

## **Transboundary Water Cooperation Workshop Series**

### **Sharing Benefits from Transboundary Water Management**

#### **The Nile, SADC/Zambezi Basins and the Mekong**

**Danish Water Forum  
Technical Advisory Services, Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Mekong River Commission**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Event  
Vientiane, 20-22 January 2010**

**Venue: Mekong River Commission Secretariat, Vientiane, Lao PDR**

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## **FIRST WORKSHOP ANNOUNCEMENT**

### ***Background***

Transboundary water cooperation is important for improving water management in various transboundary basins in the SADC area, the Nile Basin and the Mekong Basin.

The first workshop arranged by Danish Water Forum and the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Technical Advisory Services was held in March 2007 and highlighted stakeholder participation in transboundary water planning, management, and decision making as well as national commitment to transboundary water cooperation. A Workshop Theme Paper with recommendations for future activities was developed at the workshop.

The second workshop on transboundary management focused on climate change and developed recommendations to take forward to other international events during the year. Among key topics discussed at the workshop were the knowledge base and the importance of downscaling global climate models, including socio-economic impacts, conflicts between national and transboundary climate change adaptation activities, and the necessity of taking advantage of existing experiences with IWRM also for climate change activities in a transboundary setting. Finally it was agreed that there is a need to move towards implementation and to translate knowledge and research into concrete actions.

Relevant documents from previous workshops and meetings are available on [www.danishwaterforum.dk](http://www.danishwaterforum.dk)

A third workshop to discuss benefit sharing related to transboundary water management is now under preparation. During World Water Week in Stockholm, August 2009, Transboundary Water Cooperation in the Nile, the SADC/Zambezi Basin and the Mekong was discussed at a seminar convened jointly by Danish Water Forum, DANIDA, Sida, Mekong River Commission and DHI. Participants at the seminar also representing the 3 regions found it highly relevant to focus on benefits for communities and livelihoods from sharing waters and taking this perspective into the regional cooperation in stead of merely focussing on distribution of water. The links between water development and energy production could be included as one of the benefits from the water resource. Participants further proposed that the topic of benefit sharing is linked to cost sharing, gender issues and the importance of international legislation to improve the framework for benefit sharing.

Based on the recommendations from the seminar in Stockholm, Danish Water Forum and Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs decided to organize a third workshop on « Sharing Benefits from Transboundary Water Management ».

The Mekong River Commission has volunteered to host the workshop at the premises of the Mekong River Commission Secretariat in Vientiane, Lao PDR.

The workshop will be held on January 20<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> 2010, all days included, and will also contain a field trip to study aspects of benefit sharing such as hydropower generation and reservoir fishery options.

First draft of the program for the workshop is distributed with this first announcement. Formal invitations are to be sent directly to invited participants. Due to visa considerations for participants coming from the Nile Basin and the SADC region it is relevant for these two basin organisations to start identifying participants for the workshop at this stage.

We kindly ask you to reply to us before December 11<sup>th</sup> with information on the most relevant participants from the basins and from the basin countries for taking part in these discussions about sharing the benefits from the water resources.

*Tentative framework for Transboundary Cooperation Workshop #3*

*Vientiane - Laos*

<i>Day 1</i>	<i>Themes</i>
Morning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objectives of Workshop – follow-up on meeting at World Water Week in Stockholm (2009)</li> <li>Summary and conclusions from earlier Transboundary Cooperation Workshops</li> <li><i>Keynote presentation:</i> Framework for sharing of benefits and costs – getting the theory, operational concepts and terms in place.</li> <li><i>Keynote presentation:</i> The Value of the concept of Benefit Sharing for setting up Basin Development Plans.</li> <li>Transboundary Basin presentations on practical, operational issues and approaches in benefit and cost sharing – <i>Presenters from SADC/ Zambezi, Mekong and the Nile</i></li> </ul>
Afternoon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Group discussions</i> on practical experiences from the basins, operational issues and approaches in benefit and cost sharing</li> <li><i>Facilitated panel discussion</i> on basin experiences for benefit sharing - Panel of basin representatives and key stakeholders (incl. non-governmental and private sector)</li> </ul>
Evening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Social event – Cultural evening</li> </ul>
<i>Day 2</i>	<i>Themes</i>
Morning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Keynote presentations:</i> International Experiences with benefit sharing (Cases)</li> <li><i>Group discussions</i> on principles and guidance for valuing and sharing of benefits and costs based on experiences from the basins and international cases presented.</li> </ul>
Afternoon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recommendations from group discussion</li> <li><i>Facilitated plenary discussion</i> and summing up: recommendations on key principles and development of guidelines for benefit sharing in international basins.</li> <li>Conclusions and end of workshop</li> </ul>
<i>Day 3</i>	<i>Field trip</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduction to field trip – followed by visits relevant infrastructure and other water projects – Organised by MRC</li> </ul>