

International Flood Initiative (IFI)
Minutes of IFI planning workshop
7-8th February 2013, UNESCO HQ, Paris

This meeting was organized as agreed at pre-AC/MC meeting on 13th November 2012 at the occasion of WMO 14th session of Commission for Hydrology (CHy). The main objectives of these 1.5 working days are to reshape and plan IFI activities for the near future, define and shape IFI flagship program and prepare what will be presented at UN Special Thematic Session on Water and Disaster side event on March 5th 2013 in New York. Two sessions took place at UNESCO HQ on 7-8th February 2013, a first session took place from 14:00-17:30 and a second one from 9:00-12:40. These minutes are a summary of both sessions.

A. Thursday 7th February 2013 (14:00-17:30)

1 Welcome, Self Introduction and Adopting the Agenda

- 1.1 Ms. Blanca Jimenez chaired the meeting and asked participants to provide a quick self-introduction and their expected outcomes.
- 1.2 The list of the participants is provided as Annex I.
- 1.3 The Chair introduced the objective of the meeting being the occasion for three major outcomes: to consolidate what was agreed in last November meeting, to shape the first IFI flagship program and to agree on what will be launched at UN Special Thematic Session on Water and Disaster side event on 5th March 2013 in New York. The draft agenda was adopted by the participants as given in Annex II.

2 Review of objectives and expected outcomes of IFI

- 2.1 2006 printed IFI pamphlet, document presenting IFI concept (objectives, guiding principles) and IFI implementation (strategic activities, performance indicators, administration, funding) was reviewed and it was agreed that the document was still valid and still the base document for IFI.
- 2.2 It was agreed to extend the focus of IFI to urban areas and to include a post-2015/Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)' perspective.
- 2.3 It was also agreed on the necessity to emphasize on added value and possible synergies/complementarities of IFI (what are the advantages of doing a project in the IFI framework?).

3 Review meeting results and actions taken in November 2012

- 3.1 The main points agreed as stated in the minutes circulated and validated last November 2012 were presented as follow:
 - Merging AC/MC into one joint committee under current WMO/UNESCO agreement.
 - UNESCO Water Science Division director and WMO Water and Climate Department director co-chairing the new joint committee.
 - IFI Two categories of projects: 1) IFI Flagship program 2) Category II type projects (Projects contributed by partners and discussed and endorsed by IFI joint committee).

- The Secretariat will send flagship proposal (vulnerability standards) and more detailed document if ready to Mr Cullmann for the IHP VIII new implementation mechanism working groups (10-12th December 2012)
- Working days in Paris with all partners (MC members will be invited) on the 7-8th February 2012 (to be confirmed).

3.2 The proposal from ICHARM was sent to Koblenz and taken to the floor at the IHP VIII new implementation mechanism working groups. However there, the discussion focused on the International Drought Initiative (IDI), which is also a newer initiative.

4 Specific achievements of IFI over a 3-year horizon with a strategic perspective including IFI Flagship Programmes

- 4.1 ICHARM presented its proposal for IFI first flagship programme entitled **Standard scales for risk monitoring**. In the context of post-2015, SDG's and post- Hyogo framework for Action (HFA), there is a need to monitor disaster risk from local/community to national and then global level. However to do so, it is necessary to develop indicators able to translate progress (or their absence) on reducing disaster risk at local/national/global level by structural and non-structural measures. This development is precisely the expected final outcome of this proposal.
- 4.2 The following amendments to the proposal were proposed:
- The word "standards" needs to be reexamined as it is misleading in the proposal suggesting ISO mechanism.
 - The target is to provide tools to help implementing flood measures at local scale and words like "guidance", "measures", "frame" would be more appropriate.
 - The concept of seamlessness of models was introduced as the key to this approach: seamlessness in providing data at different scales; from community/local level up to national and global level according to data availability.
 - The concept should encompass both risks as a result of floods as well as opportunities/benefits that arise from floods in several sectors
- 4.3 WMO proposed the focus of the first IFI flagship programme to be more on **Quantifying the effectiveness of flood management program**.
- 4.4 The program should present also an economical focus on providing packages/material on how to conduct flood management with maximum return: guidance, modelling and decision-making system tools to decrease risk and jointly increase resilience and benefit.

5 Roles and contributions of different organizations

- 5.1 The chair invited each organisation to present which role and which contribution they are committing to provide to IFI.

