

THE 35<sup>th</sup> GLOBAL WATER PARTNERSHIP SOUTHEAST ASIA (GWP-SEA)  
REGIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

Victoria Xiengthong Palace, Luang Prabang – Lao PDR  
27-28 November 2019

"Towards a water secure world"  
[www.gwpsea.org](http://www.gwpsea.org)



# Quarterly Newsletter

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## Highlight



The Regional Steering Committee Meeting (RSC Meeting) 2019 was successfully held with the main objective to get agreement on the 3 years work program and the 2020 annual work plan. The new GWP-SEA chairman Dr. Inthavy Akkharath of Lao PDR was also selected as the new chair from November 2019 - November 2022 based on the evaluation results from the Selection Committee following the end of assignment for Mr. H.E. Watt Botkosal of Cambodia. Read the more at (PG. 4).

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### Making Gender Part of the Development Sector

Sida, Sweden's International Development Cooperation Agency, and one of GWP's founding Partners held its annual development forum on 14 October. This year, the event was held to highlight gender and the inequalities that still exist around the topic. This aligns with GWP's Gender Strategy.

In the opening ceremony, Sida Secretary-General Carin Jämtin said no country has fully achieved gender equality. She said: "This is not good enough. Gender equality is a question of human rights".

Invited to the event was journalist Najwa Alimi, who won Sweden's Per Anger Prize 2019 – awarded to those who act in exemplary ways for democracy and human rights. [The award ceremony for this takes place on 17 October.](#)

Alimi, at the Sida event in Stockholm, shared her story on how she struggles as a woman in Afghanistan, and how her dream has always been "to be a journalist who could report the truth" – despite all the struggles she faces as a female journalist in her country. She received standing ovations when she said that women "should carry their gender as something they should be proud of, rather than holding them back."

Alimi also said that thanks to social media, "Afghanistan has now woken up – there is no turning back" – referring to information is available for all who want to access it.

Martina Nee, who is Equality and Inclusion Advisor for WaterAid Sweden, highlighted that an enabling environment is needed to challenge the norms. She said that "gender activity doesn't need to change men; it needs to change the system."

[GWP's Gender Strategy](#) states that "GWP actively supports the Dublin Principle that women play a central role in providing, managing, and safeguarding water resources." In 2017, GWP and Partners also published a [Gender Action Piece](#), establishing that "women are disproportionately affected by impacts of water scarcity, climate change, and natural disasters."

GWP's 2020-2025 Strategy, [Mobilising for a Water Secure World](#), calls for greater inclusion of women and other marginalized groups, calling for a 'never without them when about them' approach. The Gender Action piece is an evidence-based call to

action to actors to build more equitable, inclusive, and sustainable societies.

The Sida event was streamed live and is [now available recorded](#). **EB**

### Connecting Climate and Development through Water

Madrid, Spain – At a high-level event on December 7 here at the global climate conference, Global Water Partnership (GWP) will launch a report identifying major opportunities for water management to accelerate climate action and sustainable development.

The [Untold Story of Water in Climate Adaptation – Part II: 15 Countries Speak](#) is based on an in-depth analysis of 15 countries, examining whether and how their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) build climate resilience through work on water issues. The research also looks at the countries' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) strategies to see how they depend on and harness the availability – in quantity and timing – and the quality of water.

"National policymakers face a bewildering array of financing options for climate-related water action, but there are deeply ingrained barriers to connecting these with viable investment opportunities," says the report.

The report identifies how water resources management is providing an entry point to build cross-sectoral adaptive capacity, reduce atmospheric carbon, and enable transformative change to strengthen resilience in national economies, livelihoods, and natural ecosystems. A collaboration between GWP and the Overseas Development Institute (ODI), the report will be launched at an event highlighting opportunities water management offers for building climate resilience, reducing disaster risk, and advancing sustainable development.

"While the analysis points to gaps and missed opportunities, there are spots of success on which to build," said Monika Weber-Fahr, GWP's Executive Secretary. "Scaling these up will happen only if the different communities – climate, sustainable development, disaster risk reduction, and water – work together more frequently and effectively than ever before."

The analysis includes comprehensive recommendations for four audiences:

- national policymakers, including focal points for the SDGs and the UNFCCC, authorities for the climate funds, and ministers of water, environment, planning, and finance;
- national stakeholders such as civil society and business;
- development partners, including bilateral donors, multi-lateral institutions, and the climate funds; and
- transboundary and regional organizations.

