

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ASIA PACIFIC WATER FORUM 8<sup>th</sup> GOVERNING COUNCIL MEETING ON 6 DECEMBER 10, SINGAPORE

### Summary

- The meeting, held at the Singapore PUB WaterHub, provided the opportunity for APWF members to discuss with the Host Government of the 2nd Asia-Pacific Water Summit on the Summit framework.
- The APWF Governing Council endorsed the finalizing and publishing of the Framework Document on Water and Climate Change Adaptation prepared by the APWF Steering Group on Water and Climate Change.

### Key points of the 8th Governing Council Meeting of the APWF

#### Agenda Item 1: Chairmanship of the Meeting

- The 8th Governing Council meeting was chaired by the APWF GC Chair, Prof. Tommy Koh. APWF GC Vice-Chair, Mr. Ravi Narayanan, was in attendance.

#### Agenda Item 2: Adoption of the Agenda

- The Chair thanked the Secretariat and PUB for hosting the 8th GC meeting, welcomed members and welcomed first-time participants to the meeting. The agenda was adopted without amendment.
- Mr. Yusup Kamalov was introduced to the GC members as a new GWP CACENA Chair, who will present CACENA sub-region in all coming APWF activities.

#### Agenda Item 3: Activities of the president of the APWF

- The Secretariat reported on the activities of the Mr Yoshiro Mori, President of the APWF. President Mori has attended and given a speech on the regional water issues and promoted the 2nd Asia-Pacific Water Summit in the Parliaments for Water in Asia 2010 and the UN Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation meeting which were held in Korea between 30th November and 1st December.
- Mr Narayanan reported that a new APWF member application to become part of the Knowledge Hubs was received from an India-based organization called SaciWaters, which focuses on the social aspect in training professional water engineers including women professional in the water sector. Mr Narayanan also noted the growing interest by other regional organizations in the APWF.

#### Agenda Item 4: Framework Document on Water and Climate Change Adaptation

- i. ADB reported on the progress on the preparation of the "Framework Document on Water and Climate Change Adaptation" by the APWF Steering Group on Water and Climate Change as follows:
  - The Steering Group held two meetings in March and October 2010 to review and finalize the draft document. The output of the first meeting in March was documented and announced as Singapore Statement at the Singapore International Water Week 2010 in July.

- The Steering Group called for public comments on the draft document. The comments received would be addressed in the final version of the document.
  - The Steering Group will hold its third meeting at the end of 1st quarter of 2011.
- ii. ADB requested for the endorsement of the document based on the five guiding principles as follows:
- (1) Usable knowledge
  - (2) No-regret investments
  - (3) Resilience
  - (4) Mitigation and adaptation and
  - (5) Financing.

These principles should be implemented in an integrated manner as a whole. There are two actions to be followed for each principle.

- iii. The APWF Governing Council **endorsed the finalizing and publishing of the Framework Document based on the five guiding principles and recommended actions** to be followed by government leaders, policy-makers and practitioners in the region.

- iv. The following comments were brought forth by the participants:

- Mr Inoue suggested that the APWF should endorse the document and that it would be necessary for the Asian countries to act according to the guideline driven by this framework document because implementation of the climate change adaptation could lead to the creation of communities resilient against water related disasters and environmental degradation.
- UNESCAP commented that if this effort by the Group would be incorporated within the preparation process for the 2nd APWS, the APWF would encourage the Group to come up with a striking statement by using indicative figures and data which could indicate a great cost without employing adaptation measures so that policy makers will be moved to actions.
- FAO suggested that the need to improve the agricultural policies should be stated in the message and that the document should assess the impact of climate change on food security and agriculture as well as highlight the water as key to agricultural productivity. In addition, FAO suggested that the adaptation strategy should include flood and drought management strategy including control management strategy for ground and surface water.
- GWPO expressed the hope that the document provides a clear link between Climate change adaptation and water resources management. The importance of making this link has tended to be elusive in a number of international fora. APWF recognition of this link would be important not only for the Asia Pacific region, but would serve as an important contribution to discourses on CCA taking place at various levels, locally, regionally and globally.
- ADB responded to FAO's comment that the agricultural key points would be conveyed to the Steering Group for further discussion. ADB also emphasized that the significance of the document lies in the fact that the leaders could actually use it and encourage the use of the guideline in the document.

