

1st NARBO Executive Retreat on Leadership in River Basins Hotel Santika, Malang, East Java, 20-21 June 2011

The event was organized by NARBO and its secretariat, and was co-organized and hosted by PJT1.



It assembled 32 participants, including RBO leaders, other IWRM executives, special guests, moderators, resource persons and organizers, with representatives from Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Sri Lanka and Thailand, as well as ADB, ADB Institute, Asia-Pacific Water Forum, CRBOM, Japan Water Agency and NARBO.

At the start of the programme, a partnership MoU was signed between CRBOM, PJT1 and Puslitbang SDA (Research Institute for Water Resources).

The event was opened by HE Djoko Kirmanto, Minister of Public Works, Indonesia, who shared his views on the importance and implications of good basin-level governance and leadership.

Wouter Lincklaen Arriëns made a distinction between management and leadership, and introduced three aspects of IWRM leadership: (1) between organizations; (2) within the organization; and (3) personal leadership. Ravi Narayanan explained about leadership attributes: Anticipation (vision and planning); orientation; reconciliation (internal and external); and reaction (to new needs and opportunities).



The dialogue was supported by short presentations about leadership challenges and achievements in specific river basins: Chikugo and Kizu (Japan) (including response to the recent Great East Japan Earthquake); Mahaweli (Sri Lanka); Citarum (West Java); Brantas (East Java); and Ping (Thailand). Also, the participants learned about water resources management leadership in Bangladesh, Indonesia and Karnataka (India).

During panel and plenary discussions, observations and opinions were offered, and views exchanged, about inter-agency relations; corporate culture; collaboration with civil society; the role of the academic community; newsmia relations; and response to calamities. Many speakers used the *'spiral model'* (from the UNESCO-NARBO Guidelines) to illustrate the evolving significance of basin-level IWRM, as supported by good leadership.



The participants agreed on the importance of good leadership and the value of dialogue and networking. A need was seen of better documentation of related to good leadership. Continued support from NARBO was encouraged, both at the regional level and via (existing and new) national NARBO chapters.



Study tour to Brantas River Basin, East Java, 22 June 2011

The event was organized and hosted by PJT1, back-to-back with the preceding NARBO Executive Retreat on Leadership in River Basins and the subsequent NARBO International Seminar on Corporate River Basin Organizations.

Brantas River Basin has an area of 11,800 km² and a population of some 16 million people (2006).

The participants visited the Karangates (Sutami) dam and reservoir, which provide flood control, irrigation, hydropower and raw water for households, industries and flow maintenance.



The next stop was at the Brantas river spring (1,458 m above sea level), where a tree planting ceremony was held in the arboretum. Briefings were given about the basin and its past and ongoing development.



The programme was concluded with a visit to the Selorejo Reservoir (620 m above sea level), which serves a variety of purposes: Flood control, irrigation, hydropower generation, and tourism and recreation.



International Seminar on Corporate RBOs in Asia Selorejo Resort, near Malang, East Java, 23-24 June 2011

The event was organized by the NARBO Secretariat and PJT1, and was hosted by PJT1. It convened 67 participants - RBO champions, decision-makers, academics, discussion leaders and resource persons - from Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Malaysia, Philippines, Spain, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Uzbekistan and Viet Nam, with institutional representatives from ADB, ADB Institute, APWF, CRBOM, ESCAP, Jica, NARBO and JWA.

The programme included presentations, panel discussions and plenary discussions.

As a starting point, an indicative distinction was suggested between three types of RBOs: The council (or committee), the public RBO (under the executive branch of the state), and the corporate RBO (owned by the state, but with a certain independency regarding operation, staffing and financing). These types can exist side by side, as exemplified in Indonesia, and a given RBO can combine characteristics of the different types. All require good leadership, and in any case, a balance must exist between their tasks, authority and capacity.

On this background, examples were provided and opinions shared on

- the significance of basin-level IWRM for economic, social and environmental benefits;
- the need to prepare our river basins for the future;
- existing and new challenges to river basin prosperity and health;
- RBO leadership, corporate culture and human resources development;
- stakeholder participation and public accountability;
- roadmaps for RBO establishment and strengthening;
- the need of good, timely and accessible data and information;
- contributions from universities; and
- financing of RBOs and their development initiatives.

Encouraged by participants, RBO champions shared their '*secrets*', which were typically related to confidence built by good relations with water users, decision-makers and other stakeholders.

It was broadly agreed that RBOs must learn from each other by networking and knowledge-sharing, and that the context and agenda of different river basins indicate different types of RBOs.

NARBO can facilitate networking, disseminate '*best practices*', promote specific initiatives (such as RBO benchmarking, accreditation of IWRM practitioners, and twinning programmes), and support capacity-building at the regional and national level.

Closing remarks were made by Pak Basuki Hadimoeljono, the Inspector General of Ministry of PW.

