United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
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INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR WATER HAZARD AND RISK MANAGEMENT (ICHARM)

MINUTES

SPECIAL SESSION FOR INTERNATIONAL FLOOD INITIATIVE AND INTERNATIONAL DROUGHT INITIATIVE

(Medan, Indonesia, 21 October 2015)

International Centre for Water Hazard and Risk Management under the auspices of UNESCO (ICHARM) is an institute as an integral part of the Public Works Research Institute (PWRI) located in Tsukuba, Japan.

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1. OPENING

The Special Session for International Flood Initiative and International Drought Initiative (hereafter "The Session") was held on Wednesday 21 October 2015 at Conference Room, JW Marriot Hotel in Medan, Indonesia during the international symposium on "integrated Actions for Global Water and Environmental Sustainability" in conjunction with the 23rd International Hydrological Programme (IHP), Regional Steering Committee (RSC) meeting for Southeast Asia and the Pacific. Prof. Toshio Koike, the Director of ICHARM was formally introduced as one of the Co-Moderators for the Session. After Prof. Shabaz Khan's opening remarks, emphasizing the importance of step forwarding actions for flood and drought management at the regional level, Mr. Eric Quincieu, Asian Development Bank (ADB) made a guest speech. ADB highlighted that the need to continue to promote Integrated Flood Management (IFM) to address current challenges. In line with its Water Operational Plan 2011- 2010, ADB is already supporting its developing member countries to implement IFM. Citing experience, more efforts are still expected. For instance, limitation of data and information, limited awareness on the IFM framework and administrative processes still limit the full potential of IFM.

2. CONTRIBUTION FOR DISCUSSION: POTENTIAL ROLE AND EXPECT OF THE REGIONAL ACTIVITY FOR FLOOD AND DROUGHT MANAGEMENT, MONITORING, ASSESSMENT AND CAPACITY BUILDING

Dr. Murase made a presentation titled "IFI regional activities in the Asia Pacific region" as an introduction for regional activity especially for flood management. After briefing about the integrated approach for flood management, called Integrated Flood Management (IFM), he reviewed the ten year's activities of International Flood Initiative (IFI) which has promoted the IFM into practice. He put an emphasis on the fact that the year of 2015 was pivotal for the next step of IFI, based on the result of Sendai Framework for disaster risk reduction and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and showed the IFI strategic structure to discuss on the next step. Citing one of the priorities in the Sendai Framework, "Understanding the risk", he also recognized the importance of science and technology as well as data and information for risk management as a solid foundation.

Mr. Iwami made a presentation titled "An Operational Flood Early Warning System for regions with an in sufficient observation network system and capacity building", raising two aspects: hydrological simulation tools and assessment/analysis methodologies, and capacity building for the operation. He emphasized sharing basic data, technologies and experiences for effective disaster management and efficient investment while observation network and in-situ data collection systems are basically necessary for flood early warning system.

Mr. Kuribayashi made a presentation titles "Importance of data and information for risk management", putting the necessity for the combination of hydrological analysis and risk assessment at once, supported by data collection and archiving. As there are huge differences in social vulnerability and economic conditions,

data should be accumulated locally and institutionally. He rationalized his argument by using the experience of Japan for over 60 years.

Dr. Ali Chavoshian made a presentation titled “IDI regional activities in the Asia Pacific region”. He reviewed the IDI, established in 2010. He introduced several activities for drought management, such as drought cyber-information by the University of California, Irvine, the MSDI for soil moisture drought indicators, and joint collaboration of IDI and G-WADI (Asia). He proposed an idea of IDI in the Asia pacific region (IDI-AP).

Before the interruption, Prof. Koike raised three key questions for the following discussion.

1. Integrated actions (flood, drought), what is the integrated approach?
2. How to realize, address the presented challenges and discuss regional coordination, how can we do it?
3. What is the next step?

3. OPEN DISCUSSION AND WAY FORWARD

An open discussion started after the interruption. Based on the three key questions above, the open discussion was facilitated by Prof. Toshio Koike and Dr. Ali Chavoshian.