"This report shows how water connects global goals with local policy, and countries sharing water resources," said Simon Gill, ODI's Managing Director. "From transboundary climate risk to food and energy insecurity, it offers practical recommendations to help tackle the biggest global challenges through smarter water management."

The report is a follow-up to [The Untold Story of Water](#), released at the 2019 UNFCCC climate conference in Katowice, Poland. That report analyzed 80 NDCs and concluded that while countries recognize the need to climate-proof their water supply and build resilient water infrastructure, few are paying attention to what makes these ambitions sustainable: strengthening water governance through robust water management institutions.

Countries are scheduled to submit new or updated NDCs in 2020, offering an opportunity for improvements. More opportunities are offered in the run-up to 2030 and beyond, with a key checkpoint provided by the 2023 Global Stocktake. Parallel processes for the 2030 Agenda and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, including the annual High-Level Political Forum, voluntary national reviews, and the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, also open space to review progress and increase ambition. **EB**

### Climate Change Hard on Transboundary Water Basins – New MOOC to Tackle Knowledge Gap

According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC AR5), the effects of climate change will reduce renewable surface water and groundwater resources in most dry subtropical regions. These changes may intensify competition for water among all sectors, strain already water-scarce environments, and negatively impact water quality and quantity globally. Transboundary water basins are particularly vulnerable to climate change impacts, says Sonja Koeppel, Secretary of the UNECE Water Convention, as she highlights the up-coming Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) on freshwater security that GWP is developing together with partners.

Climate change impacts are not confined by political, social, or environmental boundaries at any scale. Competition for scarce water resources is already a global challenge, and climate change is compounding the issue. As such, new challenges require new solutions and new approaches to building resilience in a changing world.

GWP is launching a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) on Governance for Transboundary Freshwater Security that tackles this knowledge gap and dives into the intersections of climate change and transboundary freshwater security. The MOOC pools together knowledge from a diverse set of contributors and partners spanning multiple areas of expertise and representing many different organizations and institutions. The MOOC is developed as part of IW: LEARN - it starts in 2020, but it is already now possible to register.

The MOOC that will start at the end of **August 2020** will explore ways countries may work together to establish adaptation methods that are embedded in broader approaches to water resource development and management. It will explore the following topics for 6 weeks:

- Week 1: Introduction to the MOOC and Water Security
- Week 2: International Water Law
- Week 3: Water Diplomacy and Negotiation Skills
- Week 4: Institutions
- Week 5: Management Tools and Mechanisms
- Week 6: Finance for Transboundary Water Security

The MOOC partners are:

GWP, UNU-INWEH, UNECE, Northumbria University, SIWI, UNESCO International Centre for Water Cooperation, IHE Delft, GEF, IW: LEARN, UNDP, UN Environment, UNESCO Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission. **EB**

### GWP Approved to Support Countries with GCF Readiness GWP's

During the UNFCCC COP25 climate change conference in Madrid, GWP received news that it had passed the "Financial Management Capacity Assessment" (FMCA) of the Green Climate Fund (GCF). This approval enables GWP to be a delivery partner of countries to access the GCF Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme (the Readiness Programme).

The immediate benefit is that the Readiness proposal, with GWP as the delivery partner, for the USD 2.5 million projects "National Adaptation Planning for Climate Resilience in Zambia" can proceed in the approval process.

Longer-term, GWP is now certified to support countries to strengthen the institutional capacities of countries, national consultative processes, direct access entities capacities, as well as mobilize the private sector with a view to access GCF resources. GCF National Designated Authorities (NDAs) may request up to USD 1 million per country per year for all readiness activities as well as up to USD 3 million per country to formulate national adaptation plans.

"This is a significant step for GWP, enabling our network of over 3,000 partners to bring its deep experience on the water and climate change and its strong relationships at the national, regional, and global level, to strengthen the capacity of countries to unlock climate finance for climate-resilient water management," said GWP Executive Secretary Monika Weber-Fahr.

GWP is currently working on nine GCF Readiness proposals with countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America, with several more in advanced stages of discussion.

