
Preface

As the recognition of importance of IWRM has been surging, the lack of the network to assist RBOs in Asia in their work of introducing and implementing IWRM approach came to light.

With this background, the Third World Water Forum was held in Japan in March 2003. At the forum, JWA, ADB and ADBI signed a Letter of Intent to jointly launch NARBO in recognition of the need to cooperate and support RBOs in order to promote IWRM in Asia. Subsequently, the three organizations made inquiries to

governmental agencies, RBOs and other related organizations in Asia about their intention to participate in NARBO and solicited their cooperation.

After the inaugural NARBO General Meeting was held after the Inception Meeting in Chiang Mai, Thailand in November 2003, NARBO was established in February 2004 with 43 member organizations.

In this annual report, various NARBO activities from its establishment to December 2004 are summarized.

1. Establishment of NARBO

(1) Introduction

The world community has recognized the importance of managing water resources in a more integrated manner. Over the past decades, a series of regional and global water conferences, including the World Water Forums in 1997, 2000, and 2003, have underlined the need to adopt and operationalize the approach of integrated water resources management (IWRM), which is defined by the Global Water Partnership as *“a process to improve the planning, conservation, development, and management of water, forest, land, and aquatic resources in a river basin context, to maximize economic benefits and social welfare in an equitable manner without compromising the sustainability of vital environmental systems.”*

By focusing on the management of water and related resources in a river basin

undertaken at basin level with the involvement of stakeholders at the basin level. The water conference in Dublin in 1992 referred to the need to manage water resources *at the lowest appropriate level*. This has become one of the basic principles underpinning the IWRM approach, and it has led to increased recognition that river basin organizations (RBOs) can realize IWRM at the basin level. Since Dublin, the world community has also recognized the importance of promoting gender and development work as part of the IWRM approach to ensure that women participate in water management at all levels.

“Many forms of RBOs have been established in recent decades, and countries have developed various governance approaches for RBOs, for example, river basin commissions in the

People's Republic of China, river basin parliaments in France, river basin committees in Australia, river basin authorities in the United States and Sri Lanka, a lake basin development authority in the Philippines, water resources public corporations in Japan and Indonesia, inter-state RBOs like the river basin tribunals in India and the Murray-Darling Basin Commission in Australia, and international RBOs in the Mekong basin, the Syr and Amu Darya basins, and in the Tumen basin.

Some RBOs were established decades ago and have ceased to exist, while many new RBOs have been established recently. Some RBOs have a large technical capacity, employing thousands of staff, while others may employ just a handful, like the newly established river basin committees in Southeast Asia. While there are many differences between these RBOs, they share a common mission, which is to operationalize IWRM in their respective river basins.

A network to assist RBOs in Asia in their work of introducing and operationalizing the IWRM approach does not yet exist. Consequently, RBOs lack opportunities for exchanging information and experience on their operations, and access for their staff to training and capacity building that draws on the technical and non-technical experience in managing water resources in Asia.

The need for partnerships for action to achieve IWRM was recognized at the 3rd World Water Forum held in Kyoto, Osaka,

and Shiga, in the Lake Biwa and Yodo River Basin, Japan, in March 2003, where it was noted that several developed and developing countries in Asia have already established RBOs to implement IWRM. The 3rd World Water Forum highlighted the need to support these RBOs through knowledge sharing and capacity building, especially in developing countries.

The 3rd World Water Forum also emphasized the contributions that IWRM can make to improving the water security of the poor, by incorporating the needs of the poor explicitly in water policies and management practices at all levels.

Recognizing the need for networking and capacity building in the implementation of IWRM, the Water Resources Development Public Corporation of Japan (recently reconstituted as the Japan Water Agency), the Asian Development Bank, and the Asian Development Bank Institute decided at the 3rd World Water Forum in March 2003 in Kyoto, Japan, to collaborate in launching a Network of Asian River Basin Organizations (NARBO), and a letter of intent was signed at the Forum on 21 March 2003.