- ADB explained that the Steering Group has been recognizing the need for a striking statement and that the Group would further look into figures and facts including statistics on disasters and costs to articulate and underpin the statement which would support the message. ADB also emphasized on the “quite disasters” which the Group has been trying to quantify.
- Mr Panella from ADB commented on the financing principle of the Framework Document that the phrase “increase dedicated climate financing” could be a less restrictive term since it would be no regret investment with or without climate change. The sector needs a great deal of financing, so it should not be restricted just to the climate change. In addition, following the publication, some kind of program for monitoring and operationalization of the recommendations should be carried out so that in 3 to 5 years updating on how the region is doing based on the recommendations as well as updating publication based on the experience after its release could be possible.
- ADB agreed to Mr Panella’s comment and stressed the importance of increasing both dedicated climate change financing for water and the need to improve basic water budgets in the government. ADB also explained that the Steering Group intends to review and revise the document after 2 to 3 years which could include other guidelines and status reports.
- UNESCO endorsed the document and encouraged the promotion of the document in different international meetings. UNESCO also introduced the IWRM Guidelines at River Basin Level which consist of similar key messages with the Framework Document.
- ADB explained that once the agreement for the content of the document is finalized the APWF would need to create a roadmap and consider how to promote the document and its messages to the leaders. ADB suggested the Singapore International Water Week 2011 and other ministerial dialogues which APWF is promoting for the Ministers for Water Security Initiative as good platforms to promote the document.
- ADB also reported that in the NARBO meeting held recently, there was a discussion on the economic, natural and social capitals for the river basins. They proposed to develop a clearer IWRM processes on improving the basin capital to show the leaders and basin stakeholders in order to garner their support and push for action. To this end, ADB and NARBO aim to find related examples in the first half of 2011.

#### **Agenda Item 5: Draft concept of the 2nd Asia-Pacific Water Summit**

The meeting hereafter was chaired by Mr Narayanan, APWF GC Vice-Chair.

- i. Thailand, the Host Government of the 2nd APWS, made proposals on the following subjects related to the 2nd APWS.
  - (i) Date of the Summit: 15 Jan 2012 (Sun) to 16 January 2012 (Mon) (two days)
  - (ii) Date of the side events for awareness raising: 12 January (Thurs) to 16 January 2012 (Mon) (five days)

- (iii) Venue: Queen Sirikit National Convention Center in Bangkok
  - (iv) Sub-themes of the Summit:
    - Household water and sanitation
    - Productive economies and their impacts on agriculture and industry
    - Vibrant, livable cities and towns
    - Healthy rivers and eco-systems
    - Resilient communities that can adapt to change and
    - Integrated Land and Water Resource Management
  - (v) Organization of the Summit: Steering Committee and four organizing committees
  - (vi) Program:
    - 1st Day: Parallel sessions, Opening Ceremony, Welcome Reception
    - 2nd Day: Plenary, Speeches by the Heads of Government, Closing Ceremony, Press Conference
- ii. The Secretariat proposed for the four types of outcome documents based on the discussion during the kick-off meeting for the 2nd APWS in Manila in October, 2010, as follows:
- (1) Update of the APWF Policy Brief
  - (2) Message from Bangkok
  - (3) Chair's Summary and
  - (4) Summit Proceedings.

The Secretariat also showed the tentative schedule including the main activities to be led by the Host Government leading up to the Summit.

iii. The following subjects were further discussed.

(i) Speeches by the Heads of Government

- The Host Government proposed to invite the President and the Prime Minister to make a speech.
- The Secretariat supported the idea to invite only the Heads of Government for the speech and added that the Heads of Governments including Deputy Prime Ministers were invited for the speech in the 1st APWS.
- Mr Narayanan supported the proposal that in principle the Heads of the Government, Presidents and Prime Ministers would be prioritized to make a speech, and informed the precedent that the speakers were limited to a eight-minute speech at the UN General Assembly.
- ADB supported the proposal to target the Heads of Government to speak at the 2nd APWS.
- UNESCO supported the idea of inviting the Heads of Governments for the speech and suggested for further discussion on invitation of the heads of international organizations.

