

Quarterly Newsletter

Photo: Special

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Announcement



Global Water Partnership (GWP) Appoints Mr. Howard Bamsey, former Executive Director of the Green Climate Fund (GCF), as the new Chair of GWP. The appointment is effective immediately.

In accepting the position, Mr. Bamsey said, *“I’m joining GWP because I have seen the network’s ability to mobilize a large and inclusive partnership that takes action on many levels to improve the way water is managed. The knowledge embedded with the network’s many partners is at the forefront of advancing water governance and a unique asset.”*

Read the full story here: <https://bit.ly/2Aln1k7>

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International Dialogue on the Youth Mission on Water Development and Participation of GWP's Communication Team at the GWP China's host institution 60th Anniversary



Photo 1 Vice President of IWHR, Xiaogang WANG

In 19 October 2018, GWP-SEA Knowledge Management and Communication Officer had the opportunity to participate in the International Youth Dialogue on “the Belt and Road, the Able and Young” in Beijing, China. This event was also organized

back to back with the China Institute of Water Resources and Hydropower Research (IWHR) 60th anniversary and the 2018 GWP's communication team training, which was supported by the Global Water Partnership Organization (GWPO) and Global Water Partnership China. Supporting as co-conveners were Tsinghua University, China Water Power Press (CWPP), the Education Center of the Ministry of Water Resources of China (MWR) and the Department of Water Resources of MWR. The aim of this dialogue was to raise awareness on the role of youth in water management and establish an exchange platform for young representatives.

During this event, CEO of GWP, Monika Weber-Fahr, took the opportunity to share some challenges from the diverse GWP network. In addition to that, several GWP Communications Officers further highlighted experiences from around the world. Furthermore, Vice President of IWHR, Xiaogang WANG added that *“Young people are the imminent decision-makers and water users. Serving the future, we should join our efforts to develop the next generation of water soldiers and empower the youth as a critical role in the promotion of ‘the Belt and Road’, ‘the Agenda 2030’, and eventually in the shape of societies for the better.”*

From ‘the learning & sharing’ to ‘the free discussion’ at the Dialogue, youth talents and decision-makers managed to exchange ideas, lesson learned and experiences. Their interactions formed a multi-cultural and inclusive stage of brainstorming, which provided a better mechanism for younger generations to access this vast knowledge. **AW**

**adapted from GWP China's news and update provided by Ma Yilin*

Technical Workshop on Project Preparation for Transformational Climate Resilient Water Project Concepts for The Green Climate Fund



Box 1 [90 participations from 18 countries participated in Technical Workshop on Project Preparation for Transformational Climate Resilient Water Project Concepts for the Green Climate Fund at the Asian Development Bank in Manila on 15-16 October 2018]

The Green Climate Fund (GCF) is a new global fund created to support the efforts of developing countries to respond to the challenge of climate change. GCF helps developing countries limit or reduce their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and adapt to climate change. It seeks to promote a paradigm shift to low-emission and climate-resilient development, taking into account the needs of nations that are particularly vulnerable to climate change impacts. More information about GCF can be read from here: <https://bit.ly/2HjyJQ>

Across Asia and the Caucasus, countries are acting to implement their NDCs, NAPs and to deliver on their SDGs. Achieving targets however will require transformative action at national and regional levels that goes beyond business as usual. This includes accelerating the pace of investments in water resources information systems, infrastructure, and supporting institutions – for countries to continue harnessing the potential of water as a platform for growth amidst a changing and more uncertain climate, mitigate water related disaster risks, and ensure sustainability of the natural resource base. Accelerating the pace of water investment implementation requires high quality project proposals, appropriate structuring of project finance, and accessing the diverse set of available financing sources. Therefore, the Pan-Asian Project Preparation Workshop was held to respond to this common continental need and expressed demand.

Ninety participants, comprised of Green Climate Fund (GCF) National Designated Authorities (NDAs), GCF Direct Access Entities (DAEs), and decision makers in Water Ministries and agencies – from 18 countries across Central Asia & the Caucasus, South Asia, South East Asia and China attended a Technical Workshop on Project Preparation for Transformational Climate Resilient Water

Project Concepts for the Green Climate Fund at the Asian Development Bank in Manila on 15-16 October.

The technical workshop was organized by the GWP-SEA with the support of GWPO, GWP-SAS, GWP CACENA, in collaboration with the Asia Pacific Adaptation Network (APAN), Asia Pacific Water Forum, and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), hosted by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), with technical inputs from the Green Climate Fund Secretariat and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

The main output of this technical workshop is to establish a regional knowledge exchange platform regarding climate change adaptation and mitigation initiative and to facilitate countries in accessing any potential climate change funding windows in the region.

