**WaterLinks:**
Regional Cooperation to Improve Water Services Delivery in Asia

**March 3, 2010**
ASEAN High Level Seminar
Environmentally Sustainable Cities
Jakarta, Indonesia

**Environmental Cooperation - Asia (ECO-Asia)**
Program of U.S. Agency for International Development

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**About USAID ECO-Asia**
- Regional program of USAID established in 2006
- Implement Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act supporting achievement of Millennium Development Goals water target
- Objectives:
  - Increase access to safe drinking water and sanitation
  - Promote regional dialogue and cooperation to share and replicate innovation and best practices
- Cooperation with ASEAN Environmentally Sustainable Cities Initiative
- Founder and implementing partner of WaterLinks regional network

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**Water Operators Partnerships (WOP)**
- Common definition
  *Focused and direct exchange of practical knowledge and innovations between water and wastewater service providers to strengthen human and institutional capacity*
- Initiated by Hashimoto Action Plan
  *Calling for breakthroughs in vital areas of water services delivery, especially through WOPs to help reach MDGs*
- Range of donors and organizations support WOP globally
  *Global WOP Alliance led by UN-Habitat; regional WOP networks in Latin America, Africa, Middle East and Asia*

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**WATERLINKS**
- Regional network to facilitate WOPs in Asia
- Founded by ADB, IWA and USAID in August 2008
- ECO-Asia serves as interim secretariat
- Aims to coordinate, develop and implement joint WOPs support programs
**WATERLINKS Activities**

- Brokering and facilitating twinning partnerships between water and wastewater operators (utilities, cities)
- Strengthening capacity through regional training and toolkits
- Disseminating best practices via publications, events and a website (www.waterlinks.org)

**Twinning Partnerships**

- Facilitated over 17 twinning partnerships in 2007-2009
- Planning for 15+ partnerships in 2010
- Most are intra-regional partnerships including between ASEAN ESC members
- Focus on improving operational efficiencies of cities and operators to improve water supply and wastewater management services:
  - Water loss reduction
  - Water quality management
  - Services expansion to underserved areas
  - Conversion to 24/7 continuous supply
  - Energy efficiency
  - Sanitation promotion and management

**Regional Training**

- Technical training workshops
- Twinning facilitation guidelines
- WATSAN promotion toolkit
- Septage Management Study
- Guidelines for Pro-Poor Water Supply Expansion (2010)

**Sharing Information and Networking**

- Website - www.waterlinks.org
- Twinning examples, resources inventory, and news and events
- Newsletter
- 2009 WaterLinks Forum in Bangkok
- 2010 WaterLinks Forum in Manila (ADB HQ)
Regional Cooperation with ASEAN ESC

- Manila Water (Quezon, Philippines) – Da Nang Water Company (Vietnam) in 2009
  - Improved piped water quality for 30,000 residents in Da Nang

- Maynilad Water – PDAM Tirtanadi Medan (Indonesia) in 2009
  - Water services expansion to 30,000 urban poor in Medan

- Penang Water Supply Company (Malaysia) – PDAM Kota Palembang (Indonesia) in 2010
  - Continuous (24/7) water supply for 40,000 residents in Palembang

Regional Cooperation with ASEAN ESC (continued)

  - Improved operations and management of wastewater system in Ha Long

- City of Iloilo (Philippines) – Municipality of Phnom Penh (Cambodia) in 2007
  - Sanitation promotion strategy development for Phnom Penh

- Indah Water Konsortium – PDAM Tirtanadi Medan (Indonesia) in 2009
  - Increased demand for sanitation services through promotion in Medan

- Indah Water Konsortium – Maynilad Water (Quezon City, Philippines) in 2010
  - Improved sanitation services delivery in

Regional Cooperation on Facilitating Cooperation on Improved Access to Water Supply and Sanitation in ASEAN Cities (Bangkok, 2007)

- Sharing of best practices to help implement AIESC Clean Water Framework

Regional Training on Water Safety Plan Development (Singapore, 2008)

- Capacity building on water quality management involving Singapore with Thailand (Chiang Mai)

Knowledge products on water supply and sanitation management (2010)

- Study and toolkits in partnership with water services operators from Putrajaya (Malaysia), Quezon (Philippines) and Singapore

Thank You