

MOBILISING FOR A WATER SECURE WORLD



Quarterly Newsletter

GWP STRATEGY 2020 – 2025

Volume 4 | Issue Q3 2019 |

Highlight



“The GWP Strategy 2020-2025 is nearing completion and the Regional Days will be an opportunity for the participants to have their last input to any final improvements or clarifications”

The new GWP strategy will be built under three new pillars which are centered around "We mobilize", "We act" and "We learn (PG. 2).

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Expert Discussion 2 on the “Interpreting State Control Rights in the Water Sector in Indonesia”

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Technical Talk on Water Quality Issues in Malaysia: Correcting the Wrongs

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SDG 6 Stage 2 workshop in Viet Nam on the “Solutions to Increase Effective Use and Sustainable Development of Water Resources to promote IWRM

GWP NETWORK STORIES

Launched of GWP 2020-2025 Strategy

After a series of discussions and received internal feedback during the GWP Regional Day 2019, 2018, and 2019 edition of the Network Meeting, the new strategy 2020-2025 was officially launched during Stockholm World Water Week. Hosted by the Dutch Embassy on 27 August 2019, the reception attended by more than 200 people who were participated in the Water Week.

During her speech, GWP's Executive Secretary, Monika Weber-Fahr, described its new strategy for 2020-2025 *Mobilising for a Water Secure World*, as one of urgency. She explained "GWP is a network of over 3000 organizations and we have been able to move and shake things up quite a bit over the years. But we know that bureaucratic competition, particularly between ministries and other hurdles, derail progress toward SDG achievement".



Photo 1 GWP's Executive Secretary, Monika Weber-Fahr

She also argued that economic growth, population growth, and climate disaster are creating water crises – in many places, there is "too much", "too little" or "too dirty" water. "Poverty, pollution, conflicts, floods, droughts, migration – all this is water-related – and often life-threatening. So we need to manage water better and share it carefully. At the same time, there are technological and economic changes that bring new and great opportunities: big data and new business models for flood management, new technologies for irrigation and water management. These need to be developed, made available, and leveraged fast."

The new GWP Strategy focuses on three main areas: 1) water solutions for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), 2) climate-resilient development, and 3) transboundary water cooperation.

The Strategy emphasizes an engagement with the private sector, ensuring that youth participate in decision-making, and taking a

gender-inclusive approach to water secure development. This builds directly on GWP's long-standing commitment to youth and gender, as outlined in the strategies for these, published in recent years.

Related documents and information are available through this URL <http://bit.ly/2vrClwJ>. **EB, AW**

Thailand Water Partnership's story on "Mobilizing communities to manage floods in North-Western Thailand" (as part of 10 Stories of Water, 10 Stories of Impact)

The new publication, "Mobilizing Change Makers", are a collection that illustrates GWP's water and climate resilience outcomes from 2011-2019, which gives an overview of changes that have improved livelihoods and made communities more climate-resilient. As one of the networks in our region, ***the Thailand Water Partnership story 'Mobilizing communities to manage floods in North-Western Thailand' was discussed briefly on this report.***

Through the Water, Climate, and Development Programme (WACDEP), Thailand Water Partnership mobilized local governments to share knowledge with communities. The region now has a flood early warning system that helps communities to plan and protect themselves.

In brief, the study focuses on Mae Sot, a border town between Myanmar and Thailand that suffered the worst flood in 2012. The town located in the Moei River basin that utilizes the waterways for trade and naturally flooded. However, as the city grew and the climate change has increased rainfall intensity and magnified the flood risks, the Mae Sot's system for warning people about on-coming floods has not kept up with this growing threat.

In 2014, the Global Water Partnership Thailand, supported by WACDEP adopted a community-based approach to the development of early warning system applications. The application utilized a free smartphone's messaging apps ([LINE](#)) as a means of sharing community observations and enhancing real-time communication throughout the basin.

Full stories and related documents can be accessed through this URL <http://bit.ly/2QmSVuk>. **AW**

REGIONAL STORIES

Indonesia: 2019 Youth Innovation Competition on Global Governance (YICGG)

Jakarta, 14 August 2019 -- GWP-SEA take part in the youth competition on the global governance as the judge and panelist at the YICGG.

The Youth Innovation Competition on Global Governance (YICGG) is an annual competition that acts as a platform to raise global issues to the youth from all parts of the world. As a platform, the YICGG provides an opportunity for those aspiring students interested in global governance to interpret and spread their ideas. YICGG was first launched in 2007 by Fudan University, sponsored by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in China.

