New Thinking on Water Governance
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3 Friday Afternoon Reflections

Models, Arenas, and Key Result Areas

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Questions worth asking

• **Valuable exchange:** questions, experiences, theories, principles, countries, organizations, cultures …

• **Good mix:** practitioners, leaders, advisers, academics

• **Broad scope:** policy and reforms, water services, water resource management, and new challenges

• **Way forward:** keep bringing us together, to find out what works and doesn’t, where and why, and what questions we should be asking
Improving Water Governance

Yesterday’s 3 Key Messages

1. **Models:** there is a fundamental difference between the governance of delivering water as a *service* and managing water as a *resource*.

2. **Arenas:** simultaneous action is needed in sector, organization, and project arenas, with individual leadership and integrity.

3. **Key Result Areas:** regional collaboration is necessary in 8 KRAs. The knowledge hub is well placed to facilitate and support this.
Models for Improving Water Governance

1. Use principles pragmatically

• **Water Services**: provider-user-regulator model is sound, be color blind in implementation

• **IWRM in Basins**: polycentric model is evolving, with management functions dependent on capacity (good examples in Yellow River, Brantas, Japan)

• **National reforms**: elements becoming clear, including link with political process, need to tie closely to delivery of results (services, IWRM) >>> IWP survey

• **Way forward**: use principles pragmatically with a focus on producing results that matter “on the ground”
Arenas for Improving Water Governance

2. Work in and out of water “box”

- **Keep up** the work in provider, basin, projects, apex arenas, learn from mistakes (e.g. Kyrgyz, Australia)

- **Work** outside the water sector for reform results - finance, economics, planning, law, politicians, private

- **Engage** leaders into the water sector: agree on principles and promoted sustained commitment

- **Way Forward**: understand institutions (“rules of the game”) and use a “language of water governance” that helps to connect principles to results
Key Result Areas for Improving Water Governance

3. Focus on delivering results

• Research-based knowledge and dialogue is important: invest in knowledge networking on priority topics

• Inclusive processes are a means, not an end: focus on addressing water security issues

• Capacity is the flip-side of governance: nurture water leaders, build capacity, and demonstrate good practice

• Way Forward: join in knowledge networking and research on improving water governance, and engage in results-oriented partnerships with the regional knowledge hub in Singapore and ADB
Tomorrow: Discuss the Apex Bodies Arena Leadership in water governance

• **Hear** from colleagues working in national water sector apex bodies how they promote water governance

• **Learn** how 2 apex bodies reviewed their performance through self-assessment and peer review

• **Discuss** priorities for knowledge networking and capacity strengthening among the apex bodies

• **Way Forward:** How can the regional knowledge hub and its partners help in such collaboration?