



Theme 4: Water Use and Supply Management

Workshop 2 Addressing Water Crisis In Rapidly Growing Cities

Background and Objectives

Background

- There is an emerging problem of water scarcity around the world which will be exacerbated by climate change. This scarcity problem is associated with population growth; pollution; failure in management such as disparities between water supply and demand, weak water use regulation and enforcement, as well as inefficient water use stimulated by inadequate water pricing; and depletion of groundwater resources, among others.
- In seeking solutions for water problems, the workshop on “Addressing Water Crisis in Rapidly Growing Cities” reviewed the current status of water issues in the EAS region and showcase some exemplary cases of water management.

Workshop Objectives were to:

- discuss current water problems being faced by many cities in the region;
- provide examples of readily replicable solutions including innovative technologies;
- demonstrate how an integrated approach, for example IWRM and ICM, can be applied to provide management framework in addressing water problems.



The East Asian Seas Congress 2009

Partnerships At Work: Local Implementation And Good Practices

23 – 27 November • Philippine International Convention Center, Manila, Philippines



Conclusions

- World, especially EAS region, is facing water security problem: basic needs, water for food, energy and industry and water for growing cities
- Climate change is an added challenge to achieving water security
- Main constraint is poor and fragmented water governance, by a multitude of different government agencies and jurisdictions
- Proliferation of different laws related to water and inadequate capacity to enforce them and Low cost recovery in the water sector , add to the problem
- Poor water management in the river basins results in pollution of coastal waters (from point and non-point sources) as well as changes in coastal morphology
- All options for better water mgt. must be considered, from improved agricultural water mgt. to advance the reuse and desalination technologies in water scarce and densely populated areas.
- Capacity building is key to improving water resources mgt. in many developing countries.
- Essential to move toward full cost pricing of water, including both direct costs and externalities, in a gradual process



Recommendations

- Need to coordinate and implement IWRM at the basin level with ICM at the coast through IRBCAM to ensure proper mgt. of the interconnected water resources
- Move forward to full cost water pricing but in a step by step gradual process.
- Upstream and downstream collaboration among stakeholders through cost sharing, partnership and participation and monitoring in the management of water resources.
- Institute a lead oversight and central coordinating government agency to rationalize fragmented and uncoordinated plans and programs.
- Need to recognize IWRM, ICM, IRBCAM as the basic approach to climate change adaptation.
- International cooperation and sharing of experiences and technologies through partnerships is the way forward.
- Need for mechanisms to encourage and compensate upstream stakeholders to protect water and land resources for the benefit of downstream stakeholders, all the way from the coast
- Recognize “what you do not measure, you cannot manage” and ensure proper monitoring in all river segments
- Recognize water demand management as the first step to reduce pressure on water resources, including the “3R: Recharge, Retention and Recycling”

