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Water Governance in Asia

AWDO 2020

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Water crises are often governance crises

- ✓ Coping with **water security**, requires addressing governance
- ✓ Technical, financial & institutional **solutions exist**, but **implementation** is lagging
- ✓ Governance : **a means to an end**: manage too much, too little and too polluted water

Water, a fragmented sector that is sensitive to multilevel governance

- ✓ Local and global issue, with **multiple actors** at different scales
- ✓ Capital –intensive, monopolistic, **market failures**
- ✓ **Interdependencies/trade-offs** across multiple stakeholders are poorly managed

No one-size-fits-all but a need to “mind” and “bridge” the gaps

- ✓ Beyond the question of **WHAT** to do to meet the water challenge, there is a need to think about **WHO DOES WHAT, WHY, AT WHICH LEVEL** and **HOW**



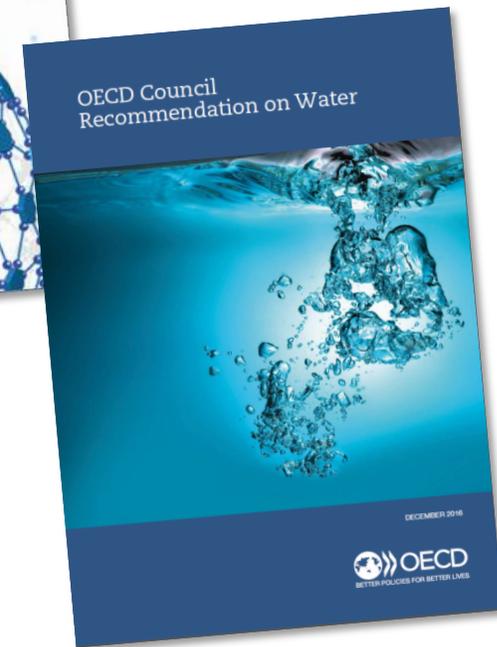
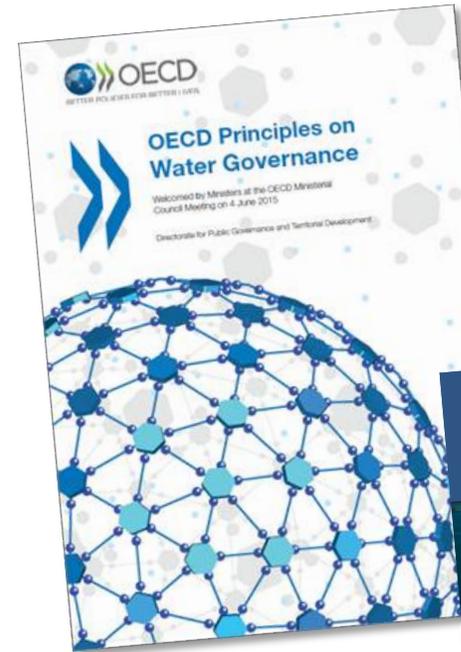
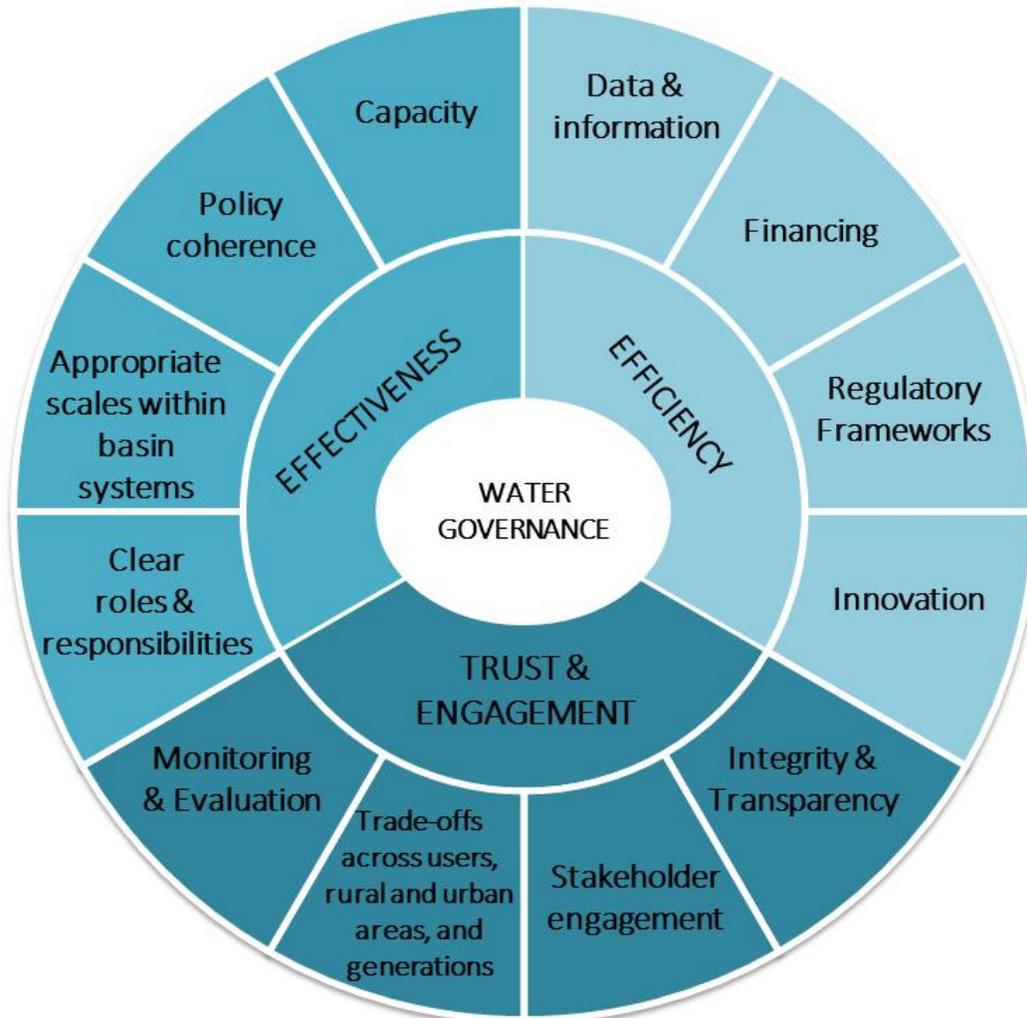
Water Governance Survey Objectives

