Water Issues in the Asia-Pacific Region

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Stark Realities

- 1 in 3 Asians does not have access to safe drinking water
- 1 in 2 Asians does not have adequate sanitation facilities

A Water Crisis?

- Competition for scarce water
- Increasing water pollution
- More floods and droughts
- Degraded watersheds
- Depleted groundwater
- Disappearing ecosystems

Will our rivers...

keep flowing into the sea?





- Policy and institutional framework
- Water as a resource
- Water as a service
- ADB's Water Policy 'Water for All'
- Valuation of ecosystem services, watershed markets, and private sector participation
- Discussion



- Stakeholder participation
- Water sector coordination
- Effective national water policy
- Updated water legislation
- National water action agenda
- Capable institutions



- Decentralization to river basin
- Planning and management
- Water rights
- Water quality control
- Conserve watersheds and ecosystems
- Vulnerability to disasters

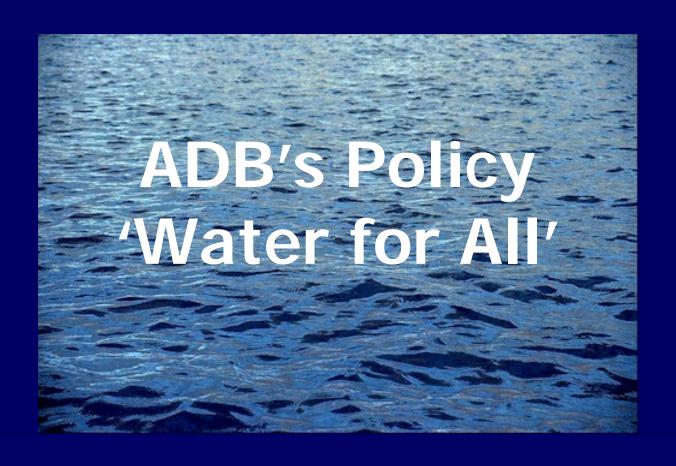


- Autonomous and accountable service providers
- Community and private sector participation
- Regulatory framework and cost recovery
- Public awareness

To invest in better water management...

focus on people and governance first!





Principles

- Socially vital economic good that needs careful management to sustain equitable economic growth and reduce poverty
- Participatory approach needed to meet the challenges of water conservation and protection

Focus

Investing to

- Improve water governance
- Manage water resources
- Deliver water services

Sector Approach

- Policy and institutional reform
- River basin management
- Improving water services
- Catalyzing investments
- Capacity building
- Regional cooperation



Valuing Ecosystems

- Part of river basin approach to water resource management
- Lack of practical examples
- Muthurajawela wetlands in Sri Lanka
- Hai river basin study in PRC

Watershed Management

- Investing in watershed management: India, PRC, Sri Lanka, Laos, Viet Nam
- Nam Ngum watershed in Laos: link to poverty reduction
- Cost sharing needed: by users downstream or from hydropower revenues

Watershed Markets

- Downstream water users pay for watershed protection and land management upstream
- IIED study reviewed 61 efforts in 22 countries
- Intermediaries mostly NGOs and government, little PSP

Watershed Market Study

Watershed Markets – Linking Land Managers and Water Users to Raise Welfare

Paper presented by Natasha Landell-Mills of IIED at the International Water Conference 14-16 October 2002 Hanoi, Viet Nam



Private Sector Participation

- Concern: is water 'privatized'?
- More \$ and higher efficiencies
- Needs policy, regulation, cost recovery, and public awareness
- Roles: WRM versus WSD
- 'Water for All' needs better water governance

WATER FOR ALL

www.adb.org/water

