

A collage image featuring a child drinking water from a public tap, a city skyline, a water meter, and an irrigation system.

Leadership in Water Governance through National Water Apex Bodies

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A photograph of a river flowing over large, dark, rounded rocks in a lush green forest. The water is white and turbulent as it cascades over the rocks. The background is filled with dense green foliage.

Outline:

1. National Water Apex Bodies

2. Water Governance

3. Challenges Ahead

Countries with Water Apex Bodies

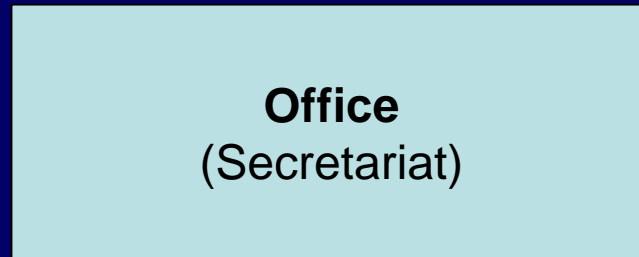
- Asia: Bangladesh, India, Kazakhstan, Laos, **Malaysia**, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Viet Nam
- Other: Australia, Brazil, Mexico, Yemen
- Soon: Indonesia, Pakistan, Samoa
- Defunct: France, US, Sri Lanka?

Better with than without...

National Water Apex Bodies

- National Water Resources Council
- National Water Commission
- National Water Resources Board
- National Water Resources Authority

National Water Apex Bodies



Typical Functions

- Policy making
- Revising legislation
- Overseeing planning
- Financial and resource regulation (Philippines)
- Coordinating among water agencies
- Advising on water issues and initiatives

Performance Benchmarking

Performance Dimensions:

1. Mandated
2. Active
3. Effective

- Specific indicators in Self-Assessment Tool
- Peer reviews to date: Philippines, Thailand
- Expected soon: **Malaysia**, Viet Nam

Lessons Learned: Success Factors

1. High-level leadership
2. Office anchored in non-water using agency
3. Focus on outcomes: policy, investment plan
4. Collaborate with ministries of finance/planning
5. Excellent public relations and awareness programs

