

NEW MECHANISM UNDER INTERNATIONAL FLOOD INITIATIVE TOWARD ROBUSTNESS FOR FLOOD MANAGEMENT IN THE ASIA PACIFIC REGION

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Abstract
Climate change is likely to result in increases in the frequency or intensity of extreme weather events. It is imperative that a good understanding is developed of how climate change affects the events that are reflected in hydrological extremes such as floods and how practitioners in water resources management deal with them. Since there is still major uncertainty as to how the impact of climate change affect actual water resources management, it is important to build robustness into management schemes and communities. Flood management under such variety of uncertainty favors the flexible and adaptive implementation both in top-down and bottom-up approaches. The former uses projections of global or spatially downscaled models to drive resource models and project resource impacts. The latter utilizes policy or planning tools to identify what changes in climate would be most threatening to their long-range operations. Especially for the bottom-up approaches, it is essential to identify the gap between what should be done and what has not been achieved for disaster risks. Indicators or index are appropriate tools to measure such gaps, but they are still in progress to cover the whole world. The International Flood Initiative (IFI), initiated in January 2005 by UNESCO and WMO in close cooperation with UNU and ISDR, IAHS and IAHR, has promoted an integrated approach to flood management to take advantage of floods and use of flood plains while reducing the social, environmental and economic risks. Its secretariat is located in ICHARM. The initiative objective is to support national platforms to practice evidence-based disaster risk reduction through mobilizing scientific and research networks at national, regional and international levels. The initiative is now preparing for a new mechanism to facilitate the integrated approach for flood management on the ground regionally in the Asia Pacific (IFI-AP) through monitoring, assessment and capacity building.

INTERNATIONAL FLOOD INITIATIVE

IFI mission : promotes an integrated approach to flood management to take advantage of floods and use of flood plains while reducing the social, environmental and economic risks.

IFI objective : build the capacity necessary to understand and better respond to flood hazards, vulnerabilities and benefits.

IFI guiding principles : Living with Floods, Equity, Empowered participation, and Inter-disciplinarily and trans-sectorality.

launched at the 2nd WCDR in Kobe, Jan. 2005

In Close Collaboration with:

Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) 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.

The 3rd World Conference on DRR in Sendai, Japan March 2015



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 the Asia Pacific region** try to facilitate the IFM through monitoring, assessment and capacity building.

