating to it by offering the experience of NARBO. Development and management of IWRM Proficiency Certification is one of the activities of NARBO which was mentioned at 'NARBO Action Program 2013-2015' and to be implemented with UNESCO-IHE. Therefore, the programme is one of NARBO activities to be implemented as NARBO activities.



The photo of the UNESCO-IHE training

NARBO IWRM Certification is expected to be disseminated to member countries, and modified system to be developed and introduced. In this case, National Secretariat of NARBO which will be recommended to be established in member countries will play an important role for it, and NARBO secretariat with Steering Committee members will also support it.