3.1 Integrated approach

One of the audience (hereafter “The audience”) raised the issue that risk management should be covered by various institutes so some institutional frameworks would be necessary beyond such variety of responsibilities. Mr. Eric Quincieu, ADB, agreed the point as each institute has different mandates. For better integration, the regulatory framework should provide a basis for operationalization of the IFM approach. In this context, Prof. Koike introduced the platform in Japan, as an example. Prof. Shahbaz Khan added the necessity for identification of issues and solutions at the necessary political levels, for example with forestry administration in Indonesia. The audience from the ministry of forestry in Indonesia emphasized the importance of practical tools for early warning on flash floods and landslides, citing the example in Ambon.

3.2 Regional coordination

The audience mentioned that the objectives of initiatives should be clearly defined with the main partners. Dr. Ali Chavoshian replied with a review of the history of all three initiatives and role of UNESCO for defining role model for initiative activities. Prof. Shahbaz Khan suggested that it would be good to facilitate the activities by showing a good example as well as bringing existing knowledge at policy levels through the collaboration between IFI and IDI. If both initiatives work together. Such process might help get financial resources and go beyond academic side. The audience raised that the integration only took place when it was implemented, so practical cases should be raised to realize the gap. Real integration for trans-disciplinary should be beyond discussion. Prof. Koike revisited the experience in Ambon as a good practical example, emphasizing that best practice should be shared through three areas: technologies, cooperation in the village and leadership in local. He put the role of international/national initiatives in this context, considering the data, financing mechanism for monitoring, assessing and capacity building.

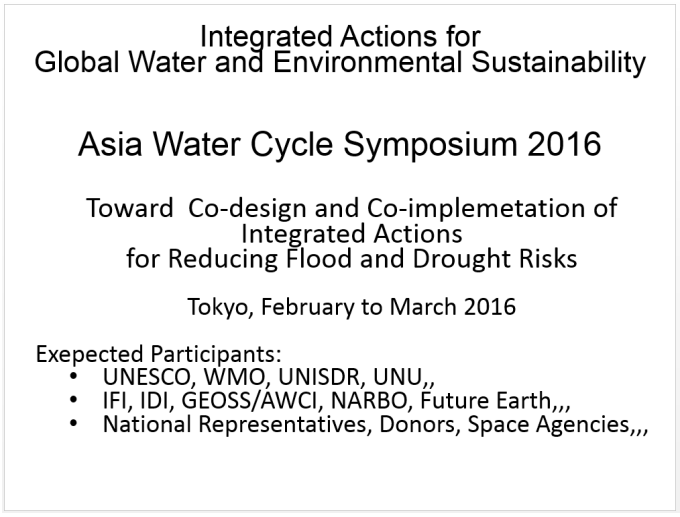
3.3 Next step

Prof. Toshio Koike emphasized the need for action not just concept. Mr. Eric Quincieu, ADB, recognized the benefit of integration, and economic value of integration that should be further promoted. The audience emphasized the importance of the opportunities to share concrete examples such as in Murray-Darling Basin. Prof. Toshio Koike introduced the symposium of Asian Water Cycle Initiative in 2016, inviting UNESCO, UNU, WMO, IFI, IDI, ISI also NARBO, Future Earth and GEO as inter- or trans- disciplinary framework.

4. CONCLUSIONS

Prof. Toshio Koike summarized the whole session, showing on the screen as follows.

1. An integrated approach should consider global agenda (Sendai Framework for disaster risk reduction, SDGs, climate change adaptation/mitigation, GEO/GEOSS, IFI, IDI and ISI), both benefit and security with risks, nexus for water-food-energy and disaster-environment-health-land use-land change. Science and society should contribute through holistic understanding in terms of inter-disciplinary, inter-agency and trans-disciplinary beyond institutional framework promoted by policy brief, by activating UNESCO Category-2 Centres and initiatives in collaboration with UN organizations and by encouraging dialogue among governments to share experiences for implementation and demonstration.
2. Immediate implementation should be addressed through the action to i) learn from and support to national and local platforms to practices evidence-based flood and drought risk reduction, considering how to share best practice such as WWF7 implementation road map, monitoring activities, progress and achievements, data-collection/sharing-statistics, risk monitoring, early warning, financing mechanism, and capacity building, ii) mobilize existing networks of scientific and research institutions at national, regional and international levels such as synthesis, advice to shareholders and communication/ engagement.
3. An opportunity for way forward is shown: Asia Water Cycle Symposium 2016 (see Figure below) toward co-design and co-implementation of integrated actions for reducing flood and drought risks in Tokyo, February to March 2016 with expected participants from UNESCO, WMO, UNISDR and UNU/ IFI, IDI, GEOSS/AWCI, NARBO, Future Earth/ national representatives, donors, space agencies etc.



