

KEY RESULT AREA 1: DEVELOPING KNOWLEDGE AND LESSONS (Draft)

Progress Report

Lead Organization:

- PUB Singapore
- UNESCO

Objectives

Many countries in the Asia-Pacific region face severe problems in meeting reasonable standards of performance of their water sector, leading to a negative impact on the socio-economic development of these countries and on the region as a whole. There are a variety of reasons for this underperformance, like an inadequate policy and legal framework, weak institutions and the lack of qualified professional staff, or –most likely- a combination of these.

The Asia-Pacific Water Forum (APWF) likes to establish an effective mechanism to encourage more collaborative efforts on water resources management and to accelerate the process of effective integration of water resources management into the socio-economic development process of the Asian and Pacific region. Improvements in the region can be further enhanced by harnessing the knowledge and experience of stakeholders and creating a cooperative platform through which this growing knowledge base can be disseminated.

For this purpose, APWF will comprise a well-coordinated network of member organizations that are able and willing to voluntarily commit their resources in order to deliver high quality products and services that meet the priority needs of policy and decision-makers and practitioners in the water sector.

Introduction

Key Result Area (KRA) 1 of the Asia Pacific Water Forum (APWF) is Developing Knowledge and Lessons. Through the sharing of experiences and the building up of a network of water knowledge hubs and strengthening existing networks, we can improve coordination on capacity development programmes and provide better guidance on water policy issues.

It is envisaged that knowledge hubs (KH) will deliver knowledge-based products and services that meet the practical needs of water organizations, and also serve as a focal point for strategic policy issues on proper water management. The target for these knowledge products and services are governments, private sector, civil society and water sector organizations to allow better project planning and implementation.

The World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP), the UN wide programme under the lead of UNESCO which has the monitoring role for MDGs and other targets, has already produced two issues of the triennial World Water Development Report (WWDR) in 2003 and 2006. One of major activities of WWAP is development of case studies in each region, at basin and country

level in cooperation with partner agencies and experts. WWAP has developed four case studies in Asia Pacific region. Sharing challenges and lessons learned from each case study is significant for all countries in the region.

The UNESCO International Hydrological Programme (IHP) is an intergovernmental scientific cooperative programme in water resources. In the Asia and Pacific region, IHP has a strong network, including IHP National Committees in most countries and UNESCO field offices with water specialists in Jakarta (Regional Office for Science and Technology), New Delhi and Beijing. In addition, there are five newly established water related centers under the auspices of UNESCO. This network can make a substantial contribution to the knowledge hub as provider and/or coordinator. The UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education (Delft, The Netherlands), devoted to graduate level education, has considerable experience in Asia, and nearly half of its 14,000 alumni come from the Asia Pacific Region. In this regard, IHE also contribute much to KRA1 in capacity building.

The WaterHub is a PUB facility which brings technology, learning and networking under one roof for the water industry. Through each of the core thrusts, it aims to support the water industry, break new ground with advanced technologies and research and development (R&D) work, build industry capabilities as well as provide opportunities for industry players to network locally and internationally.

The cornerstone of WaterHub's R&D arm is the Centre for Advanced Water Technology (CAWT). CAWT is an applied water research organization under Singapore Utilities International (SUI), which is a subsidiary of PUB. Through CAWT, WaterHub hopes to develop the best available water and wastewater technologies and solutions cost effectively.

WaterHub is also a venue where PUB works with local and overseas partners, industry bodies and academia to develop and deliver a range of structured training programmes to raise the professionalism of the workforce in the water industry. WaterHub plays host to courses, talks, seminars and organises study visits to PUB and industry partners' installations. WaterHub's existing collaborations include external agencies such as South East Asia Water Utilities Network (SEAWUN), the Asian Productivity Organisation (APO) and also ties up with the United States AID (US-AID) on training.

Water Knowledge Networks

Knowledge is considered nowadays as an important resource and will therefore play a crucial role in all local, national and regional development activities. With the parallel and unprecedented development of information and communication technologies there is a fast growing focus on what is called "Knowledge Networks" through which people can be connected to share knowledge and to work collaboratively.

National and local governments, water service providers, river basin organizations, civil society, private sector, and development and financing agencies will benefit from having better access to knowledge and information to prepare and implement water reforms and projects.

National and regional water knowledge institutions will benefit from participating in high-quality knowledge networks for the exchange of information, good practices, lessons learned, and to collaborate in producing state-of-the art knowledge, advice, and capacity development services on important water sector topics for their clients.

The main goal is to develop and establish regional water knowledge networks under the auspices of APWF to achieve new standards of excellence in the development and dissemination of knowledge in selected topics of importance to the water sector.

To realize this, the approach is to concentrate initially on already existing high-quality institutions and networks. Later on more networks can be established around other –sometimes new– regional centers on selected water related topics that have not yet been covered and are considered of high importance to the region. These centers have to be identified carefully based on available knowledge, expertise and ambition.

Water Knowledge Hubs

Countries and centers of excellence in the region can propose to form and host a knowledge network and to become a “water knowledge hub” for a specific priority topic in the water sector. Such “water knowledge hub”, will then become the regional focal point and coordinating body in their field of expertise and will help improve knowledge management and capacity development in the region through collaborative knowledge networks.

