

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ASIA-PACIFIC WATER FORUM (APWF) 9TH GOVERNING COUNCIL MEETING ON 8 JULY 2011, SINGAPORE

Summary

The meeting, held at the WaterHub, Singapore, provided the opportunity for the APWF members to discuss with the Host Government of the 2nd Asia-Pacific Water Summit (APWS) on the Summit's proposed programme, suggested framework for its sessions and possible outcome documents.

Key points of the 9th Governing Council Meeting of the APWF

- **Agenda Item 1: Chairmanship of the Meeting**

The meeting was chaired by the Chair of the Governing Council of the APWF, Prof Tommy Koh.

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

The provisional agenda was accepted.

- **Agenda Item 3: Activities of the President of the APWF**

The APWF Secretariat reported on the activities of the President of the APWF, Mr Yoshiro Mori. The activities included:

- a) Attendance and Presentation at the South East Asia Water Ministers Forum on the 4 July 2011 in Singapore.
- b) Networking with Mr Tharman Shanmugaratnam, Deputy Prime Minister of Singapore and introducing the 2nd APWS and 6th WWF to the Deputy Prime Minister.
- c) Networking with Mr Lee Hsien Loong, Prime Minister of Singapore and requesting him to attend the 2nd APWS. The Prime Minister shared that he would seriously consider his participation at the Summit.

On behalf of Mr Yoshiro Mori, the APWF Secretariat thanked PUB and colleagues of APWF for their support. The Secretariat also shared that Mr Mori has enjoyed his participation at the SIWW 2011.

- **Agenda Item 4: Search Committee**

The APWF Secretariat reported on the progress of the Search Committee. The Secretariat updated that:

- a) The nomination of candidates for a chair and a vice-chair of the APWF's Governing Council was opened to the Lead Organizations, Sub-regional Coordinators and governments in the region in January 2011.
- b) The Secretariat had received several nominations at the closing date in March 2011.
- c) The 2nd Meeting of the Search Committee, which was organized in April 2011 in Bangkok, Thailand, had initiated discussions to identify candidates.
- d) The choice of Prof Simon Tay, Chairman, Singapore Institute of International Affairs, as the nominee to be invited to the new APWF Governing Council which will start next January.
- e) The Search Committee will continue to look for candidates for the new APWF Governing Council and will propose to the President of the APWF shortly.

Prof Tommy Koh requested the meeting to think about possible candidates for the Council and to submit their suggestions to Ms Noriko Yamaguchi. The Secretariat informed the meeting that it hoped for a new Chair to be identified by January 2012.

- **Agenda Item 5: Final program of the 2nd Asia-Pacific Water Summit**

- a) The Host Government of the 2nd APWS, Thailand presented the overall programme schedule for the 2nd APWS and related activities to the meeting. It confirmed that the venue of the Summit will be at the Queen Sirikit National Convention Centre in Bangkok, Thailand. It then presented a more detailed Draft Programme of the 2nd APWS which will take place on the 5th and 6th February, 2012 and the programme is attached:

Outline of the 2nd Asia-Pacific Water Summit and Related Activities

Day	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
The 2nd Asia-Pacific Water Summit			
Day One: 5 February 2012	* Focus Area Sessions (to be run in parallel sessions)	* Opening Ceremony	Welcome Dinner
Day Two: 6 February 2012	* Election of Chair and Vice Chair of the Summit * Speeches by Heads of Government	* Closing Ceremony: - Report on Focus Area Sessions - Chair's Summary - Message from Bangkok * Press Conference	
Date	Events		
Open Events on Water Resources			
2 - 4 February 2012	Technical Sessions		
2 - 6 February 2012	* An exhibition on His Majesty the King's dedication on water resources * International & national exhibitions on water resources		
2 - 6 February 2012	Cultural and traditional shows on water / OTOP trade fair		

