



## Asia-Pacific Water Museum Progress Report for 7<sup>th</sup> APWF Governing Council Meeting

### Background

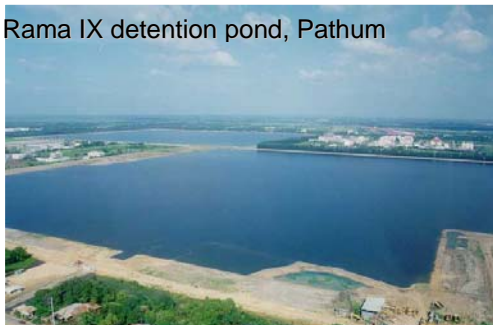
Water sustains all human societies and is an integral part of all ecosystems. Water issues not only directly affect human life and natural ecosystems, but they are also basic factors in long-term human development, as well as in the safeguarding of biodiversity and ecosystems. Water issues are the common currency of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the explicit target of MDG 7 being to “reduce by half the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation” by 2015.

Wider knowledge sharing and more efficient capacity-building are essential to improving the world’s water situation, with the Asia-Pacific Water Forum identifying these things in the first Key Result Area (KRA) of its activities to “Develop Knowledge and Lessons Learned”. The establishment of the Asia-Pacific Water Museum is one initiative that will be undertaken within this framework.

### Achievement

In Thailand, The project for the establishment of an Asia-Pacific Water Museum was approved in 2007 as one of projects designed to celebrate the 80<sup>th</sup> birthday of King Bhumibol, who is well known for his scientific work on water and soil.

Rama IX detention pond, Pathum



The Asia-Pacific Water Museum Project was announced at the 1<sup>st</sup> Asia-Pacific Water Summit, Beppu, Japan, December 2007 as a concrete initiative within the Key Result Area 1: Developing knowledge and lessons of the Asia-Pacific Water Forum through joint press briefing of NSM, HE the Ambassador of Thailand to Japan, Japan Water Forum and UNESCO:

*“Based on an interdisciplinary approach, the Asia-Pacific Water Museum will present scientific, historical and cultural information related to water. The Museum*

*will serve as a regional platform that can make a valuable contribution to sustainable water management by educating the public about the complex human-water interrelationship in Asia and the Pacific.”*

### Progress and next step

- The NSM had obtained the budget from Thailand Government for conceptual design of Rama-9 Museum. This budget allowed having a group of company to study for the conceptual design as well as final feasibility study. After the submission of report on these studies, the design of Rama-9 Museum will be finalized, and the Asia-Pacific Water Museum will be incorporated as a part of King Rama 9 Museum.
- Once the design is completed, the construction budget is expected to be provided by Thailand Government according to the study.
- The NSM project is due to end within 4 years, and it has been scheduled to lay the foundation not later than 2012.
- NSM and UNESCO plan to organize workshop that will invite experts in the field of water, culture and museum.
- UNESCO will support development of collaboration with other water related museums to enhance the partnerships of the NSM.

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