New Thinking on Water Governance
Regional Consultation Meeting
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3 Friday Afternoon Reflections

Models, Arenas, and Key Result Areas

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Questions worth asking

- **Valuable exchange:** questions, experiences, theories, principles, countries, organizations, cultures …

- **Good mix:** practitioners, leaders, advisers, academics

- **Broad scope:** policy and reforms, water services, water resource management, and new challenges

- **Way forward:** keep bringing us together, to find out what works and doesn't, where and why, and what questions we should be asking

Improving Water Governance
Yesterday's 3 Key Messages

1. **Models:** there is a fundamental difference between the governance of delivering water as a <u>service</u> and managing water as a <u>resource</u>.

2. **Arenas:** simultaneous action is needed in sector, organization, and project arenas, with individual leadership and integrity.

3. **Key Result Areas:** regional collaboration is necessary in 8 KRAs. The knowledge hub is well placed to facilitate and support this.

1. Use principles pragmatically

- **Water Services:** provider-user-regulator model is sound, be color blind in implementation

- **IWRM in Basins:** polycentric model is evolving, with management functions dependent on capacity (good examples in Yellow River, Brantas, Japan)

- **National reforms:** elements becoming clear, including link with political process, need to tie closely to delivery of results (services, IWRM) >>> IWP survey

- **Way forward:** use principles pragmatically with a focus on producing results that matter "on the ground"

2. Work in and out of water "box"

- **Keep up** the work in provider, basin, projects, apex arenas, learn from mistakes (e.g. Kyrgyz, Australia)

- **Work** outside the water sector for reform results - finance, economics, planning, law, politicians, private

- **Engage** leaders into the water sector: agree on principles and promoted sustained commitment

- **Way Forward:** understand institutions ("rules of the game") and use a "language of water governance" that helps to connect principles to results

3. Focus on delivering results

- **Research**-based knowledge and dialogue is important: invest in knowledge networking on priority topics

- **Inclusive processes** are a means, not an end: focus on addressing water security issues

- **Capacity** is the flip-side of governance: nurture water leaders, build capacity, and demonstrate good practice

- **Way Forward:** join in knowledge networking and research on improving water governance, and engage in results-oriented partnerships with the regional knowledge hub in Singapore and ADB

Tomorrow: Discuss the Apex Bodies <u>Arena</u>
Leadership in water governance

- **Hear** from colleagues working in national water sector apex bodies how they promote water governance

- **Learn** how 2 apex bodies reviewed their performance through self-assessment and peer review

- **Discuss** priorities for knowledge networking and capacity strengthening among the apex bodies

- **Way Forward:** How can the regional knowledge hub and its partners help in such collaboration?