After the forum, the three organizations made inquiries to governmental agencies, RBOs and other related organizations in Asia about their intention to participate in NARBO and solicited their cooperation. The inaugural NARBO General Meeting was held after the Inception Meeting in Chiang Mai, Thailand in November 2003 and the Preparation Meeting for NARBO

General Meeting in Tokyo, Japan in January 2004.

(2) Purposes

The goal of NARBO will be to help achieve IWRM in river basins throughout Asia.

NARBO's objective will be to strengthen the capacity and effectiveness of RBOs in promoting IWRM and improving water governance, through training and the exchange of information and experience among RBOs and their associated water sector agencies and knowledge partner organizations in Asia and to advise the establishment of RBOs in Asia."

To promote IWRM in Asia, the focus of NARBO's activities will be as follows:

1) Activities for the whole of NARBO

The activities joined by all members of NARBO will be as follows:

- Advocacy and raising awareness for IWRM among RBOs, water sector apex bodies, and leading water sector agencies in the region, mainly through regional workshops.
- Sharing of information, good practices, and lessons learned for IWRM among the participating organizations, mainly by operating databases and a web site for IWRM exchanging information, and by sending a newsletter by e-mail as well as posting on the web site and holding (sub) regional workshops

2) Activities for regional areas of NARBO

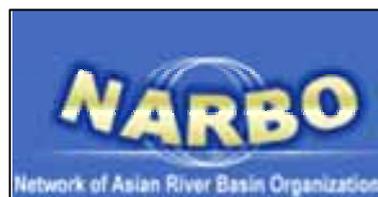
RBOs, national and federal governmental organizations with expertise in IWRM, regional and interregional knowledge partner

organizations for IWRM, and bilateral and multilateral development cooperation agencies, will be requested to support RBOs in Asia in the following types of activities.

- Supporting NARBO members to improve water governance, including the enabling policy, institutional, and legal framework for IWRM, and the formulation of the action plans.
- Building capacity of RBOs in implementing IWRM, mainly through staff exchange and training among participating organizations.
- Supporting RBOs with technical advice in regard to the planning, conservation, development, and the proper and efficient operation and maintenance of water resources facilities, to improve IWRM.
- Fostering regional cooperation for improved management of water resources in transboundary river basins.

3) The scope of IWRM activities to be supported by NARBO will be approved by the NARBO General meeting.

4) NARBO's activities will initially focus on the monsoonal areas of Asia.



(3) Charter

NARBO Charter is like a constitution because it stipulates NARBO organization and activities. The charter was presented and explained by NARBO Secretariat on February 23, the first day of the First General Meeting, then it was duly approved without change. The

charter consists of introduction and five sections. These five sections are; "Section 1. Denomination and Working Language", "Section 2. Goal and objective", "Section 3. Activities", "section 4. Organizations" and "Section 5. Resources"

About the whole NARBO Charter, please refer to Appendix 1.

(4) Action Plan

"Draft Framework and Proposal for NARBO Action Plan (2004 – 2005)" was discussed in the workshop on February 24 and 25 at the First General Meeting.

The draft consists of three major categories, namely "Advocacy, raising awareness, and exchange of information, good practices on IWRM (Activities for the Whole of NARBO)", "Capacity Building (Activities for Regional Areas of NARBO)" and "Support for NARBO Activities".

The activities included in each category are as follows:

1) Advocacy, raising awareness, and exchange of information, good practices on IWRM

- NARBO Website
- NARBO members website
- E-newsletter
- Guidelines and sourcebook
- Centers of excellence
- Collaboration with knowledge partner organizations
- Performance benchmarking
- Workshops
- Transboundary water management

- RBO Annual Reports
- NARBO Annual Report
- Media relations
- Gender in development programs
- River basin information systems

2) Capacity Building

- Training courses for IWRM
- RBO staff exchange program
- RBO exchange visits
- Advisory visits to RBOs
- Scholarship programs
- RBO twining program
- ISO Certification

3) Support for NARBO Activities

- Technical Advisory Committee
- Financial Support Group

Based on "Draft Framework and Proposal for NARBO Action Plan (2004 – 2005)" and discussion in the workshop, "NARBO Work Plan" was drawn in January 2005. The work plan prescribes the specific activities, implementation programs, leading agencies and the results of each activity.

