



Recommendation for Endorsement of Candidate Regional Water Knowledge Hubs

For the Asia-Pacific Water Forum's 5th Governing Council Meeting, Singapore, 26 June 2009

INTRODUCTION

1 With the endorsement of the Governing Council of the Asia-Pacific Water Forum (APWF), the APWF *KnowledgeHubs* initiative was launched in June 2008 during the Singapore International Water Week. The website is at www.apwf-knowledgehubs.net. Recent progress of the initiative is reported separately to the Governing Council by PUB Singapore as the co-lead organization for APWF's Key Result Area 1 for *Developing Knowledge and Lessons*.

2 In May 2009, the draft business plan of the candidate regional water knowledge hub for the topic of *Water and Climate Change Adaptation in South Asia* was presented by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) in India and peer reviewed by confirmed knowledge hubs in accordance with the APWF *KnowledgeHubs* practice for reviewing proposals for additional knowledge hubs. The peer reviewers gave a positive recommendation to endorse TERI as regional knowledge hub on this topic and their comments are being incorporated by TERI in the business plan. The presentation and peer review took place during the Workshop on Developing Water and Climate Change Adaptation Guidelines, in Putrajaya, Malaysia on 26-28 May 2009, organized by the National Hydraulic Research Institute of Malaysia (NAHRIM). From the *KnowledgeHubs* supporting organizations, the writer participated in the meeting on behalf of the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

3 In June 2009, three draft business plans were presented and peer reviewed during the 1st Annual Progress Review Meeting on 24 June 2009 at PUB WaterHub in Singapore, by (i) the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) in Japan for the topic of *Groundwater Management*, (ii) the Mekong River Commission Secretariat (MRCS) in Lao PDR for the topic of *Transboundary Water Resources Management*, and (iii) a consortium of sanitation-related organizations in Japan, provisionally referred to as the Japan Sanitation Consortium (JSC)¹, for the topic of *Sanitation*. The peer reviewers gave a positive recommendation to endorse IGES, MRCS, and JSC as regional knowledge hubs on these topics, and their comments are being incorporated by IGES, MRCS and JSC in their business plans. From the *KnowledgeHubs* supporting organizations, the writer participated in the meeting on behalf of ADB, together with representatives of PUB Singapore, UNESCO headquarters, and UNESCO-IHE.

¹ The consortium partners include the Japan Environmental Sanitation Center, Japan Sewage Works Association, Sewerage Business Management Center, and Japan Educational Center of Environmental Sanitation.

RECOMMENDATION

4 Considering that the four topics are of great importance to achieving water security in the region and were endorsed by APWF *KnowledgeHubs* in 2008, and that the draft business plans of the four candidate hubs have been peer reviewed with a positive result, it is recommended that the APWF Governing Council endorse the following four candidate hubs as APWF's regional knowledge hubs for these topics:

- The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) in India, for *Water and Climate Change Adaptation in South Asia*;
- The Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) in Japan, for *Groundwater Management*;
- The Mekong River Commission Secretariat (MRCS) in Lao People's Democratic Republic, for *Transboundary Water Resources Management*; and
- The Japan Sanitation Consortium (JSC) in Japan for *Sanitation*.

Prepared by:

Wouter Lincklaen Arriens
Lead Water Resources Specialist
Asian Development Bank