UNESCO	Research, Education, Capacity Building and Training - Network with category II center and UNESCO Water Chairs
IAHS	- Research in the natural science field → physical aspects of flood understanding and management.
IHP	- Call for more well joint case studies

WMO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Action plan, observation, development of forecasting and prediction tools, operation systems setting ups. - Link with APFM: look at how things are done in different settings. - Outreach more partners → model of support base partners concept (in average 10days expert/year).
ICHARM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development of seamless technology for local area and aggregation to global level for flood and drought.

6 Marketing of IFI activities and communication strategy with partners and users

- 6.1 It was agreed to proceed in two steps: first define core elements on IFI communication strategy to be presented for March 5th 2013 and then in 6-8month time, develop them in depth.
- 6.2 The marketing/communication strategy should focus on synergies.
- 6.3 The message to be conveyed is:
 - with IFI, a platform has been created with the objectives defined in IFI concept paper.
 - and now, to reach these objectives, a number of directions can be pursued in parallel, with the flagship program as one but also the secondary projects. This can be called the “Avenues approach”.
- 6.4 There is a need for a discussion on “who does what”.
- 6.5 The general marketing communication strategy can be summarized in the following five points:
 - a) The Concept paper is still valid.
 - b) In order to reach the objectives in the framework of the concept paper, we are shaping a flagship project and actions in parallel (Category II projects e.g.) and taking it further within this “avenue approach” (Annex III).
 - c) The commitments of other partners will be consolidating, therefore it will be PR that more resources and more knowledge is brought in IFI.
 - d) The initiative is open and others are invited to join in.
 - e) The focus is on complementarities and approach on key directions into avenues (Annex III).

7 Support structure of IFI

- 7.1 The basic support structure of IFI is constituted by ICHARM, IHP and CHy.
- 7.2 ICHARM should be an example to showcase the contribution of a category II centre to potential partners/collaborators
- 7.3 The Category II centres’ network should be used.

8 Governance of the program

- 8.1 The main points agreed are:
 - The merge of the Advisory and Management Committees into one joint committee.
 - The contribution of Secretariat to be continued in proactive manners

- Institutional organisations: the renewed commitment for the contribution of core partners (UNESCO and WMO are focal points) and the possibility to use their own expert networks.
- The coordination of program activities implementation by using the mechanism of UNESCO/WMO liaison committee.
- Monitoring and evaluation: to set an annual work plan evaluation and simple monitoring evaluation system then reviewed at IFI joint committee meetings and exchange between partners on 2-3month basis by teleconference for sharing information on progress and agree on next steps.

B. Friday 8th February 2013 (9:00-12:36) : two sessions were initially planned from 9:00-12:30 and 13:30-16:00.

1 Review of the points discussed at 7th February session

- 1.1 Each point discussed at February 7th session was presented for agreement before being circulated in minutes in the near future and the following two points were rediscussed:
- 1.2 On roles and contribution of partners: JC inquired if IAHS could not only contribute on the physical aspects of understanding floods and their management but also on what is, while addressing scientifically flood issues, the edge of reliable methodologies currently followed.
- 1.3 YG replied: A book on floods in Europe was released by IAHS in 2012 with case studies and specific chapters on methodologies are addressed and recommendation reference to this particular document and also Zbigniew W. Kundzewicz could be approached (www.iahs.info/newsletters/NL101.pdf) .
- 1.4 The definition of the “avenue approach” was also restated (Annex III).

2 Shaping and executing IFI Flagship Programme(s).

- 2.1 Each institution presented what were their programs and projects related to flood in order to identify the domain of collaboration and proposal for a flagship program:

Institution	Projects that could be contribution to IFI
IHP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A program in Namibia on flood management: roadmap in three elements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Education and capacity building: study on governmental structures and mandate of each department which should contribute to flood management. → result: no department or institution has a clear mandate to deal with flood. ○ Data (precipitation/climatic) /water information system for Namibia. ○ Open source software for flood forecasting preferred by the Government. • Enhance the resilience of Sub-Saharan African Countries to Floods Disasters (no donor for the moment) • Involve category II UNESCO centre in Serbia which could contribute by taking modules in education/capacity building.
WMO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each of IFI strategic activities (Vulnerability, Flood Risk

	<p>Management, Governance and Participation) are already in APFM therefore do not need to be developed from scratch. And APFM would like to develop synergies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pilot projects at community approaches to flood management in Thailand and Laos including flash flood. • Flood Forecasting Initiative: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Development of strategy at country level ○ A) intercomparison of flood forecasting models ○ B) effectiveness of flood forecasting services ○ C) Implementation of FFGS at global level (through regional implementations; programme is funded by USAID. • Pilot project on transboundary flood management (potentially USAID funded) • In Asia, collaboration with <i>Asian Disaster Preparedness Center</i>
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3 Flagship Programme with a knowledge-based global objective (Development of Standard Scales for Measuring Risk, proposals by partners).

