

SUMMARY OF THE TECHNICAL WORKSHOP

IMPROVING WATER SECURITY :

LESSONS FROM IWRM CASES IN RIVER BASINS IN INDONESIA, NEPAL AND UZBEKISTAN

Water security becomes a big concern of the Asia-Pacific countries because of the rapid increase of water demand, river/canal deterioration, water-related disasters and climate changes.

To improve water security ADB and JWA have conducted technical assistance (TA) that is composed of investment planning and capacity development planning by applying IWRM in the process. The TA selected Indonesia, Nepal, and Uzbekistan as three pilot countries and targeted to Solo River, Bagmati River, and SyrDarya River as the target rivers.

In this session, the three countries share their key issues and how to cope with their issues. Prof. Slamet Budi led the discussion and participants agreed to recommend that :

- i. Water scarcity, water quality degradation, flood, water facilities deterioration, improper operation and management of water use, and improper maintenance of water facilities were major issues in the pilot countries. Securing water governance is a key factor to enhance IWRM process.
- ii. To improve water security, several steps should be taken namely, improve knowledge of the basin (basin profile), properly analyze threats and opportunities by using basin profile, then define priority activities. Build implementable steps to address urgent issues, and formulate a roadmap. Capacity development is necessary in each step.
- iii. Group discussion by participants was conducted in three themes i.e. (a) How to strengthen function and effectiveness of RBO, (b) What would be the keys for success in view of IWRM to improve water security, (c) What are the TA outcomes worth to be disseminated to the basins/countries in the region.
- iv. Participants recognized the importance of strengthening RBO to improve governance in the basin management. Main subjects are securing legal status with clear mandate, human and financial resources, knowledge sharing and professional power, data sharing and networking. And as key for success, political willingness, sustainable knowledge, ownership of stakeholders, technology, TA support and RBO is recommended. As TA outcomes, stakeholder involvement, Basin plan/master plan are recommended.