

**NOTES OF MEETING OF THE ASIA-PACIFIC WATER FORUM (APWF)  
10<sup>TH</sup> GOVERNING COUNCIL MEETING  
29 NOVEMBER 2011, 9:30AM TO 4:00PM, WATERHUB, SINGAPORE**

**SUMMARY**

1. The meeting, held at the WaterHub, Singapore, provided the opportunity for the APWF members to discuss the strategy for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Asia-Pacific Water Summit and the 6<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum.
2. The Thailand Government's proposal to reschedule the 2<sup>nd</sup> Asia-Pacific Water Summit was accepted unanimously.
3. The meeting confirmed that the Asia Pacific regional process applied at the 6<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum can be used as reference for the preparation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Asia-Pacific Water Summit.

**NOTES OF MEETING**

**Agenda Item 1: Welcome by Chairman**

1. The meeting was chaired by the Chairman of the Governing Council of the APWF, Prof Tommy Koh. Chairman welcomed the participants of APWF and also introduced the new attendees to the Forum. Chairman also took the opportunity to congratulate Korea as the host of the 7<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum.

**Agenda Item 2: Adoption of the Agenda**

1. The provisional agenda was accepted by APWF.

**Agenda Item 3: Search Committee**

1. The Search Committee reported that Mr. Ravi Narayanan has been nominated as the Chairman and Prof Simon SC Tay as Vice-Chairman of the new APWF Governing Council respectively. The Search Committee would continue to look for another candidate for the post of vice-chairman of the new APWF Governing Council and would propose to the President of the APWF once the candidates are shortlisted.

**Agenda Item 4: Invitation process for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Asia-Pacific Water Summit (2<sup>nd</sup> APWS)**

1. Mr Siripornpibul, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) and representing the Government of Thailand, provided the update on the 2<sup>nd</sup> APWS as follows:
  - a) On 22 September 2011, the Prime Minister of Thailand, through Thailand's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, sent the invitation letters to 49 Heads of Government of the Asia-Pacific countries to attend the 2<sup>nd</sup> APWS. He shared that only 2 countries have replied so far; one country has accepted the invitation but another country will have senior level representation.

- b) Given the recent flood situation in Thailand and the need for adequate time to prepare such an important Summit meeting, Thailand proposed to reschedule the 2<sup>nd</sup> APWS to a later date no later than June, 2012. MNRE also proposed that water management and flood-related issues be included as one of the topics to be addressed by the Leaders during the 2<sup>nd</sup> APWS. Thailand, in consultation with the APWF Secretariat, would continue to work out the appropriate format for this session. MNRE would circulate a concept paper of this session to all relevant parties in due course.
  - c) MNRE requested support from the APWF GC members and leading organizations especially Sub-regional Coordinators to garner senior government officers to participate the 2<sup>nd</sup> APWS.
2. ICHARM supported the proposed change in date and shared that there were other water events related to water disasters and requested MNRE to consider the timing of these other events when deciding on the new date.
  3. Chairman shared that the recommendations from the 6<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum could be used as reference for the 2<sup>nd</sup> APWS. The meeting noted that flood and disaster management would be one of the focus topics of the 2<sup>nd</sup> APWS as proposed by MNRE.
  5. ICHARM enquired the possibility to create synergy between 2<sup>nd</sup> APWS and other events held around the period. Mdm Witoelar shared that there would be the CITYNET's meeting held with representatives from Asia-Pacific cities on lessons learned from the recent Bangkok flood.
  6. The meeting agreed to reschedule the 2<sup>nd</sup> APWS to a date no later than June 2012.