Carry out diagnosis of water governance in Asia, based on new data and analysis to contribute to ADB's *Asian Water Development Outlook 2020* with the following objectives:

- **Produce new data on water governance in Asia – The state of water governance!** Data gathered through an *Survey on Water Governance in Asia* to be conducted across ADB member countries in the Asia region will shed light on **What is the current water governance situation, who does what, at which level of government, and how.** It will include for example aspects such as the mapping of ministries and public authorities with water policy responsibilities, the existence of river basin management plans, the use of economic instruments to foster water use efficiency, etc.
- **Clustering of water governance challenges.** Develop a typology of water governance challenges according to a group of sub-regions and/or countries.
- **Provide policy recommendations for the region to advance the water security agenda.** Lessons learned from the analysis of water governance data should help shed light on general policy recommendations that will help countries in the region to better face current and future water security challenges. Recommendations can also be based on **examples of international practice** that can be inspiring for Asian countries.



The OECD Principles on Water Governance



www.oecd.org/governance/oecd-principles-on-water-governance.htm

<https://www.oecd.org/environment/resources/Council-Recommendation-on-water.pdf>



Key elements of Survey

- The Survey will draw on the [OECD Principles on Water Governance](#) and the OECD [Water Governance Indicator Framework](#) and linking to ADB's water security framework.

In particular, for each of the 12 Principles the Survey will help investigate:

- **Policy frameworks (“what”):** The “what” captures the policy and legal frameworks that represent the basis for the allocation of roles and responsibilities, the development of water policies and the implementation of water governance instruments.
- **Institutions (“who”):** The “who” identifies formal institutions in charge of defining, implementing and evaluating water policies, as well as developing projects and programmes and producing and collecting data, etc. (e.g. the role of stakeholders, such as govt agencies, PS, CS, water users, etc.)
- **Instruments (“how”):** The “how” reports on the instruments through which water policies are implemented and evaluated. Some examples can include the type of allocation regime, River basin plans, polluter pays principle, etc.



Example 1: Principle 4 on capacity building

Adapt the level of capacity of responsible authorities to the complexity of the water challenges to be met, and to the set of competencies required to carry out their duties

Indicators

WHAT 4.a

Existence and level of implementation of hiring policies, based on a **merit-based and transparent professional and recruitment process** of water professionals independent from political cycles

Description

This indicator seeks to appraise the framework conditions (not necessarily water-specific) in place to assure the presence of competent staff able to deal with technical and non-technical water-related issues across agencies, responsible ministries and water management bodies.

WHO 4.b

Existence and functioning of **mechanisms to identify and address capacity gaps in water institutions**

Description

This indicator seeks to appraise the existence and functioning of mechanisms to identify the level of capacity of responsible authorities in carrying out their duties and coping with water challenges. Duties are: planning, rule-making, project management, finance, budgeting, data collection and monitoring, risk management and evaluation.

HOW 4.c

Existence and level of implementation of **educational and training programmes** for water professionals

Description

This indicator seeks to appraise the existence and level of implementation of capacity-related programmes (e.g. educational curricula, executive training, technical assistance, etc.) to strengthen the capacity of water institutions as well as stakeholders at large in critical areas such as planning, financing and monitoring.

Checklist

- ◆ Are there incentives to create water careers in the public sector?
- ◆ Are there guidelines or standards for capacity building across authorities at all levels?
- ◆ Are there peer-to-peer dialogue platforms across river basin organisations?
- ◆ Are there networks of utilities and networks of basin organisations at national level?
- ◆ Are institutional strengthening and soft capacity included into technical assistance programmes?
- ◆ Are there decentralised co-operation mechanisms to foster north-south, south-south and north-north experience learning, capacity building and knowledge transfer?



Many Thanks!

OECD Water Governance Programme:

<https://www.oecd.org/cfe/watergovernanceprogramme.htm>

OECD Principles on Water Governance:

<http://www.oecd.org/cfe/regional-policy/OECD-Principles-on-Water-Governance.pdf>

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