About the whole draft framework and proposal for NARBO Action Plan (2004-2005), please refer to Appendix 2.

(5) Members

At the First General Meeting, 43 organizations from 11 countries signed the Agreement to Membership in NARBO and 8 organizations signed the Expression of Interest for Membership in NARBO.

Eleven countries are Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Vietnam, Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines, Korea and Japan.

[List of NARBO Members and Organizations interested as the First General Meeting]

	Member	Interested
River Basin Organization (RBO)	13	2
Government Organization (GOV.)	15	5
Regional Knowledge Partner (RKP)	12	1
Inter Regional Knowledge Partner (IRKP)	2	0
Development Cooperation Agency (DCA)	1	0
Total	43	8

River Basin Organizations (RBOs)

Country		Organization
Bangladesh	M	Bangladesh Water Development Board
Indonesia	M	Jasa Tirta I Public Corporation
Indonesia	M	Jasa Tirta II Public Corporation
Indonesia	M	Jragung-Tuntang Basin Water Resources Management Unit (BWRMU) (Balai PSDA Jragung-Tuntang)
Japan	P	Japan Water Agency (JWA)
Malaysia	M	Selangor Water Authority
Pakistan	I	Water and Power Development Authority
Philippines	M	Agno River Basin Development Commission (ARBDC)
Philippines	M	Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA)
Korea	M	Korean Water Resources Corporation (KOWACO)
Sri Lanka	M	Mahaweli Authority of Sri Lanka
Thailand	I	Bang Pakong River Basin
Vietnam	M	General Office for RBOs in Vietnam
Vietnam	M	Cuu Long & Dong Nai River Basin Organization
Vietnam	M	Red River Basin Organization
total		15 RBOs (13 members and 2 Interested)

Governmental Organization (GOs)

Country		Organization
Bangladesh	M	Local Government Engineering Department, Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives
Cambodia	M	Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology
Cambodia	M	Department of Hydrology and River Works
P.R. China	I	Huai He River Water Resources Commission of Ministry of Water Resources
P.R. China	I	Taihu Basin Authority of Ministry of Water Resources
Indonesia	M	Directorate General of Water Resources
Indonesia	M	West Nusa Tenggara Regional Office of Settlement and Regional Infrastructure (Dinas Kinitraswi Provinsi NTB)
Indonesia	M	Bengawan Solo River Basin Development Project
Indonesia	I	Brantas River Basin Development Project
Indonesia	I	Seputih-Sekampung River Basin Development Project
Indonesia	M	Jeneberang River Basin Project
Japan	M	Water Resources Department, Land and Water Bureau, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure & Transport
Lao PDR	M	Water Resources Coordination Committee Secretariat
Malaysia	M	Department of Irrigation and Drainage
Philippines	M	National Water Resources Board
Sri Lanka	M	National Water Resources Authority
Thailand	I	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
Vietnam	M	Department of Water Resources Management, MoNRE
Vietnam	M	Sub Institute for Water Resources Planning
Vietnam	M	Department of Natural Resources and Environment of Dong Nai Province
total		20 Gov. Orgs (15 member and 5 Interested)

Regional Knowledge Partner (RKP)

Region		Organization
Southeast Asia	M	Global Water Partnership (GWP) SEARWP (Malaysia)
South Asia	M	Global Water Partnership (GWP) SAS RWP (Bangladesh)
South Asia	M	South Asia Network of River Basin Organization (SASNET-RBO)
Asia	M	Mekong River Commission Secretariat
Bangladesh	M	Institute of Water Modeling (IWM)
Thailand	M	Thailand Water Resources Association (TWRA)
Japan	I	Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University (Japan)
Indonesia	M	Indonesia Water Partnership
Indonesia	M	The Foundation on Water Affairs ADHI EKA
Indonesia	M	Faculty of Engineering, Brawijaya University
Indonesia	M	Research Institute for Water Resources
Indonesia	M	Center for Environment & Civil Engineering Research
Indonesia	M	Post Graduate Study on Water Resources Management Faculty of Engineering Gadjah Mada University
total		13 Reg. KP (12 member and 1 Interested)