#### **Agenda Item 5: Logistics of the 2<sup>nd</sup> APWS**

1. Mr Siripornpibul provided an update on the draft programme as well as logistic and substantive arrangements that have been made thus far.
2. MNRE has also provided the list of designated hotels for the 2<sup>nd</sup> APWS delegations and participants. A Liaison Officer would be provided for the Head of Government. Another Liaison Officer would be provided for the country delegation. This would be coordinated with the Royal Thailand Police.
3. The Government of Thailand would cover the expenses on hotel accommodation for the Head of the Government and one accompanying person per country, in a 5-star hotel, for 3 nights. Each Head of the Government, Minister / senior official will be provided with one vehicle and a stand-by car would be provided for the delegation.
4. For the Focus Area Sessions, the rooms can accommodate approximately 100-200 participants. He requested the lead organisations to advise on the room layout plan.
5. MNRE has appointed the Working Group, chaired by the Director-General of DWR to work with the APWF Secretariat on the content of the draft Message from Bangkok. The draft message would be sent through diplomatic channels to all Asia-Pacific countries representatives for consideration and comments.

## **Agenda Item 6: Outline of the Focus Area Sessions**

### **A. Economic, Food and Water Security**

1. FAO presented on the Focus Area Session *Economic, Food and Water Security* as outlined below:
  - a) This session would focus to discuss a supportive framework for action on water in green growth:
    - i) Processes for reviewing broad social, economic and environment objectives through water lens, with respect to bulk water allocation, sectoral policies, productivity targets, policy instruments and investments in all productive sectors including revitalizing irrigation in the region.
    - ii) Policy dilemmas and conflicts

### **B. Urban Water Security**

1. UNHABITAT presented the outline on the Focus Area Session *Urban Water Security*. The following key points were made:
  - a) Following the Asia-Pacific target coordinators meeting in Seoul, the issues of urban water security have been reviewed and restructured in recognition of the need to take into account the security of industry.
  - b) Flood and drought disasters are happening in South Asia as part of climate change and this would be brought into urban water security.
2. UNHABITAT noted that a four-hour joint session at the 6th World Water Forum with UNESCAP is under discussion. Mr Ravi Narayanan shared that the re-scheduling and joint sessions would have to be negotiated between UNESCAP and UNHABITAT.
3. UNESCO suggested that Focus Area Sessions should be kept as it is and that there is a possibility of a joint session at the 6<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum.

### **C. Environmental Water Security**

1. No representatives of the lead organisation were present.

### **D. Household Water Security**

1. ESCAP presented on the Focus Area Session *Household Water Security*. The following points were noted:
  - a) The connections between the 2<sup>nd</sup> APWS, the 6<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum and Rio +20.
  - b) The 6<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum regional targets on sanitation, as well as regional solutions were presented.
  - c) Select activities of UN-Water were commented on including UN-Water Regional Task Force, UN-Water Rio + 20 statement, and preparations for IFAT 2012.

- d) The Thailand Floods were presented with respect to post-disaster needs assessment, water supply infrastructure and wastewater.
2. UNHABITAT suggested that the proposed roundtable on Bangkok floods could be made more generic i.e. a roundtable on disasters. Mr Ravi Narayanan suggested we should restrict a roundtable in “flooding” otherwise it would become too diluted.
3. SOPAC enquired how sub-regions could be reflected in the Focus Area Sessions as case-studies would be presented and it would be good to consider how we could mobilize different regional participants to attend the Focus Area Sessions.
4. The APWF secretariat responded stating that lead organisations would welcome input from SOPAC.

## **E. Water risks and resilience**

1. ICHARM presented on the Focus Area Session *Water Risks and Resilience*. The following points were made:
  - a) The Focus Area Session would promote:
    - i) Positioning “water and disaster” high on the global political agenda
    - ii) Delivering Asian voice to global process
    - iii) Linking water community with disaster community
    - iv) Facilitating review & monitoring
  - b) In the light of the Thai floods, a number of relevant issues would be incorporated into the Focus Area Session.
  - c) The organizers, speakers and panelists, perspectives of discussion, the session agenda and follow-up activities and follow ups were presented at the meeting.
2. ICHARM also commented on the International Conference on Mega-Water-Disasters which was held on September 27, 2011 at UNU, Tokyo.

