Multilevel Water Governance: lessons learned from Thailand

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Key Messages

➢ Mainstreaming **water security** strategy into National Water Strategy by implementing AWDO framework, **water productivity** & water governance

➢ Towards better water governance with coherence of **multilevel** water governance
1st level: National strategy 20 years (2018-2037)
Office of the National Economic and Social Development (NESDB)

Thailand’s Vision (2037)
“a developed country with security, prosperity and sustainability in accordance with the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy”

Security
- The nation enjoys solidarity and is resilient to both internal and external threats and changes, with established social, economic, environmental, and political security.
- National sovereignty is secured.
- People live in harmony and unity. Their lives are secured in terms of occupations, income, housing, as well as safety of life and property.
- The country has food, energy, and water resources security.

Prosperity
- The country enjoys constant economic growth and becomes a high-income economy with decreased development disparity. Citizens benefit from development on an equal basis.
- The country has considerable economic competitive capacity and develops its economy and society of the future to promote regional connectivity in terms of transport and logistics, production, trading, and investment.
- The country has all of the necessary capital for continuous development including human capital, intellectual capital, financial capital, and so forth.

Sustainability
- Development should promote constant growth in terms of people’s income and quality of life in an eco-friendly manner without exploitation of natural resources.
- Production and consumption are conducted on an environmentally-friendly basis and in line with regulations recognized by the global community.
- People embrace social responsibility with a focus on sustainable public interest. All sectors uphold and follow the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy.
2nd level: Master plans under national strategy (2018-2037)

23 master plans
1. Security
2. Foreign issue
3. Agriculture
4. Manufacturing
5. Tourism
6. City
7. Logistic and digital
8. Business
9. Sufficiency economy
10. Culture
11. Lifelong learning
12. Education
13. Mental issue
14. Sport
15. Social power
16. Local business
17. Social welfare
18. Sustainable development
19. Water management
20. Government
21. Corruption issue
22. Laws
23. Innovation
6 water issues

1. Water for domestic
2. Water for production
3. Flood management
4. Water quality
5. Upstream conservation: forest
6. Water management
Linkage of Water Security Strategy in Thailand Master Plans

1. National strategy 20 years (1st level)
   - National security
   - Competitiveness
   - Peopleware
   - Social equity
   - Green development
   - Government management

   : National development targets

2. Master plan under national strategy (2nd level)
   - 23 issues

   : 19th issue: water management

   - 19.1 To improve national water security
   - 19.2 To increase water productivity
   - 19.3 To recover national water resources

3. Master plan on water resources management (3rd level)
   - Water for domestic
   - Water for production
   - Flood management
   - Water quality
   - Upstream conservation
   - Water management

   : To support the 2nd level

Source: ONWR 2019

Office of the National Economic and Social Development (NESDB)
Office of the National Water Resources
AWDO 2016 Framework: Tool for Dialogue and Development
Institutional Development

- Office of the National Water Resources (ONWR) (October 2017)
Multilevel Water Governance in Thailand

Water Master Plan
ONWR

Provincial Level

Request for Basin/National level project

District DO

Sub-district TAO

Community

OECD

Expected to improve

To be defined at each level

Water Master Plan
ONWR

Clear roles & responsibilities
Appropriate scales within basin systems
Policy coherence
Capacity
Data & information
Financing
Regulatory Frameworks
Innovation
Integrity & Transparency
Monitoring & Evaluation
Trade-offs across users, rural and urban areas, and generations
Stakeholder engagement

Approve

Request

Authorized to develop Basin Master Plan
Lessons Learned

**Before Water Resources Law**

- Each agency had its own way of managing water, management, governance, and goals.
- There are some good practice cases at each level for water governance (e.g., community irrigation management in the northern region, etc.).

**After Water Resources Law**

- The role, responsibilities, policy coherence, early warning system, regulatory framework, stakeholder participation, evaluation are to be improved, standardized and more proactive.
- Capacity building, appropriate scale, trade-offs, transparency, financing, and innovation are to be defined and aligned at each level within the time limit.
References

- Office of the National Economic and Social Development (NESDB), National Strategy (2018-2037)
- Office of the National Water Resources (ONWR), Master Plan on Water Resources Management (2018-2037)
- OECD (2015), OECD Principles on Water Governance
- Ruangrassamee et al. (2019), Research Project on “Analysis of water security, water productivity and water-related disaster for water resources master plan”, supported by Thailand Science Research and Innovation (TSRI)