(ii) Parallel Sessions

- UNESCAP suggested that the Ministers speak at the Parallel Sessions.
- ADB suggested for a development of a framework whereby the government, private sectors and civil societies have an equal chance to speak. ADB also suggested that there should be a dialogue among the key leaders from academia and private companies during the Parallel Session, which would help showcase an inclusive water leadership model to the region.
- The Host Government offered to convey the idea for a multi-stakeholder session to the Technical Committee of the Summit.
- UNESCO commented that the Priority Themes and Key Result Areas should be linked to the Summit. UNESCO further commented that the Water-related Disaster Management, which is led by ICHARM, does not seem to be fully covered by the proposed sub-themes and suggested that the sub-theme of “Resilient Communities that can adapt to change” should be titled “Water-related Disaster Management”. In addition, UNESCO suggested that the sub-theme of “Integrated Land and Water Resource Management (ILWRM)” should be revised to “Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM)” because the land management is included in the definition of the IWRM.
- ADB informed that at the NARBO general meeting held recently, it was decided that NARBO will be to organizing a regional meeting during the Summit to showcase its activities and processes of IWRM.
- UNESCAP emphasized on the need to come up with a new message such as “water revolution” to pass on to the key leaders at the Summit.
- FAO commented that although the idea of ILWRM would be fine, we do not need to create a separate session for it because it would be more important to focus on the results that we have achieved than on the processes. FAO also supported the idea of creating a message like “water revolution” or combining different themes and sectors under such a category as “water scarcity” so that it could cover all the sectors issues.
- GWPO suggested that planning on the substantial focus of the Summit could be further clarified by a clear definition of the expected output of the Summit and that it is this clarification that will drive the programme and the expected messages from the Summit.
- Mr Inoue suggested that it would be necessary to keep the proposed sub-themes in order to follow up on the progress of the APWF activities. Mr Inoue also emphasized the importance of inventing a strong political message such as how to overcome the MDG gaps in the AP region where implementation gap especially in the sanitation sectors is notable. Mr Inoue went on to say that the climate change and water related disasters should be focused on the sub-specific areas such as mountainous Himalayans, the large delta areas and pacific islands. Mr Inoue also suggested that the water security should be connected to the food and energy security so that it would be related to the priority themes.

- UNESCO mentioned that the IWRM planning is a recognized way for improving water-related MDG targets, and its adaptation, which is falling behind in progress, should have been implemented by each country by 2005.
  - ADB pointed out that it would be important to look at the Summit from the participant's perspective rather than from the water sector's perspective and to think about how to make the Summit valuable and contribute to help the leaders showcase their leadership.
  - GWP CACENA commented that because the AWDO is inclusive of the key messages from the five key dimensions, it would be better that the leaders discuss on these messages. GWP CACENA also proposed for these messages to be discussed in the parallel sessions.
- iv. Mr Narayanan summarized the discussion and **the meeting came to an agreement on the basic framework of the Summit as follows:**
- **Content (parallel sessions) segment**
  - **Ceremonial segment**
  - **Political segment**
  - **Wrap-up**
  - **Dialogue among the Heads of Government**
- v. Mr Narayanan thanked the Host Government for their hard work in preparing for the organization of the Summit.

#### **Agenda Item 6: APWF future events to promote concrete initiatives**

##### **(a) Singapore International Water Week 2011, Singapore, 4-8 July 2011: PUB**

- i. PUB thanked the APWF for their strong support for the Singapore International Water Week (SIWW) 2010 and shared on its outcomes
- ii. PUB announced that the Singapore International Water Week 2011 would be held on the theme "Sustainable Water Solutions for a Changing Urban Environment" from 4<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> of July 2011 at the Suntec Singapore. PUB also reported that the call for abstracts was closed on 3 December 2010. The committee would review the submissions and presenters would be notified by the mid January 2011
- iii. Water Convention, which is a part of the SIWW 2011, will focus on four main themes which are: (1) Solutions for Water Systems Efficiency and Effectiveness, (2) Planning for Sustainable Water Solutions, (3) Water Quality & Health, and (4) Governance and Finance.
- iv. PUB invited APWF as a Supporting Partner of SIWW 2011 and welcomed the APWF members to attend the Water Week in July 2011. APWF has been SIWW's Supporting Partner since 2009.

##### **(b) 6th World Water Forum, Marseille, March, 2012: IFC Regional Commission**

- i. Ms Park from IFC (International Forum Committee) presented the targets, process, organizational structure and thematic framework of the 6<sup>th</sup> WWF, and

stressed the importance of its political process as well as the attendance of wide range of stakeholders with different issue and solutions at the Forum.

- ii. For regional process, IFC requested each region to set 5-10 targets and appoint a coordinator for each issue. IFC suggested APWF shall set the targets and appoint coordinators for AP region.
- iii. Ms Park informed that the 2nd Stakeholder Consultation meeting of 6th WWF will be held from 17-18 January in Paris and invited all members of APWF to participate.
- iv. ADB commented that 5th WWF was successful in bringing all the related stakeholders together. However, the messages were not reached all over the world at the political level. Therefore, it would be important to emphasize on one strong and memorable theme to be politically agreed at the 6th WWF.
- v. IFC suggested that APWF should bring up eminent regional targets and connect them to the political process through the governments of the region which will be joining the ministerial level meeting.
- vi. IFC explained that the goal would be to set solutions with concrete target numbers, but they would be discussed and set next year at a platform for all four commissions and stakeholders.
- vii. On the question of whether mechanism is in place to succeed lessons from past fora, IFC responded by explaining that during the Marseille consultation meeting in June 2010, 400 participants worked in 20-30 groups to discuss how to bring the asset of the past fora into the 6th WWF.
- viii. Mr Narayanan suggested that the **APWF members should list 2 to 3 ideas on what kind of contribution Asia can make for the global water issues, and how Asia can lead the world**, for example, the water and green growth, the water hot spot, the role of Knowledge Hubs, **and submit the ideas to the IFC as proposals from the AP region.**

