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# **NWRB, Korean agency partner for water project**

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The National Water Resources Board (NWRB) and the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) are strengthening bilateral ties by working on a new water project.

In a statement on Tuesday, the NWRB said the partnership involves the establishment of the Integrated Water Resources Management Information System (IWRMIS) for the Pampanga River Basin.

The said system aims to improve water resources planning, management, and regulation in the river basin.

Under the foreign grant covering 2021 to 2025, the Korean government will provide the Philippine government with necessary softwares, equipment and materials, dispatch some experts from Korea to assist in the implementation of the project and host capacity building activities for NWRB's officials and personnel.

"With the improvement and expansion of the project covering the entire Pampanga River Basin, it is expected that we will be able to reap more benefits from this project, specifically, in terms of water allocation and distribution, irrigation and flood analysis," said NWRB Executive Director Sevillo David Jr.

"Consequently, this also means more work from both our ends, but this is a very much welcome challenge in which the NWRB is up to," he added.

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Undersecretary Rodolfo Garcia, meanwhile, underlined the importance of communicating the project initiatives to the surrounding communities.

Garcia said the public must be educated in order to "elicit their support and move them to action."

Pampanga River Basin has a catchment area of 10,434 square kilometers covering the provinces of Nueva Vizcaya, Nueva Ecija, Tarlac, Pampanga, Bulacan, Zambales and Bataan.

Based on the DENR's website, the river basin is envisioned to "become the most economically advanced river basin in the

country that shall attain the lowest incidence of poverty, [with] fully restored watershed and ecosystems, properly utilized and managed water resources, adequately provided modern infrastructure facilities, and an empowered citizens in partnership with transparent, accountable, and development oriented leaders."

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2021/05/27/business/top-business/nwrk-korean-agency-partner-for-water-project/1800822>