## **F. IWRM Process for a Water Secure World**

1. UNESCO presented on the Focus Area Session *IWRM Process for a Water Secure World*. The following points were made:
  - a) UNESCO would be organizing the Focus Area Session in cooperation with partners.
  - b) The objectives of the session aim to:
    - i) Recognize major challenges for IWRM implementation in the region
    - ii) Recommend actions to facilitate IWRM for heads of governments
  - c) The expected outputs of the session are Recognition & Actions.
2. Mr Ravi Narayanan shared that it would be good to have governance as an overarching focus and also as a theme for communications.
3. ADB noted that the overview of the sessions was good but there is a need to coordinate to ensure there is no overlapping. FAO shared that overlaps in the sessions is unavoidable. UNHABITAT shared that some overlap in the session is good as every dimension is important and that there is a need to emphasize urban IWRM.

4. KWF enquired on the number of technical sessions and how many technical sessions would be held before the 2<sup>nd</sup> APWS. MNRE advised that 42 technical sessions would be held in the three days preceding the Summit. The meeting noted that the Focus Area Sessions are open sessions and ministers are welcome to attend if they are interested.
5. The APWF Secretariat reminded all lead organisations to submit a 150-word summary to be presented in the closing of the 2<sup>nd</sup> APWS and a 500-word summary to be published in the final proceedings.

#### **Agenda Item 7: Activities leading to the 6<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum**

1. The APWF Secretariat presented on the 6<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum. The program for the 6<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum including a draft program of the Commitment Day for the Asia-Pacific region was outlined, as well as the opportunities for visibility of regional input.
2. It was noted that the IFC Board decision regarding Central Asia was that the current Central Asia cross-continental process has been completed and activities of the sub-region would be handled by the Asia-Pacific regional process as was the case in the previous forum, and that the Central Asia region would organize a two hours target session “Input of Central Asia to the World Water Progress”
3. Mr Ravi Narayanan advised that given the sequence of the 2<sup>nd</sup> APWS and the 6<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum have now been reversed, there is need to consider what to be presented at the 6<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum.
4. Mdm Witoelar suggested the 6<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum Commitment Day as an alternative forum to discuss the regional targets at the Forum.
5. ICHARM shared that all lead organisations would do their best to coordinate for complete convergence.
6. UNHABITAT mentioned that they would like to be included in the Panel Discussion in Part Two of the program on the AP Commitment Day.
7. ICHARM noted that the 2<sup>nd</sup> APWS would provide an opportunity for legitimizing the targets.
8. Mdm Witoelar shared that the regional process at the 6<sup>th</sup> WW Forum could be used as reference to prepare for the 2<sup>nd</sup> APWS.
9. It was noted that recommendations at 6<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum will be based on the sessions conducted by lead organizations and that lead organizations need to ensure that their messages are convergent. A similar convergence needs to be prepared for the 2<sup>nd</sup> APWS.
10. The APWF Secretariat would revert to the lead organizations with a revised proposal for the organization of the AP Commitment Day.

#### **Agenda Item 8: Discussion on Agenda Items 4-7**

1. The APWF Secretariat advised that the summit documents were still in the design stage and that organisations would be consulted for comments. Mr Ravi Narayanan advised to review the logistics as the timing has now been changed.