The country water partnerships in each region will act as the focal point to lead the identification of lesson learned, case studies, experts in each respective country and to make it available for knowledge sharing at the regional level.

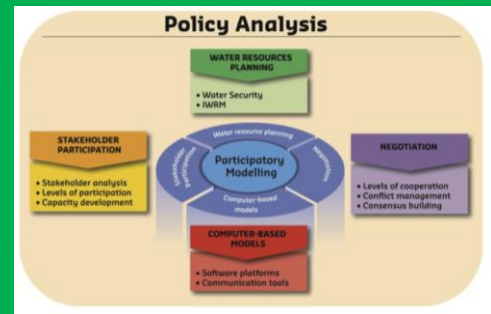
Currently, countries like Philippines, Indonesia, Viet Nam, Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Malaysia have taken follow up action to develop a potential proposal with the facilitation of CWP in each country. It is expected the collaboration will produce a feasible proposal to be submitted for the potential donors. **AW**

GWP-SEA's Pre-Steering Committee Meeting and Regional Shared Vision Planning & Collaborative Modelling Training and Workshop for the Mekong River Basin

The Pre-Steering Committee Meeting was held in the Mekong River Commission Secretariat (MRCS) in Vientiane, Lao PDR on 22 October 2018 to discuss several important agenda for the upcoming event in the Q4. Involving 13 participants, this event was held back to back with the Regional Shared Vision Planning & Collaborative Modelling Training and Workshop.

During the pre-SC discussion important agenda were discussed, among others: the progress and preliminary evaluation of GWP-SEA vis a vie its mandate and 2018 work plan under the 3-years work programme; to inform the coming GWP capacity building workshops; to discuss about the new GWP strategy 2020-2025; to communicate the forthcoming Lancang-Mekong Multi Stakeholders Platform and to receive a feedbacks from the Steering Committee members. The last on the list has enlightened toward the new relationship between the Mekong countries and China via

the Lancang-Mekong Water Resources Cooperation Center (LMWRCC) and the establishment of Lancang-Mekong IWRM multi-stakeholder platform which is initiated by GWP-SEA, GWP China and LMWRCC Secretariat.



Box 2 Key pillars of participatory modelling within the context of policy analysis

Source: Basco-carrera *et al.* (2017). Environmental Modelling & Software Collaborative modelling or participatory modelling? A framework for water resources management. *Environmental Modelling and Software*, 91, 95–110. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envsoft.2017.01.014>

Shared vision planning was developed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers during the National Drought Study (1989–1993). Shared vision planning has three basic elements: (1) an updated version of the systems approach to water resources management developed during the Harvard Water Program; (2) an approach to public involvement called "Circles of Influence"; and (3) collaboratively built computer models of the system to be managed. Alternative dispute resolution methods are often used to bring people in conflict to the table, and to resolve differences that occur during planning. A method of collaborative decision making called "Informed consent" is used to make decisions internally consistent, more defensible and transparent. (www.en.wikipedia.org)

Following the Pre-SC meeting, all participants attended the Regional Shared Vision Planning & Collaborative Modelling Training and Workshop which was organized by GWP-SEA in collaboration with MRCS and US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE).



Photo 2 Stakeholders were engaged in regional shared vision and collaborative modelling workshop for the Mekong River Basin

More than 60 participants representing the government official, NGO, private sectors, within the Mekong country and non-Mekong country in the Southeast Asia participated in the training. The objective of this event was to provide

training and knowledge exchange on the concept of shared vision

planning (SVP) and collaborative modelling for decision support, including using data and results from the MRC Council.



Photo 3 H.E. Mr. Watt Botkosal, GWP-SEA Chair period 2016-2018

The concept of SVP was first introduced to MRC by USACE in 2017. The SVP is a very helpful tool in facilitating the negotiation of economic, social, and environmental trade-off between respective riparian countries. Following the enormous potential use of SVP and collaborative modelling (CM), the Global Water Partnership Southeast Asia offered its support for implementation of these approaches to enhance inclusive water governance and IWRM in one of the transboundary river basin in the region.

Several lessons can be drawn from the SVP and CM process. Firstly, the stakeholders and decision makers were able to identify the common goal/vision which will be the anchor of the collaboration which then followed up by questioning the “*what if*” questions and explore their ‘gut’ feeling of system understanding (responsiveness). Secondly, the model will gain credibility as it developed through a long process of engagement and the “participatory-technical” process that lead to buy-in by all key stakeholders. Thirdly, the model can show its usefulness as it provides information in a way that mattered and was understood by stakeholders and decision makers. Lastly, the whole process in team building will generate trust and ownership as the fragmented

knowledge was openly shared for negotiation process which lead to interest-based negotiation rather than position based.

