

IWRM Guidelines at River Basin Level

Progress report for 7th APWF Governing Council Meeting

1. Background

Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) has been recognized as a practical concept for land and water resources management for sustainable development. However, progress of internationally agreed implementation target on IWRM e.g. the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI) at World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2000 is far behind schedule, as reported by UN-Water and other stakeholders. Recognizing these needs, UNESCO-IHP Secretariat started producing a series on IWRM Guidelines at River Basin Level in 2007, in collaboration with the Network of Asian River Basin Organizations (NARBO). The purpose of developing these Guidelines is to raise awareness of policy/decision makers and to facilitate the practical implementation of IWRM at River Basin Level through targeted sector specific modular guidance documents.

2. Achievements

The Steering Committee of the Guidelines initiative is composed of renowned expert from around the world and co-chaired by Mr Eugene Stakhiv, ICIWaRM (International Center for Integrated Water Resources Management, USA) and Mr Yasuro Nakajo, Japan Water Agency (JWA). The Guidelines have been produced through intensive meetings, independent peer review and a number of communications among Steering Committee members as well as with IHP Secretariat since 2008. The IWRM Guidelines at River Basin Level were successfully launched by the Director-General of UNESCO at the 5th World Water Forum in Istanbul, Turkey in March 2009. In addition, during August 2009, "Introduction to the IWRM Guidelines at River Basin Level" was also launched as a World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP) Side Publication.

The existing modular Guidelines documents are classified into as follows.

Part 1	Principles
Part 2-1	The Guidelines for IWRM Coordination
Part 2-2	The Guidelines for Flood Management
Part 2-3	Invitation to IWRM for Irrigation Practitioners
WWAP Side Publication	Introduction to the IWRM Guidelines at River Basin Level

3. Progress and On-going activities

1) Production

Considering the global demand, current expansion of the Guidelines project includes production of volumes on environment and on adaptation to climate change as well as launch of a global capacity development programme at the river basin level.

The environment volume is scheduled to be published in 2010.

A Policy Brief on Adaptation to Climate Change is scheduled to be published in 2010 by COP16 in Mexico. Production of a volume of the Guidelines on Adaptation to Climate Change will be carried out during 2011.

2) Capacity Development

Asia – Through NARBO activities, more than 200 sets of the Guidelines were directly distributed with explanation of the background, target, composition, feature, how to use and so on. In a one-week training course conducted in Viet Nam, participants tried to find out the Key for success in a model river basin through lecturers, field visit and interview to local water managers. They are expected to adapt the Guidelines practically to their respective river basins or organizations.

On the other hand, JWA, through JICA training courses focusing on IWRM/IRBM, is constantly conducting the Guidelines promotion activities. Lectures of introductions of IWRM concepts and IWRM case studies are properly arranged before and in the middle of field study in a model river basin in Japan. The Guidelines support the trainees to have clear understanding of the practical IWRM and its implementation. About 100 trainees have completed the training courses.

IWRM guidelines are being customized for the Hydrology for the Environment, Life and Policy (HELP) Davao River Basin in Philippines which will host a training program for other river basins during December 2010. Previously several copies of the IWRM guidelines have been distributed at the HELP program symposiums in Australia, Malaysia, Portugal and Philippines.

Latin America – The International Center for Integrated Water Resources Management (ICIWaRM) hosted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is supporting the implementation of the Water Resources Management Modernization Project of Peru (PMGRH), which builds the institutional capacity for IWRM

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through the development of IWRM plans at six priority pilot basins by using the Guidelines. This project is funded by the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank.

Africa – Regional Integrated River Basin Management (IRBM) Workshop during November 2010. This workshop is linked with the new Integrated River Basin Management Centre being established as a category II Centre under the auspices of UNESCO in Nigeria.

3) Translation

Thanks to voluntary contributions of partners, the existing Guidelines are currently being translated into Spanish, French and Korean languages.

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