GWP has been working over several months in close collaboration with the GCF, WMO, national GCF focal points and access entities, as well as with national water authorities of 77 countries from Africa, Asia, the Mediterranean, Latin America, and the Caribbean to strengthen their capacity to develop a climate-resilient water management portfolio of actions. The result is regional partnerships and platforms that develop climate-resilient water projects with regional and national GCF-accredited entities and focal points.

In supporting countries in their work on National Adaptation Plans, GWP released the second edition of the [Water Supplement to the UNFCCC NAP Technical Guidelines](#) earlier this year. **EB**

## GWP launches Water Resilience Frontiers at COP25

In one of its key activities at COP25, GWP announced a new collaboration with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and other partners, to create plausible water solutions for a climate-resilient future in 2030 and beyond. The initiative is called "Water Resilience Frontiers: Pathways for

transformational Climate Resilient Water Security in 2030 and Beyond".

Building resilience to the adverse effects of climate change on water requires a comprehensive approach and a long-term outlook. [The Water Resilience Frontiers Initiative](#) is part of an interagency effort, coordinated by the UNFCCC's Nairobi Work Programme, called the [Resilience Frontiers Initiative](#), which deals with questions on how to maximize our resilience to climate change beyond 2030. This is done by addressing opportunities and challenges in harnessing the potential of disruptive frontier technologies and emerging social trends towards sustainability.

"As Global Water Partnership, if we have learned anything from our work spanning more than 20 years, is that you can't apply stationary thinking when it comes to solving water issues of today. You have to think long term. Water investments, water planning, water legislation, and policies take a long time, so you need a long-term perspective. And in 2030, it is going to be a very different world," said Alex Simalabwi, Global Head of the GWP climate team. He pointed out that when planning for the future, you need to bear in mind, for instance, that new technology will have developed that may solve issues that aren't possible today.

"2030 is over ten years away, and it takes longer than that to do proper planning and get investments in place for water management. We must apply a very different way of thinking, and this is where Resilience Frontiers becomes a useful framework for GWP to reimagine the future and forget about today's thinking. It is useful to reflect on the mistakes we have made and learn lessons from there, but we need to have a completely new way of thinking for 2030 and beyond," says Simalabwi.

GWP Executive Secretary Monika Weber-Fahr introduced the new initiative in her high-level [statement to the final plenary session](#) of COP25 and she promised: "Together with our partners, we will identify ideas and concrete actions that can contribute to climate resilience through water – well beyond 2030." **EB**

## REGIONAL STORIES

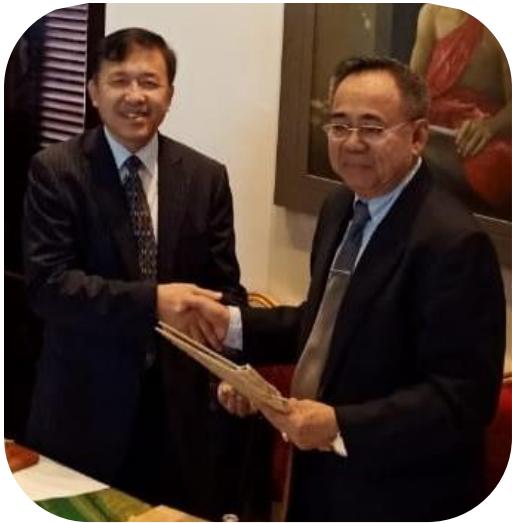
### GWP-SEA Regional Steering Committee Meeting 2019

the Regional Steering Committee Meeting (RSC Meeting) 2019 was successfully held with the main objective to get agreement on the 3 years work program and the 2020 annual work plan.

The 35<sup>th</sup> Regional Steering Committee Meeting was held on 27-28 November 2019 at Luang Prabang, Lao PDR. The 2 days meeting was held to meet several objectives such as:

1. Inauguration of the elected GWP SEA Chairperson for 2019-2021
2. Introduce the new GWP strategy 2020-2025;
3. Review the implementation of GWP-SEA 2019 work plan/2017-2019 3-years work program;
4. Agree on the 2020-2022 3-years work program;
5. Agree on the GWP SEA 2020 annual work plan and budget;
6. Decide the date and place of the 36th GWP-SEA RSC meeting
7. Receive input for the improvement of the GWP-SEA monitoring dashboard

The new GWP-SEA chairman Dr. Inthavy Akkharath of Lao PDR was selected as the new chair from November 2019 - November 2022 based on the evaluation results from the Selection Committee following the end of assignment for Mr. H.E. Watt Botkosal of Cambodia.