On the next day, a closed session was organized by MRCS and USACE to discuss the potential use of SVP and CM tool to follow up on the MRC’s council study. GWP-SEA and GWPO were welcome as the observed and invited to provide inputs. GWP-SEA in particular propose that it can help to facilitate a wider external stakeholders engagement in every MRC country member through CWP’s using SVP tool. Further collaboration is now being explore between the three organizations and is expected to be materialized in 2019. **AW**

An Inter-regional Joint Proposal Development for Lancang-Mekong River Basin – GWP-SEA & GWP China

Lancang-Mekong Join Proposal Development was held in 18-19 December 2018 and organized by the Lancang-Mekong Water Resources Cooperation Center (LMWRCC) with the support of GWP. The event is back to back with the Workshop on Flood Control and Drought Relief Technology of Lancang-Mekong Water Resources Cooperation that was held between 17-20 December in Dali, China.

The workshop was divided into 3 session started from regional shared vision, breaking down the priorities into objectives and strategic activities, as well as roadmap and way forward. During the opening remark, Mr. Dong Yanfei the Deputy Secretary General of LWMRCC briefly explained the background of the agenda. He stated that since the establishment of LMC mechanism, significant progress has been made under the joint efforts of the six-member countries, in technical exchange, capacity building, cooperative projects and joint studies. At the latest Joint Working Group on Water Resources Cooperation of LMC (JWG) meeting, LMWRCC has been required to provide support to the JWG for the implementation of the Five-year Action Plan on Lancang-Mekong Water Resources Cooperation, which has been adopted by the JWG and is waiting for final approval by the six national governments, including collecting ideas on joint projects/activities. Related to the joint project, this workshop was aimed to facilitate the discussion among six country to identify common needs that can be turned into a joint development project. This mechanism was fully appreciated by all the participants since the joint project is going to be developed by themselves.

The facilitation team is led by Dr. Yumiko Yasuda, and consists of GWP representatives from each country, as well as representatives from LMWRCC. She also took the participants to reflect the

importance and examples of vision in her presentation on the first day.



Photo 4 A group representative during the Focus Group Discussion

The regional shared vision session objective was selected to help participants understand the importance of shared vision in order to apply IWRM in the Lancang-Mekong river basin and to allow the participants in identifying common shared vision and missions. The participants were grouped into eight of each has six different nationalities to discuss what they want to see the Lancang-Mekong River in 50 years from now and what are the pathways to reach that point. During the plenary session, 19 shared vision and followed by mission were constructed which then will be prioritized at the next session,

On the second day of the workshop, the participants were grouped again into 6 to break down the priorities areas that was constructed during the 1st day into objectives and strategic activities. They were asked to discuss the 4 priority areas of which translated into 6 topics: flood, drought, climate change adaptation, enduring and sustainable infrastructure (including Safety of Dam and other hydraulic facilities), water-food-energy nexus, as well as one basin development strategy and plan. Each group was allocated one of the six topics. From each topic, the gaps and further action (next step) were discussed.

The last session of the workshop was to develop a roadmap and way forward. The participants were asked in country groups on how they can take things forward by considering what they already have in their national/regional activities, as well as to identify who are the potential partners. The discussion points during this final session among others were: Focal point from each country to follow up on joint project development; What are the requirements to get country endorsement for the joint project; Potential partners/donors; Relevant projects/ongoing initiatives in each country that links to the proposed project; Any events/

activities they are planning to do in their country, where next gathering can take place (back-to-back or jointly organized); and Suggested mechanism of coordination for 6 countries project development. **AW**

REGIONAL STORIES

34th Global Water Partnership Southeast Asia Regional Steering Committee Meeting

The 34th Global Water Partnership Southeast Asia Regional Steering Committee Meeting was successfully held in Phnom Penh – Cambodia, on 10-11 December 2018. As the on-going chairman, H.E. Mr. Watt Botkosol selected the location of meeting in Phnom Penh as a privilege of his chairmanship from the Cambodia.

The discussion was started on the follow up of the agreed 33rd Steering Committee meeting which was organized in Manila – Philippines in 2017. There were several priorities to discussed, among them are: the accreditation of Country Water Partnership, namely Cambodia WP, Thailand WP, and Lao-PDR WP; Locally raise fund; distribution of GWP's seed fund; improvement of Operational and Capacity (OPCAP) status; and preparation of the new GWP-SEA chairman.



