

Theme C: Water for Development and Ecosystems

Asia Pacific Water Forum
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Background

- Intensifying water competition among different users and uses in this region
- More emphasis placed on sustainable water development and utilisation
- IWRM at the river basin level has been identified as a guiding principle
- Various measures have been practiced and adopted by different players
 - Environment flow concepts
 - Protection of aquatic ecosystems through wetland protection
 - Paddy field conservation, watershed restoration and reforestation, etc.
 - Improvement of water use efficiency and productivity
 - Water pollution mitigation and prevention
 - Establishment of a water-efficient society
 - As the largest water user, the agricultural sector has been preparing to go through a sector innovation to replace traditional irrigation concepts and technologies with irrigation modernisation.



Background Cont.

- Lack of integration of action from relevant stakeholders
- Lack of practical methods and tools to put the new concepts and approaches into real practice
- Need to review current adoption and implementation of the key concepts and approaches on water for development and ecosystem
- Analyze the challenges and opportunities on incorporating them into IWRM at the river basin scale
- Develop technical methods and tools
- Identify policy and institutional options to better realize and improve IWRM.



Objectives

- To bring together all relevant players, including governments, national, sub-regional and regional organisations, alliances and networks
- To establish a cooperation platform and a hub of excellence on water for development and ecosystem at the regional level
- To facilitate information sharing, technical development and dissemination, policy study, strategy formulation and capacity building
- To promote sustainable and high productive water use.



Key Topics

- Food security and strategic water supply /allocation at river basin level
- Quantification and recognition of multiple roles of irrigation systems
- Irrigation modernisation and its implications on IWRM
- Environmental flow approaches and its implication on IWRM
- Watershed degradation and river restoration
- Integrating development and ecosystem issues into IWRM



Targets

- A regional task force on water for development and ecosystem established
- A synthesis of status review and needs assessment on the key issues on water for development and ecosystems (adoption of the E-flows approach, river basin/watershed degradation and restoration and irrigation modernisation)
- Policy and technical recommendations on better integrating development and ecosystem issues into IWRM prepared



Activities

- Develop partnerships and establish a task force on water for development and ecosystem
- Carryout a review of key issues related to water for development and ecosystems including the drivers and status of degradation and main issues related to restoration.
- Carryout a review on adoption of irrigation modernisation in the Asia-Pacific region and its implication on IWRM



Activities Cont.

- Carryout a review of the status and use of the e-flows approach in the Asia-Pacific Region
- The above includes needs assessment of ongoing processes and tools
- Host an email conference to obtain feedback on issues paper
- Provide a preliminary synthesis document
- Host a small write workshop to garner feedback and improve the document
- Generate key messages and policy recommendations to feed into the first APWF Summit



Input to APWS

- Review document of the status of the main issues around the drivers of degradation of rivers and watershed restoration
- Review document of the use of E-flows as a tool for water-related decision-making
- Review document on adoption of irrigation modernisation and its implication on IWRM
- Synthesis document of key messages
- Policy recommendations



Partners

- WWF
- Basin organizations
- UNESCAP
- Field-based NGOs in the Asia-Pacific Region
- The World Bank
- Asian Development Bank
- Mekong River Commission
- IWMI
- Sub-regional coordinators