- 3.1 ICHARM presented a revised version of its proposal with the title “ Project for Benchmarking flood risk reduction and management in effective and seamless manners – An IFI Flagship Project“ with the following objectives:
- To make leaders understand status of flood risk in countries and offer them decision alternatives.
 - To help practitioners to plan and implement effective flood management strategies.
 - To help effective flood management.
 - To support development of SDG and Post-MDG Target on water and disasters.
 - To the achieve above in seamless and effective manners.
- 3.2 It was underlined that flagship program avenues have to coincide with IFI main areas of competency, the “avenues” being:
- Vulnerability
 - Flood Risk Management
 - Governance and Participation
 - Connection with non-structural measures
 - The concept of living with floods.
- 3.3 It was also agreed to identify “fields of activities” that could be mentioned in NY as other possible flagship program to attract “Buy-In” from other institutions.

4 Flagship Programme(s) with a user-driven perspective.

- 4.1 The importance of user-driven perspective was underlined during discussions about the flagship program. Detailed concept(s) of additional flagship programs need to be developed jointly between IFI core partners.

5 Concept formulation of Flagship Programme(s).

- 5.1 A conceptual note “bullet points” is to be circulated by the Secretariat among partners by Friday 15th of February 2013 and a complete conceptual note by the 22nd of February including the objective of the flagship program, how to reach them and the expected results (document of about two pages). This conceptual note should not include the methodology neither formulas but only examples of how things could look like and be more conceptual.

6 Category II projects: Scoping for projects that are undertaken under the guidance of different organizations that could be marketed as IFI contributions.

- 6.1 It was proposed and agreed to call “Category II projects” **Baseline projects**.
- 6.2 Point 2 summarized the projects IHP and WMO/CHy can contribute to IFI but also there is a need to:
- Identify additional program that could be done in IHP-VIII.
 - Relevant activities in the framework of CHy, once its workplan would be adopted
- 6.3 It was agreed that the “new management group” should have the worktask to collect and coordinate what can be additional benefits and contribution to IFI.

7 Agreement on a work-plan and milestones.

- 7.1 Was discussed at point 5.1. for the next weeks.

8 Summary of results of the planning workshop.

- 8.1 The summary results of the planning workshop are:
- The concept paper is still valid and is the base of IFI with an extension to urban areas and an update including post-2015/SDG’s perspective.
 - This planning workshop defined the shape of the first flagship program; it was also agreed that a conceptual notes will be prepared by ICHARM and circulated by 22nd of February and this conceptual note will be taken to NY side-event.
 - Baseline projects were also cited among current IHP, CHy and WMO projects.

9 Next steps including information on the UN-side event New York in March.

- 9.1 KH presented the agenda of the 5th and 6th of March 2013 and stated that the Plenary Session 2 (15:00-16:30) agenda could be discussed (Annex IV).
- 9.2 JC enquired if only floods were considered as they are only half of water disasters and drought was not addressed. KH invited the participants to send representatives’ contacts for drought topics. SD stated that in IHP, there is the IDI and therefore a representative was needed.

9.3 The agenda agreed was:

Time	Topics
15:00 – 15:15	Opening presentation by Mr Jarraud and Ms Bokova.
15:15 - 16:15	Panel discussion: “ Post-2015- what output will help countries to be better-prepared for future disasters?” (5 minutes by panelist)
16:15 – 16:30	Presentation of IFI and launching of the flagship program by Bruce Stewart and Gretchen Kalonji (tbc).

