Report on the 2nd Asia-Pacific Water Summit and Water Initiatives

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The 15th Governing Council Meeting of the APWF
Friday, 6 June 2014
Singapore
General Information

- Theme: Water Security and Water-related Disaster Challenges: Leadership and Commitment
- Date: 14-20 May 2013
- Venue: Chiang Mai, Thailand
- Organizer: The Royal Thai Government in collaboration with the Asia-Pacific Water Forum (APWF) and supporting organizations.

Overall Programme

- Exhibitions and Poster Sessions: 14-20 May 2013
- Technical Workshops: 16-18 May 2013
- Focus Area Sessions: 19 May 2013
- Leaders’ Forum: 20 May 2013
- Participants: Around 1,500 from government agencies, regional and international organizations, academia, youth, NGOs and private sectors of more than 40 countries
- Outcome document: Chiang Mai Declaration
Delegates to the Leaders’ Forum

The Leaders’ Forum was attended by 10 Heads of State and Government, 27 Heads of Delegation, high-level delegates from more than 40 countries, and representatives from more than 20 regional and international organizations.

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Focus Area Sessions took place on 19 May 2013 under 7 Sub-themes:

1) Economic, Food and Water Security: by FAO and ESCAP  
   **Summary:** To eradicate hunger and poverty by 2025 while ensuring economic, food and water security by adopting knowledge-base green growth.

2) Urban Water Security: by UN-HABITAT and PUB Singapore  
   **Summary:** Highlighting the need for a paradigm shift from “waste water to used water”, water demand management, capacity building, knowledge sharing and community engagement.

3) Environmental Water Security: by IUCN  
   **Summary:** To support cooperative efforts and investments in natural infrastructure to enhance environmental contribution to water security.

4) Household Water Security: by ESCAP, UN-HABITAT and JWF  
   **Summary:** To scale up regional commitments and leadership; public-private partnerships; data collection modalities; and outcome-based approaches.
5) Water Risks and Resilience: by ICHARM
   **Summary:** To encourage the Asia-Pacific region to lead the global community in addressing water-related disasters by establishing a clear-cut target on water and disaster for the post-2015 development agenda

6) IWRM Process for Water-Secure World: by UNESCO
   **Summary:** Determined that the post-2015 development agenda should address global water challenges and establish measurable targets on IWRM beyond the MDG water and sanitation targets

7) Water-related Disaster Challenges: by Thailand
   **Summary:** To take immediate action to support adaptation of water management to account for climate change; develop database, forecasting and warning system; formulate Incident Action Plans; improve governance; and encourage people’s participation to respond to warnings for disaster risks reduction and victim supports

   (Quoted from APWS Bulletin 23 May 2013)
Chiang Mai Declaration

Chiang Mai Declaration is the outcome document of the 2nd APWS Which calls on Heads of State/Government to:

- Accord high priority to water and sanitation in national agendas;
- Encourage the inclusion of disaster risk reduction in the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015;
- Accelerate the incorporation of integrated water resources planning and management in the framework of the national socio-economic development planning process;
- Enhance regional and international cooperation on sharing, exchange and dissemination of scientific/technical knowledge and IWRM best practices;
- Promote efficient use of water resources while taking into account basic human needs and balancing preservation of ecosystems;
Minimize impacts from water-related risks and disasters by increasing transfer of technology, capacity building and knowledge sharing;

Reduce water pollution, combat desertification, improve water quality and protect sources of freshwater;

Prioritize the use of information and communication technology for development of water-related disaster risk reduction and relief systems and build resilient communities through capacity development, responsive governance, and innovative sources of finance;

Strengthen networking and partnerships between governments and stakeholders on the efficient use of water resources;

Invite APWF to mobilize initiatives in support of all these recommendations, and to consider the establishment of Asian Water Information System;

(Quoted from APWS Bulletin 23 May 2013)
Opening Plenary on 19 May 2013

Welcoming by Minister of Natural Resources and Environment, Thailand
Focus Area Sessions on 19 May 2013

Convened by Lead Organizations
Dinner Reception on 19 May 2013

Welcoming by Minister of Foreign Affairs, Thailand
Leaders’ Arrival on 20 May 2013

Welcoming by the Prime Minister of Thailand
Opening Ceremony on 20 May 2013

Delivering Opening Remarks by the Prime Minister of Thailand
Leaders’ Forum on 20 May 2013

Delivering Statements by Heads of State and Government
Leaders’ Forum on 20 May 2013

Delivering Statements by Heads of State and Government
Further Information

1. Summary of each TW Session
http://info.apwatersummit2.org/technical-workshops-materials-and-presentations/

2. Summary of each FAS Session and Overall
http://info.apwatersummit2.org/fass-materials-presentations/

3. Chiang Mai Declaration
http://info.apwatersummit2.org/chiang-mai-declaration/
1. The ASEAN Water Dialogue Conference 2013

The “Youth Water Forum” organized in the 2nd APWS in May 2013 and engaged almost 200 members of the Youth Water Conservation Network from many countries in Asia and the Pacific, specified in its declaration a strong intention to be aware and highly value water resources by growing an awareness from ‘oneself to other’ and the commitment to look after water resources.

To take a further step towards securing ASEAN’s water future, the ASEAN Water Dialogue Conference 2013 was organized in Bangkok under the theme “Water Security Cooperation in ASEAN: Revisiting the Long Term Commitments and Building Capacity for Youth Engagement” to help address regional water issues and challenges, taking into account youth development, with the focus on Water Security and Water-related Disaster Challenges in the ASEAN context. Its key messages are as follows:

1) Raise the profile of water security on the political and developmental agendas of national governments in ASEAN
2) Encourage investment in and increased collaboration on water management technologies and governance
3) Harmonize global and regional water initiatives as well as include water in regional security policy and cooperation
4) Promote ASEAN youth engagement in water security efforts and enhance youth capacity
2. Improved Management of Extreme Events through Ecosystem-based Adaptation in Watersheds Project (ECOSWat)

As a result of climate change, floods and droughts in Thailand have increased in both frequency and intensity. To further recognize the adverse impacts of climate change which may aggravate the intensity and frequency of extreme events, and enhance capacity building and knowledge sharing to minimize adverse impacts on people’s livelihood, economy and environment, as stated in Chiang Mai Declaration, The Royal Thai Government in cooperation with the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany have launched a three-year project on “Improved Management of Extreme Events through Ecosystem-based Adaptation in Watersheds” in 2013 with the objectives to:

1) Support the local water agencies in two sub-river basins in the Northeast and the South in formulating and evaluating ecosystem-based adaptation measures against the effects of extreme events in participatory manner
2) Facilitate the implementation of such measures
3) Reflect experiences into the national adaptation strategy for water sector
4) Manage information system
5) Promote capacity development