#### **Agenda Item 7: Search Committee**

- i. Mr Panella from ADB reported that the founding regional organizations of the APWF (ADB, UNESCAP and JWF) had established a search committee to identify candidates to succeed Prof Koh and Mdm Witoelar as Chair and Vice-Chair of the Governing Council respectively. Committee members are Ms Noriko Yamaguchi from JWF, Mr Rae Kwon Chung from UNESCAP and Mr Thomas Panella from ADB.
- ii. Mr Narayanan will remain in his post to ensure continuity of the APWF's activities and will also serve as advisor to the Search Committee. The 1st meeting of the Search Committee was held in October 2010 in Manila, and its members and adviser agreed to prepare selection criteria and terms of reference for the Chair and Vice-Chair.
- iii. Schedule for search process was presented as follows:
  - January 2011: Lead organizations and sub-regional coordinators will be invited to nominate candidates for Chair and Vice-Chair (invitation for

candidate nomination will also be informed on website of APWF in order that all the concerned members and governments in the region can participate in the process )

- May to July 2011: Review the nominations and propose the final candidates to the President
- July to December 2011: Selection and communication to the final candidates (candidates shall have enough time for transition and participation in the preparations leading to the 2nd APWS).
- January 2012: The new Chair and Vice-Chair will be officially announced at the 2nd Asia-Pacific Water Summit

#### **Agenda Item 8: Other matters**

- i. The Secretariat announced that the 9th APWF GC meeting would be held on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2011 (Friday) in Singapore during the Singapore International Water Week.
- ii. Mr Narayanan reflected on the APWF's wide range of activities over the past four years and **proposed to the participants to think about broad direction for APWF's future in relation to how to achieve a successful 2nd APWS and how to contribute to 6th WWF as the representative of AP region.**
- iii. The following comments on the future course of the APWF were brought forth from the participants:

- ADB

- APWF had been set up to represent voices of the region not only for problems but also for solutions; therefore, it would be necessary to increase civil society's participation and private sectors involvement for innovative opinions and resolutions as well as to fully connect ourselves to the regional water-related activities because it would be important to link the projects and local government so that good practices could be shared widely.
- In order to move ahead for broader activities of APWF, it is indispensable to secure funding to sustain APWF's activities.
- APWF needs a high-standard and good quality water-leaders training program which could be globally approved and franchised. It would help to gain public attention and funding support. The Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy can be one of the ideal places for the leaders' training.
- APWF needs to have a clear vision and has to think about how the APWF should look like in five years and what the APWF means to people.

- UNESCAP

- APWF should be strongly linked to the APWS because it is the prime opportunity to promote its messages to the Heads of Government.
- APWF had succeeded in bringing the water issue to the top level of the governments through the 1st Summit and therefore it is the APWF's mission to nurture and support water-leaders and water champions of the region. This action and solution oriented leadership should also be applied to the 2nd APWS.

- FAO



- APWF should serve as the representative of the regional voices, but alternative voices such as people in extreme poverty and hunger did not seem to be fully included at present.
  - GWP CACENA
    - It should be kept in mind at every water-related conference that access to portable clean water is the human right as defined by the United Nations.
    - Mr. Kamalov suggested “Water for All, All for water” as a slogan of the APWF.
  - Mr Inoue commented that “the Asia-Pacific Ministers for Water Security Initiative” which encourages dialogue between water related ministerial agencies to garner political will at the highest level should be closely linked to the 2nd APWS
- iv. In summing up the discussion, Mr Narayanan **requested the participants to submit brief notes on how the APWF should look like in five years and how to achieve it, and prioritize these ideas to seek practical approaches to achieve the goals**

#### **Agenda Item 9: Closing of the session**

- Mr Narayanan reminded the participants that **any suggestions about the program, structure or content of the 2nd APWS shall be posted by the end of January 2011 on the APWF web forum** which will be prepared by the Secretariat.
- Mr Narayanan closed the meeting and thanked all participants for their attendance and contributions and PUB Singapore for their generous hospitality.

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Approved by: APWF Governing Council