- b) The Host Government stated that by August or September 2011, an invitation will be sent from the Prime Minister of Thailand to the heads of government of Asia-Pacific countries to attend the 2nd APWS. It requested support from APWF and leading organizations, especially the Sub-regional Coordinators to ensure participation of heads of government in the Summit.
- c) The Host Government informed that :
- i. a list of designated hotels for the Summit delegations and participants had been prepared. The list would be shown in the official 2nd APWS's General Information brochure and website. A floor plan for the meetings and functions as well as facilities arrangements for the Summit has also been prepared.
 - ii. it has coordinated with the relevant agencies in Thailand such as the Airport Authority, the Immigration Office and the Custom Department regarding the arrivals and departures of delegations and that the agencies concerned have assured their support in this matter.
 - iii. the Government of Thailand will cover expenses as follows:
 1. Hotel accommodation for Head of the Government and one accompanying person per country;
 2. Rooms in a 5-star hotel within a vicinity of 5km from the conference venue will be provided for 3 nights; and
 3. Transportation in the form of Three vehicles, viz: one each for the Head of the Government, Minister/Senior Officials, and a stand-by

- car for the party, for use during the two-day period of the Summit (could be extended to four days upon request).
- iv. a senior official will be assigned as a Liaison Officer to accompany the Head of the Government throughout the period of his/her stay in Thailand and that an additional liaison officer will also be assigned for the representatives of each participating country.
 - v. the Royal Thai Government will host a Welcome Dinner for Heads of Governments and delegates on 5 February 2012.
 - vi. the Organizing Committee will facilitate an entry visa application, if required, for all foreign participants.
 - vii. it has organized a Briefing Session on the 2nd APWS on 16th June 2011 during 9.30 – 12.00 hours at the Four Seasons Hotel, Bangkok. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) informed the diplomatic corps from 20 Asia–Pacific countries and the representatives of involved agencies of the readiness to host the 2nd Asia–Pacific Water Summit during 2nd-6th February 2011, details and format of the event as well as significant contents in the Summit.
 - iv. Following the update, the meeting made the following comments:
 1. Mr Jack Sim of World Toilet Organization shared that sanitation is a very important component and asked for it to be included in the programme. Mr Sim also stated that pollution of rivers is also an important issue that can be considered. the Host Government responded that the topics were covered in the Focus Area Session on ‘Household Water Security’.
 2. Prof Tommy Koh suggested that sanitation cuts across many of the themes. He expressed that water and sanitation are inextricably linked and must be dealt with together and that sanitation is a more of a threat to human health and welfare (than water). He suggested that the sanitation challenge should be reflected in the agenda in a more prominent way. He also reminded that the MDGs talk of sanitation and water, and that sanitation, like water, is recognized by UN as a human right.
 3. Dr Salmah of ESCAP shared her concern that very often, sanitation is only viewed as waste water. She shared that both are very important issues and have separate and different challenges in rural and urban areas. She suggested that sanitation be given a special session at the 2nd APWS.
 4. ICHARM noted that we are currently within the 5 year period for sanitation. He also queried what the process of deciding and drafting of the Bangkok message for the 2nd APWS is.
 5. On the drafting of the Bangkok Message, Mr Ravi Narayanan shared that the normal procedure is that a drafting group for the

message is set up. The group drafts a message and then they meet with government officials to seek acceptance from heads of government.

6. UNESCO stated that the process of drafting of Bangkok Message is very important and requested that the APWF Secretariat provide details on the process at some point.
7. Prof Tommy Koh suggested that the Focus Area Session 'Economic, Food and Water Security' may be better considered as 'Water, Energy and Food Security'.
8. FAO's representative, Mr Thierry Facon commented on the 'Economic, Food and Water Security' focus area session. He explained how it had originally been titled 'Economic Water Security' and how the additional topic on Food was included in the Bangkok meeting. He recognized that a fashionable focus at present is energy, food and water but shared that in order to address the nexus, 'one would have to go back to economic and social strategies and macro-economic policies and industrialization'.
9. Prof Tommy Koh suggested that the word 'economic' could be better used provided that the word 'energy' is too narrow. He requested the MNRE and the APWF secretariat to take this into account.
10. FAO replied that this was not necessary as alot can fall under the heading of 'economic' i.e. green growth and equity. He suggested that the word 'economic' is fine.
11. On this matter, Prof Tommy Koh asked the meeting for their opinion. The meeting expressed the following views:
 - 11.1. Mr Ravi Narayanan was neutral.
 - 11.2. Mdm Erna Witoelar mentioned that the word 'crisis' doesn't look good so that is why we have security and that energy, food and water is not just economic but also political.
 - 11.3. ICHARM stated that this is an important strategy for the Thai Government in terms of focus and that it is up to the Thai Government to decide.
 - 11.4. FAO stated that 'Energy, Food and Water' doesn't quite make sense and that there are other important economic issues.
 - 11.5. Prof Tommy Koh concluded the discussion; he recognized the various views and requested the Thai Government and APWF Secretariat to take those views into consideration.

