

## **SPECIAL SESSION: 7<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum: Major Steps for the future of water in the Asia-Pacific Region**

**Organized by** 2015 7<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum Planning Office / Korea MOLIT

**Meeting room #** C1 Pong Saed, 17 May 213 at 09:00-12:00 hrs

The workshop was composed of two parts: Understanding the 7<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum in 2015 and Messages from Asia-Pacific to the 7<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum in 2015. In the opening, remarks from ISC co-chairs Prof. Soontak Lee and Prof. Benedito Braga represented by Dr. Zhanyi Gao, and National Committee Chair Mr. Jung-Moo Lee were presented, recalling the need for leadership for water in the Asia-Pacific region, in line with the theme of the summit.

Participants were then informed of the outcomes of the 7<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum Kick-off Meeting that was held 14-15 May in Daegu and the roadmap for the preparatory processes.

Mr. Wouter Arriens of ADB emphasized an approach for implementation for the 7<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum that would address regional public goods, encourage partnerships and broaden water leadership. Mr. Kenzo Hiroki of ICHARM then shared his valuable experience with regards to the 3<sup>rd</sup> World Water Forum and perspectives on water risks and resilience. Finally, Mr. Bert Diphorn of UN Habitat provided recommendations based on his organization of the 2<sup>nd</sup> World Water Forum and stressed the importance of addressing urban issues. In addition, he highlighted the creation of linkages with the process for developing a sustainable development goal (SDG) on water. The panel discussion raised additional issues of concern to be taken into account, such as improving networking and communication opportunities. It was also noted that water quality and urbanization would be major issues to be addressed from the Asia Pacific perspective.