

**Regional workshop on Research on  
Hydropower Development in the Lower  
Mekong Basin 14-15. September 2010**

**Water Research  
Reaching out for Policy and  
Practice**

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# Outline of Presentation

- Is research relevant for development?
- Barriers to uptake of research in practice
- How to promote better links to practice?
- Partnerships
- Processes
- Products – pay attention to communication
- Good examples – your input...

# Is research relevant for development?

Findings from Splash: EU Research component, EUWI Era Net - 16 partners, 12 countries, FP- 6, 2006 – 2010:

1. Improve coordination of water research for development between European countries, to reduce duplication enhance progress to MDGs
2. Understand and synthesise effective research management & practice, and ensure it is used
3. Speed up transfer of results into practice and policy
4. Agree a research agenda and jointly funded activities which will benefit from a trans-national approach

# Is research relevant for development?

Splash paper: "Contribution of Research to Economic Development and Poverty Reduction":

- Yes – research contributes to development and poverty reduction
- Research and economic growth is closely linked: R&D have positive effect on growth, there is robust relationship between spending on R&D and growth, high rate of return
- Close links water and economic development – MDG's
- Investment required for meeting MDG's 11.3 billion USD – economic benefits assessed to have 8-fold rate of return – 84 bill.

# Is research relevant for development?

Important messages to convey:

1. Improving water knowledge and management – will lead to growth - countries with high R&D spending has higher growth
2. Economic benefits outweigh investments - Investing in water is good business
3. Improving water management, ie rainfall storage, contributes to growth
4. Investment needs are high globally, but within reach for countries
5. Need in Africa is high - 1% global research – Asia 31%

# Barriers to uptake of research in practice

ODI Background Note on strengthening science policy dialogue on CC in developing countries identified barriers from large-scale study:

- Low levels of scientific understanding by policy (64%)
- Limited openness by policy to use research (61%)
- Lack of incentives by policy to use research (56%)
- Limited dissemination of research (59%)
- Lack of inst. channels to incorporate science and research (44%)
- Mismatch between time-scales and incentives

# How to promote better links to practice?

- Different timescales, information levels and usage calls for Partnerships – knowledge intermediaries
- Partnerships to define research topics, products and processes, involve stakeholders, serve as forum for capacity building and development of understanding of each other.
- Regional partnerships and cooperation agreements
- National partnerships
- North-South partnerships

# How to promote better links to practice?

The role of North-South partnerships – Splash key findings:

- N/S partnerships are formed between researchers known to each other
- Personal contact is driving factor
- Research uptake is improved where Southern researchers are involved and have ownership
- Donors can influence nature of N/S partnerships
- N/S partnerships are often asymmetric and priorities and methods reflect Northern traditions



# How to promote better links to practice?

Processes - Pay attention to:

- Designing research programmes
- Stakeholder inclusion early in research projects – design and selection of topics
- Project implementation and management guidelines
- Evaluation
- Dissemination

# **Products – how to improve communication – and why**

- To inform about activities and lessons learned
- To get attention of partners and funders
- To engage stakeholders
- To create awareness
- Donors want it – precondition for funding

# Communication and dissemination of research

- Include communication in project activities
- The right way: Stakeholders need the right amount of information in a version targeted to their needs, at the right time
- Analyse stakeholders, their needs, relevant information levels and pathways
- Develop communication strategies in projects
- Your good and bad examples

**Thank you  
for your  
attention!**

