# Water, Food and Energy Nexus in Asia and the Pacific

### **Discussion Paper**



## The Status of the Water-Food-Energy Nexus in Asia and the Pacific

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For further information on this publication, please contact:

Mr Raekwon Chung Director Environment and Development Division ESCAP Rajadamnern Nok Avenue Bangkok 10200, Thailand

Tell No: +66-2288 1234 Fax no: +66-2288 1048/1059 email: escap-esdd-ers@un.org

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"This publication was prepared under the guidance of Hongpeng Liu, the Chief and Salmah Zakaria, Economic Affairs Officer, of Energy Security and Water Resources Section (ESWRS), Environment and Development Division (EDD) of ESCAP"

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| ADB     | Asian Development Bank   |
|---------|--|
| EU      | European Union   |
| FAO     | Food and Agriculture Organisation                                      |
| FELDA   | Federal Land Development Authority                                     |
| IWRM    | Integrated Water Resource Management                                   |
| ICWC    | Interstate Commission for Water Coordination (ICWC) of Central Asia    |
| IEA     | International Energy Agency  |
| IFAS    | International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (IFAS)                      |
| IPCC    | Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change                             |
| MRC     | Mekong River Commission  |
| MENA    | Middle East and North Africa   |
| UNESCAP | United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific |
| WFE     | Water, food, and energy  |

#### **Discussion Paper**

# WATER-FOOD-ENERGY NEXUS IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

A position paper comissioned by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific



#### Acknowledgments

This paper was prepared by Hezri Adnan, Institute of Strategic & International Studies (ISIS) Malaysia, in consultation with ESWRS, ESCAP

#### **Foreword**

As the regional arm of the United Nations, ESCAP continues looking for better policy options and initiatives in the area of resources management. ESCAP, in its "Low Carbon Green Growth Roadmap for Asia Pacific" publication has articulated on "Turning resource constraints and the climate crisis into economic growth opportunities. ESCAP's works on water and green growth identify the needs for preemptive development planning in managing climate change impacts, such as in improved governance.

This water-food-energy nexus looks at the debate on 'resource scarcity", with new scientific findings that suggested humanity has exceeded the planetary boundaries, threatening its own safety. Of all natural resources, energy, water and food are most needed to sustain life on earth. The three resources are tightly interconnected, forming a policy nexus. The increase in resource use in the region has been above the world average. The reliant on fossil fuel sources for their economic growth has resulted in the countries of Asia and the Pacific, accounting for almost half the world's  $\mathrm{CO_2}$  emissions in 2008. The security of water, energy and food resources has been compromised in parallel with decades of economic development in Asia and the Pacific and hence the needs to study these three resources together in a nexus approach.

It is with great pleasure that ESCAP published this latest discussion paper, targeted for discussions at the 2APWS, in Chiang Mai, May 2013, to provide background materials for the discussions at both the Technical workshops and the Focus Area Sessions

Rae Kwon Chung

Director, Environment Development Division

ESCAP



#### Discussion Paper

## Water-Food-Energy Nexus in Asia and the Pacific Region

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