- **Agenda Item 6: Draft session guidelines for the Focus Area Sessions of the 2nd Asia-Pacific Water Summit**
 - a) The APWF Secretariat presented the Session Guidelines for the Focus Area Sessions that are to be held on the first day of the Summit and advised that the APWF Secretariat is now preparing the invitations which will be sent to the lead organizations soon.
 - b) ICHARM commented that the lead organizations need help and requested the Thai Government to provide a list of Ministers who will be attending the Summit.
 - c) The Host Government informed that the technical sessions will be held from 2-4 February prior to the Summit. There will be around 40 sessions which will be organized by various Thai and international agencies.
 - d) FAO asked if it was still possible to apply for a technical session and what the cost of organizing such a session is.
 - e) The Host Government mentioned that the MNRE has already finalized the time slots but will consider his request and come back to him. It confirmed that the Focus Area Sessions are part of the Summit and the MNRE has a responsibility to encourage a positive atmosphere.
 - f) ICUN asked on how the technical sessions will be linked to the Focus Area Sessions.
 - g) Ms Erna Witoelar said that lead organizations need to ensure that the sessions are concise, clear and tailored for government leaders. They should not focus on technical aspects but lead organizations should have access to the technical sessions so that they can make links/references.
 - h) ICHARM suggested that the lead organizations will need the list of the 42 technical sessions so that they can obtain the necessary details from them for purpose of the Focus Area Sessions.
 - i) UNESCO enquired on how links will be made between the Focus Area Sessions and government leaders. UNESCO also asked on how we link the Focus Area Sessions with the heads of state meeting.
 - j) The Host Government mentioned that the linkage comes at the finishing of the Focus Area Sessions when the lead organizations provide information on the result of the sessions to be distributed to

leaders to take note of. It will also be summarized into the Chair summary.

- k) The APWF Secretariat said that lead organizations are required to provide a 150-word summary of their respective sessions and areas for the closing ceremony of the Summit.
- l) Prof Tommy Koh recognized that the above follows a similar process that was adopted in the 1st APWS in Beppu, Japan.

- **Agenda Item 7: Documents for the 2nd Asia-Pacific Water Summit**

- a) Draft concept note of the 2nd APWS

The APWF Secretariat provided attendees with a copy of the Concept Note for the 2nd APWS which was drafted by the APWF Secretariat and mentioned that lead organizations had been asked to write a 150-word paragraph on the key elements of each focus area session, to be submitted by 22 July 2011.

- b) Asian Water Development Outlook (AWDO) 2011

ADB presented on the AWDO group which has been in progress for more than a year now. He provided the guiding vision for the forthcoming AWDO report and the team members and their respective efforts. He highlighted the following:

- i. Preparation of the report involved 10 knowledge partners
- ii. Launch is expected by end 2011 to inform leaders for the 2nd Asia-Pacific Water Summit in Feb 2012
- iii. Editing and peer review process is now ongoing
- iv. AWDO's 5 key dimensions of water security were adopted as focal areas for the 2nd APWS
- v. Asia-Pacific Center for Water Security was established at Tsinghua University, Beijing, to facilitate further AWDO work after 2011

Mr Ravi Narayanan added that there is continuity in this. At the last Summit the AWDO also launched a report.

- c) Draft outline of the APWF Completion Report for the Governing Council's term 2006-2011

The APWF Secretariat presented the draft outline of the APWF Completion Report for the Governing Council's term 2006-2011 and mentioned that this had been discussed with APWF Governing Council.

- **Agenda Item 8: Discussion**

- a) Comments on Draft Concept Note

The Host Government asked if the draft comments by the lead organizations for the Focus Area Sessions can be forwarded to APWF in time for this to be provided to government leaders in the Government of Thailand's letters of invitation. It noted that a 150-word summary from each lead organization may result in a brief of more than two pages.