Photo 5 Group Pictures

For the accreditation, GWP-SEA managed to facilitate successful accreditation of Cambodia WP and Thailand WP. For Lao PDR WP, the accreditation is expected to be acquired during the 1st quarter of 2019. Following the achievement of accreditation target, GWP-SEA also managed to facilitate the improvement of the OPCAP status for all CWPs. Currently, Malaysia, Cambodia, Philippines, Indonesia and Viet Nam have achieved green status, which mean

these CWP can managed fund above 10.000 Euro. As for Myanmar and Thailand, the OPCAP status are still yellow due to the utilization of the accounting software. This yellow status means that CWP can manage fund up to 10.000 Euro. However, the status will be updated to green once GWP-SEA receives the proof of the utilization of accounting software, which was proven in the reporting of the Q4 2018 financial report. Accordingly, the status of Myanmar and Thailand WP should be upgraded to the green as well.

For Lao WP, the OPCAP status is still red due to accreditation status. The status of Lao PDR WP is expected to be yellow or green in the 1st quarter of 2019, once the accreditation status is granted by the GWPO.

Regarding the locally raised fund (LRF), there is a huge improvement where in 2017, Viet Nam, Philippines, and Malaysia raised substantial amount of LRF which then secured the full seed funding from GWPO in 2018. And in 2019 itself, more CWPs are raising LRF, including Indonesia and Cambodia. It is expected in 2019, more LRF can be raised.

Focusing on 2019 planning and budgeting, it was discussed that the multi stakeholders platform both at country level and regional level must be able to produce a significant contribution to ensure successful implementation of GWP's mandate which is to facilitate the adoption and implementation of IWRM. Therefore, the discussion was centered around what would be the proper output of the multi stakeholders platform. In the discussion, the GWP-SEA secretariat proposed for each CWPs and regional water partnership to formulate at least two multi stakeholders position paper on prioritized issues of IWRM in 2019. An example was



Photo 6 GWP SEA Chair H.E. Mr. Watt Botkosal gave final speech on the last activity he attended as the GWP-SEA chairman

brought up by the GWP-SEA secretariat on the "formulation of Multi stakeholders paper on the new Water Law Draft in Indonesia" in 2018.

Another important issue that was discussed on the performance evaluation of the multi stakeholders platform itself. This issue was related to the outcome challenge and progress marker formulation. It was agreed

by all SC members that one way to evaluate the performance of multi stakeholder platform is to apply network mapping analysis where GWP-SEA and GWPO or the donor can see the strength of relationship between stakeholders that is improved due to facilitation of adoption and implementation of IWRM by each CWPs. The network analysis tool will be developed by GWP-SEA in consultation with GWPO and all CWPs.

Partners meeting to discuss the governance of the GWP-SEA is also another important issue that was discussed. It was proposed that this partners meeting should be organized back to back with 35th Regional Steering Committee Meeting. During this discussion, GWP-SEA secretariat also proposes to revisit the concept of the regional platform. The main issue here is for GWP-SEA to have its own regional partners while still maintaining the coordination with CWPs. Other issues such as statute revision, membership requirement and SC member selection will be included as the main issues to be discuss in the partners meeting.

The CWPs also had a chance to present their proposed activities for 2019 and to obtained input from each other. All the 2019 activities are based on the GWP-SEA 3-years work programme 2017-2019. Each activity is expected to be linked with the SDGs agenda, and other international agenda such as the International Water Association (IWA) agenda on connecting basin cities, Yangon Declaration, and Paris agreement on Climate Change.

On the Water and Climate Development Programme (WACDEP), GWP-SEA and all the CWPs are optimistic to be able to continue the programme as each country has developed National WACDEP project document as the main reference for resource mobilization in each country. Furthermore, the reason PAN-ASIA technical workshop on Climate Change Project Proposal Development has created an opportunity to develop relation with National Development Authorities (NDAs), and Direct Access Entities (DAEs) that is expected to manifest in joint proposal development for water related adaptation projects.

Last but not least, the selection committee of the new chair for 2019-2021 presented the progress of the election process. More information from the three candidates were still required. It is expected the election process will be concluded in February 2019 followed by official hand-over from the on-going chair to the new chair. **AW**

Town-Watching Training of Trainers (TOT) - Malaysia Country Water Partnership

Community empowerment on flood resilient had been implemented and became an important objective of Malaysia Country

Water Partnership since the initiation of Water, Climate and Development Programme (WACDEP).

Competence trainers are therefore necessary, and it is the main reason behind the implementation of Town - Watching Training of Trainers (TOT) Workshop on Flood Preparation-Community Safety Map During the Flood. The event was organized by Malaysia Country Water Partnership, The Global Environment Centre, and Universiti Putra Malaysia and was held on 30 - 31 October 2018.



Photo 7 Dato' Hanapi, Chair of Malaysia Country Water Partnership give his Opening Remarks

The training focused on the four (4) community-based flood-training exercises: 1) Proper understanding of the key stakeholders on current flood trend; 2) The Flood Hazards 'Town-watching' training focuses on identifying the routes traveled during disasters such as flooding and its

consequences; 3) Potable Water Management; 4) Grab Bag and 72H kit.