**Photo 1** Inauguration of the new GWP-SEA Chairman (from the left: Mr. H.E. Watt Botkosal, Dr. Inthavy Akkharath)

Based on the lesson from the past 3 years' work program implementation and the current GWP-SEA initiatives, the newly 3 years work program 2020-2022 will support the implementation of the UNEP's IWRM monitoring through the implementation of SDG 6.5.1 on IWRM.



**Photo 2** Participants of the 35<sup>th</sup> GWP-SEA RSC Meeting

The 3 years work program will consist of 3 major activity with details as follow. The first year is IWRM readiness & performance assessment (2020), then follow by response formulation (2021), and Implementation (2022).

In the first year (2020), GWP-SEA and its CWP will focus on developing a comprehensive tool to assess IWRM readiness and performance. This tool will not compete with the current UNEP IWRM monitoring assessment but will become a complementary and a working-tool that will be tested in our region. At the same time, CWP agree to support UNEP 2020 IWRM survey.

In the second year (2021), GWP-SEA and its CWP will focus on the identification of priority areas and key challenges. This will be done through a national IWRM conference. The difference between the GWP-SEA conference and other IWRM related conferences will be on the targeted problem-solution at the respective country. Each CWP will support its government in identifying challenges in implementing IWRM (a multi-stakeholder perspective paper) while the selected conference participants will propose a solution (i.e technological aspects) to the corresponding challenges. Other follow-up activities are Formulation of responses (CWP), Joint project development (CWP), and Resource mobilization (CWP).

The last year of the 3 years work program (2022) will follow up on the implementation of identified activity from the 2<sup>nd</sup> year (CWP), and hold a Regional IWRM Conference on the trans-boundary river basin (Regional/ GWP-SEA).

The other important issues that have been discussed and decided were:

1. the RSCs agreed that the new Host Institution candidate will only be based on Indonesia. The impact of this decision is the regional secretariat will still be based in Jakarta - Indonesia.
2. The General Assembly meeting will be held together with the 36th RSC meeting in 2020. The location of the 2020 RSC meeting still subject to discussion and cost-effectiveness.
3. The accreditation of the oldest CWP network (Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines that were established in 2002) will be reviewed in 2020 considering the changes in the situation over time.
4. The RSC agreed on the proposed 3 years work program to be focusing on SDG 6.5.1 including transboundary SDG 6.5.2 (to be aligned with UNEP's IWRM survey). Besides, GWP-SEA will also develop together with the IWRM Readiness and Performance assessment along the way with GWP's brand. **AW**

### Smart Water Grid International Conference

The smart water grid (SWG) technology, which is the collaborative technology between traditional water management and ICT (Information and Communication Technologies), is widely being adopted in the real water management area since the concept was recently initiated through several processes including the 7th World Water Forum. The concept is well adapted to cope with water shortage through the scientific implementation of the demand control and effective distribution in the area of water resources management. Also, the successful application of this concept is now indicated in the area of the construction and operation of the water supply facilities.

The 2019 edition of the Smart Water Grid International Conference was organized by the Korean Water Forum and jointly hosted by the Society of Korean Smart Water Grid and Green Environmental Center Association in the Republic of Korea to achieve the collaborative application in the period of a circular economy. Held on 1-2 October 2020 at Songdo Convensia-Incheon, the conference was planned to exchange different experiences and findings between participants and to contribute to the successful application in water planning and management area in the world.



Photo 3 The Opening Session of the Conference

During this event, GWP-SEA Regional Coordinator became one of the presenters during the session "Values of Cooperation in Smart Water Management: a socio-economic, environmental perspective" that was held on 1st October 2019 at Songdo Convensia 303, Republic of Korea. The content of the presentation was aligned with the objective of the session namely to share experiences, and know-how in the cooperative actions for the Smart Water Management.

