



AIT



UNESCO-IHE
Institute for Water Education

Workshop on Towards Sustainable Water and Environmental Management: Role of International Community and Higher Learning Institutes

09 December 2014, Tuesday
AIT Conference Center (AITCC)
Asian Institute of Technology, Pathumthani, Thailand

Workshop Agenda and Program

Background

Globally, an estimated 2,000 children under the age of five die every day from diarrhoeal diseases and of these some 1,800 deaths are linked to water, sanitation and hygiene. Today, 2.5 billion people remain without basic sanitation and at least 748 million people lack access to safe drinking water. Feeding a planet of 9 billion by 2050 will require approximately 50% more water in 2050. More than half of the world's population now lives in urban areas. And the number is growing fast. Currently, 2 billion people live in countries with absolute water scarcity and the number is expected to rise to 4.6 billion by 2080.

In Asia, annual per capita water availability has been declining at alarming rates, with some countries already below 1,000 cubic meters per capita per year. The gap between demand and supply is widening which will lead to increased competition among water users—farmers, energy producers, households, and businesses. Climate change will worsen the demand–supply position. Around 80% of Asia's water use is in irrigation sector, but much of it is used inefficiently and many of the Asia's most water-stressed countries lose large volumes of treated water through leakage in urban water supply systems. Progress in achieving MDGs on drinking water in Asia has generally been on track, although issues of intermittent service, low pressure, and questionable water quality still need attention. Sanitation progress is off track, with almost 1.7 billion people in Asia still lacking access to improved sanitation. More than 80% of wastewater is released untreated into accessible freshwaters and coastal waters, which has severe public health consequences; significantly affecting lives, livelihoods, and productivity in Asia.

In addition to policy and governance reforms, and investments in water sector, improved human and institutional capacities are essential in addressing above challenges and finding innovative and technological solutions to water and environmental problems for achieving sustainable development goals. Two premier institutes, UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education in The Netherlands and Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) in Thailand have come together to develop the following three joint masters programs:

- Urban Water Engineering and Management (UWEM)
- Agricultural Water Management for Enhanced Land and Water Productivities (AWM)
- Environmental Technology for Sustainable Development (ETSD)

Objectives

- To bring together a gamut of stakeholders for presenting and discussing issues and challenges (current and future) in water, agriculture and environment sectors;
- To identify appropriate interventions (e.g. capacity building) required to address the challenges; and
- To introduce Joint Master's programs offered by AIT and UNESCO-IHE to the participants



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Participants

- About 100 participants from private sector, utilities, government agencies, advocacy agencies, UN agencies, development banks, embassies, international organizations etc. working or involved in water, agriculture and environment sectors

Methodology

- Presentations and group exercises and discussions

Tentative Program

Time	Activity
0830-0900h	Registration
0900-0930h	Opening Ceremony Welcome address by AIT President (05 min) Opening remarks by Dutch Ambassador (10 min) (tbc) Workshop objectives and agenda (05 min) Introduction of Participants (10 min)
0930-1000h	Keynote Speech 1: Water Security in Asia: Challenges and Way Forward (Mr. Raza M. Farrukh, Asian Development Bank)
1000-1030h	Group Photo and Networking Break
1030-1100h	Keynote Speech 2: Climate Change: Impacts and Adaptation in Water, Agriculture and Environment Sectors (Prof. Stefan Uhlenbrook, UNESCO-IHE)
1100-1130h	Joint Master's Program: UWEM, AWM and ETSD
1130-1300h	Lunch and Networking
1300-1400h	Group Work 1: Addressing Challenges (Current and in Horizon) of Water, Agriculture and Environmental Sectors in Asia: Bridging Academia and Practice
1400-1500h	Group Work 2: Capacity Building Needs of Developing Countries: Role of International Community and Institutes of Higher Learning
1500-1530h	Coffee Break
1530-1600h	Reports from Working Groups
1630-1700h	Recommendations from the Workshop
1700-1800h	Networking Event

Expected outputs

- Networking and partnership in terms of collaboration with the institutions, organizations and agents supporting water, agriculture and environment agenda in Asia
- Raising awareness and understanding of current (and in horizon) water issues and challenges in the region and the urgent need to address them
- Exploring potential international community and donors that are working for water- secured societies and sustainable future of the region