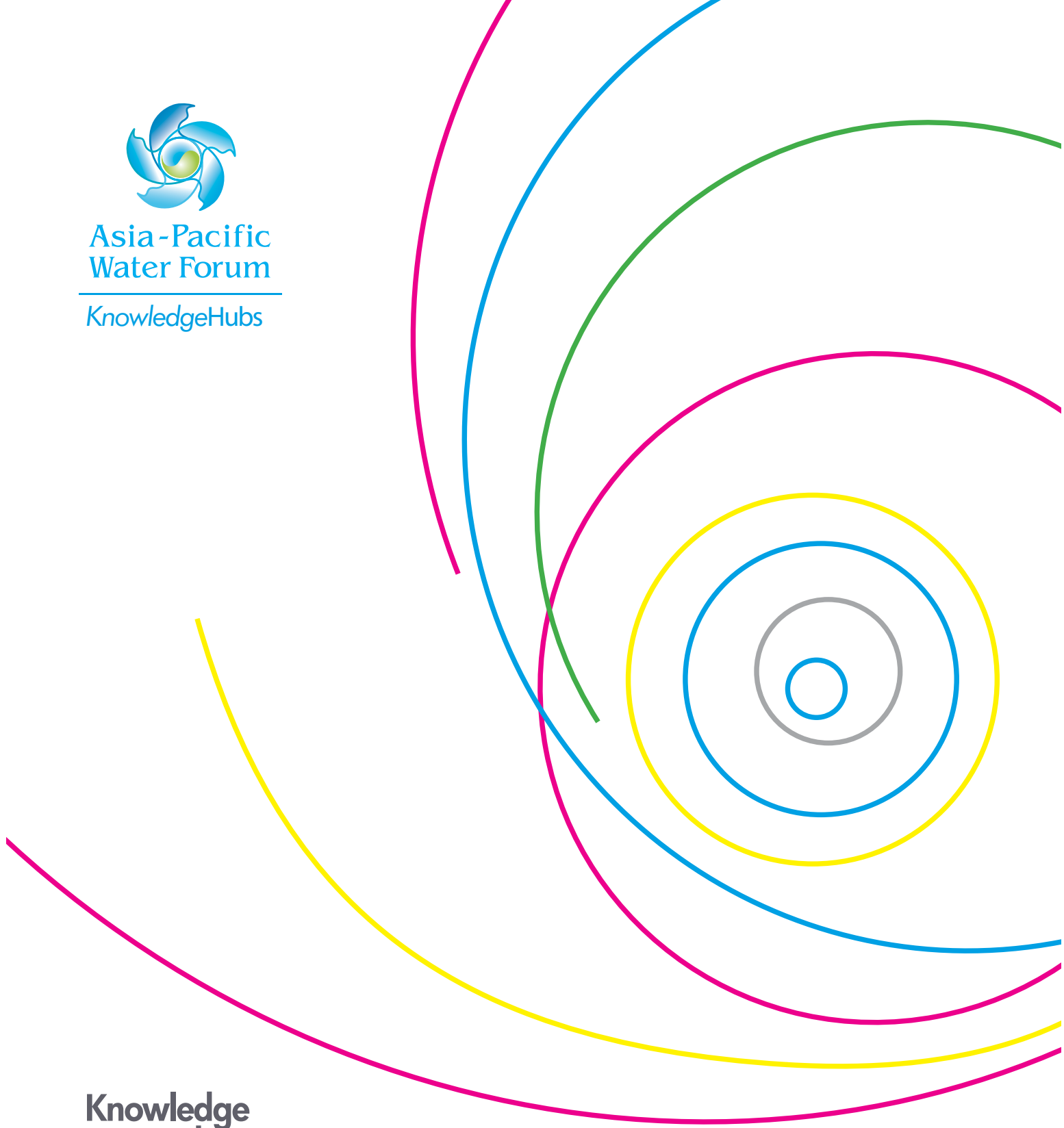




Asia-Pacific
Water Forum

KnowledgeHubs



**Knowledge
Networking
for Water Security
in the 21st Century**

The Challenge

The social, economic, and environmental future of the Asia-Pacific region largely hinges on how well water is managed in coming years. Economic development, rural-to-urban migration, greater industrial demand for and pollution of water, and other drivers of change have increased competition for clean water in the region. Meanwhile, however, climate change has made rainfall harder to predict, and floods and droughts are on the increase. The region is in urgent need of updated solutions—and more water professionals to implement them.



