

Successfully managing Asia's transitions to achieve food and nutrition security for all and build vibrant rural communities in a water secure and prosperous Asia-Pacific Region

KEY MESSAGES

Asia-Pacific Regional Synthesis and Commitment Session at the 7th World Water Forum

Thierry Facon

Date: 15 April 2015

Time: 14.40-19:00

Session: R.Final.AP

Venue: GHH_B105

GYEONGJU

Hotel Hyundai

B1F Convention C



MALAYSIAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON IRRIGATION AND DRAINAGE (MNCID)



ICIMOD



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



Global Water
Partnership



ICID•CIID

Introduction

Roadmap to the session

- WWF6 (Marseilles, 2012): FAO-ESCAP Asia-Pacific Regional Session on Water, Economic and Food Security and Green Growth
- 2nd Asia-Pacific Water Summit (Chiang Mai, 2013): Focus Area Session on Water, Economic and Food Security
- FAO 32nd Asia-Pacific Regional Conference (Ulan Baatar, March 2014): Meeting farmers' aspirations in the context of green development
- FAO Regional eConference on water and food security (<http://asia-water.org>) (Dec.2014-Feb.2015)

The session

09:00-09:10	Short introduction to the session, setting the scene Thierry Facon, Senior Water Management Officer, FAO
09:10-09:40	Panel: key messages and case studies from the sub-regions: South Asia, Southeast Asia, China, Central Asia Moderator David Molden , Director General, ICIMOD Panelists Dr. Lam Dorji , GWP Bhutan Dr. Zaw Lwin Tun , GWP Myanmar Prof. Gao Zhanyi , Chief Engineer, IWHR, China Prof. Victor Dukhovny , Scientific Information Center of ICWC
09:40-09:55	Open discussion: convergences and divergences among the sub-regions of the Asia Pacific Moderator David Molden , Director General, ICIMOD
09:55-10:15	Key elements of an action plan for water and food security (presentation and debate) Thierry Facon, Senior Water Management Officer, FAO

**10:15-
10:45**

Panel: innovative solutions

Moderator **Lance Gore**, Water Resources Specialist, ADB

Panelists **Kapil Mohan**, Managing Director, KBJNL, Water Resources Department, Government of Karnataka, India

David Molden, Director General, ICIMOD

Mohd Adnan, Senior Expert, MANCID, Malaysia

Prof. Gao Zhanyi, Chief Engineer, IWHR, China

Neha Durga, Researcher, IWMI, India

Thierry Facon, Senior Water Management Officer, FAO

**10:45-
11:00**

Plenary reflections

Moderator **Mohd Adnan**, Senior Expert, MANCID

Thanks and closing by Prof. Gao Zhanyi

Asia-Pacific: Velocity of Change

- A fast-growing urbanizing but very diverse region
- The Asian Century!
- 60% of the world's population. 5 Billion in 2050
- 529 million are still hungry in Asia
- Poverty is still predominantly a rural phenomenon
- Asia will be the oldest region in the world within a few decades

- Agriculture's share of GDP declining rapidly but still dominating employment in developing countries. Smallholders
- A dynamic agricultural sector with rising productivity but still significant productivity gaps
- Agriculture employs more women than men in many countries
- Dynamic diversifying rural livelihoods

- A narrow natural resources base under threat
- Irrigation expansion nearly at its limits in most of Asia
- Additional food demand to be met through improvements in productivity and increases in intensity of irrigated production, and in rainfed agriculture

Cracking the code: managing transitions

- Two transitions:
 - structural transformation of agriculture
 - transition to sustainable agriculture
- Farmers have the same aspirations as we do
- The challenge for decision-makers and stakeholders is managing both transitions at the same time sustainably and equitably, meeting the aspirations of farming and rural communities. Understanding and anticipating rural dynamics will be key.
- Decisions on key policy options and critical details will require clarity on major socio-economic orientations and societal preferences, related to the structural transformation of the agricultural sector within the overall transformation of the national economies and the transition to green development patterns.

- Investing in agriculture: a dynamic agricultural sector raises labour productivity in the rural economy, pulls up wages and gradually eliminates the worst dimensions of absolute poverty.
- In order to achieve a coherent, effective and feasible set of policies, strategies and interventions explicitly addressing policy dilemmas:
 - Managing transitions: supporting resilience or a combination of improvements and exit strategies;
 - Managing the informality of the water economies;
 - Economic water productivity vs. equity and other strategic goals;
 - Resource use efficiency vs. resilience and redundancy;
 - Possibly diverging national, river basin and local objectives;
 - Political feasibility: “ideal” vs. second-best options ; and
 - Realistic financial arrangements and economic prospects for water operators and farmers vs. incentives for performance.

A proposed vision for water and food security for the Asia-Pacific by 2030

“Food and nutrition security for all and vibrant rural communities in a water-secure Asia-Pacific, through managing the region's multiple social and economic transitions equitably and sustainably.”



Countries are called to invest and provide an enabling environment for farmers, civil society and the private sector investment in Key Action Areas, seen as levers to accelerate reaching the vision:

1. Implementing sound and innovative water accounting and auditing to support decision-making and management
2. Evolving risk management strategies for national food security policies under water constraints and economic transitions
3. Adapting agricultural and rural water management governance to promote a renewed focus on ensuring farmer and rural prosperity for managing socio-economic transitions sustainably
4. Supporting investments boosting ecosystem and water productivity, maintaining water quality across agriculture, fisheries, aquaculture, irrigation and drainage-recognizing its multiple services- and their supply chains and supporting rural transformations
5. Managing the changing dynamics of the Water-Energy-Food Nexus
6. Capacity development

SDGs: consider several SDG targets at the same time. Aim high!

Successfully Managing Asia's Transitions to Achieve Food and Nutrition Security for All and Build Vibrant Rural Communities in a Water-Secure and Prosperous Asia-Pacific Region



A White Paper on Water and Food Security in the Asia-Pacific Region



ASIA-WATER.ORG

<http://asia-water.org>



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

14 April 2015
7th World Water Forum
Asia-Pacific Regional Process
Gyeongju, Republic of Korea