In his presentation titled "Smart Regional Governance and Smart Integrated Water Resources Management", GWP-SEA approach to water governance and IWRM was introduced. The water governance consists of 6 frameworks, namely regulatory, institutional, financial, infrastructure, data & information, as well as the technological framework. These frameworks exist on all GWP-SEA's IWRM thematic area (water for the ecosystem, water for people, water for economic & development activities, and water-related hazards). The introduction of ICT (Information and Communication Technologies) into water governance has enabled an improvement in the current IWRM framework. These improvements are smart enabling environment, smart planning/ programming-monitoring system, and smart knowledge hub. On the latter, he gives a brief introduction to the knowledge hub as a platform for connecting the demand and supply side in water management. The demand side introduces information on the country profiles such as priorities, challenges, and other related information of which become valuable information for other stakeholders (supply-side). The supply-side consists of technology solutions, expert pools, courses, and toolboxes, and funding landscape. Each stakeholder can access and use this different information and get connected through the platform. The platform

would later be presented during the Delta Coalition 4<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference and Working Group in Tokyo – Japan on 29-30 October 2019. **AW**

## GWP-SEA at the IWA Water and Development Congress & Exhibition 2019

The IWA Water and Development Congress & Exhibition is the biennial global event on water solutions for developing and emerging countries. The Congress focus will be on key topics that catalyze transformational change and support transition to new ways of managing water resources and delivering water services.

The 2019 edition of the congress brings together thought leaders and decision-makers from within and outside the water sector to address the key issue of '*Sustainable solutions for emerging economies*'. Organized by the International Water Association (IWA) in Colombo, Sri Lanka from 1 – 5 December 2019, the Congress features a range of topics and a diverse set of viewpoints from global water leaders. Over 3,500 people with backgrounds of practitioners, utility managers, academia, government officials, consultants, and media were gathered. On this occasion, GWP-SEA took a role as a co-organizer for a session event workshop on '*Basin-connected Cities: Using the source to sea (S2S) & Learning Deltas approach for collaboration with urban and agricultural stakeholders*'.



**Photo 4 Situation during the panel discussion**

This workshop builds on events over the past two years which have helped develop and activate the Action Agenda for Basin-Connected Cities, the FAO's approach to S2S Management, and LDAI. The Basin-Connected Cities agenda builds on the Principles for Water-Wise Cities. The Action Agenda for Basin-Connected Cities aims to influence and activate utilities, cities, and their industries to become water stewards (e.g. raising awareness of global water stewardship movement, standard an applicability amongst stakeholders) working with basin and catchment organizations. The source to sea (S2S) aims to support the sustainable development of national or shared river basins from the source (usually highland/mountainous areas) to the discharge into coastal regions. Flows can be characterized as either positive or negative,

with associated management objectives to enhance or restore positive flows (e.g. biodiversity, ecosystem services, and high-quality water) or reduce negative flows (e.g. pollution, sediments, plastics) across landscapes/seascapes. LDAI primarily aims for increased south-south cooperation and knowledge exchanges on adaptation to climate change and building resilience in urban Deltas. It stimulates increased cooperation – among Deltaic countries and stakeholders who are involved in the governance of deltas, strengthening a science-policy interface. Deltas as an important component in source to sea management, learnings, and knowledge exchanges in multi-stakeholder platforms will positively impact on developing climate-resilient actions in the Basin Connected Cities. This third action agenda which part of the GWP's initiative was considered an important component in source to sea management.

The workshop focused on the pathways to action that can combine the two approaches, and drive both urban and rural stakeholders to integrate their (currently siloed) water management approaches. This includes short perspectives from industry (e.g. on using a water stewardship standard), regulators (e.g. on incentives and regulatory instruments), utilities (e.g. involvement in financial schemes), city representatives, and water resource agencies. Discussion groups followed from the short perspectives on how the pathways to action being undertaken can be upscaled, and how they can enable stakeholders from catchment to tap to work together.

The workshop started with panel discussion consists of the speakers representing FAO, IWA/IWMI representative, Alliance for Water Stewardship, and GWP/Cap-Net. Following the panel discussion were questions and answers, round-table discussion, plenary, and closing. Estimated 50-60 participants were engaged in the discussion.