9.4 HK will facilitate the session so that IFI introduction becomes a natural continuation of the panel discussion.

9.5 The list of panelists is as follow:

- Ms. Margareta Warlstrom, Secretary-General’s Special Representative, UN-ISDR
- Pr Gretchen Kalonji, A Assistant Director-General for Natural Sciences (tbc)
- Prof. Kuniyoshi Takeuchi, Director of ICHARM
- Dr. Bai-mass Taal, Executive Secretary of AMCOW
- Dr. Jerome Delli-Priscoli, Governor of World Water Council
- Mr. Kimio Takeya, Senior Advisor, JICA
- Representative of OECD
- Representative of IRDR (tbc)
- Representative of EU (tbc)

9.6 For NY, there is a need for flyers to be printed after having them revised. UNESCO has the files/text but no budget to print them. SD will circulate the text/files for review. (no mention of the flagship and content should be as general as possible).

9.7 JC will confirm by 15th of February with his institution if 100-200 copies can be printed for the side-event on the 5th of March 2013 in NY.

10 Date of the next meeting.

10.1 The next meeting will coincide with the next AC/MC meeting; probably at the occasion of the next WMO/UNESCO liaison committee (IHP-IGC chair and president of CHy will also be present), probably during the last week of May.

10.2 There was a discussion on who should be invited to this next meeting.

10.3 The need to update the contact list was also underlined.

10.4 UNESCO will circulate a doodle to enquiry all partners availability in the coming months.

11 Any other business.

- 11.1 Ms Isabelle Forge from GFDRR presented what GFDRR is doing in the field of flood. It was stated a lot of information, documents are online on the GFDRR website (<https://www.gfdr.org/>).
- 11.2 The Secretariat stressed out the need for “lower level” persons participation to the meeting as the work has to be shared between partners and ICHARM should not be the only institution contributing in kinds but ICHARM is also offering to act and contribute more proactively to IFI.
- 11.3 The extreme importance of IAHS presence to this meeting was also underlined.
- 11.4 IAHS stated they were very interested in cooperating with UNESCO and WMO but can only contribute to very specific points and topics like through IAHS education modules .
- 11.5 From IAHS point of view, IFI is a WMO/UNESCO and affiliated institutions’ initiative. The flagship program is defined by WMO/UNESCO and affiliated institutions and once particular points/directions are defined, then IAHS could contribute specifically.
- 11.6 It was reaffirmed that the core members of IFI are listed and established through IGC and cannot be changed.
- 11.7 Therefore, on ad-hoc basis, the others can be invited and contribute but the core group will be UNESCO/WMO and families.
- 11.8 Membership to IFI is an important matter that needs to be discussed at the next AC/MC committees.
- 11.9 There is a need to update the representatives names of INDIVIDUALS (not only institutions’ name) and while expending, there is a need to then make categories of new partners.

12 Closing of the Planning Workshop.

Annex I

List of the Participants

UNESCO

Ms Blanca Elena Jimenez-Cisnero (chair)
Mr Siegfried Demuth (SD)
Mr Kazuaki Yoshida (KY)

WMO

Mr Wolfgang Grabs (WG)
Mr Tommaso Abrate (8th February only) (TA)

UNESCO-IHP-IGC

Mr. Johanness Cullmann (JC)

IAHS

Mr Young Gordon (YG)

WB-GFDRR

Ms Isabelle Forge (IF)
Ms Manuela Chiapparino (7th of February only) (MC)

Lawford's Environmental Consulting

Mr Richard Lawford (7th of February only) (RL)

ICHARM

Mr. Kuniyoshi Takeuchi (KT)
Mr. Kenzo Hiroki (KH)
Ms Ai Sugiura (AS)

Annex II

INTERNATIONAL FLOOD INITIATIVE (IFI)

Planning Workshop

UNESCO Headquarters, Paris

Room XIV (Bonvin Building, – 2 Floor)

7 and 8 February 2013

Provisional Agenda

Thursday 7 February

Morning

Arrival of participants and joint lunch.

Afternoon session (14:00 – 17:30)

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Review of objectives and expected outcomes of IFI (general discussion about the strategic direction of the initiative).
3. Review of meeting results and actions taken (November 2012).
4. Specific expected achievements of IFI over a 3-year horizon with a strategic perspective including IFI Flagship Programmes.
5. Roles and contributions of different organizations.
6. Marketing of IFI activities and communication strategy with partners and users.
7. Support structure of IFI.
8. Governance of the programme: Secretariat, Working Groups, institutional organization, monitoring and evaluation, coordination of programme activities and implementation issues, exchange of information within the IFI group, budget issues.

