



# The NARBO (Network of Asian River Basin Organizations) Newsletter

<http://www.narbo.jp/>

## High Expectations of Asian Countries toward the Establishment of NARBO

### 1. What is NARBO?

During the 3rd World Water Forum held in Japan in March 2003, participants strongly recognized the importance of creating a partnership to promote Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) in river basins in Asian countries. Three organizations Japan Water Agency (JWA), Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI) have signed a letter of intent for establishing the Network of Asian River Basin Organizations (NARBO).

An Inception meeting was held in Chiang Mai, Thailand on November 20, 2003 to lay the groundwork for the establishment of NARBO, which will be officially announced at its first General Meeting scheduled on February 24-26, 2004 in Batu, Indonesia.



Inception Meeting in Chiang Mai

NARBO's main objective is to strengthen the capabilities and effectiveness of River Basin Organizations (RBOs) in Asian nations. To achieve this goal, NARBO will provide necessary assistance to RBOs by sharing information, expertise and human resources to promote IWRM and improve water resources management. NARBO consists of Asian RBOs and related national and federal water divisions, regional and inter-regional knowledge centers as well as international cooperative agencies.



Signing Ceremony



Inception Meeting in Chiang Mai



## 2. Activities

NARBO will:

1. Advocate and raise awareness of IWRM among the RBOs, water sector apex bodies, and leading water sector agencies in the region, mainly through regional workshops.
2. Share with member organizations IWRM-related information, expertise and experience via web pages, newsletters and databases.
3. Support NARBO members to improve water governance, including the enabling policy, institutional, and legal framework for IWRM, and the formulation of the action plans.
4. Build capacity of RBOs in implementing IWRM, mainly through staff exchange and training among participating organizations.
5. Support 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.
6. Foster regional cooperation for improved management of water resources in transboundary river basins.

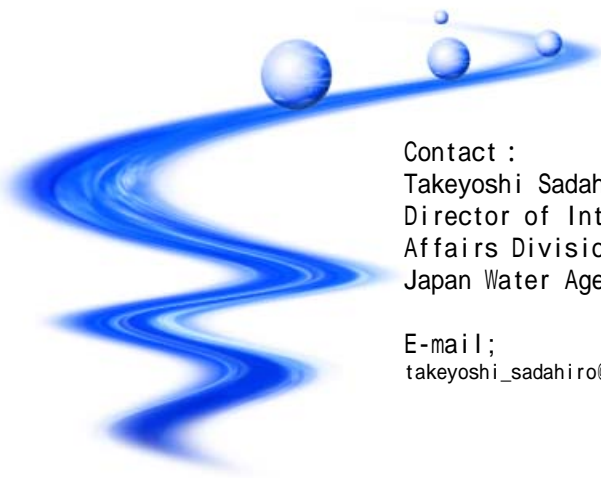


Venue of NARBO General Meeting, Royal Orchids Garden Hotel in Malang, Indonesia



## 3. High expectations toward NARBO activities

East Asian, Southeast Asian and South Asian countries have already expressed their high expectations and various suggestions regarding NARBO's activities and framework (e.g., purposes, member organizations, activity plans). We appreciate Indonesian government's strong support without which the upcoming NARBO General Meeting to be held February 24-26, 2004 in the city of Malang, Indonesia will not have materialized. This meeting will mark the official beginning of NARBO activities, and as a first step we will focus on the Asia monsoon regions (including South Asia, Southeast Asia and East Asia). In subsequent stages, NARBO will be expanding its activities to other nations throughout Asia.



Contact :  
Takeyoshi Sadahiro  
Director of International  
Affairs Division,  
Japan Water Agency (JWA)

E-mail ;  
takeyoshi\_sadahiro@water.go.jp