## **Agenda Item 9: Documents for the 2<sup>nd</sup> APWS**

### **A. APWF Completion Report for the Governing Council's term 2006-2011**

1. The APWF Secretariat shared that the APWF Completion Report needs to include the 6<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum and a revision of the 2<sup>nd</sup> APWS given the change in schedule. It was confirmed that the Completion Report will be circulated to lead organisations and sub-regional organisations for feedback. The Completion Report would be approximately 25-page so it is not possible to include everything but the Secretariat would try to incorporate ideas for changes or suggestions.
2. ICHARM suggested the inclusion of a graph or other visual representation on the growth of the APWF.
3. Mdm Witoelar asked the participants to consider if we are supporting the sub-regional groupings and if not what could we do in the future.
4. GWP CACENA commented that the Completion Report should include what has been done and what decisions were taken from the 1<sup>st</sup> APWS, as well as what has worked. He suggested it would be great to follow Mdm Witoelar's suggestion on sub-regional emphasis.
5. KWF shared that they would like KWF's achievements on Four River Project to be included.
6. GWP SEA commented that IWRM in the region was based on country papers and country workshops and those countries did not ask what happened before or after Beppu and so it seems that countries were not aware of the Message from Beppu. Mr Ravi Narayanan recognized that there is a need to consider how we promote the Message from Bangkok. SOPAC recognised the importance of getting the Pacific agenda on the table in the regional and global context. It was noted that SOPAC used the Message from Beppu for this and that we need to work out a way to use the Message from Bangkok to advance the sub-regional issues.

### **B. Message from Bangkok**

1. The APWF Secretariat reported on the preparation of the Message from Bangkok and informed that a preliminary draft of the Message from Bangkok was sent to the Government of Thailand, lead organizations and sub-regional coordinators for comments in the beginning of November 11.
2. The APWF Secretariat proposed to form a small drafting team comprising one person from the Thailand government (government), one person from the lead organizations (APWF lead organizations) and one person from the Secretariat (other stakeholders). The drafting team could then prepare the final draft based on their soundings and feed back at the 2<sup>nd</sup> APWS.
3. ICHARM inquired what are the processes between the six themes and the drafting processes.

4. It was noted that the organisations responsible for the Focus Area Sessions would be providing a 150-word statement and a 500-word summary and that this could be used in the preparation of the Message from Bangkok.
5. Mr Ravi Narayanan suggested that a brief process document might need to be sent out on the preparatory process of the Message from Bangkok.
6. The APWF Secretariat would revert to the Lead Organizations with a different proposal for the drafting process and drafting committee, taking into account the Lead Organization's objections.
7. MNRE noted that they are responsible for forwarding the draft to the Asia-Pacific countries. MNRE would like to know the approving level on the draft and suggested to review the timeframe involved in the distribution to countries.
8. Mr Ravi Narayanan suggested keeping the Message from Bangkok brief as this would be less likelihood of points of discord. He further commented that country delegations should be consulted during the 2<sup>nd</sup> APWS and that if the document is in the name of countries, we will leave the country to distribute and provide input.
9. SOPAC suggested that the sub-regional approach could be considered in the preparation of the Message from Bangkok. SOPAC shared that sub-regional coordinators are in touch with government and we could perform some role in getting national delegates to support the Message.
10. FAO commented that the three themes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> APWS were not reflected in the current draft and that it should be written through this framework.

### **C. AWDO**

1. ADB confirmed that the AWDO document is in its final form and will be launched either at the 2<sup>nd</sup> APWS or during the 6<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum.
2. UNHABITANT has requested a draft copy of the AWDO to be made available to all for comments.

### **Agenda Item 10: Other matters**

1. MNRE enquired how lead organisations for Focus Area Sessions would like the rooms to be organized. It was suggested for MNRE to provide an application form in which lead organizers could indicate the preferred room type.
2. MNRE shared that Visa into Thailand for delegates could be arranged if they are provided with a copy of the data and photo page of the passport in advance prior to the Summit.
3. MNRE thanked the APWF Secretariat and the PUB for hosting the 10<sup>th</sup> Governing Council Meeting of the APWF. Mr Ravi Narayanan also thanked MNRE for the time and effort in preparing for the 2<sup>nd</sup> APWS and PUB for hosting the 10<sup>th</sup> APWF Governing Council Meeting.

Recorded by: APWF Secretariat

Cleared by: Professor Tommy Koh, Chairman, APWF GC