

6<sup>TH</sup> W O R L D W A T E R F O R U M

## **Asia-Pacific Synthesis and Commitment Session at the 6th World Water Forum**

*Moving forward the vision of a water secure*



TIME FOR **SOLUTIONS**

**Secretariat of the Asia-Pacific  
Water Forum  
16th March 2012, Marseille**

# 1. Additional ideas & solutions

- **Big issues still remain including improved demand management, reducing non-revenue water, waste water treatment, and a pro-poor rights based approach to services.**
- **A few key issues emerged: (i) hunger is more complex and price are volatile so that a multi-sector approach is needed; (ii) the complexity needs to be explored in a detailed manner and not avoided; and (iii) and there cannot be overall water security until agricultural water security is solved due to the importance of food security and the impact of agricultural water use on the environment and overall water use.**
- **There are the following three key messages from the work under disaster risk management. That is, the first one is that improved technology and analytical tools, the second one is that enhanced regional cooperation and the third one is that capacity development for all activities.**
- **The work focusing around the condition for success for capacity development featured activities ongoing in Northeast Asia and included case studies from China, Korea and Japan. The goal of this work is that by 2018, Asia Pacific countries will have centers for climate change research and water resources management training.**
- **Promotion of IWRM is an important goal . Establishing the institutional foundation is critical and this can come directly through strengthening river basin governance throughout Asia Pacific, which is being supported through such organizations as NARBO. Lessons include the need to recognize the overall variability of water not just climate change; using traditional knowledge for solutions: and looking beyond a sector approach.**
- **Improved regional cooperation, improved data and its management, and an adaptive approach especially for climate change is needed.**
- **There must be an overall transformative approach to the economy. Business is conducted to address water challenges and a simple sector approach will not be enough. The important lesson is that the local context and local resources need to be taken into to consideration. Universal access to water supply and sanitation is achievable by 2025, however, financing is needed even though the overwhelming economic benefits are clear.**
- **The Asian Water Development Outlook (AWDO) highlights water security across the five key dimensions which are household water security, economic water security, urban water security, environmental water security, water-related disaster resilience. The AWDO also has 10 key messages for decision makers: (i) setting and implementing policies for demand management, (ii) water, food and energy are inextricably linked and setting clear productivity targets are needed, (iii) introducing groundwater regulation and self-management, (iv) adopting a service-oriented model can deliver better results from public investments in irrigation for sustainable O&M and management, (v) implementing a process and institutions for integrated water resources management (IWRM) in river basins will increase the return on public investment in water storage, productivity, and conservation and are best matched to the emerging challenges of increasing water scarcity and climate change, (vi) investing \$1 in clean water and comprehensive sanitation “from toilet to river” can unlock as much as \$8 to \$12 dollars in health and economic benefits, (vii) engaging the private sector in stewardship of water resources and market-based approaches can reduce pollution of rivers in the Asia-pacific region, (viii) investing in flood forecasting and early warning systems that reach the “last mile” helps save lives, (ix) make water everybody’s business by promoting local collective action in rural communities to increase access to safe drinking water and sanitation, (x) implementing a combination of structural and non-structural approaches for disaster risk management can significantly reduce the cost of public investment.**

## 2. Updates to the Target Action Plan, including follow-up actions

- *The panel endorsed the targets, solutions and messages that have been put forward under the 6th WWF Asia Pacific Regional Process and that form the basis of the Bangkok statement for the Second Asia Pacific Water Summit. Some of the thoughts from the panelists included bottom-stated.*
- *A need to focus on political will from decision makers is critical to getting reforms and providing indices and benchmarks are effective tool to influence decision makers.*
- *The importance of the disaster related to water to the region and the fact that while disasters maybe local, they have regional and global impacts so that more emphasis must be placed on regional cooperation as the framework for disaster risk management.*
- *Civil society plays an important role and needs to be included in all water related dialogue for sustainable solutions.*
- *Women play a very important role for water resources and they need to have their profile raised in all water related issues.*
- *The current dialogue and solutions for water resources management and water supply and sanitation encompass the needs of the Pacific island nations, however, the ability and options for these countries to adapt to climate change and pending water resources challenges are much more limited than other countries so they need special attention.*
- *Cities will continue to grow and be the center of innovation and providing water services for much of the world's population, and continued efforts are needed with regard to demand management through improved pricing, regulation and engaging stakeholders.*
- *It is important that the environment and ecosystem services continue to play a central role in all water resources discussions.*

### **3. Final list of commitments**

- 🔥 In recognition of the significance of water resources for the social, economic and ecological health and sustainability of our societies and environments, and the serious water challenges our region faces related to development, shocks and resilience, and human well-being, various organizations agree to move forward the vision of a water secure Asia-Pacific region.***

## 4. Take away messages & unexpected results

- 🔥 *The original Message from Beppu is important, however, the Message from Bangkok should avoid repetition and be bold and forward looking in its approach, but there may be some messages that need to be repeated.*
- 🔥 *It is very important to support leadership of not only today's leaders, but there has to be an emphasis on tomorrow's leaders for water issues and education and science have to play a key role for this.*
- 🔥 *The message and solutions support local actions but also have a regional dimension.*
- 🔥 *Specific activities should be addressed but need to be done in an integrated fashion.*
- 🔥 *The postponement of the Second Asia Pacific Water Summit presents an opportunity to keep the process alive for further discuss and refinement of the Message from Bangkok at events such as the Singapore Water Week, Stockholm International Water Week, and through upcoming APWF Governing Council meetings.*