The interaction between participants has led to the adoption of the Action Agenda and improve S2S thinking along with gained several tangible recommendations for follow-up in terms of auctioning the concepts within projects and programs of FAO and other partners. **AW**



**Photo 5 Participants engaged in a round-table discussion**

## Consultation Workshop on the Draft Fisheries Conservation and Development Plan of the Sdey Kraum Rohal Suong Community

The Cambodia Water Partnership (WP) successfully held a Consultation Workshop on the Draft Fisheries Conservation and Development Plan of the Sdey Kraum Rohal Suong Community - Battambang on 17 September 2019. Dr. Mak Solieng the chairwoman of the Cambodia WP facilitated the workshop that was developed with the objectives to understand the challenges and opportunities for development in the community and how can then the community plan be incorporated into the higher plan regime for funding.



Photo 6 Participants during the consultation workshop

The workshop proceeded with an introduction to the IWRM-based Planning and application in the Fisheries Conservation Community, followed by a presentation of the plan, plenary discussion, and consensus making. The participants also discussed how to incorporate the approved plan into the Commune Development Plan, Provincial and National Development Plan as well as other related Plans for funding the implementation. The community member also was consulted to get an update on Conservation and Management. The final session of the consultation meeting was to get approval for the plan and selection of prioritized actions for implementation in the last quarter of 2019, including demarcation of a conservation area and prepare documents for an official update of the conservation and management area of the FCC. AW

### Developing Community Resilience in Living with Floods

Natural forces pose threats to human communities. Ongoing changes to the environment worsen these hazards, causing the

associated risk to increase. As a fact, while the number of disasters is observed to decline worldwide, the costs of the disastrous events are increasing, showing how higher and higher human values are exposed and vulnerable to hazards. It is increasingly recognized the need to enhance the resilience of local communities to these new challenges. At the same time, it is important to act accordingly to a common and broadly-shared strategy.

Consider as a natural disaster, flood issues in Malaysia started back in 1920, with the one in 1971 claimed to be the worst before the recent 2014 flood. Source from the National Register of River Basins by Department of Irrigation and Drainage Malaysia (DID), indicates that 33.298 square miles (10.1%) of the country's total area are flood-prone areas which encompass about 5.67 million people. SENDAI Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 - 2030 and GAP Analysis Report on Flood Disaster Management in Malaysia indicates that rapid urbanization and climate change due to the anthropogenic activities increase uncertainty on disasters especially on the unpredictability of extreme weather. It is believed that the features of climate change in the scale, frequency, the severity will continue to grow in the coming years, and at an accelerating pace.

To address this problem, Malaysia Country Water Partnership (MyCWP) together with its partners, the Global Environment Center (GEC), DID Malaysia, National Disaster Management Agency (NADMA), and Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) successfully held a pilot and demonstration projects on an integrated flood management program. The event was held from 30-31 October 2019 at Kinta Riverfront Hotel, Ipoh, Perak, Malaysia. The event consists of several activities, in particular: focus group discussion, demonstration projects, field activities, and discussion. Several objectives were set to ensure the participants were equipped with the knowledge and know-how in dealing with flood preparedness. These objectives among others were: catalyze changes in taking appropriate actions, educate both government agencies at state and district level, and communities at the grass-root level, strengthened networks, introduce and promote community-based hazard mapping, and create a platform to support the communities. About 50 participants were engaged, representing wide stakeholders from the federal government, state government, local/district government, NGOs, CBOs, and village heads. Among these participants were the key stakeholders such as the Drainage and Irrigation Department (DID), NADMA, local authorities, and village heads.

Engaging local communities and empowering them is part of the preparedness towards flood disaster management (before-during-after) to be able to survive the catastrophe. Many government

institutions also embark on public and community engagement following Directive No. 20, the “Policy, and Mechanism on National Disaster Relief and Management”. Besides, support and information sharing from various agencies and departments were also provided to empower the local communities. The pilot and demonstration projects adopted a civic science approach. This was done through hands-on activities and empowerment through field training as well as exposure as it will help prepare the communities to be resilient and address the calamity in the future through the use of available modules. The participants also taught how to use and prepare the ‘72H kit’ and ‘Grab Bag’. The 72H kit and Grab bag are designed as a dry bag that contains highly important items. The 72H kit contains survival items during the 72 hours after the flood which is a critical time before the help or assistance from the disaster agencies reaches the communities. The Grab bag, on the other hand, should contain several items such as important documents; emergency kit and medicines; hygiene kits; personal kit; and other important items (see Photo 5).



