

SWITCH – INTEGRATED PROGRAMME FOR ASIA (SWITCH - IPA)
-PROGRESS REPORT-
5th GOVERNING COUNCIL MEETING OF THE ASIA-PACIFIC WATER FORUM

This Progress Report aims at providing a general update on the SWITCH-IPA initiative since the 4th Governing Council of the Asia-Pacific Water Forum held in November 2008 in Singapore.

Brief introduction: The SWITCH-IPA is an action research and demonstration programme that addresses the challenges faced by cities, towns and villages in providing efficient, safe and sustainable water and sanitation services for people, while preserving water and environmental resources, under increasing pressures of global change, and extreme events, including floods and droughts. The programme will be developed via sub-projects/components in selected countries and cities in the region, each demonstrating concrete aspects of innovative approaches towards sustainable UWM (e.g. eco-technologies for WS&S, eco-hydrology, water saving technologies, reuse, urban hydrology, cleaner production). The sub-projects at country level will be inter-connected via a “learning alliance”, in which partners exchange results, approaches, success, best practice, and develop joint research, capacity building and training programmes.

SWITCH-IPA's 1st National Component: Indonesian Component Workshop, 19-20 May, 2009, Jakarta

Objectives:

- To identify interested partners
- To locate potential project sites
- To develop a comprehensive project proposal that could ultimately be submitted to donors

The SWITCH-IPA Indonesian component focuses on eco-technologies and eco-hydrology in the Citarum River Basin, considered as the most strategic river basin in the country in terms of its role as water supplier to millions of people vs. its alarming water quality degradation.

Some 50 participants coming from various sectors and stakeholder groups, such as government agencies, UN agencies, universities and research institutes participated in the workshop. They were divided into 3 groups, according to their interest and expertise in one of the three project components, namely 1. Action Research, 2. Demo Sites and 3. Capacity Building/Awareness Raising. Once formed, the three groups discussed past and present experiences, lessons learnt and best practices developed or on-going in the Citarum River Basin in the fields of eco-technology, water and sanitation and eco-hydrology. This allowed the conceptualisation and the proposal of a potential project to be carried out in selected sites, where such practices can be applied to solve water related problems.

The further development of the SWITCH-IPA Indonesian Component projects will be carried out in the coming months, through smaller group and bilateral meetings, in order to facilitate a smooth linkage between the proposed actions. The ensuing project concept will then be presented during the SWITCH-IPA regional conference, to be organized in December, and will serve as model to other national components to be developed, and resulting in a combination of national projects.

The workshop material, including the report, the list of participants, as well as the presentations can be downloaded from the following link:

<http://ihpnagoyaforum.org/download/switch/>.

SWITCH-IPA as a Regional Programme: Regional Conference in December 2009

Objectives:

- To develop the SWITCH-IPA Regional Programme (exchange of approaches, technologies, mindset) through other national components
- To enable a learning alliance among countries and facilitate interactions and a strong network in the region

A Regional Conference on "*Sustainable Water and Sanitation – a Vision for healthy people and a healthy environment*" is planned to be organized in collaboration with PU, UNESCO, PUB Singapore and APWF in December 2009. The Indonesian Component Project Concept will feed into the Regional Conference, as a model for other national components. The format of the 4-days event could partly be in a conference setting, partly in a workshop setting, in order to facilitate constructive and interactive dialogue among the participants. Furthermore, the organization of a youth conference running parallel to the adults' conference and resulting in a "Youth Declaration" to be read at the Closing Ceremony is strongly suggested. This will allow the voice of the youth to be heard and broaden the scope of the event. The proposed dates for the regional event are: 1-4 December, 2009.

Roadmap:

The below chart illustrates the planned actions and events in the coming months. In terms of partners and donor contacts, preliminary discussions have been held with the Dutch Embassy in Jakarta, ADB Jakarta, AusAid, UNESCO-IHE and EU among others.

