

Sustainable Sub-Watershed Resources Management through Participatory Process of Networks and Partners in All Sectors

The Fourth National Health Assembly

Have considered the report on sustainable sub-watershed resources management through participatory process of networks and partners in all sectors,

Bearing in mind that sustainable sub-watershed resources management is important and beneficial to the conduct of living of many people, and that the people can engage in water management jointly with relevant agencies, organizations, partners, or networks in watershed areas,

Recognizing that presently sustainable sub-watershed resources management is undertaken by state agencies but the tasks performed are not harmonized. Despite support and participation of some private organizations and elements of the people sector, problems such as flood, drought, forest fire, and smog (or haze) appear to be increasingly more severe. This is because support mechanisms that facilitate the formulation of sustainable sub-watershed resources management policy with participation of civic sectors and other relevant sectors are lacking,

Concerned that water shortage and flood problems are symptoms, not root causes. Water management is still unable to supply sufficient water for domestic use and consumption, for usage in agriculture, industries, and tourism. To solve problems whether it be to control water volume and quality, or to take care of biological diversity, there needs to be management of the whole cycle of water (i.e. managing rainfall, storage/catchment areas, forests, and soil quality), and of the water supply (managing rivers and their flow). Water management is not systematic and comprehensive and, in particular does not engage the participation of all sections of the society.

Recognizing that related policies and laws have taken into account the importance of managing resources and watershed area together, that utilization of the information system must be efficient, and the people sector as a part of the management mechanism is able to access such information system. These then are tools to develop and conserve natural resources and the environment on a sustainable basis.

Admiring people sector networks in many areas are able to undertake water management in sub-watershed ecological areas efficiently, even though they face problems of not being accepted by the authorities at the level of implementation, policy and law.

Recognizing the necessity of having a public policy that manages sub-watershed resources in a sustainable way, with the participation of networks and partners from all sections of the society, so that water management can move towards a development outcome that is integrative, balanced, and just.

thereby resolves as follows:

1. Agreeing in principle that water is a valuable resource jointly owned by all members of society and property of the society which is collectively owned by water user groups/organizations, communities, and networks. Therefore, water user groups/organizations, communities, and networks shall have the right to participate in the decision-making process on sustainable water resource management in sub-watershed ecological areas.

2. Requests the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment and the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives as well as agencies under both ministries, and agencies which are involved with water management

2.1 To support establishment of a collaborative mechanism in a multilateral format that comprises the people sector/users/stakeholders, state agencies' officials, and the civil society. To ensure that a participatory process be created along with a new form of decentralization mechanism in river watershed management which is in harmony with each watershed's ecosystem and is controlled with a bottom-up approach. Moreover, to apportion roles and mandates among the government, tributary watershed committees, collaborative mechanisms engaged by multilateral partners, and local administrative organizations clearly.

2.2 To establish a "joint agreement" on water management in sub-watershed ecological areas with participation of multilateral partners that encompasses all sub-watershed ecological areas.

2.3 To study, review, or develop policies, laws, acts, and other regulations such as the Water Resources Act B.E..... as well as structure of various agencies which are involved in water management in sub-watershed ecological areas so that issues can be identified and collective solutions can be efficiently sought at a local level.

3. Requests that environmental networks for conservation and rehabilitation, academic institution networks, such as the Thailand Research Fund and tertiary education

institutions in the provinces join forces with local communities and concerned parties to lend support to knowledge management and systematic water management. The aim is to develop knowledge sets and local curriculums which are relevant to each watershed's ecosystem.