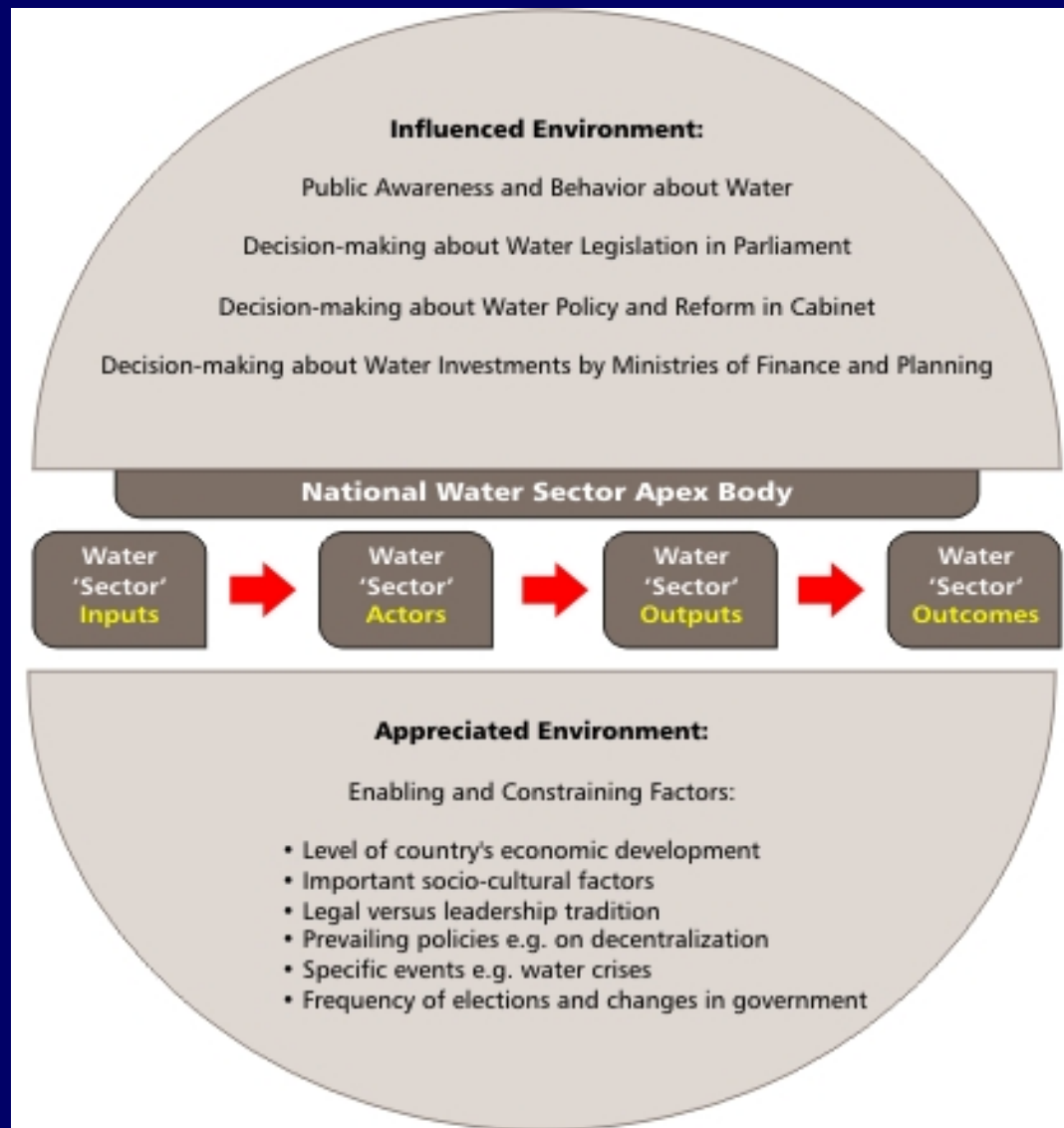
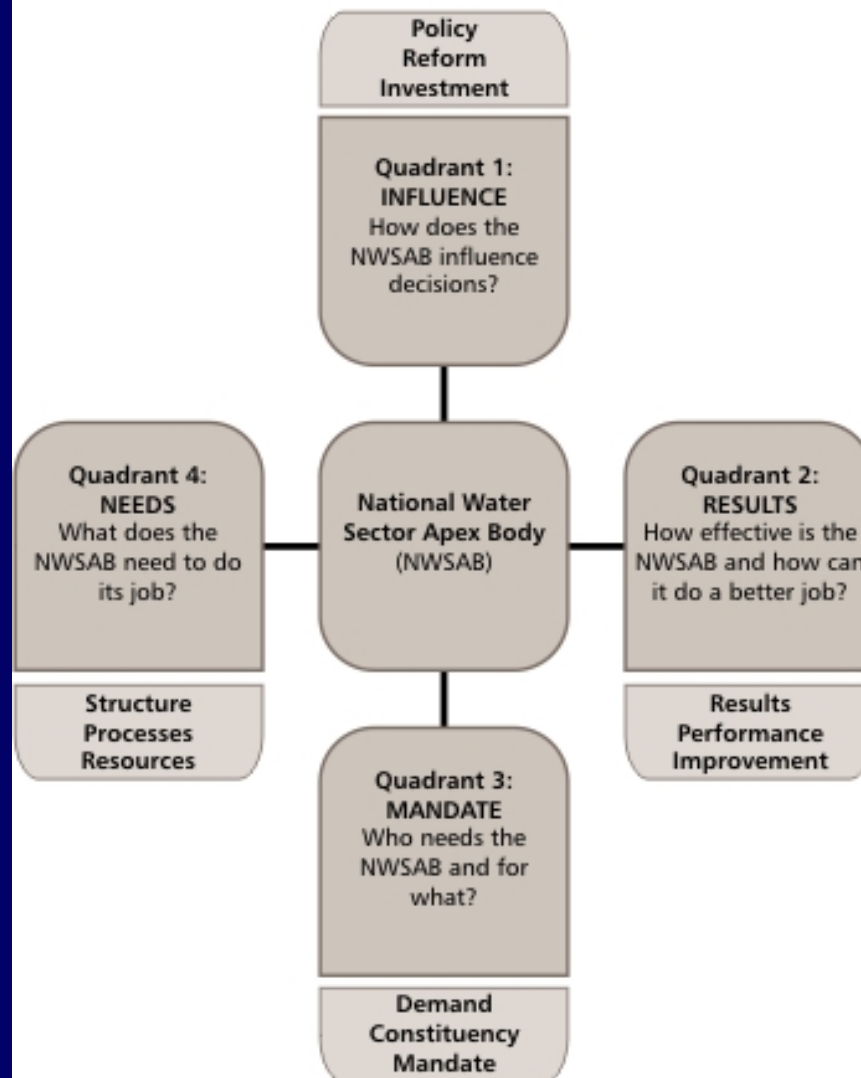