**Photo 7 Example of Kit 72H and Grab Bag**

Focus at the community level has been part of the Malaysia Country Water Partnership’s DNA. Numerous activities targeting community level have been carried out together with its partners, mainly GEC. The two most notable examples are the River Ranger Program and the Community-Based Flood Preparedness and Mitigation. With considerable effort since the last decade, the Malaysia Country Water Partnership initiatives have led to fruitful outcomes. These outcomes among others are increasing the number of government agencies from eight states in Peninsular Malaysia and their districts, and other non-governmental organizations who have adopted the community empowerment approach in implementing their flood-preparedness programs and the number of communities engaged in community-based related program are increasing significantly, which leads to increased community

resilience in flood-related disaster. The next target-community will be the East Malaysian states of Sabah and Sarawak. **AW**



**Photo 8 Participants of the workshop during the field activities**

### **The 1<sup>st</sup> Indonesia Multi-Stakeholder Partnership Forum 2019**

The government of Indonesia (GOI) has put its commitment to implement the 2030 agenda of SDGs. The commitment was shown with the enactment of Presidential Regulation no. 59/2017 as guidance to support the achievement of SDGs target by the national government and local authorities. However, involving stakeholders' participation is one of the biggest challenges as recorded by the 2018 SDGs index and dashboard of which Indonesia's position is at 99 out of 193 countries. Therefore, a call for the involvement of stakeholders is an urgent matter as it is also aligned with the principle '**no one left behind**'.

Partnership and collaboration between governments, philanthropists, businesses, CSOs, academics, mass media, and other development partners are necessary as a means of implementation for the achievement of the SDGs target. Having understood this situation, the Ministry of National Development Planning/ National Development Planning Agency (BAPPENAS) Republic of Indonesia has launched a manual for establishing a multi-stakeholder partnership. The guide book to be used as a reference to initiate partnerships to deal with challenges associated with the development agenda at the national and global level.

In order to institutionalize multi stakeholder partnership in Indonesia, BAPPENAS held the first multi stakeholder partnership forum (KMP Forum) with the theme '**sharing innovative practices for multi stakeholders partnership for the achievement of the**

**2030 agenda'.** The 1<sup>st</sup> KMP forum was expected to be a platform to share the best lesson learned in harnessing the usefulness of multi-stakeholder partnerships.

Held on 20 November 2019 in Jakarta - Indonesia, The morning session started with a plenary session with the keynote speech delivered by the minister of the National Development Planning Agency, Dr. Ir. H. Suharso Monoarfa then followed by important speeches from other distinguished guests such as Minister of Home Affairs, Chairman of inter-parliamentary cooperation body from the House of Representatives. The session then continued by a high-level panel session until the lunch break.

In the afternoon session, four parallel sessions were held, to discuss the role of multi-stakeholder partnership in achieving/ support: 1) inclusive city, 2) coastal-waste management, 3) integrated water resources management, and 4) to accelerate rural transformation.

The International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) Indonesia with the Global Water Partnership South East Asia (GWP-SEA) co-organized the 3<sup>rd</sup> parallel session in the afternoon for the topic of the role of multi-stakeholder partnership in support the Integrated Water Resources Management. The objective of this session was to share the lesson learned from the role of multi-stakeholder partnership in supporting water-related development programs at the national level and local level that will give contribution to the SDGs' achievement. The session started with opening remarks given by Mr. Arun Jacob, Environmental Affairs Officer from UNESCAP. During his opening remarks, he explained that the IWRM is an answer to the water-related problem in the region. He added, "*when we check what happened at the ground, often the important impediment to that is the government recognized the importance of consultation and engaging stakeholders but sometimes they believe it is a very resource-intensive process and they don't know how to do it or sometimes need other organization to help them to facilitate it.*"



Photo 10 Mr. Arun Jacob delivered his opening remarks



Photo 9 The resource persons during the 3<sup>rd</sup> parallel session 'the role of multi-stakeholder partnership in achieving IWRM'

Five resource persons with various backgrounds were invited to share their experiences and five more panelists were also invited to give feedback to each presentation respectively. Mr. Mohammad Irfan Saleh, Ph.D., a representative from the Ministry of National Development Planning explained that the national policy and the new water resources bill have highlighted the importance of multi-stakeholder partnerships in managing the water resources. Representing the local government was dr. Jimmy Bagas Hutapea, the Head of Health Agency – South Lampung Regency, Lampung Province. He emphasized the issue of adequate water & sanitation services to reduce stunting prevalence and the importance of involving the community through the nutritional self-sufficiency (2020-2024) and toilet self-sufficiency program (2017-2019). The third resource person was the daily Chairwoman for the Coordination team for Citarum River Basin Water Resources Management (TKPSDA WS Citarum) and the Head of Water Resources Agency West Java Province, Ms. Linda Al Amin, S.T., MT. She explained the role taken by the TKPSDA WS Citarum as a multi-stakeholder platform to clean up one of the dirtiest rivers in the world.

