



Financing Implementation of the Water-Related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

09:00-11:00 hrs., 12 December 2017, Yangon, Myanmar

Financing resilient water infrastructure and services directly contributes to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and impacts attainment of a number of SDG targets. According to Asian Development Bank (2017), however, only 10 percent of water and sanitation infrastructure needs are currently being met in Asia and the Pacific region. The region is experiencing an enormous pressure on water resources due to the highly growing demand in agriculture and other sectors, low efficiency of water consumption, increased urbanization trends, as well as impacts of climate change.

This session will focus on policy and actions, and in defining a strategic framework to attain the SDGs by improving the financial sustainability and resilience of water systems and infrastructure, and the need to strategically mobilize public resources and augment opportunities for private investment.

Given the diversity of the countries in the region, this session is intended to discuss options, will highlight rich experiences of policy makers, recognizing that some countries have more developed financial systems and are financing resilient water and sanitation utilities.

The session will identify common approaches that should provide guidance towards solutions for improving the overall sustainability of the water sector. The discussions will cover the following potential areas of regional interventions:

- (i) improving the planning and implementation processes by creating an overall strategy and scenarios to address inter-sectoral issues with cross-thematic interventions by enhancing the sustainable business models of water infrastructure;
- (ii) bringing in commercial lenders and, where possible, the private sector as participants to help attain water-related SDGs and in implementing impactful investments from public and private sources; and
- (iii) creating funding and oversight programs and policy frameworks for incentivizing decentralized water management financing systems and collaborative partnerships.





Tentative Programme

Opening Remarks (09:00-09:10 hrs.)

- Dr. Aida Karazhanova, Economic Affairs Officer, Environment and Development Division, ESCAP
- Dr. Wah Wah Maung, Director General, Center of Statistical Organization, Ministry of Planning and Finance, Myanmar

Moderator: Ms. Changhua Wu, Asia Pacific Water Forum, Governing Council Vice-Chair (Beijing)

Key note address and messages on: “Financing the Implementation of the Water SDGs”, by Mr. Aldo Baietti, Water Finance Advisor (Washington DC, webex)

Speakers: (09:25-10:45 hrs)

- Mr. Tomoyuki Okada, Director for International Coordination of River Engineering River Planning Division, Water and Disaster Management Bureau Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, Japan
- Mr. Sangwoo Park, Deputy Director, Water Resources Industry Team, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, Republic of Korea
- Mr. Hao Zhao, Division Director, Department of International Cooperation, Science and Technology, Ministry of Water Resources, P.R. China
- Mr. Greg Browder, Global Lead: Water Security & Water Resources Management, World Bank
- Mr. Tom Panella, Chief of Water Sector Group, Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department, Asian Development Bank

Discussants:

- Dr. Wah Wah Maung, Director General, Center of Statistical Organization, Ministry of Planning and Finance, Myanmar
- Professor Le Huu Ti, Danang University, Vietnam
- Professor Eduardo Araral, Vice-Dean, Research, Co-Director, Institute of Water Policy and Associate Professor of Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore, Singapore

Wrap up and Closing Remarks (10:45-11:00 hrs)

- Moderator: Ms. Changhua Wu, APWF GC Vice-Chair
- Mr. U Htun Lwin Oo, Secretary, National Water Resource Committee, Director General, Directorate of Water Resources & Improvement of River Systems, Ministry of Transport & Communications, Myanmar

Contact persons:

- Dr. Wah Wah Maung, wmaung@gmail.com, Director General, Ministry of Planning and Finance, Myanmar
- Dr. Aida Karazhanova, karazhanova@un.org, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, Environment and Development Division (Thailand)