

Asia-Pacific Water Forum  
Knowledge Hub  
for Healthy Rivers and  
Aquatic Ecosystems

Wouter Lincklaen Arriens  
Asian Development Bank

# Introducing *KnowledgeHubs*

*Knowledge Networking for Water Security in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*

INTERNATIONAL  
**WATERCENTRE**  
[www.watercentre.org](http://www.watercentre.org)

Knowledge Hub  
for Healthy Rivers and  
Aquatic Ecosystems



# Why we are meeting...



Asia-Pacific  
Water Forum  
Promoting Water  
Knowledge

ADB

INTERNATIONAL  
WATERCENTRE

Knowledge Hub  
for Healthy Rivers  
and Aquatic Ecosystems

# River Pollution is Headline News

- “Bangladesh river pollution threatens millions”
- “Chinese executives sentenced for polluting lake”
- “River sewage spill “not accident”
- “South Asia’s largest rivers threatened, warns UN”
- “Polluted water endangers Mekong dolphin – almost extinct”
- “China paying dearly for cleaner rivers – plans to spend hundreds of billions of yuan in next few years to clean up major rivers”
- “A poor environment is directly responsible for around 25% of all preventable ill health in the world today” – PeopleAndPlanet.net
- “Pakistan’s Sindh Minister for Environment calls for joint efforts to save environment from hazardous impact of residential and industrial waste”
- 2009 survey shows 91% of Viet Nam’s vegetables are polluted



# Restoring Healthy Rivers and Aquatic Ecosystems



*Through collaboration among:*

- National, city and local governments
- River basin organizations
- Private sector, civil society, knowledge partners

*Supported by:*

- **Regional knowledge hub: International WaterCentre**
- IWC's knowledge partners and other hubs (like K-water and CRBOM)
- Australian governments, private sector, civil society
- Asian Development Bank
- UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education
- Network of Asian River Basin Organizations (NARBO)

## Three Points to Remember

1. The Asia-Pacific Region has enough knowledge and solutions – *these need to be shared better*
2. Knowledge hubs will be successful if they understand the needs of their clients throughout the region
3. The IWC regional knowledge hub has already started to lead by example and is helping clients in Asia and the Pacific find solutions and build capacity to restore healthy rivers



# Knowledge Networking is Key

*There's no question that our region has the expertise to solve its water challenges, both in delivering water services and in fostering integrated water resources management.*

*Where we must do better is in knowledge sharing and in developing the capacity to produce results at the local level.*

*For that, we need knowledge networks that connect people to feasible solutions and help them adapt those solutions to their local conditions.*



Professor Tommy Koh  
Chair, APWF Governing Council

# Learning with International WaterCentre

- Demonstrates **strength in collaboration** and excellence in integrated approaches to water management in river basins / catchments with stakeholders
- Consortium of 4 renowned universities and their research centers
- Australia's first masters program in integrated water management – with many participants from the region
- Active engagement in science-supported development projects with river basins in Asia and the Pacific



