

## **RIVERS OF THE WORLD FORUM:**

### **A Global Exchange on River Protection & Restoration, Water Quality Improvement Techniques and Best Practices**

*A Proposition for the 1<sup>st</sup> International River Summit at Iloilo City, Philippines*

#### **Planning and Coordinating Future International River Summits**

The 1<sup>st</sup> Philippine International River Summit is well on track for achieving resounding success. While placing Iloilo City at the center stage in environmental stewardship, the event is bringing together several institutions, financing organizations, and government officials from 10 different countries. Further, the event will be graced by the President of the Republic of the Philippines, highlighting the importance of the issue and call for action. All these factors make the event a perfect opportunity to launch a partnership that can sustain the activities initiated at the Summit and facilitate exchange of knowledge on an ongoing basis. Such a partnership can also be instrumental in planning and coordinating future International River Summits.

#### **SUGGESTED FRAMEWORK**

**Mission and Mandate:** To facilitate and enable restoration and preservation of rivers and their biodiversity through an international exchange Forum on river issues, techniques, and best practices.

The operational objectives of the Forum are as follows:

- To share and address challenges related to the environmental, ecological, and socio-economic aspects of rivers and watersheds at large
- To create collaborative learning on lessons and best practices in river management as brought forth by Forum members from different countries and regions
- To build capacity of local authorities and riparian communities in taking care of their river
- To make available a pool of expertise and resources to address technological challenges

#### **Envisioned Activities:**

- International River Summits
- Training Programs and Workshops
- Exchange Program Field Visits
- Informative Newsletter
- Ongoing Outreach

**Organization Structure:** The Forum will be managed by Rivers of the World Foundation and operated as a collaborative entity, advised and guided by an implementation committee. Eligible members could include academic and research institutions, government entities, associations, and international organizations. Private sector may be excluded.

#### **Immediate Steps at the Summit:**

1. Announce the launch of the Forum and hand out a draft framework of the initiative
2. Seek and “sign-up” members from participating organizations
3. Announce planning for the 2<sup>nd</sup> International River Summit and identify a country host