This local level kind of activity is implemented in order to influence the policy making process at the national level. It is expected that by linking what happen on the ground with what should be regulated from the national perspective will provide a more inclusive policy formulation that would benefit all stakeholders. **AW**

Evaluation of causes of a massive land subsidence and effectiveness of measures to control of them in Jakarta and other cities - Indonesia Water Partnership – Indonesia Water Partnership

Land subsidence is a threat that is faced by many urbanized delta cities around the world. As one of the mega cities, Jakarta is facing common problem. A few studies pointed out that the cause of



Photo 8 Dr. Sutardi from Indonesia Water Partnership (at Front right) presenting his finding

land subsidence in Jakarta was due to massive ground water extraction, massive infrastructure development, and natural geological characteristic.

The workshop was held in order to understand not only the main cause of the land subsidence but

also to learn and exchange about the experiences and lesson learned on how to mitigate and to adapt from experts from different technical background. Among these experts, Mr. Peter Letitre from Deltares, Mr. Barry Beagen from Kotakita, and Mr. Takeshi Watanabe from Yachio/JICA were able to share their experiences and research regarding land subsidence in several city in Indonesia.

In overall, several findings were discussed, such as:

- General causes of land subsidence: natural loading, building loading, excessive abstraction of ground water and tectonics.
- mitigation recommendation to slow down or stop the land subsidence
- alternative solution to the ground water extraction to fulfill domestic and sectoral needs.

One take away key message from this workshop was that we need to stop debating on the causes of the land subsidence and start to move forward to mitigate and adapt. Adaptation itself is important, but mitigation is equally as important. We cannot just build a higher wall to prevent floods as a mean of adaptation. Therefore, mitigation effort become important.

This workshop was organized by Indonesia Water Partnership and in collaboration with JICA, Deltares, Ministry of Public Works, Pancasila University, Kotakita, NCICD secretariat, and Gerakan Ciliwung Bersih.

This workshop was the first of serial workshops that aims to produce a multi stakeholder position paper on land subsidence mitigation and adaptation. in 2019, at least 3 workshops will be organized in order to realize multi-stakeholders position paper. **AW**

Experts Discussion on the Role of Regulation for The Right to Water in Indonesia - Regional Secretariat

Following the success of the 1st the multi-stakeholder position paper on the human well-being theme for the Water Resources Law Draft of the Republic of Indonesia that has been accepted by the parliament, another workshop focus more on sanitation infrastructure was held to receive feedback and comments from the water and sanitation experts. The experts Discussion on the Role of Regulation for The Right to Water in Indonesia was successfully held by invited 4 experts with various background.



Photo 9 Among the water experts are Mr. Fany Wedahuditama, GWP-SEA Regional Coordinator (3rd from the left)

Among the expert panel, is GWP SEA Regional Coordinator's Fany Wedahuditama which argued that "water supply and sanitation as

two side of a coin and both are important as a basic infrastructure". In addition, he added more

statement about identified problem through business process analysis for sanitation delivery system and therefore he suggested an integrated management as a necessary approach. Other expert panel, Indonesian Economist and politician Faisal Basri also argued limited infrastructure and rapid development and population growth has triggered water scarcity in all region. In addition, he added only 18% (691 billion m³) of the available fresh water in Indonesia being managed each year from the total 3,9 trillion m³. Gunawan Wibisono researcher and lecturer from University of Merdeka Malang give recommendation about organizing water allocation through technical and management approach. Lastly, Mohamad Mova Al'Afgani the Director of CPRG underlined several importance parameters for water rights: availability, accessibility, quality, affordability, acceptability, participation, equality, sustainability, accountability. **AW**

“water supply and sanitation are two side of a coin and both are important as a basic infrastructure”

Dialogue on Share Experience of Harvest Moisture from Thin Air to Collect Water – Myanmar Water Partnership

The dialogue on sharing knowledge from various research works on harvest moisture from thin air to collect water was held at Irrigation and Water Utilization Management Department on 5th December 2018 in Yangon, Myanmar. The dialogue is part of the Myanmar Water Partnership activity in collaboration with the Nationalities Youth Resource Development Degree College. All together 40 participants from water related organizations such as 1 government institution, 2 universities, 2 International Engineering Company, representative from Netherland Embassy, the Netherlands Enterprise Agency, TU Delft, 2 NWRC Advisory group

members and 1 media (Water Agency) organization participated the dialogue.