The next resource person is a representative from local NGO, Mr. Anang Magfur, Program Manager at Ecolink. He explained the success story of involving the community in managing the river and other activities related to land conservation, technical assistance, environmental-based micro-enterprise, program partnership, and volunteering collaboration through a community development approach. The last resource person was the GWP-SEA regional coordinator, Mr. Fany Wedahuditama. He introduced GWP-SEA's multi-stakeholder partnership approach as a platform to implement IWRM by adopted four thematic such as water for the ecosystem, water for people, water for economic & development activities, as well as water-related hazards to distribute stakeholder according to their interests. Each theme equipped with 6 frameworks to support the implementation of IWRM, namely:

regulation, institutional, financial, technology, infrastructure, and data & communication. **AW**

## A Philippine Water Partnership Learning Forum: Streamlining Economic Regulation in a Post-Water Regulatory Commission Regime

Earlier in October 2019, the House of Committee of Government Reorganization in joint session with the Committee on Public Works established a Technical Working Group (TWG) to work on a consolidated bill to establish a Department of Water Resources (DWR) and Water Regulatory Commission's (WRC). Since the start of the 18<sup>th</sup> Congress, over 30 bills have been filed related to the establishment of these two key water agencies in the wake of the recent water shortages experienced in Metro Manila and other major cities across the country during the summer of 2019.

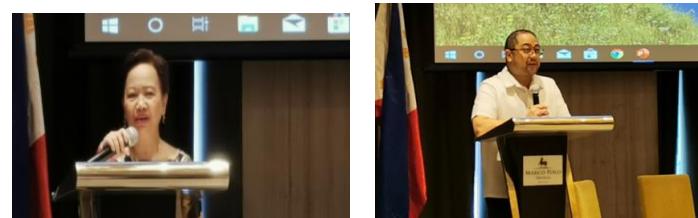
The creation of these two key water agencies materialized through a long advocating process for over two decades. It is important to have these two agencies as they can address the institutional fragmentation in the sector as well as streamline economic regulation to support the universal coverage of water and sanitation coverage across the country.

Based on the above background, the Learning Forum was organized by the Philippine Water Partnership (PWP). Held in Marco Polo Hotel, Ortigas Center, Philippines on 20 November 2019, the Learning Forum's main objective was to develop a deeper understanding of the multitude of key economic regulatory frameworks existing in today's water sector in the hope of informing the future WRC's regulatory framework.

The forum officially opened by the PWP Dir. Amy Lecciones and later she announced the welcome remarks from the PWP chairman Mr. Christopher A. Ilagan (**Photo 11**).

On his welcome remarked, chairman Ilagan mentioned the PWP was asked to hold this forum and workshop to facilitate the full understanding of water economic regulation in the country in support of the proposed Water Regulatory Commission. He stressed that this is particularly important since many think that the creation of the WRC will suddenly solve all the country's water problems – more so since the general belief is that water use is mostly industrial and domestic.

A total of 39 individuals participated in the forum. They represented various groups such as the government, government-owned and controlled corporations, non-government organizations, bilateral agencies, and the private sector.



**Photo 11** PWP Dir. Amy Lecciones (left) and the PWP chairman Mr. Christopher A. Ilagan (right)

The forum started with an overview of the TWG's consolidated bill for DWR/WRC, with more emphasis on the WRC portion of the bill. The session then continued with current regulatory frameworks of NWRB, MWSS, and LWUA, and later an open forum was facilitated to gain additional inputs with an attempt to synthesize key themes from the presentations and dialogue.



**Photo 12** Participants engaged in a round-table discussion



Photos: GWP flickr

### Quote of the day

“When the well’s dry, we  
know the worth of water.”

- Benjamin Franklin -

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