The 2019 competition which held in Jakarta-Indonesia from 15-18 July 2019 selected "Back to the Ocean: Sustainable Development in a Shared Future" as the theme. The theme covered three aspects, namely: rational development of marine economy, cooperation in environmental protection, and appeal for a consensus. Fudan University, Universitas Indonesia, and Shanghai Rong Chang Public Welfare Foundation were the host of 2019 competition while the School of International Relations and Public Affairs (SIRPA) of Fudan University and Faculty of Social and Political Sciences (FISIP) of Universitas Indonesia acted as the organizers. The summit followed by 78 university students represented 49 universities from 39 countries. These students divided into 30 teams that have already passed proposal selection.



Photo 2 Republic Indonesia's Coordinating Minister of Maritime and Investment had a discussion with one of the participants (photo was taken from <http://bit.ly/2Q8PTtt>)

The Coordinating Minister of the Maritime Republic of Indonesia, Mr. Luhut B. Pandjaitan on his opening speech "I am honored to be surrounded by smart youths from 39 countries who have taken

action to create innovations to support global governance, especially in dealing with environmental issues to improve the quality of our lives and our future". "Today's program is to see innovations and smart ideas put forward by youths from various parts of the world that aim to improve the health of the sea, rivers, and lakes. We hope that the exchange of knowledge and innovation experiences through the competition like we have now will contribute to efforts to preserve ecosystems in the oceans, rivers, and lakes globally", added the Coordinating Minister. Among others, the panel of judges was the Global Water Partnership Southeast Asia Regional Coordinator, Mr. Fany Wedahuditama.



Photo 3 GWP-SEA Regional Coordinator participated on the Panel talk during the YICGG 2019

YICGG is recognized as the "Young Academic Olympics" for the involvement of youth in global governance. Since its launch in 2007, YICGG has discussed various global issues, namely environmental protection, human future, education, Green Business Administration (GBA), global food policy, and others. YICGG has been implemented in various cities in the world: Shanghai, China (2010, 2013, 2016, 2018); Milan, Italy (2015); and Astana, Kazakhstan (2017).

On the last day of the competition, several youths were invited to the GWP-SEA secretariat to discuss the opportunity for collaboration. Among the idea is to hold a youth (young professional) competition that will be held in 2020.

Further information about YICGG: <http://www.yicgg.fudan.edu.cn/theme-exposition/>. **AW**

The 24th Asia-Pacific Water Forum (APWF) Governing Council

The Asia-Pacific Water Forum (APWF), for which Japan Water Forum acts as its Secretariat, organized the APWF 24th Governing

Council Meeting at the Singapore PUB WaterHub on 22nd July 2019. In total, 27 representatives from the 21 organizations of the APWF members participated in the meeting. Among these participated organizations were: APWF, UN-Habitat, Unesco, FAO, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, IWC, Korean Water Forum, Japan Sanitation Forum, Kumamoto Government, Griffith University, PUB, and GWP-SA.

The meeting was chaired by Mr. Ravi Narayanan, Ms. Changhua Wu, and Dr. Eduardo Araral in their capacities as Chair and Vice-Chairs of the Governing Council of APWF. The meeting participants discussed 1) The progress of the preparation for the 4th Asia-Pacific Water Summit (4th APWS), to be held on 19-20 October 2020; 2) APWF's three priority thematic action plans, and 3) Current situations about the themes of 9th World Water Forum.

The outcomes of the discussion are as follows:

1) Preparation for the 4th APWS

The APWF members gave the following opinions about the ways to clarify the difference between the other water-related international conference and the 4th APWS and operate the 4th APWS effectively. Subsequent discussions followed on ways to ensure that the messages and main themes emerging from the Yangon declaration were followed up for the 4th APWS. Considering these options and feedbacks, the APWF Secretariat will initiate to prepare the 4th APWS Declaration's draft document collaborating with the APWF members, and the other international and domestic experts and practitioners.

2) APWF's three thematic priority action plans

The three theme leaders (UNESCO for Water Cycle Management; UNESCAP for Governance and Inclusive Development; Financing and Investment for the Water-related SDGs) outlined their plans for developing theme papers with APWF members, for the 4th APWF using events such as the 2019 Stockholm World Week and others as stepping stones in this process. The members also discussed the ways to promote the synergy of each 3 thematic action plan by addressing water cycle management in terms of governance and finance.

