

IWRM2005 SE Asia

April 10, 2006



NewsMail No. 5

Issued by Regional Coordination Unit
For more info contact: iwrm2005sea@gmail.com

Introduction

This is the fifth issue of our NewsMail as we uphold our commitment to ensure transparency and communication in the IWRM2005 Project.

This issue reports the recent developments on the activities of partner countries, updates on the collaboration with international partners, IWRM 2005 SEAsia's participation at the 4th World Water Forum, and the concluding regional meeting. Like before, we invite your contributions for the future issues of NewsMail by sending email to the Regional Coordination Unit at iwrm2005sea@gmail.com.

Progress and Developments in Partner Countries

Cambodia

The Technical Working Group for the preparation of IWRM Strategy and Roadmap was established in January 2006. It is composed of 10 officers from line ministries namely; Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology; Cambodia National Mekong Committee; Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries; Ministry of Environment; Ministry of Industry, Mines and Energy; Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning and Conservation; Ministry of Public Works and Transport; National Committee on Disaster Management; and Ministry of Rural Development. Together with some stakeholders, the working group has held several meetings and discussions covering the following:

- i) Current situation (physical features, water resources, surface water, ground water, estuarine coastal zone, water quality)
- ii) Sector analyses – water sector analyses (agriculture and irrigation, hydropower, navigation, fisheries, tourism, domestic and industrial water supply, flood management and mitigation, watershed management)
- iii) Vision, goals and values (vision, goals and values, principles of IWRM)
- iv) IWRM strategic priorities (economic development and poverty alleviation, environment protection, social development and equity, dealing with



- climate variability, integration through basin planning, information-based management, regional cooperation, governance)
- v) Implementation (role and responsibilities, partnerships, financial mechanisms, monitoring and evaluation, conclusion)

The outcomes of the works of the working group and other stakeholders would be presented and reviewed in a national workshop scheduled in the beginning of May 2006.

Indonesia

The progress of the IWRM 2005 Project in Indonesia which focused on “Multi-stakeholder Dialogue for Identification of Issues and Program on Environmental Sustainability Aspects on IWRM” is almost completed. Compilation and analyses of information and data related to policy and law, institutions and instruments; national development objectives; and water user issues such as water and people; water and food; water and nature; water and industry; water and energy; water and transportation; and water and hazard are almost completed. Some of the findings are highlighted as follows:

- i) Water balance: in terms of national level, Indonesia has surplus; however in terms of island by island, some islands (Java, Bali and East and West Nusa Tenggara) are considered water deficit especially during dry season,
- ii) Rate of loss of tropical forest is about 1.5-2.5 million hectare per year,
- iii) Some rivers that are sources of water supply are highly polluted; as a consequence, cost of production of water treatment continues to increase.

Many more findings are now being worked out. Those assessments and identified remedial measures will subsequently be discussed and confirmed with relevant key stakeholders in a multi-stakeholder dialogue, which is planned to be held in mid May 2006.

Lao PDR

The Water Resources Coordination Committee Secretariat (WRCCS) has already signed the MoU on 28 February during the visit of Dr Mogens to Lao, which was also aimed at assisting WRCCS in the implementation arrangements. At present, the National Focal Point is preparing for the Workshop on IWRM and the National Planning Process scheduled on 27-28 April 2006 at Vang Vieng, Vientiane Province. The main objective of the workshop is to raise awareness among senior government officials regarding water resources issues, the concept of IWRM reform processes, and the need and benefits of incorporating IWRM into the national planning process and government structures, which aims to accelerate the introduction of IWRM into the national level strategies of the Lao PDR. The possible participants of the workshop will be members of the WRCC, senior representatives of the Prime Minister’s Office, the Committee for Planning and Investment, Department of Public Administration and Civil Service, selected key ministries and provinces in the Nam Ngum Basin, and the observers from IUCN and UNDP will also be invited, which approximately total to 25 participants.

Malaysia

The National Hydraulic Research Institute of Malaysia (NAHRIM) has already signed the agreement for the Malaysia component of the global IWRM 2005 Project on 31 March 2006. The major activities of the Malaysia component include the following:

- i) A 1-day assessment workshop among major institutional stakeholders,
- ii) A 1-day assessment workshop among major community stakeholders,
- iii) A combined 2-day multi-stakeholder strategic planning and implementation road map workshop, and
- iv) A half-day public seminar/comments to disseminate the outputs of the Strategic Plan

The Drafting Taskforce and Facilitators Team has been set up and is currently preparing for a summary assessment of key IWRM national issues and causes as background materials for Institutional and Community Stakeholder Assessment Workshop scheduled to be held on 2-3 May 2006.