Figure 1 The National Water Sector Apex Body in its Operating Environment

From: Lincklaen Arriens, W. 2007. *Leadership in Water Governance – Review of National Water Sector Apex Bodies in Asia (under preparation)*

A Framework for the Comparative Analysis of National Water Sector Apex Bodies



From: Lincklaen Arriens, W. 2007. *Leadership in Water Governance – Review of National Water Sector Apex Bodies in Asia* (under preparation)

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Good Governance

- Governance is sound development management (ADB, 1995)
- Four pillars: stakeholder participation, transparency, predictability, and accountability
- Making the right decisions lies at the heart of good governance, based on principles adopted
- Good governance and capacity development are like two sides of one coin
- Knowledge is the capacity to act

Water Governance

“The range of political, social, economic, and administrative systems that are in place to regulate the development and management of water resources and the provision of water services.”

Rogers and Hall, 2002

Framework and Implementation

Agree on principles:

- For managing water resources
- For delivering water services

Guide/Facilitate the process of implementation:

- Policies, laws, regulations
- Performance of key organizations
- Readiness to adapt to changes

Change from Outside Water Sector

“The world of water will change more in the next 20 years compared to the past 2,000. We must anticipate events and not follow them.”

Asit Biswas, 2006 Stockholm Water Prize Laureate

External drivers:

population dynamics, trade policy, growth of small cities, climate change ...

New Framework Needed

“A new framework is needed within which to examine the interaction between politics, laws, regulations, institutions, civil society, water service providers, and the consumer/voter”

Peter Rogers, Harvard

*In water engineering almost everything is possible
In water governance there is still much to learn*

Reform = Implementing Change

- Government to show direction
- Government leadership from highest level
- Changes involve public, private, civil society
- Today highlight some priorities and challenges
- Tomorrow discuss water reforms in detail

Stop Australia from Running Dry

Government to “urgently accelerate the agreed water reform” and government, private sector and communities to “get on with it”

Wentworth Group of Concerned Scientists

November 2006

*Government – Corporate – Society (GCS)
partnerships are needed*

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Leadership to Overcome Barriers

“Government institutions often have alarmingly low levels of credibility in the public perception”

Peña and Solanes

Barriers:

1. Outdated and inefficient management practices
2. Political intervention
3. Lack of human and financial resources

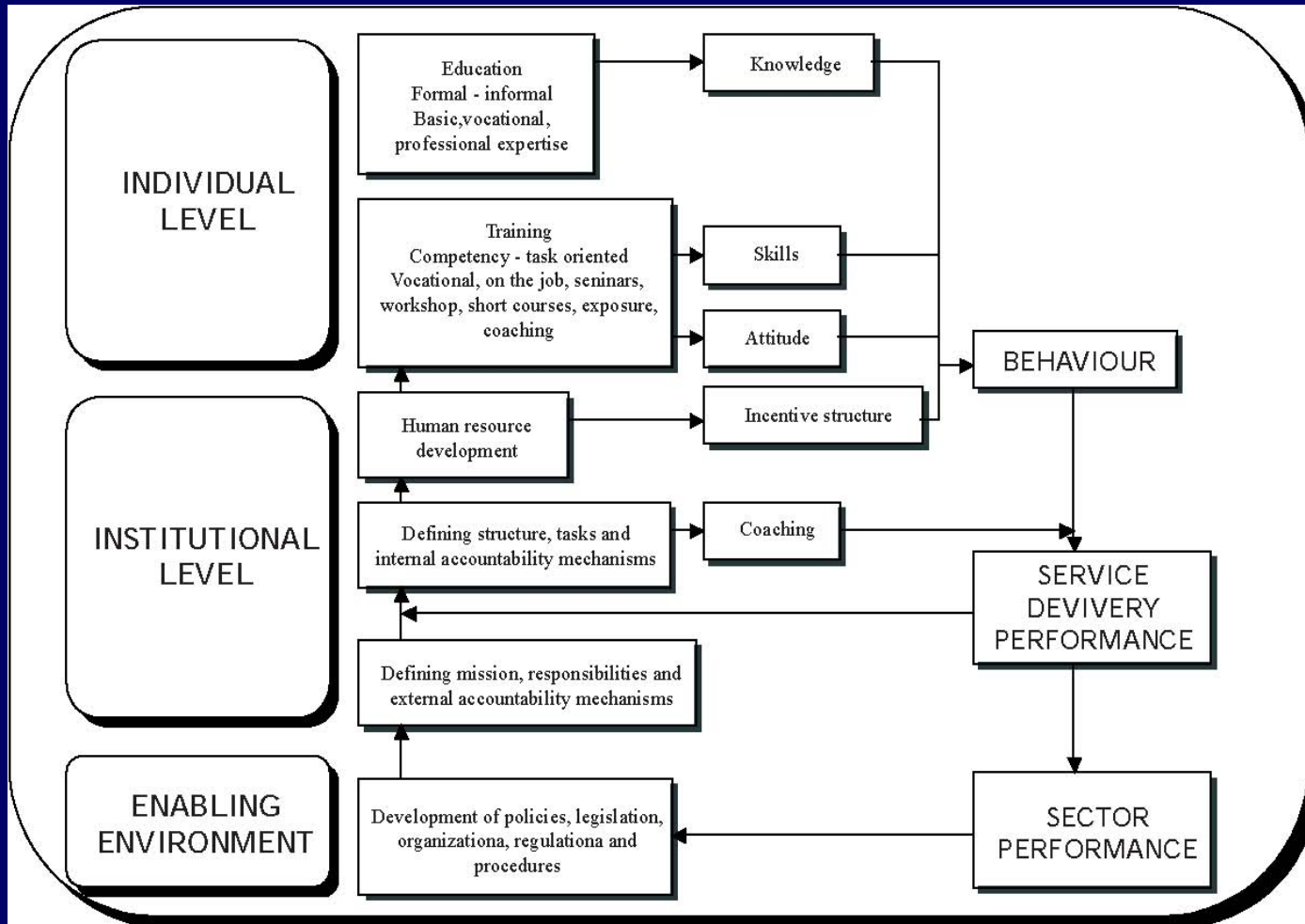
Invest in Capacity Development

“To every dollar invested in water infrastructure,
add 70 cents for capacity development”

Asia-Pacific Region's recommendation
to the 4th World Water Forum
Mexico City, 2006

Excellence is needed

Capacity Development



(Source: Van Hofwegen, 2004)

Build Strong Water Organizations

- National water apex bodies
- Water service providers
- Water resource managers / river basin organizations
- Water regulatory bodies
- Civil society organizations

Civil Society Holds the Key

- Demanding better water services
- Demanding better resource management
- Promoting national and local leadership
- Instilling values in education and training
- Contributing sustainable local solutions with good governance
- People contributing, sharing, collaborating

Civil Society for Water Governance

- Parliamentarians
- NGOs (development, advocacy, watchdogs)
- Universities, research and training institutions
- Professional associations and networks
- Schools
- Media
- Community organizations (critical)
- You and I in our own communities

Example: Citizen's Report Cards

Leadership in Water Governance

- Adopt principles, facilitate implementation process
- Invest in infrastructure and capacity development
- Ensure access to water services for the poor
- Consider a fundamental right for water (example: South Africa)
- Safeguard environmental use of water
- Triple bottom line of IWRM: balancing economic, social, and environmental outcomes
- Focus on results, declare target # of people to connect/serve
- Set standards of excellence and meet client needs
- Paying for water services increases accountability for results
- Nurture water leaders / champions

Be a champion in water governance...

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