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### **Southeast Asia Regional IWRM 2005 Meeting successfully held in Rayong, Thailand**

Following the completion of the activities of partner countries, the Southeast Asia Regional IWRM 2005 Meeting was successfully held as the national and international partners' concluding meeting on 11-13 September 2006 at Hinsuay Namsai Resort Hotel in Rayong, Thailand.



Jointly organized by UNEP, GWP Southeast Asia (GWPSEA), Department of Water Resources (DWR) of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Royal Thai Government, and Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA), the regional meeting was aimed at promoting regional dialogue on lessons learned on accelerating IWRM planning and implementation, as well as proposing further regional and national efforts to strengthen IWRM and environmental sustainability aspects in water management in Southeast Asia.

#### Day 1: 11 September 2006, Monday



The meeting was formally opened on 11 September 2006 with the welcome remarks from the Regional IWRM 2005 SEAsia Coordinator and DWR Advisor Dr. Apichart Anukularmphai and speeches from representatives of the co-organizers. Prof. Torkil Jønch-Clausen gave a speech on behalf of UNEP, Mr. Kok Hee Poh on behalf GWP Southeast Asia, and Ms. Kit Clausen, Counsellor at the Royal Danish Embassy in Bangkok, on behalf of DANIDA.

There were a total of three sessions and two keynote presentations and discussions at the regional meeting. The first session, which was on key results and lessons learned, followed immediately after the opening on the first day. Representatives of the National Focal Points (NFPs) of the seven partner countries in Southeast Asia,

namely Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam, presented the summary of their activities, the outcomes and lessons learned.

The panel for the Monday keynote on opportunities and constraints for water management reform in SE Asia was composed by Mr. Petipong Pungbun na Ayuthaya, permanent secretary of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Royal Thai Government, and Dr. Nguyen Thai Lai, director general of the Department of Water Resources Management, MONRE, Vietnam. The panel discussion was moderated by Prof. Torkil Jønch-Clausen.



Other highlights on the first day were the presentation of the outcome of the Regional Conference on Water Financing, which was held last 30-31 May 2006 in Manila, Philippines, by the Chairman of Philippine Water Partnership and Philippine National Water Resources Board Executive Director Ramon Alikpala, and the presentation regarding the Asia-Pacific Water Forum (APWF) by Ms. Noriko Yamaguchi, chief of Japan Water Forum, which serves as the secretariat of APWF.

At the end of the day, the participants were treated with a sumptuous welcome dinner of seafood and entertainment of Thai cultural dance and live music.

#### Day 2: 12 September 2006, Tuesday



The second day included the second and third sessions which were about national ways forward on IWRM planning and implementation or the roadmaps and future regional and national collaboration on promotion of IWRM implementation, respectively. In the second session, representatives of NFPs of partner countries, including Myanmar, gave their country presentations on their plans on moving forward in IWRM implementation.

In the afternoon, the keynote on ecosystem services as development assets in water management was held. The keynote panel was composed by Dr. Sansanee Choowaew of the Faculty of Environment Studies, Mahidol University and Dr. Erin Baran of WorldFish Center, Cambodia. Dr. Sansanee's presentation focused on what wetlands can do for poverty alleviation economic development, while Dr. Baran

gave emphasis on maximizing water productivity by looking at the contribution of fish on poverty alleviation and economic development. Dr. Mogens Dyhr-Nielsen of UNEP/UCC-Water was the moderator for the panel discussion.



After the keynote, the national participants were divided into 3 groups which were then composed of representatives of the participating Southeast Asian countries while another group was composed of international donors such as UNEP, ADB, UNDP, GWPSEA, GTZ and UNESCAP. The three groups were assigned to discuss their national and regional plans regarding networking, capacity building activities, and pilot projects on water resources management. After the group discussions, the outcomes of each group were presented in the plenum discussion where all participants were given the opportunity to ask questions and give their comments on the presentation of each group.

#### Day 3: 13 September 2006, Wednesday

On 13<sup>th</sup> September, the last day of the regional meeting, participants traveled to Prachinburi to meet Mr. Oros Wongsith, governor of Prachinburi Province as well as the members of the Bang Pakong-Prachinburi River Basin Committee. At that meeting, the participants were briefed about the river basin committee, its background, functions and management approaches and concerns, and they were given the chance to ask questions during the discussions that followed.

After that, the participants went to visit the Bang Pakong Diversion Dam located in Chachoengsao Province. The diversion dam was a clear example of the negative consequences if water resource development projects are not undertaken in an integrated manner. A representative from the Royal Irrigation Department gave the presentation about the background and objectives of the project, as well as the problems encountered and the mitigation measures undertaken. As in all its sessions, the presentation was followed with a discussion where the participants asked questions. The visit was indeed a fitting activity to end the meeting which aims to promote an integrated way of managing water resources.



The regional meeting was attended by a little more than 100 participants (including the organizers) who are officials and representatives of the following organizations:

- Cambodia:** Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology (MOWRAM)  
 Department of Water Resources Management and Conservation  
 Department of Administration Human Resource  
 Cambodia National Mekong Committee  
 Planning Department  
 Royal University of Phnom Penh
- Indonesia:** Directorate General for Water Resources, Ministry of Public Works  
 Center for Strategic Studies, Ministry of Public Works  
 Training and Educational Unit for Technical and Functionality, MPW  
 Ministry of Environment  
 National Development Planning Board  
 Research Center for Human Settlement
- Lao PDR:** Department of Irrigation, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry  
 Department of Public Administration Development  
 Water Resources Coordination Committee Secretariat
- Malaysia:** Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment  
 National Hydraulics Research Institute Malaysia  
 Economic Planning Unit, Prime Minister's Department  
 Department of Irrigation and Drainage  
 Ministry of Energy, Water and Communications  
 Dewan Usahawan Industri Desa (DUID) Melaka  
 Darway WRM  
 Malaysia Water Partnership
- Myanmar:** National Commission for Environmental Affairs  
 Irrigation Department, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation
- Philippines:** Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
 National Water Resources Board  
 National Economic and Development Authority  
 Department of Health  
 Department of the Interior and Local Government  
 Manila Water Company, Inc.  
 Davao City Water District

GTZ Water and Sanitation Program  
Province of Negros Oriental  
Provincial Planning and Development Office (Bohol and Negros)  
Bohol Environment Management Office  
Philippine Water Partnership

Singapore: Public Utilities Board

Thailand: Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment  
Department of Water Resources  
Office of National Economic and Social Development Board  
Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning  
Wildlife Fund Thailand  
Faculty of Environment and Resource Studies, Mahidol University  
Faculty of Engineering, Chiang Mai University

Vietnam: Department of Water Resources Management, MoNRE  
Center for Water Resources and Environment  
Water Resources University  
Department of Science, Education, Natural Resources and  
Environment, Ministry of Planning and Investment  
Vietnam Water Partnership

International: Royal Danish Embassy/DANIDA  
Department of Environment Policy Implementation, UNEP  
International Waters and Land Degradation, UNDP-GEF  
Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources Division, ADB  
UNDP Regional Center in Bangkok  
Environment and Sustainable Development Division, UNESCAP  
Japan Water Forum  
Peter Millington and Associates  
WorldFish Center  
Asian Institute of Technology  
Faculty of Environment and Resource Studies, Mahidol University  
DRE Consulting S/B  
GWPSEA Secretariat

