

The 12th Governing Council Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Water Forum (APWF)

Date: Friday 2nd November 2012

Venue: PUB WaterHub, Singapore

Key points of the 12th Governing Council Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Water Forum

Agenda Item 1: Chairmanship of the Meeting

The meeting was chaired by Prof Tommy Koh, the APWF Governing Council Chair. Chairman welcomed the participants and introduced the new attendees to the Forum.

Agenda Item 2: Adoption of the Agenda

The provisional agenda was accepted.

Agenda Item 3: Search Committee

- Several candidates were nominated by the Search Committee after March 2011.
- The Search Committee confirmed their final choice of:
 - Mr Ravi Narayanan, as the nominee for the Chair.
 - Prof Simon Tay, Chairman, Singapore Institute of International Affairs, and Ms Changhua Wu, Greater China Director of The Climate Group, as the nominees for the Vice-Chairs of the new APWF Governing Council.
- The new APWF Governing Council members will assume their duties after the 2nd APWS.
- Based on the proposal from the Search Committee, the APWF President will send a formal invitation to the above-mentioned three nominees shortly.

Agenda Item 4: Update on the 2nd Asia-Pacific Water Summit (2nd APWS)

- The APWF Secretariat presented the points on the 2nd APWS which were agreed on by the Government of Thailand and APWF Governing Council:
 - The 2nd APWS will be held in Thailand on the 19th and 20th May 2013, under the main theme “Water Security: Leadership and Commitment, with special focus on Water Disaster Challenges”.
 - The Focus Area Session “Water-related Disaster in a Changing World: Thailand Case” will be added and organized by the Government of Thailand.
 - The Program and Concept Note for the 2nd APWS will be revised accordingly.
 - Hosting of the 2nd APWS will be approved at the Thai Cabinet meeting, and the Prime Minister will send invitations to the Heads of Governments of 49 Asia-Pacific countries shortly.

- The Consultation Meeting for the 2nd APWS will be held in Thailand in April 2013 (tbc).
- The Government of Thailand presented the tentative 2nd APWS Program:
 - It was noted that Focus Area Sessions would run in parallel on 19th May 2013 and the Leaders Forum would take place on 20th May 2013.
 - There was discussion on who would be entitled to speak at the Leaders Forum and whether speakers should include Ministries, besides Heads of Government. The Government of Thailand may consider the idea of including Ministries at a later stage, as well as other meaningful roles for high-level representatives at the Summit, but confirmed that Ministers should have a role in the Focus Area Sessions.
 - It was noted that the Focus Area Sessions were each allocated two hours. A Focus Area Session on “Water-related Disaster in a Changing World: Thailand Case” would be organized by the Government of Thailand. The Government of Thailand was congratulated on their focus on the Thai situation, and welcomed ICHARM’s interest in coordinating with the Government of Thailand on this.
 - The Government of Thailand would also consider FAO’s suggestion that the Government of Thailand’s Focus Area Session on “Water-related Disasters” be held as a separate plenary session rather than a concurrent Focus Area Session.
 - Chairman suggested that any further inputs could be presented to the Government of Thailand via the APWF Secretariat.
 - It was noted that there would be slots for the 28 technical workshops (reduced from 42) which would be held over two days prior to the Summit.
 - UN-Habitat expressed an interest in coordinating with the National Science Museum of Thailand for the water exhibition.
 - ADB asked if a CEO water summit event for the private sector could be accommodated. The Government of Thailand confirmed that they have been in contact with the Federation of Thai Industries and that it would be possible to resume the initiative of a CEO water summit. However, consideration would need to be given as to where it could fit into the Summit program. The Chair Tommy Koh also mentioned that the APEC CEO summit could serve as a good reference.
 - The participants recognized (i) the importance of linking with other conferences, such as the High-level International Conference on Water Cooperation to be held in Dushanbe in 2013, the High Level Panel Meeting on Water to be organized by UN-Water and UNICEF in March 2013 and the UN Secretary-General’s High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda to be co-chaired by President of Indonesia, President of Liberia and Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, and (ii) the need to consider what messages would be delivered to UN events and future targets.
- The Government of Thailand reported the ““Water-related Disaster in a Changing World: Thailand Case””:
 - Participants will be invited to share lessons learnt from the 2011 Thailand floods and to consider opportunities for creating new knowledge.
 - Suggested discussion points for the session include:

- The kinds on new knowledge needed and the use of knowledge created.
 - A proactive approach toward improved flood management.
 - Participatory approaches with adequate monitoring and observation systems, and appropriate technology.
 - Data reliability and availability.
 - Critical success factors for achieving adaptation to water-related disasters.
 - Risk reduction by managing floodplains, securing water sources, and training responders.
 - Importance of collaboration, cooperation, and networking in water-related disasters at different levels.
- The APWF Secretariat presented the guidelines for the Focus Area Sessions.
 - Each session is allocated 120 minutes and sessions should start from a summary report of input from the relevant technical sessions.
 - Participants commented that the Focus Area Sessions should be interactive and interesting, should have some flexibility in their format, reach out to other stakeholders, and be linked to the summit theme of leadership and commitment.
- The Government of Thailand reported on the invitation process.
 - An invitation letter to the Heads of Government is currently being drafted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Thailand.
 - The letter attachment will include an outline of the 2nd APWS program, announcement of the new date and related information, and logistical information.
 - It was confirmed that the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Thailand that consideration has been given on how to secure country participation.
 - The Government of Thailand also confirmed that the Cabinet is expected to approve the hosting of the summit in 2 weeks.
- The APWF Secretariat reported on the drafting of the Message from Bangkok. The following points were noted:
 - At the 10th Governing Council meeting, it was proposed a small drafting team could be formed comprising:
 - one person from the Thai government
 - one person from the lead organizations
 - one person from the Secretariat
 - The Government of Thailand proposed that they have two persons on the drafting committee: one person as a committee member and one assistant. They also requested that the APWF to be the Drafting Committee Secretariat.
 - ADB commented that the process of the drafting of the Message from Beppu was refreshing and ICHARM suggested that the current draft could be revised, further refined and reflect outputs from Rio+20 and 6th World Water Forum.
 - Participants put forward various options for the process of drafting the Message from Bangkok. The Government of Thailand confirmed they would consider the various options such as establishment of an eminent resource group.

- The Government of Thailand confirmed that the Message from Bangkok would be announced at the 2nd APWS by the Prime Minister of Thailand.
 - **The Chair Tommy Koh stated that the drafting process should be transparent, interactive and democratic but the final judgement should be made by the Government of Thailand. He also emphasized that the Message from Bangkok is not required to be approved but should be supported by the participants.**
- The APWF Secretariat presented on the events and activities leading up to and surrounding the 2nd APWS and the 7th World Water Forum in 2015.
 - Participants offered further events and it was noted the APWF needs to consider how the forum feeds into these and that special attention needs to be paid to initiatives in India.

Agenda Item 5: Asian Water Development Outlook 2012

- ADB presented an update on the Asian Water Development Outlook (AWDO) 2012 and introduced some of the outlines and the key figures under the water security indexes which are to be included in the AWDO 2012.

Agenda Item 6: Follow up of the APWF concrete initiatives

- A draft ADB video for the APWF was screened. The video addressed water security in the Asia-Pacific, including current innovations for a water-secure region; progress toward the MDGs; and the challenges ahead.
- PUB shared Singapore International Water Week (SIWW) 2012's successful outcome, thanked APWF for their support of SIWW and invited meeting participants to SIWW 2014. It was also noted that SIWW 2014 would be held together with the World Cities Summit and CleanEnviro Summit Singapore.
- PUB also offered to share its experiences of organising SIWW with the Government of Thailand, to support the 2nd APWS.

Agenda Item 7: The 7th World Water Forum in Korea in 2015

- Korea Water Forum presented the progress for the 7th World Water Forum which is to be held in Korea in 2015.
- It was noted that the focus of the 7th World Water Forum would be on "Implementation" to follow up from the 6th World Water Forum focus on "Solutions". Particular attention would be given to Science and Technology.
- Participants commented that: (i) it was important to find a bridge between scientists and decision-makers (ii) the link between water and green growth was an important area and that participation and support from the green growth community should be sought (iii) the link between the 7th World Water Forum with previous World Water Forums was very good (iv) the water community should take into consideration the cost of not doing anything in relation to natural disasters.
- ESCAP informed the meeting that as of 2014, the World Water Development Report would be published annually.

Agenda Item 8: Other matters

- The Government of Thailand was thanked for their hosting of the APWS and for fielding many ideas.
- It was suggested that (i) this might be a good time to start considering what the APWF could do to ensure the smooth development of future Summits (ii) the APWF should explore more ways to include private sector participation and civil society, and that is important for the public to see the APWF and the public, private and civil society sectors collaborating.

Agenda Item 9: Closing of the session

- The Government of Thailand thanked all meeting participants for their support and patience in preparations for the 2nd APWS. The Thai Government reconfirmed that it would review and include suggestions in their Summit preparations as much as possible.
- APWF Governing Council Vice-Chair Mr Ravi Narayanan thanked participants for their attendance and inputs, and offered special thanks to PUB for hosting the 12th APWF Governing Council meeting.

Recorded by: The APWF Secretariat

Approved by: The APWF Governing Council