Each knowledge hub will demonstrate leadership to (i) develop and assist a network of knowledge institutions, experts, and champions in its area of focus; (ii) disseminate good practice cases and advice for policy development; and (iii) provide capacity development programs in collaboration with its partners and clients.

Recommendations

Capacity Development and Central Water Knowledge Hub

As lead agency for KRA 1, PUB proposes that WaterHub in Singapore serve as a central water KH for the APWF and play a coordinating role among the various water knowledge networks and hubs in the Asia-Pacific region. A proposed joint ADB-UNESCO-PUB office can be established in WaterHub to coordinate the sharing of knowledge and capacity building among partnering knowledge hubs. PUB and UNESCO will co-lead this project with UNESCO providing the expertise to help set up the system and ADB providing the continuous funding. WaterHub will be a knowledge hub for urban water management, including urban water supply, sanitation, wastewater management, and water resources management. Complementary knowledge hub could include climate change, risk management, river basin management, disaster management, etc (not exhaustive).

Network of Water Knowledge Hubs

ADB and UNESCO will assist PUB, using their extensive contact and experience to identify and approach potential complementary knowledge hub to develop the network of knowledge hubs in 2 phases - Phase 1 (Initial Water Knowledge Hubs) and Phase 2 (other potential candidate knowledge hubs)

Knowledge products

A one-stop web portal is proposed for the purpose of regional water knowledge sharing and profiling the knowledge products offered by the respective knowledge hubs. ADB will look into providing the necessary funding for starting up of this proposed one-stop web portal as well as for its annual maintenance and servicing.

Concrete Actions

Capacity Development

Since the formation of the APWF in Sep 06, PUB WaterHub has delivered capacity building workshops under KRA1 to share and exchange knowledge on water resources management, water services, policies and best practices. To-date, WaterHub has conducted 10 such workshops for more than 270 participants from 45 countries. Details are appended in the following tables.

Funded by Singapore

No	Programme Title	Date	No. of participant	Countries
1	Urban Planning and Management Training for Second Nanjing Delegation	Jun 07	21	China
2	Urban Planning Management Training for Nanjing Officials	May 07	23	China
3	Kunshan Urban Planning Management Training Delegation	May 07	39	China
4	Environmental Project Training for SIP Officials	Apr 07	30	China
5	SCPTA / SIDSTEC* Integrated Water and Wastewater Management	Jan 07	22	International
6	Official Familiarization Programme for China Officials	Apr 07	16	China
7	33rd Senior Chinese Officials Visit	Apr 07	28	China
8	Urban Planning and Management Programme for Officials from Shen Zhen, Longgang District	Dec 06	30	China
9	SCPTA / SIDSTEC* Integrated Water and Wastewater Management	Oct 06	26	International

*Singapore Cooperation Programme Training Award / Small Island Developing States Technical Cooperation Programme

Joint Funding between Singapore and ADB under ATRIUM (Asia Training and Research Initiative for Urban Management)

10	Singapore-ADB Urban Management Forum for Chinese Policy Makers	Mar 07	42	China
----	--	--------	----	-------

Moving forward, some 8 workshops have already lined up WaterHub's training schedule from July 07 till early 2008. This included the ATRIUM workshop for the Indian officials which will take place from 24 to 27 July 2007.

No	Programme Title	Date	No. of participant	Countries
1	ATRIUM	Jul 07	20	India
2	Integrated Water Resource Management for Training Group from Fujian Shanghang	Jul 07	6	China
3	Integrated Water Resource Management for Shunde Construction Bureau (1st group)	Jul 07	20-30	China
4	Integrated Water Resource Management for Shunde Construction Bureau (2nd group)	Aug 07	20-30	China
5	24/7 Water Supply and Distribution Management	Sep 07	25	International
6	Integrated Water and Wastewater Resource Management	Oct 07	30	International
7	Senior Management Workshop in Integrated Water Resources Management - The Singapore's Experience	Jan 08	25	International
8	Used Water Management	Feb 08	25	International

Signing of Letter of Intent

PUB, ADB and UNESCO-IHE signed the Letter of Intent (LOI) on 15 Jun 2007 at the UNESCO-IHE 50th Anniversary Celebration in Delft, The Netherlands. The core areas of the cooperation align with the objectives of KRA 1 viz.:-

- Endeavor to establish APWF's network of water knowledge hubs in the region
- Review of water capacity development experience
- Development of water knowledge products

Under the partnership agreement, ADB will contribute US\$300,000 with UNESCO-IHE and PUB contributing US\$150,000 and US\$60,000 in-kind (training venue & trainers) respectively.

Conclusion

The output for KRA 1 is highly dependent on the collective efforts of the partner organizations to build up the knowledge base of the region through the setting up of KHS. As co-lead agency for KRA 1, Singapore is offering WaterHub as a KH to share best practices with the region and beyond for the water industry. Waterhub has conducted several training programmes to share experience and expertise. Additional funding from the partnership agreement with ADB and UNESCO-IHE will allow WaterHub to conduct more capacity building workshops. Linkage with Priority Themes and regional network of UNESCO would be established to facilitate establishment of other KHS. Through WaterHub and other potential KHS, we will be able to achieve the vision of building up a network of hubs to allow the region easy access to capacity development programmes and better guidance on water policy issues.