5. CLOSING OF THE MEETING

UNESCO Jakarta agreed that they would report the result of this session to move forward to policy implementation and engagement for solid foundation toward next actions. The meeting adjourned at 15:06 on Wednesday 21st October 2015.

ANNEXES

INTERNATIONAL FLOOD INITIATIVE

IFI promotes the Integrated Flood Management (IFM) to take advantage of the benefits of floods and the use of flood plains while reducing the social, environmental and economic risks. (IFI mission)

Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM)

Sendai framework
SDGs
UNCCC COP21

Integrated Flood Management (IFM)

Minimizing
social, environmental and economic risks

Maximizing
net benefits from the use of flood plains

World Conference on Disaster Reduction (WCDR) in Kobe, Japan, in January 2005

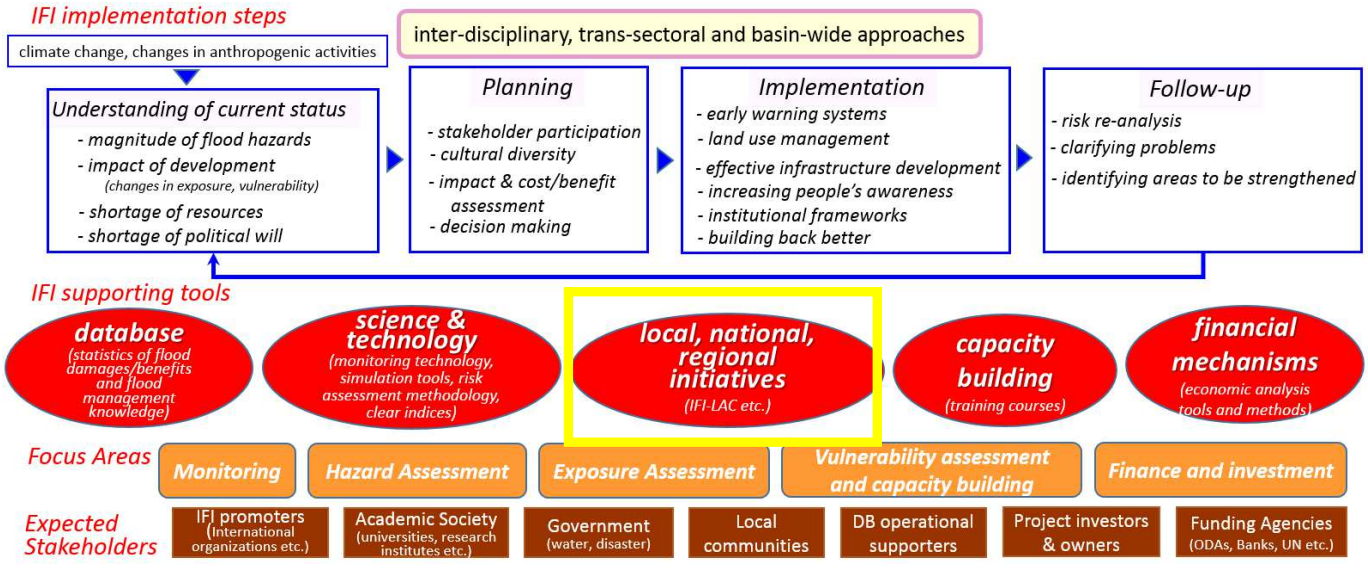
IFI made its official launch, as a joint initiative by UNESCO and WMO to address existing management gaps through a holistic approach and to provide a platform for further collaborative efforts, in close collaboration with UNU, UN/ISDR, IAHS, IAHR. The IFI Secretariat is located in ICHARM to coordinate the IFI activities.

✧ **First decade (2005-2015):** With respectful contributions from participatory organizations, IFI has been making an effort to conceptualize, design and implement flood mitigation and protective actions and activities, such as IFM HelpDesk initiated in 2009 by WMO/GWP APFM, IFI Book Series "Flood Management in a Changing Climate" by UNESCO IHP, and IFI flagship project by UNESCO IHP, WMO and other partners (eg. BfG, ICHARM) since 2013.

Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai, Japan in March 2015

The post-2015 framework (Sendai Framework) for disaster risk reduction (DRR) was adopted which represented a unique opportunity for countries to adopt a concise, focused, forward-looking and action-oriented DRR framework. The framework gives the first of these four priorities, "Understanding disaster risk" lists as actions to promote the collection, analysis, management and use of data, the assessment of disaster risk, the use of geospatial information, and disaster-related education, dissemination and awareness raising, which emphasizes the role of science and technology.

✧ **For the next step forward as the post-2015:** It is the time for IFI to provide a stepping-stone for the implementation of Sendai Framework by revitalizing its activities aimed at building on the successes of the past, while addressing existing gaps in implementing a holistic approach to flood management strategies comprising optimal structural and non-structural measures and thereby mainstreaming disaster risk reduction and addressing sustainable development. As one of the focus on practical scales for the IFI next decade to be step forward at regional levels, a new mechanism in Asia Pacific region try to facilitate the IFM through monitoring, assessment and capacity building. The further details will be discussed in Medan, Indonesia on 21 October 2015 at the plenary session (please see the flip side for more information).



Preparatory process for the international initiative on water and disaster in the Asia Pacific Region

A session during the international symposium on "Integrated Actions for Global Water and Environmental Sustainability" in conjunction with the 23rd IHP RSC meeting for Southeast Asia and the Pacific

Context and scope:

In 2015, the Sendai Framework highlighted the importance of "understanding disaster risk", and listed as actions to promote the collection, analysis, management and use of data, the assessment of disaster risk, the use of geospatial information and disaster-related education, the dissemination of knowledge and awareness raising. With strong climate change impacts expected to affect the water cycle, in particular the intensity and frequency of hydrological extremes, flood and drought management strategies have become the central element of adaptation strategies. The international initiative such as IFI through its partners, UNESCO, WMO, UNU, UNISDR, IAHS, and IAHR and voluntary partner organizations from government, academia, international bodies, etc, is now launching a facility to assist countries in implementing such integrated approaches in the Asia Pacific region. The session will cover the central preparatory process toward the international initiative regional activities.

Expected results and links to the initiative outcomes:

The international initiative through its regional process backed by a strong decentralized network of the partners could support countries that implement an integrated approach to disaster risk management. The approach aims at minimizing loss of life from water-related disasters and managing water-related disaster risks through efficiently using floodplains in support of broader development objectives. For instance, the IFI strategy is applicable to flood management policies, strategies and institutional development plans related to flood issues. The international initiative in the Asia Pacific region is expected to play an important role in water-related disaster risk reduction by developing collaborative frameworks with valuable "best practices" that are based on scientific findings, thus adopting a common methodology on data collection and economic analysis of disasters in order to realize evidence-based policy making on water-related disaster risk reduction which can be put into practice on the regional level.

Timing: Wednesday, 21 October 2015, 11 :00-14 :00

Venue: JW Marriot Hotel in Medan, Indonesia
Jalan Putri Hijau No.10, Medan 20111 Indonesia

Co-Moderators: Prof. Toshio Koike, Director of ICHARM
Prof. Shahbaz Khan, Director, UNESCO-Jakarta
WMO (*t.b.c.*)

Tentative Programme

1. Opening (15')
   - **a.** Welcome remarks by the Co-Moderators, Prof. Shahbaz Khan, UNESCO (5')
   - **b.** Guest speech, Mr. Eric Quincieu, Water Resources Specialist, ADB (10')
2. Contribution for Discussion: Potential role and expect of the regional activity for flood and drought management; monitoring, assessment and capacity building (45')
   - **a.** IFI regional activities in the Asia Pacific region, Dr. Masahiko Murase, ICHARM (10')
   - **b.** Operational flood early warning system, Mr. Yoichi Iwami, ICHARM (10')
   - **c.** Importance of data and information, Mr. Daisuke Kuribayashi, ICHARM (10')
   - **d.** IDI regional activities in the Asia Pacific region, Dr. Ali Chavoshian, RCUWM (15')

   <12:00-13:00 lunch break>
3. Open discussions and way forward facilitated by Prof. Toshio Koike, ICHARM and Dr. Ali Chavoshian, RCUWM (50')
4. Conclusions, Prof. Toshio Koike, ICHARM (10')