# Partnering with International WaterCentre

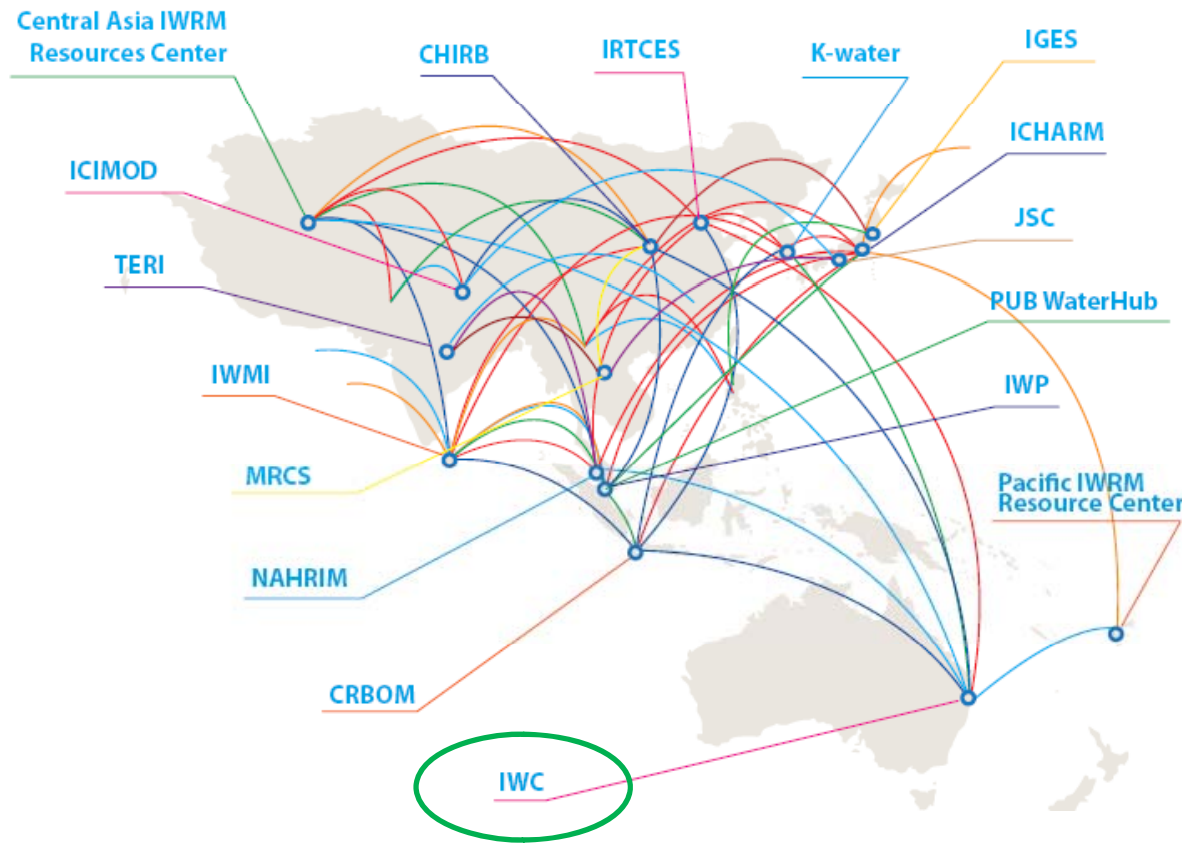
- Member of the Network of Asian River Basin Organizations (NARBO) and Director of NARBO's IWRM Training Program
- Partner of ADB and Asia-Pacific Water Forum to prepare the *Asian Water Development Outlook 2010*
- IWC supports
  - SE Queensland's Healthy Waterways Partnership
  - Brisbane's International Riverfoundation and the renowned annual *International Riversymposium*
  - Innovative water leadership programs
  - and more...





# KnowledgeHubs

## Overview of Regional Water Knowledge Hubs as of July 2009



ADB

INTERNATIONAL  
WATERCENTRE

Knowledge Hub  
for Healthy Rivers  
and Aquatic Ecosystems

# How KnowledgeHubs Works



Each hub **networks** with clients and partners on its priority topic (knowledge domain)

# 10 Key Operating Principles for Hubs

1. Vision and leadership for achieving results in the hub's priority topic
2. A focus on meeting client needs with relevant and feasible solutions
3. An inclusive attitude to knowledge networking with clients and partners
4. An (international) team of experienced specialists working at the hub
5. A stimulating research environment at the hub, including internships
6. Generation, identification and dissemination of state-of-the-art knowledge
7. Regular comparative analysis of progress in countries across the region
8. Excellent products and services for knowledge and capacity development
9. Adequate human and financial resources to develop the hub's excellence
10. An entrepreneurial approach to developing a sustainable business model



# Confirmed Hubs for

- **Urban water management**
- **Disaster risk reduction and flood management**
- **Climate change adaptation in Southeast Asia**
- **River basin organizations and management**
- **Water quality management in river basins**
- **Hydro-informatics in river basins**
- **Water governance**
- **Irrigation service reform**