Philippines

After signing the MoU on 31 January 2006, the National Focal Point has already conducted several activities as part of the project implementation. The first Multi-sectoral Task Force meeting was held on 10 March 2006 where the backgrounder on the formulation of the IWRM and Water efficiency Plans as well as the proposed schedule of activities or work program and roles of the Steering Committee and Multi-sectoral Task Force (MSTF) were presented.

An IWRM Levelling Workshop, proposed in the first MSTF meeting and designed in a succeeding small group inter-agency meeting, was held on 03 April 2006. In this workshop, a half-day interactive IWRM presentation was conducted and followed by the discussion on the roles and responsibilities of MSTF and the next steps. A summary of key agreements during the workshop includes the following:

- i) NWRB Board as the Steering Committee that will provide general guidance, support and approval of the Plans,
- ii) Formation of an Executive Committee among the members of the IWRM MSTF to report or represent the MSTF to the Steering Committee, and
- iii) Formation of cluster groups consisting of 8 to 10 members with leaders coming from the IWRM MSTF to focus on specific theme or specialization.

The Project Steering Committee is composed of the members of NWRB namely, Secretaries of Departments of Environment and Natural Resources, Justice, Finance, and Health, Secretary of the National Economic Development Authority, Director of the University of the Philippines - National Hydraulics Center, and the Executive Director of NWRB. On the other hand, the MSTF is composed of members from 12 national government agencies, three non-governmental organizations, and one academic institution.

Thailand

The Department of Water Resources has already signed the MoU on 03 March 2006. The Thai component of the IWRM 2005 Project includes the following activities:

- i) Organization of a RTG high level administrators workshop in order to map out strategy for DWR to strengthen the on-going IWRM practice with additional focus on environmental issues,
- ii) Organization of a 1.5 day multi-stakeholder dialogue to re-examine the previously developed water resource strategy in order to be in line with the National and the Ministerial strategic programs and by adding more environment strategies to cope with the emerging environmental issues, and
- iii) Organization of a 3-day capacity building program for IWRM advocates and trainers with the introduction of environmental aspects into the IWRM process.

The DWR has already set-up the working group to prepare the detailed programs of the three proposed activities. After two meetings, the working group has completed its task, and scheduled the three activities to take place on 4-5 May, 24-25 June, and 5-7 July, respectively. A draft report will be produced in 31 July and the final report will be submitted on 20 August 2006.

Vietnam

By the end of February 2006, discussion papers that present the findings of literature reviews on international best practices in environmental sustainability aspects of IWRM and describe the current

status in Vietnam were received from key ministries of Vietnam namely; Ministry of Fishery, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Government's Office, Electricity of Vietnam, and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment.

An internal meeting of representatives from key ministries to discuss on the directive viewpoints and goals of development of the sub-strategy and action plan for the protection of water sources and aquatic ecosystems has been held on 15 March 2006. The main issues that the sub-strategies and action plan have to deal with were agreed. At this meeting, the participants commented that the first workshop on national awareness raising should be held in the second week of May, after the tenth Party Congress. The National Socio-Economic Development Plan from 2006 - 2010 is expected to be approved at the Congress. Further, it is expected that the National Water Resources Strategy will be officially approved by the Government after this very important event. The above-mentioned Plan and the Strategy are key legal documents for developing of the sub-strategy and action plan. It was also recommended that at that time, the workshop can get realistic discussions from stakeholders involved and can update the newest policies on water resources management in Vietnam.

Updates on the Collaboration with International Partners

Project web pages in the e-Network for Strategic Planning and Management of Water Resources in Asia and the Pacific

More information about the IWRM 2005 Southeast Asia Project can now be accessed online. The web site of the E-network on Strategic Planning and Management of Water Resources in Asia and the Pacific, a joint FAO-ESCAP initiative, has provided the spaces for the web pages of the project. The project web pages can be found through the *IWRM 2005* link within www.spm-water-ap.net. The national focal points and international partners are encouraged to visit the site which is open to public. Everybody is also encouraged to post topics for discussion or give your comments in the regional forums.