3) 9th World Water Forum

There is limited detailed information while the preparation of the 9th World Water Forum was kicked-off last July. The APWF Secretariat will try to make positive efforts to correct appropriate information about the trends of each thematic discussion of the 9th World Water Forum. The APWF Secretariat will closely communicate with the APWF members to reflect the 4th APWS outcomes

into the 9th World Water Forum to promote regional cooperation which will contribute to the solutions to the water challenges. **AW**

GWP-SEA in the Stockholm Water Week 2019

Stockholm Water Week (World Water Week) is organized and led by the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) annually. The 2019 Water Week Edition was held on 25-30 August, with the theme "Water for society – including all". The Global Water Partnership Southeast Asia represented by our regional coordinator participated in two events, Inclusive Asia-Pacific Rural Water and Sanitation: Pathways to the SDGs (WASH e-survey) and SDG 6 Support program.

WASH e-survey

The event "[Inclusive Asia-Pacific Rural Water and Sanitation: Pathways to the SDGs](#)" was held on 27 August, co-organized by APWF, Griffith University UN-Habitat, Chulalongkorn University of Thailand, OECD, UNSW, Japan Water Forum, and GWP-SEA. The session explored ways in which a sustainable path to the water and sanitation security can be reached using technological solutions accessible by rural populations, local leadership, and innovations, including digital technology to develop learning platforms that can help capacity building and knowledge acquisition leading to large scale change. Case studies from India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, and Laos illustrated how these can overcome challenges of distance, isolation, poverty and meager resources to develop lasting solutions in diverse contexts and circumstances. The panel discussion explored ways in which project design can include collaborative methods to build partnerships between academia, governments, civil society organizations, and private companies.

To summarize, the speakers and audience confirmed the importance of understanding the context and vulnerability of each rural community by assessing the local situation and developing appropriate responses to target the last mile through community involvement and empowerment with necessary technical and financial support so that no one is left behind.

One of the innovative tools presented during this session was the "[WASH e-survey](#)" that has been implemented in Indonesia. The e-survey will help the government of Indonesia in planning and budgeting much more effectively as they now have by name by address household data (**not sampling**). It would be great if the use of this tool can be replicated in other neighboring countries. GWP SEA is ready to replicate this in other countries through our Country Water Partnerships.

SDG 6 Support program

Under the session “[Accelerating SDG IWRM Implementation](#)”, GWP-SEA presented the SDG 6 support program which was successfully held on 25 August 2019. The number of organizations such as the UN Environment, UNEP DHI, UNDP Cap-Net, and GWP was joined in hand to co-organize the event.

According to the 2017 baseline survey, 172 countries able to assess the state of IWRM implementation. The resulting progress report reveals that while 80 percent of countries have laid the foundations for IWRM, but still 60% of the countries will face major challenges in reaching targets by 2030. Accelerating improvements in how water is managed must now be the first most focus for policy action and civil society engagement.

There is a unique opportunity now to make a change and support countries not only in prioritizing actions but also in raising awareness that water resources are the heart of socio-economic and environmental development and therefore need very special attention. This can best be reached through alliances, partnerships, and dialogues at all levels. **AW**

China-ASEAN Flood Control, Drought Relief, and IWRM Workshop

Flood control, drought relief, and disaster mitigation are important to guarantee people’s livelihood also a major concern for China and ASEAN countries. In recent years, with global change, floods, droughts and other natural disasters in ASEAN countries have occurred suddenly, frequently and concurrently, posing a major threat to local economic development and the safety of people’s lives and property, and becoming one of the important factors constraining the sustainable development of regional economy and society.



China and ASEAN countries are connected by land and sea and it is of great importance for both two sides to cooperate in flood control and disaster mitigation. To further enhance China’s strategic partnership with ASEAN countries, help to build the ASEAN

community, strengthen cooperation between China and ASEAN countries in flood control, drought relief, and IWRM.

Held on 6-10 August 2019 in Kunming – Yunnan Province, the workshop was carried out through thematic exchanges and a field trip to the Deze Dam and Hydropower Station and Deze Fish Breeding Station. The thematic workshop was focused on serial lectures on flood control, drought relief technology, and integrated water resources management.

The workshop sponsored by the Ministry of Water Resources (MWR) of China and organized by the Changjiang Water Resources Commission (CWRC) in cooperation with the Human Resources Development Center of CWRC (HRDC, CWRC).





Photos: GWP flickr

Quote of the day

“You don’t drown by falling into water. You only drown if you stay there.”

-Zig Ziglar-

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