- **IWRM in Central Asia**
- **IWRM in the Pacific**
- **Erosion and sedimentation**
- **Healthy rivers and aquatic ecosystems**
- **Water resources management in mountainous areas**
- **Sanitation**
- **Transboundary water resources management**
- **Groundwater management**
- **Climate Change Adaptation in South Asia**

# KnowledgeHubs - Fast Progress



- 1<sup>st</sup> regional meeting, Singapore, October 2007
- 2<sup>nd</sup> regional meeting, Singapore, April 2008
- **Launch of APWF KnowledgeHubs, Singapore, June 2008**
- 3<sup>rd</sup> regional meeting and launch of CHIRB hub, Zhengzhou, October 2008
- Launch of NAHRIM hub, Bangi-Putrajaya, December 2008
- 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> AWDO team meetings, Singapore, Jan-March 2009
- Action plan meeting for climate change, Manila, February 2009
- Launch of CRBOM hub, Solo, April 2009
- *KnowledgeHubs* 1<sup>st</sup> progress review meeting, Singapore, June 2009
- Regional workshop on water governance, Singapore, July 2009
- Launch of K-water hub, Daejeon, August 2009
- **Launch of IWC hub, Brisbane-SEQ, November 2009**
- Launch of TERI hub, Delhi, 2010
- Launch of IGES hub, Tokyo, 2010

# ADB and UNESCO-IHE support *KnowledgeHubs*



- To improve preparation and implementation of IWRM **investment programs** in river basins
- To support **regional cooperation** in knowledge and capacity development, **including with Australia**
- To **influence leaders** to adopt good policies and make the right water investment decisions

*The KnowledgeHubs secretariat will be hosted by ADB and operational from Nov 2009 with a full-time manager*

# Hubs Support New Initiatives

- *Asian Water Development Outlook 2010*
- ADB and hubs released *Guiding Vision for Water Security* with 5 key dimensions including **restoring healthy rivers**
- ADB and hubs to support Asia-Pacific Water Forum's *Ministers for Water Security* initiative announced at 5<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum in Istanbul in March 2009



# www.apwf-knowledgehubs.net

The screenshot shows the APWF-Knowledge Hubs website in a Windows Internet Explorer browser. The address bar displays the URL <http://www.apwf-knowledgehubs.net/test/index.php>. The page features the Asia-Pacific Water Forum KnowledgeHubs logo and a navigation menu with links for Home, Mission and Vision, Products and Services, About Us, Contact Us, and Downloads. The main content area is titled "Welcome to the Regional Network of Water Knowledge Hubs!" and includes a paragraph explaining the network's launch on 26 June 2008 at PUB Singapore's WaterHub. A list of "Confirmed Knowledge Hubs" is provided on the left, including Urban Water Management, Disaster Risk Reduction and Flood Management, Water and Climate Change Adaptation in Southeast Asia, River Basin Organizations and Management, Water Quality Management in River Basins, Decision Support Systems for River Basin Management (Hydroinformatics), Water Governance, Irrigation Service Reform, Integrated Water Resources Management in Central Asia, Integrated Water Resources Management in the Pacific, and Erosion and Sedimentation in River Basins. A map of the Asia-Pacific region shows the locations of various hubs, with lines connecting them to form a network. Logos for participating organizations like PUB, ICHARM, NAHRIM, K-water, IWM, and IRTCES are displayed on the right. The browser's taskbar at the bottom shows the Start button, several open applications, and the system tray with the time 7:38 AM.

# ADB to Collaborate with IWC Hub

- Knowledge-based **investment programs** in river basins
- **Government–Corporate–Society partnerships** in river basins
- Brisbane as the **region’s water portal to Australia**
  - Facilitate networking for clients and partners in the Asia-Pacific region with Australia’s river basin community
  - Funding partnerships with AusAID for river basin cooperation in the region for restoring healthy rivers, climate change adaptation, improving governance and water leadership programs
  - International Riversymposium with study visits to learn in basins
  - Secondment of water experts to work with ADB’s water team and the *KnowledgeHubs* secretariat
- Continued collaboration for **NARBO and AWDO**



To make a significant impact in restoring healthy rivers in the Asia-Pacific region...



**How will we collaborate and multiply knowledge networking and investments**



**x 10?**