The objective of the dialogue was to focus on sharing the methodology and results of the research. The research was carried out to ensure water collection from thin air moisture by using low cost materials and simple technique so that it will produce clean and drinking water. The researchers



Photo 10 Member of research group presented the status and experiences from data collection activity

are the students from Nationalities Youth Resource Development Degree College who were coming from ethnic groups and border area of Myanmar and intended to spread

out this knowledge to their native places when they graduated. The process started with carry out practical experiments in the university followed by field works at their hometown. This is understandable since their knowledge on the local situation concerning how far they must travel to get water for their village and what the suitability and the presence of local materials. The last stage is to report the result to their respective professor in hoping to improve the methodology and the result.

Myanmar Water Partnership support and promote this type of initiative and persuade the youth to explore any possible innovation and cost-effective way of thinking to enrich the knowledge of the stakeholders and if possible, to share all the lesson learned nationally and internationally. **AW**

Support to the 4th International River Summit “raising awareness, commitment and resources for the rivers” – Philippines Water Partnership

Philippines Water Partnership successfully organized a session in a summit entitled “Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM): Tracking Implementation in the Regional, National and Local Level” on 21-24 November 2018 in Mandaue City - Cebu, Philippines. The aim of the session was to

articulate various experiences from experts on how IWRM complement river management initiatives.

During the presentation, various principles on how IWRM operational framework affects our rivers and the communities relying on these resources was described, among others: social equity, economic efficiency and ecological sustainability. In addition, the speakers highlighted experiences and explained how these principles will be transformed into concrete action.

In a session that organized by Philippines Water Partnership, many lessons learned on the IWRM implementation were presented by different country. For instant, in the Philippines, the key message is to recognize the role of LGUs in WRM / IWRM implementation as local is a local concern, thus the role of LGUs is critical and to promote the practice of IWRM as well as water technology include the R & D to address the challenges. In Indonesia, the implementation of IWRM challenged by the void in regulation since the revocation of the former water resources law. The recent development of multi stakeholders position paper on the Water Law Draft then followed by acceptance by the parliament has successfully shown the importance of employing a multi-sectoral approach and collaboration. Lastly, the impact of monsoon and climate change to an active delta country setting like Bangladesh has shown the importance of basin wide approach to address water management challenges. **AW**

Workshop on the Development of SDG IWRM Action plan – Viet Nam Water Partnership

With a rapid urbanization, industrialization, and together with the climate change factor have increased the risk of degraded natural resources and environmental pollution. The management of water use have revealed many limitations, whilst policies and practices of water use management still have shortcoming. Therefore, bringing up the concept of "IWRM" to the discussion table is of great importance and this was the reason GWP facilitates workshop on the Development of SDG IWRM Action plan in many regions. In Viet Nam, the workshop was organized by the Viet Nam Country Water Partnership and was held on 4

December in Hanoi - Viet Nam with support from the Institute for Water and Environment (IWE) as the co-organizer.



Photo 11 Session Speakers

The other supporting organization were the UNEP, UNDP Cap Net, and GWPO. The participants came from different background such as the representative of government agencies, university and research center, private sector, basin authorities, and NGO.



Photo 12 Group photo with the representatives of GWPO (Mr. Francois Brikke) and Vietnam Water Partnership (Dr. Le Van Minh)

The workshops successfully produced several recommendations that were translated into priority areas and key action points. The first priority area is 'awareness raising, capacity building and behavior change on IWRM' through consolidate the IWRM concept and its links to other water SDGs and involving more indigenous practices. The second is 'effectiveness of river basin and transboundary water management model'. The key actions point under this priority area are: review data and information sharing mechanisms; link IWRM with sustainable development objectives; understand and harmonize interests of all sectors, interests, existing and potential conflicts related to water management; review dialogue or joint planning mechanisms; and to consolidate management tools for water resources protection and pollution mitigation and control.

The third priority area is ‘water quality improvement and pollution control’. The key actions plan for this area are monitoring and enforcement and introduce an innovative solution such as application of new technology, applying the circular economy concept, nature-based water treatment, as well as design a pilot project. The last of the priority are is ‘stakeholder engagement and coordination’. The key action points under this priority area are to enable participation of private sector and NGOs who have concerned on natural disasters and poverty alleviation, as well as by promoting cultural dialogue and collaboration for IWRM at all levels.