Collaboration with UNDP's Community Dialogue Initiative in Lower Mekong countries

The proposed collaboration with UNDP's Community Dialogue Initiative, which covers the countries in the lower Mekong region, is now under consideration. The collaboration focuses on inviting those involved in the Community Dialogue Initiative to participate in the national workshops of our partner countries within the Mekong region, namely; Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand, and Vietnam. The Community Dialogue Initiative is part of the Regional Environmental Governance Programme of UNDP. Implemented through the UNDP country offices, the Initiative aims to enhance capacities for good environmental governance by facilitating transboundary dialogue between communities in Cambodia, Lao, Thailand, and Vietnam. It focuses on grassroot participation and its role in environmental governance. It envisions greater opportunities for peer-to-peer contact and introduces the concept of a "Mekong River Commission for the people," encompassing communities and civil society, and promoting the commonalities between people rather than differences. These transboundary dialogues offer an opportunity to consult on demand driven shared strategies for 'equitable sharing' and local informal solutions for resolving conflict.

NOTE: IWRM2005 offer support for 2 candidates for UN-WVLC Regional Centre at AIT applications for e-Learning program on IWRM

As part of UCC's collaboration with AIT, we include herewith the AIT's announcement about the Water Virtual Learning Center:

The Regional UN-Water Virtual Learning Centre (WVLC) at Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Thailand, is now inviting applications from prospective water professionals for its second batch. This distance based e-Learning program consists of 10 courses (25h per course) and leads to an award of a diploma in Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) on successful completion. The special

feature of our program lies in its uniqueness in delivery mode which consists of both face-to-face and distance-based learning. **Courses 1 and 10 will be conducted face-to-face at AIT for 2 weeks each** and courses 2 to 9 will be conducted online for about 7-8 weeks each.

The program curriculum covers hydrology, terrestrial ecosystem, land use changes, aquatic ecosystem, water uses and wastewater, governance and community-based approaches and organizational infrastructure and management aspects.

The next batch of program is scheduled for August 2006. For more information on admission requirements and procedure, program structure, course contents, cost, etc., please visit <http://www.sce.ait.ac.th/courses/wvlc/> or call us at +66 2 5245793 (Monday through Friday). Further inquiries can also be made to wvlc@ait.ac.th.

UCC is able to provide support for 2 candidates from the IWRM2005 network. If national focal points are aware of suitable and committed candidates, you may contact RCU with an informal application, with a brief motivation for your proposal, and including the application submitted to AIT.



IWRM 2005 SEAsia's Participation at the 4th World Water Forum in Mexico City

At the recently concluded 4th World Water Forum held in Mexico City on 16-22 March 2006, the IWRM 2005 Southeast Asia Project's participation included disseminating information about the project through poster display at the booth shared with FAO and ESCAP. Project brochures were also distributed to the Forum participants. In addition, through cooperation with Dr. Le Huu Ti of ESCAP, Dr. Salmah Zakaria of NAHRIM gave a presentation at the mega-session on IWRM about her experiences in the application of strategic planning and management approach to the preparation of IWRM plan for the Langat River Basin in Malaysia.

UCC-Water launches improved website

UCC-Water have renovated its website www.ucc-water.org. In addition to general information on activities of UCC-Water's and it's partners, the site contains a specific link to the global IWRM2005 project: <http://www.ucc-water.org/projects/iwrm/index.html>

Partners may check the IWRM2005 link to collect information and news about the other regions, and about international initiatives. Also, news and announcements concerning national and regional events are most welcome. If you want to contribute, please contact Aldrin Rivas at RCU.

Regional Meeting in September 2006

The completions of all the national activities under the IWRM 2005 Southeast Asia Project are expected by July 2006. Thereafter, as part of concluding the project wherein the lessons learned can be shared, a regional meeting is being planned to take place on 5-8 September 2006. It will be held in Thailand and the venue will be announced later. The specific objectives of the meeting are as follows:

- i) To promote regional dialogue on lessons learned on achieving the IWRM2005 target for catalyzing water management reform,
- ii) To identify appropriate ways of strengthening the environmental aspects of IWRM in a Southeast Asian context, and

- iii) To propose ways and means for joint regional and national efforts to strengthen water management in Southeast Asia.

Expected participants are hi-level government stakeholders in water management, task-force members of IWRM2005 SEAsia, representatives from user groups, representatives from universities, research institutes and NGO's, UN organizations, and donors.

For your comments or questions related to this issue of NewsMail, please contact Aldrin Rivas at RCU at iwrm2005sea@gmail.com or at

7th Floor ONEP Building
60/1 Soi Phibun Wattana 7
Rama VI Road Phayathai
Bangkok 10400 Thailand
Telephone/Fax: +662 298 5838
Skype phone: aldrin_rivas