Dr. Vladimir Smakhtin, IWMU

Conserving water for a secure future in the People's Republic of China

Improving irrigation service in Central Asia



SICICWC

The Region's Strengths...

As daunting as these challenges may seem, the region's diversity and its rich history of experience with water have given it the expertise to solve its water problems. For example, between 1990 and 2006, an additional 52% of the total urban population of the Asia-Pacific region—over 536 million people—gained access to improved drinking water services. With existing knowledge, experience, and technology, the water problems of Asian and Pacific countries can be solved.

...and Weaknesses

Despite many local success stories across the region, however, the need for better knowledge sharing and knowledge generation remains acute. If the Millennium Development Goals are to be achieved and the new challenges of water security in the 21st century addressed, the region's knowledge on key water topics must be better leveraged and communicated among individuals, groups, organizations, and countries.



Kalijati Seneviratne

Connecting poor communities to water service in the Philippines

Managing water, floods, and sedimentation in Indonesia



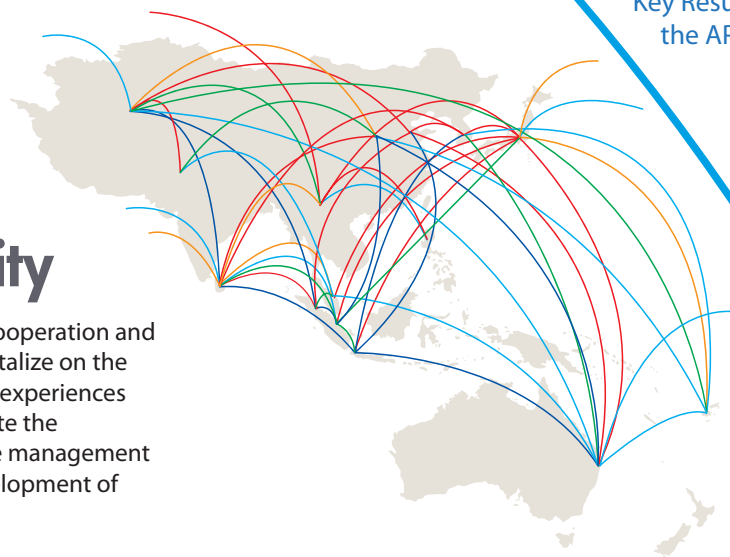
Jasa Tirta Public Corporation

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

The Asia-Pacific WaterForum: A New Approach

Created in 2006, the Asia-Pacific Water Forum (APWF) is an independent, not-for-profit, nonpartisan, and nonpolitical network dedicated to improving sustainable water management by championing best practices, boosting investments, building capacity, and enhancing cooperation throughout the Asia-Pacific region. Developing knowledge and lessons—APWF's Key Result Area 1—is central to the APWF approach.



Unity in Diversity

Through a commitment to cooperation and solidarity, APWF aims to capitalize on the diversity of Asian and Pacific experiences with water issues to accelerate the integration of water resource management into the socioeconomic development of the region.



Marc Overmars, SOPAC

Caring for rivers in the Pacific

An Inclusive Structure

Recognizing the synergy that takes place when knowledge is shared and not merely transferred, the APWF ensures inclusiveness, openness, and flexibility through a highly participatory bottom-up approach. Activities are supported by a light managerial and administrative structure overseen by APWF's Governing Council, a three-person body that operates by consensus. All governments, local and municipal authorities, knowledge institutions, civil society organizations, and media with an interest in water are welcome to join.



Sanjini de Silva, IIMW

Developing safe use of wastewater in India's Musi River



Yun Samean

Bringing clean water to children in Cambodia

A Commitment to Action

At the first Asia-Pacific Water Summit held in Beppu, Japan on 3–4 December 2007, APWF member governments, ministries, and other participants pledged to improve governance, efficiency, transparency, and equity in all aspects of water management, particularly as it impacts poor communities. In addition, they unanimously agreed to reduce by half the number of people without access to basic sanitation and safe drinking water by 2015 and aimed to bring that number to zero by 2025.