Apart from develop an action plan, the workshop was able to nominate the members of Task Force who represent the various partners who will continue to consolidate and validate the draft action plan for the SDG through a consultative process. The composition and concept of the task force was then accepted by the Ministry of MARD and the Viet Nam Academy of Water Resources. The next step after this workshop is to discuss with respective stakeholders to identify the key issue in each priority and to develop the mini roadmap of each priority in order to address all the key issues. This follow up action are expected to be implemented in within the first semester of 2019. **AW**

New Publication on Floods in the Mekong River Basin – Cambodia Water Partnership

A publication on Floods study in the Lower Mekong River Basin was conducted by Mr. Saingim Sok, a consultant under assignment from Cambodia Water Partnership. A total 50 pages of literature reviews summarized the flood characteristics and impacts to the communities in various places in the Mekong river basin through the year of existing records with increasing negative impacts from rapid pace of economic development to meet the need for increasing demography and better living conditions.

The flood risk reduction strategies evolved with time where the Mekong River Commission is the leading organization in the region supported by communities of scientists throughout the world. Cumulative negative impacts from development and climate change surpassed the traditional capacity of community in living with floods and taking maximum

advantage of floods. Results from different studies conducted by the MRC’s Regional Flood Risk Management and Mitigation Center particularly the “Council Study” clearly indicated that the level of damages caused by flood will increase by 5 to 10 times in the future with the level of invested assets particularly during extreme floods and member countries need to develop a long term integrated flood risk management and mitigation strategy based on strong scientific based approaches.

The report can be downloaded from this url:

<https://tinyurl.com/y2psebvz>

General Assembly of Lao PDR Water Partnership

Lao Water Partnership is a network of public and private sectors that was set up in 2003, it was a member of Global Water Partnership. Lao Water Partnership secretariat is hosted by Department of Water Resources (DWR). In 2017, based on the requirement of the GWPO on the accreditation of GWP’s network around the world, Lao Water Partnership is one of the country partnerships that was recommended to improve its accreditation status. Accordingly, Lao Water Partnership organized its General Assembly to consult with its partner on the step to improve their accreditation status.



Photo 13 Dr. Inthavy AKKHARATH, Chair of Lao Water Partnership lead the General Assembly meeting

The meeting was organized on 1 November 2018 at the Nakhonsap Hotel and chaired by Dr. Inthavy AKKHARATH, Chair of Lao Water Partnership, and Director General of the Department of Water Resources, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MoNRE). The meeting was organized by applying of the participatory approach to brainstorm the opinions from the members regarding to the members status and the drafted statute of Lao Water Partnership.

There were 25 participants from different sectors participated in this meeting including representatives from public. These participants were: Department of Forestry, Department of Natural Resources and Environment Monitoring, Department of Water Supply, Provincial of Natural Resources and Environment Vientiane Capital, Natural Resources and Environment Institute, Department of Environmental Quality Promotion, Department of Climate Change Management, University and private sectors: Nam Ngum Dam 1, Eclectricite Du Laos. Among the participants representative from MRC and IUCN also attended the meeting.

The meeting was conducted by presenting the background and draft statute of Lao Water partnership, which was established in 2003, and its achievements until now.



Photo 14 The Participants of the General Assembly Meeting

After that, the session was open for all participants to share their opinions on how Lao Water Partnership will work and coordinate. The statute of Lao Water Partnership will

serve as a reference tool for working procedures. At the end of the meeting, the participants had agreed on the Steering Committee and Membership, Status of Lao Water Partnership, and way forward. Based on this General Assembly result, it is expected that Lao PDR Water Partnership will get accreditation from GWPO and will be fully acknowledged as GWP network in Lao PDR by February 2019. **AW**

Calendar of Event

13-16 Jan '19	: The 10th IWA Specialist Conference on Efficient Urban Water Management, Manila - Philippines
2 Feb '19	: World Wetlands Day
7-8 Feb '19	: 1st World Summit on Leaving No One Behind: Human Rights Based Solutions for Access to Water and Sanitation, Geneva - Switzerland
14-15 Feb '19	: CWPs' capacity building training
21 Feb '19	: UNESCAP Regional Workshop on Strengthening National Capacities to Design Policies for Improving Water Use and Limit Pollution from Key Industrial Sectors
22 March '19	: World Water Day
22-25 March '19	: (VACI) Viet Nam International Water Week
26-28 March '19	: 4th Water Sensitive Cities Conference, Brisbane - Australia

REGIONAL SECRETARIAT UPDATES

Update on GWP-SEA Social Media Platform

We are very happy to announce that the regional secretariat has a new LinkedIn account as an addition to the other social media that we have already managed before.

To support the development and improve our communication initiative, we invited the CWPs and registered partners to follow and “feed” us with the news and events. Come and join us!



