

Key findings from Session 4 of the International Forum on the Integrated River Basin Management of the Mekong River Basin, Building capacity

Jean-Francois Donzier: the synthesis of knowledge, based on best practises in order to define the capacity needed to effectively implement IWRM within the basin context. A key way in which such success stories can be gathered is through networks, such as that represented by the International Network of Basin Organisations (INBO), and its TWIN BASIN initiative.

Paul Taylor: (a) the role of a River Basin Organisation (RBO) will be affected by the commitment of its members; (b) national basin organisations need to feed in to an RBO if it is to have legitimacy, enhances the legitimacy of national basin organisations, defines focus, and represents a framework around which capacity can be developed; (c) at the base of this structure rest a vital component: stakeholders. Stakeholders need capacity in order to contribute positively to the overall basin management system. (d) Dr Taylor identifies the development of information systems, knowledge management and decision-support tools as key components in a basin management system, but which need specific skills in order to utilise; (e) finally, Dr Taylor argues that capacity building is dynamic and evolving, and needs to be anchored in local capacity-building institutions. RBOs should evolve along with national and regional capacities, and act as a bridge between the less developed and developed national structures.

Araya Nuntapotidech:

Chanthanet Boualapha: this presentation focuses on Lao PDR's 5-Year 2000 – 2005. Mr Boualapha identifies a key difficulty with the implementation of the Plan being that it does not cater for interaction between the different policies and sub-sectors with which it is involved. He argues that the Water Sector Strategic Plan can overcome some of these difficulties by drawing together the relevant aspects of policy and sub-sectors so as to assist the Lao PDR Government achieve its long term socio-economic goals.

Wolf Hartmann: Dr Hartmann discusses the Technical Advisory Body, which provides input into fisheries planning and development within the Mekong Basin. He argues that capacity relates to the quality and processes through which actions are shaped and carried out. He describes how the TAB has taken its Capacity Building role beyond just training, and into the realm of communication, organisation and institutions in order to achieve its goals.

Sri Hernowo and Sasahara Hideshi's paper discusses the Network of Asian River Basin Organisations (NARBO) activities and its aim of promoting IWRM amongst the region's river basins. They discussed the conclusions from the NBO session at the last SEAWF in Indonesia, and the ways in which NARBO hopes to contribute to the IWRM process in the Mekong.