- b) Comments on AWDO

FAO requested to view the draft. ADB advised that once available, the draft will be shared with members.

ICIMOD mentioned that this report differs from the earlier one by developing indicators in the key areas. He also mentioned that governance was strongly emphasized in the 2007 report whereas in this report, financing was a key theme.

- c) Comments on Draft APWF Completion Report

Prof Tommy Koh informed that IWP has prepared a report for the Forum and IWP has shared that the Draft Report can be presented to the Governing Council in December 2011.

Ms Erna Witoelar suggested the Report could be presented prior to the Summit instead, after Prof Tommy Koh and herself have stepped down from the Governing Council.

- d) Comments on Message from Bangkok

The Host Government stated that it would like to offer the APWF assistance in drafting of the Message from Bangkok and the Chair Summary for the 2nd APWS. Prof Tommy Koh stated that the MNRE should head this process.

FAO reminded that in Bangkok it was mentioned that the Message from Bangkok would have three components, viz, Development, Shocks and Resilience, and Well-being and that the Focus Area Sessions would provide a brief comment on these components.

Mr Ravi Narayanan confirmed that this was an organizing principle and that it was only appropriate that the Government of Thailand be involved and issue the Message from Bangkok with the support of APWF.

FAO asked for clarification on whether lead organizations inputs were still required.

Prof Tommy Koh confirmed that this was the case.

- **Agenda Item 9: Activities leading to the 2nd Asia-Pacific Water Summit and 6th World Water Forum (6th WWF)**
 - a) The Host Government also shared the future activities of the MNRE in the lead-up to the 2nd APWS as follows:
 - i. Preparation of the following documents to be sent with the invitation letter (to be sent in late August or early September 2011)
 1. draft programme of the 2nd APWS;
 2. draft concept note for the 2nd APWS with an explanation of the 6 focus area topics;
 3. draft session guideline for focus area sessions;
 4. draft outline of outcome documents for 2nd APWS; and
 5. 2nd Asian Water Development Outlook 2011
 - b) The APWF Secretariat presented a roadmap on activities leading up to the 2nd APWS and 6th WWF. It highlighted a number of important global and regional events and mentioned the scheduled APWF meetings to be held in September and December 2011.
 - c) FAO asked if the APWF will have any presence at the Stockholm Water Week 2011.
 - d) The APWF Secretariat responded that the ADB and the APWF are organizing a session in Stockholm as part of the leader's dialogue which is being supported by APWF. This session is to be chaired by Mr Ravi Narayanan.
 - e) Mr Narayanan mentioned that at last year's Stockholm World Water Week, the Minister from Lao PDR was present at the APWF's session and that it is APWF's effort to highlight as often as possible that the political dimension is present in our activities. He further mentioned that the 2nd APWS will be promoted and the materials distributed for such in Stockholm.

- f) ADB mentioned that it has organized sessions with different organizations on both water and sanitation. Some of the themes that will be covered include: the water crisis and crisis of governance, challenges and opportunities in sanitation, and water links (water utilities in Asia). It informed that there will be a panel discussion on the subjects and themes covered.
- g) Ms Sophie Nguyen-Khao of the 6th WWF stated that there will be a number of meetings held in Stockholm and a preparatory session on their processes and solutions. She mentioned that Stockholm is a key milestone for each region to start collecting and exchanging solutions. She suggested the APWF should take the opportunity of the Stockholm Water Week and the 6th WWF will provide a workshop on a web based tool for people and organizations to contribute and share solutions.
- h) The APWF Secretariat mentioned that a briefing session had been held on the 7 July 2011 between the APFW Secretariat and lead/supporting organizations and offered a further meeting later in the day (8 July 2011) for those who were unable to attend the 7 July 2011 meeting.
- i) PUB thanked everyone for their contributions and strong support towards the Singapore Water Week 2011 and invited the meeting to participate in the next Singapore International Water Week which will be held in Singapore from 2-6 July 2012.

- **Agenda Item 10: Closing of the session**

Prof Tommy Koh thanked everyone for their attendance and contributions and closed the session.

Recorded by: APWF Secretariat
Approved by: APWF Governing Council