Introducing

KnowledgeHubs



Asia-Pacific
Water Forum

KnowledgeHubs is the APWF's network of regional water knowledge hubs. Each hub is a center of excellence committed to improving water security in the Asia-Pacific region by promoting knowledge sharing and championing feasible solutions for its priority water topic. Together, the hubs collaborate to generate and share knowledge and develop capacity in more than a dozen water knowledge domains.

Priority Water Topics for Knowledge Hubs

- Urban water management
- Disaster risk reduction and flood management
- Water and climate change adaptation
- 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
- Erosion and sedimentation in river basins
- Healthy rivers and aquatic ecosystems
- Water resources management in mountainous areas
- Groundwater management
- Transboundary water resources management
- Water and climate change adaptation in South Asia
- Sanitation
- Water supply for rural areas and small towns
- Water and energy
- Watershed management
- Coastal zone management



Mohd Fatin Zaimal, NAHRIM

Modeling for climate change impacts in Malaysia

Increasing water efficiency with drip irrigation in India



Shabti Jayawardena, IWMI



SOPAC

Building alternative sanitation in the Pacific

Quality Products and Services to Make a Difference

A Focus on Client Needs



Integrating gender issues into water use planning in Central Asia

Through *KnowledgeHubs*, decades of experience with the most urgent water sector issues in the Asia-Pacific region are being channeled into an open network of centers of excellence, each of which has taken region-wide responsibility for knowledge networking on a priority water topic. The hubs work together to coordinate services to clients and to leverage their respective experiences and the experiences of local, national, and international clients and partners. In doing so, hubs connect their clients to the best information, analysis, and people for their needs.

Collaboration and Networking

One of the hubs' operating principles is an inclusive attitude to networking and collaboration. Hubs meet regularly to discuss and add value to each other's work, generating ideas and solutions from their networks of clients and partners. In this way, clients who contact a regional water knowledge hub are plugging into a world of knowledge and solutions sure to expand the range of solutions from which they can choose.



Experts meet at PUB WaterHub in Singapore

A Commitment to Excellence

Delivering top-quality client services is *KnowledgeHubs'* first priority. Whether publishing comparative analyses for the region, developing toolkits, training water sector personnel, providing policy advice, or helping institutions benchmark performance, hubs continually aim to reinforce their reputation for excellence by offering their clients relevant and practical solutions.



How KnowledgeHubs Works



ICHARM

Learning about flood hazard mapping in Japan



Shi Hongling, IRTCES

Sharing knowledge about sedimentation in the People's Republic of China

Mission and Vision

KnowledgeHubs' mission is to deliver state-of-the-art, knowledge-based products and services that meet the practical needs of water organizations like utilities, river basin organizations, ministries, and planning agencies. Committed to transparency and continuous quality improvement, *KnowledgeHubs* aims to improve the water sector's performance by promoting effective solutions and developing local capacity in organizations around the region.



Dong Baohua

Investing in healthy rivers to improve water security for the region

Operating Structure

Each hub works autonomously and is guided by 10 key operating principles for quality assurance. Candidate organizations can become hubs through a peer-review procedure that considers the relevance of their proposed topic, their expertise, and their leadership and capacity in their knowledge domain. *KnowledgeHubs* contributes to APWF's work and oversight is conducted by the APWF Governing Council. While the knowledge hubs work together as needed, each hub is entirely responsible and accountable for its own services and resources.



Hugh Turrell, WMI

Introducing new technologies in canal management in Pakistan

Key Operating Principles for Regional Water Knowledge 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

KnowledgeHubs Supporting Organizations

The establishment and initial activities of *KnowledgeHubs* have been supported by PUB Singapore, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education, and the Asian Development Bank (ADB). **PUB Singapore** and **UNESCO** are lead organizations for the Asia-Pacific Water Forum's Key Result Area 1 on "Developing Knowledge and Lessons." **ADB** is lead organization for Priority Theme A on "Water Financing and Capacity Development" and for Key Result Area 3 on "Increasing Public Outreach." **UNESCO-IHE** has contributed its world-wide experience in water knowledge networking and capacity development for better solutions to water management challenges. ADB and UNESCO-IHE were requested to facilitate the process of establishing *KnowledgeHubs* and to support a network secretariat.

APRIL 2009

