

**Summary of Discussion on**  
**"5th NARBO General Meeting -Leadership for the IWRM Process "**

NARBO Thematic Workshop at the 2nd Asia-Pacific Water Summit Technical Session  
Chiang Mai, Thailand, 13:30-15:30, 16 May 2013

Asia is a continent rich in water resources. However, because Asia has a large population, most countries in the continent are struggling to achieve water security. Over the past two decades water issues are coming into the forefront of national policies and politicians have realised the need to put water security into their political agenda.

Leadership is needed to be asserted at all levels to improve water security. However, the question is what type of leadership is needed and how can we nurture future leaders who can cope with implementation issues of IWRM. With this in mind NARBO has over the past two years organised a number of International Seminars and Training Workshops on leadership as good leadership together with dialogue and networking play important for a River Basin Organisation to be effective and successful.

The Thematic Workshop on Leadership for the IWRM Process was convened to look at three questions, viz. :

Question 1 : What leadership is needed for improving IWRM?

Question 2 : How can leadership be nurtured for IWRM process?

Question 3 : How should leaders cope with implementation issues of IWRM?

The Workshop started with a Keynote Lecture by Mr. Wouter Lincklaen Arriens. The key messages from the Keynote were :

- (1) Leadership for the IWRM process will increase water security
- (2) Leaders need to span boundaries in the basin
- (3) There is a need to engage youth and non-executive leaders early

The Panel discussion started with a short presentation by each of the five panellists to answer the three questions and came up with the following key points.

- (1) Through stakeholders' participation, they are able to have an influence in the planning process i.e. Leadership means influence.
- (2) View youths as an opportunity for NARBO, not as a risk, youths as an asset and not as a liability. They are ready to devote themselves to solve public problems.
- (3) Leadership training should be provided on a continuous basis at all levels.
- (4) Present leaders should support future leaders through mentoring & coaching programs, & personal development plans.
- (5) Water allocation in the Mahaweli Authority is carried out through a consultative process.

There was then 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) Leadership for the IWRM process will increase water security
- (2) Leaders need to span boundaries in the basin
- (3) There is a need to engage youth and non-executive leaders early
- (4) Leadership means the ability to influence
- (5) NARBO should provide training programs where future leaders and youths can be mentored and coached by present leaders.
- (6) NARBO should have more training and raising awareness for civil society.

There was a poll to determine the degree of support for each of the above six recommendations. This is to assist NARBO in prioritising future capacity building programs.