<https://www.gwp.org/en/GWP-South-East-Asia/WE-ACT/News-and-Activities/>



<https://twitter.com/gwpsea>



<https://www.facebook.com/GlobalWaterPartnership-SoutheastAsia/>



<https://www.linkedin.com/company/global-water-partnership-southeast-asia-gwp-sea/>

Water Job Vacancies

Started since June 2016, the blog has provided information for water expert to connecting them with a list of a job vacancies. For the Asia-Pacific region, the information can be obtained from this link: <https://bit.ly/2Bkk75E>

Information on Short Course

IHE Delft Institute for Water Education is the largest international graduate water education facility in the world and is based in Delft, the Netherlands. The institute provide a short course for water professional annually. The information for the upcoming Short Courses can be accessed here: <https://www.un-ihe.org/short-courses>

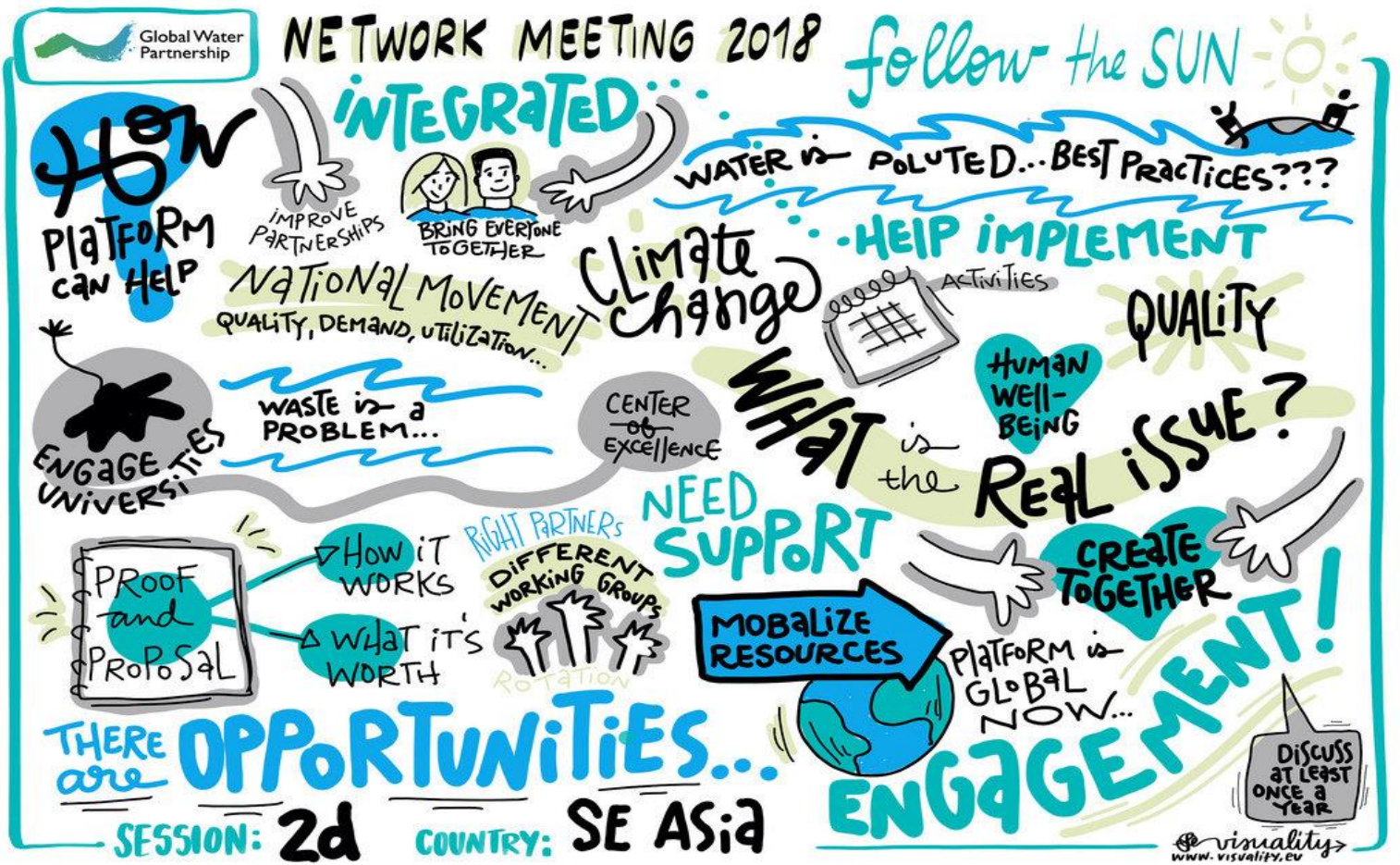
In addition to that, the institute also provide an open-courseware which can be accessed from here:

<https://www.un-ihe.org/open-courseware>



Several free Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC) platforms also can be accessed from android/ios Apps or through their respective web-

site. The top 3 MOOC platforms are: Coursera, Udacity & edX .



Quote of the day

“The trouble is, you think you have time”

-Climate Change-

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