Bilateral and multilateral development cooperation agencies

Country		Organization
	P	Asian Development Bank
total		1 DCA

Inter-regional Knowledge Partner (IRKP)

Country		Organization
	P	Asian Development Bank Institute
	M	International Water Management Institute (IWMI)
total		2 Int-reg. KP

Note:

P: Promoter (Member), M: Member,

I: Interested to become a member,

KP: Knowledge Partner,

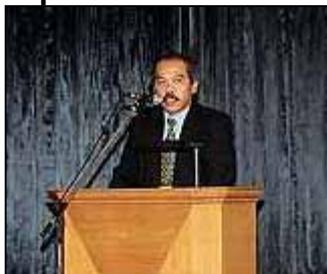
DCA: Development Cooperation Agency

The Global Environment Network (WWF International), Asia Pacific Association of Hydrology and Water Resources (APHW) and CapNet South Asia joined NARBO as pre-registered members as of May 2005.

About the whole NARBO members' list, please refer to Appendix 3.

(6) Chairperson Vice Chairperson and Secretariat

1) Chairperson



Chairperson: Dr. Basuki Hadi Moeljono
(Director General, Directorate General for
Water Resources, Ministry of Settlement and
Regional Infrastructures, Indonesia)

2) Vice Chairperson



Vice Chairperson: Mr. Palitha T. Senaratne
(Until 29 November 2004))
(Director General, Mahaweli Authority of Sri
Lanka)



Vice Chairperson: Dr.M.U.A. Tennakoon
(Serving as Acting Vice Chairperson from 30
November 2004)
(Director General, Mahaweli Authority of Sri
Lanka)

3) Secretariat

a) Secretary General



Secretary General: Dr. Masafumi Fukuda
(Executive Director, Japan Water Agency)

b) Vice-Secretary General



(From left to right)

Vice Secretary General: Mr. Toru Tatara
(Special Advisor to the dean, ADBI)
Mr. Wouter Lincklaen Arriens (Lead Water
Resources Specialist, ADB)
Dr. Takeyoshi Sadahiro (Director,
International Affairs Division, JWA)

c) Secretariat

NARBO Secretariat is composed of
Japan Water Agency (JWA), Asian
Development Bank Institute (ADBI),
both in Japan and Asian Development
Bank, in Philippines.

The headquarters of the secretariat is
located in JWA and its branches are
located in ADBI and ADB.

(7) Progress of the establishment

1) The Third World Water Forum. March 2003 in Japan

At the 3rd World Water Forum held in Kyoto, Osaka and Shiga in Japan in March 2003, WARDEC (Water Resource Development Public Corporation: the former body of JWA) had the session titled “A review of Comprehensive Water Resources Management in Japan -Shared

Lessons for Monsoon Asia-“. Participants in the session strongly recognized the importance of creating a partnership to promote IWRM in river basins in Asian countries and three organizations, namely JWA, ADB and ADBI signed the letter of intent



Photo 1. NARBO Session



Photo 2. Signing for the letter of intent



The letter of intent

About the full size of the Letter of the Intent, please refer to Appendix 4.

2) The inception meeting

The inception meeting was held as the side meeting of Southeast Asia Water Forum (SEAWF) in Chiang Mai, Thailand on November 29 2003 to lay the groundwork for the establishment of NARBO. Participants, who came from

RBOs, concerning organizations and regional centers of expertise for IWRM, discussed the content of activities and a framework for NARBO. The participating institutions expressed high expectations and strong demand for NARBO.



Photo 3. At the discussion



Photo 4. Group photo