

**Summary of Discussion on "5th NARBO General Meeting
-Capacity Building for the IWRM Process (NARBO & UNESCO)"**

NARBO Thematic Workshop at the 2nd Asia-Pacific Water Summit Technical Session
Chiang Mai, Thailand, 9:00-12:00, 17 May 2013

Focusing on river basin level, River Basin Organizations (RBOs) are a key player to implement and improve IWRM through sharing of knowledge and information, experience and best practices and coordinate such in order to tackle these challenges at the river basin context. NARBO can assist its RBO members to improve its capacity more by stimulating performance, creativity and innovation as well as knowledge networking amongst its staff. As one of the methods of capacity building of RBOs, NARBO will introduce an IWRM proficiency certification and award program to stimulate and provide career incentives towards positive changes in IWRM implementation at the river basin level.

The workshop had 2 sessions: 1) Capacity development of RBO on IWRM implementation and "IWRM Guidelines"; and 2) Certification system of NARBO to improve IWRM.

Prof. Kenneth Irvine, UNESCO-IHE, talked about the general guidelines and road map for a certification system and the need to move the certification process forward in his key note lecture in the second session. He stressed the importance of being responsive to the needs and challenges in specific river basins/RBOs in the process.

Each panel discussion had a short presentation by panellists to introduce case study in Indonesia and Sri Lanka, and academic approach. Then, there was a very lively Q&A session where many participants contribute their ideas and experiences. Based on the discussions, the Session agreed and recommended that :

- (1) To train water professional, capacity building with the water problems, we can't implement without the RBO.
- (2) The Capacity is the goal for RBO, so far they have many training, seminar, conferences in order to strengthen the capacity.
- (3) There should be a legal basis to start the process for certification.
- (4) What will be certified are professional expertise and skills in IWRM, hence the dimensions should not be limited to engineering, management, but to include economic and social aspects.
- (5) Linkage of certification of IWRM professionals with performance benchmarking of RBOs, especially if RBOs will be the certifying bodies.
- (6) Certification system should be simple and easily understood by stakeholders and other parties consistent with the spirit and principle of participatory approach under IWRM.
- (7) The certification system should consider the involvement of the youth sector and the communities in the process.

Based on the discussions, NARBO commits to enhance capacity building activities, in addition to existing NARBO activities such as IWRM Training, Twinning Partnership, among others, by introducing and implementing a certification system for IWRM professionals within NARBO. Further, NARBO intends to contribute to enhancing capacity building for all levels by offering its experiences in Asia-Pacific Region with other networks.