



Workshop 2: Innovative Policies and Practices in Water Supply, Sanitation and Pollution Reduction

Summary

Key Issues

- Pollution — from a range of sources from municipal areas to industries and agriculture — is a major threat to sustainable development in the region
- Impacts on health, quality of life, and ecosystems imposes large economic costs
- Major constraints include lack of: political will; access to innovative and affordable technologies; capacity to access financing and engage private sector
- Climate change adds additional challenge—threat of increased pollution, need for climate-proofed infrastructure, imperative to reduce vulnerability
- There are many successful e replicate, and scale up





Conclusion: Highlights/Lessons

Strategic integrated planning

- Optimization of infra planning, linking investment with expected environmental outcome, targeting investments to highest impact (Pearl River, Jakarta Bay)
- Eco-system based planning
- Pollution load modeling, SEA

Regulatory/policy/ institutional framework

- Environmental laws, user fees (e.g. Laguna de Bay, Puerto Galera)
- Economic regulation: tariffs (e.g., Metro Manila concession)
- Institutions (e.g. river basin agencies) to support integrated approaches

Innovative approaches and technologies

- Using alternative and cost-effective approaches to water treatment (e.g., artificial and natural wetlands in Ningbo)
- Piloting technologies/techniques (e.g. bio-digesters in livestock waste management, waste-to-energy, treated wastewater reuse)





Conclusion: Highlights/Lessons

Financing

- Cost recovery through tariffs and fees are key for financial viability. Special financing instruments (e.g., CDM/carbon financing, targeted subsidies) can further help.
- Private sector is particularly efficient in operation and management, but less effective in filling the financing gap for capital investments
- Technical assistance is important to help access financing (e.g. PPIAF) and develop bankable projects

Learning and capacity building

Learning across countries by practitioners (e.g. twinning network)





Recommendations

- Use strategic planning approaches and SEA more systematically, to optimize investments
- Focus on a small number of demonstration projects that can deliver development outcomes
- Provide incentives for innovation and systematic learning from their implementation
- Replicate and scale up successful examples/pilots through programmatic financing
- Build capacity for engaging the private sector to improve efficiency
- Develop capacity of local governments to develop bankable projects and implement cost recovery mechanisms
- Need champions for sustained implementation

