

**Managing water in Asia's river basins: Charting progress and facilitating investment
(ADB RETA 6470)**

Central Cebu, 1st stakeholder workshop

18-20 May 2010

Montebello Villa Hotel, Cebu City

The Central Cebu pilot area comprises a cluster of 3 small river basins. The development agenda comprises poverty alleviation and livelihoods; safe water, sanitation and electricity; land degradation; habitat conservation; storage capacity; roads; and tourism. There is no river basin organization at present.

The 3-days stakeholder workshop was hosted by Metropolitan Cebu Water District (MCWD) and was facilitated by a team of consultants. It had participation by the River Basin Control Office (RBCO), Local Water Utilities Administration (LWUA); Department of Health (DOH); National Economic and Development Agency (NEDA); and regional and provincial agencies involved in planning; water supplies; agriculture; irrigation; environment; and public health. Most of the barangays (local government units) of the pilot area were represented, as well as the Water Resources Center of University of San Carlos, Cebu Uniting for Sustainable Water (CUSW, an NGO), and the Cebu Chamber of Commerce, representing the private sector. Furthermore, a representative from Bengawan Solo River Basin Organization, Indonesia (BBWS-BS) attended the workshop.



Part of the work was conducted in groups, one for each basin. The proceedings comprised (i) a review of the draft river basin profile, with development needs and opportunities, considering ADB's '25 elements of basin-level IWRM'; (ii) initial structure and elements of a development/investment roadmap; (iii) social marketing of good IWRM practices; and (iv) institutional modalities for basin-level development and water-sharing. Also, the programme included a game, where each group was given 200 million pesos and 100 ha of land that could be freely allocated in support of social and economic development and environmental quality. Many thoughts were shared and many recommendations made on immediate and long-term development initiatives - including a suggestion that a young couple must plant a tree before they can obtain a marriage licence.

The 2nd stakeholder workshop is tentatively scheduled for the 2nd week of July 2010.

