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Knowledge base and capacity for prediction,
adaptation and mitigation

IFI: International Flood Initiative



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International Flood Initiative
Dedicated to the
**UN International Decade for Action,
” Water for Life”2005-2015**



Background

- Flooding is the most taxing of water-related natural hazards to humans, material assets, cultural and ecological resources
- Annually flooding affects about 520 million people and their livelihoods, claiming about 25 000 lives worldwide. The annual cost of flooding is \$60 billion to the world economy
- Frequency of extreme flood events **changing** due to urbanization, deforestation, potential climate change and rise in sea levels.
- International and national efforts to develop structural and non-structural practices to reduce flood risk have been made for years. These practices have been mainly applied through isolated sectoral approaches.
- Worldwide lack of **integrated flood management** approaches
- New perspectives on flood management incorporating risk assessment need to be developed, taking into account economic and social aspect and ecological sustainability of vital systems



Mission Statement

The International Flood Initiative promotes an **integrated approach** to flood management, simultaneously **reducing** the social, environmental and economic risks that result in and from floods and **increasing** both the positive benefits from floods and the use of flood plains.

Objectives

The overall objective of IFI is to achieve capacities in countries for better understanding and handling of flood risk. To increase benefits due to floods through appropriate applying the following principles:

- Living with Floods
- Equity
- Inter-disciplinarity and trans-sectorality
- International and regional cooperation, empowered participation

Specific Objectives

- Improve data collection and analysis for flood management
- Develop approaches to reduce vulnerability
- Develop and improve institutional frameworks for flood management
- Optimize a mix of structural and non-structural approaches
- Develop approaches to public participation appropriate for different problem contexts and cultural settings

Target groups

- Academics
- Community leaders
- Opinion makers
- Journalists
- Media professionals
- Policy makers
- Diplomats
- Law makers
- Politicians
- Stakeholders

Expected outcomes

- Education and training material related to all aspects of flood management. Focus on formal and non – formal education at all academic levels.
- Clearing house services for flood management related to technologies, open access to data, information, knowledge and best practices
- Multi-lingual international bibliographic databases containing all flood related information
- Metadata networks to inter-link all the stakeholders

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Frontiers in Flood Research

Le point de la recherche sur les crues



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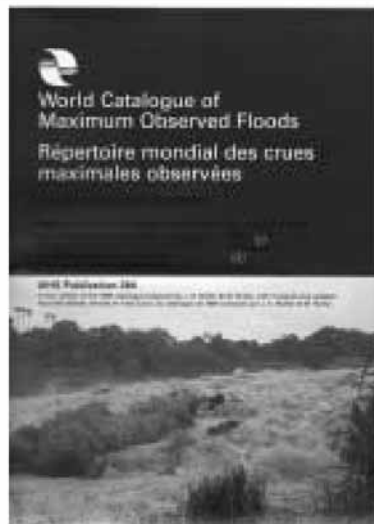
Kovacs Colloquium
UNESCO, Paris
June 2006



Contribution to

IFI





www.iahs.info

World Catalogue of Maximum Observed Floods / Répertoire mondial des crues maximales observées

Compiled by Reg Herschy

IAHS Publication 284 (December 2003) ISBN 1-901502-47-3; 320 pp. Price £80.00

A new edition of the [1984 Catalogue](#) (prepared by J. A. Rodier and M. Roche), with revisions and updates

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Flood data are listed for 120 countries, including newly provided data for 48 countries. For each country there are two data sets, and for the majority there are three:

- 1 The location of the flood flow observation sites, and background information about the drainage basins for which flood data are available (e.g. climate regime, mean annual precipitation and mean annual discharge, if known);
- 2 the maximum instantaneous discharge observed during the events listed in 1, plus any available, ancillary information about the event (e.g. the antecedent rainfall, flood duration);
- 3 for certain observation sites in some countries, series of annual maximum instantaneous discharge data are also available.

This is a bilingual English/French publication

INTERNATIONAL FLOOD INITIATIVE

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Thank you for your welcome and attention



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