Friday 8 February

Morning Session (8:30 – 12:30)

1. Shaping and executing IFI Flagship Programme(s).
2. Flagship Programme with a knowledge-based global objective (Development of Standard Scales for Measuring Risk, proposals by partners).
3. Flagship Programme(s) with a user-driven perspective.
4. Concept formulation of Flagship Programme(s).

Afternoon Session (13:30 – 16:00)

1. Second Tier projects: Scoping for projects that are undertaken under the guidance of different organizations that could be marketed as IFI contributions.
2. Agreement on a work-plan and milestones.
3. Summary of results of the planning workshop.
4. Next steps including information on the UN-side event New York in March.
5. Date of the next meeting.
6. Any other business.
7. Closing of the Planning Workshop.

Annex III

Avenue Approach definition:

to reach the objectives defined in IFI concept paper, a number of directions can be pursued in parallel, with the flagship program as one but also the secondary projects. This can be called the “Avenues approach”. Indeed, once the general concept of IFI is decided and discussions on what are the framework for IHP-VIII, IAHS and CHy new programs are finalized as well as what are the constitution of the secondary projects, approaches or avenues need to be identified to fulfill IFI objectives and a number of core constituents/components of such approach can be conducted in parallel such as the flagship program and roadmaps and activities, user-driven programs within IHP, IAHS and CHy.

Annex IV

Concept Note
Side Event
of
Special Thematic Session on Water and Disasters
10am –6pm March 5th, 2013
UN Headquarters, New York

Objective

Water is life. But water is also a threat to life. When a mega-water-disaster strikes a country people suffer, and national development is severely hampered for years, making recovery even more challenging. Many areas of the world are struck by such disasters recurrently. These disasters know no borders, severe value chains and result in political, social and economic shocks, severely affecting sustainable development.

Countries that are considered vulnerable to recurring disasters often also have to deal with highly variable and challenging water, natural resources, social and economic situations. The poor suffer the most from disasters as they tend to live under more vulnerable conditions with less protection and preparedness. Human rights are recurrently violated through vicious circle of their living in lowland slums and losing everything by water-disasters.

Global changes including climate change, population growth and fast urbanization are drastically increasing risks of water-disaster. There are increasingly more people in crowded urban areas who will feel the impact of climate change through water. Green growth will not be materialized without squarely addressing mega-water-disasters.

Having the above in mind, **the UN Special Thematic Session on Water and Disasters will be organized as Secretary-General's special event on March 6th, 2013.** Prior to the Session, focused discussion on water and disasters will be conducted as Side Event of the Special Session.

The following topics will be addressed in each of segments of the Side Event

- From relief to preparedness – enhancing leadership, governance and coordination system for effective mitigation of mega-water-disasters (1.5 hours)
- Addressing Water and Disasters in the context of Post-MDG and Post-Hyogo Process (1.5 hours)
- Integrated Water Resources and Flood Management in the context of International Water Resources Management and Water Cooperation (1.5 hours)

Organizer: Friends of Side Event of UN Special Thematic Session on Water and Disasters (HLEP/UNSGAB, UN-ISDR, WMO, UNESCO, International Flood Initiative, ICHARM, US Army Corps of Engineers, MLIT of Japan, NARBO, GWP, WWC and others (tbc))

Chair(s)

The Side Event will be chaired by Mr. Michel Jarraud, Secretary General of World Meteorological Organization.

It may be co-chaired by Ms. Irina Bokova, Director General of UNESCO (tbc).

Speakers and participants

High level experts, national/international experts, civil society and private sector representatives, and others

Expected outcomes

Executive Summary of Side Event and Summary of Sessions.

Agenda of the Side Event

March 5th, 2013

10:00-10:30 Opening Plenary Session

(1) Welcome remarks by Chair(s)

(2) Congratulatory address: Dr. Han Seung-soo

10:30-12:00 Plenary Session 1: “From relief to preparedness – enhancing leadership, governance and coordination system for effective mitigation of mega-water-disasters with focus on Hurricane Sandy”

Venue: UN Library Auditorium, UN Headquarters

Session Organizer: US Army Corps of Engineers

Session Chair: Chief of US-Army Corps of Engineers (tbc)

(1) Key presentation on “Lessons of Hurricane Sandy”: Representative of USACE

(2) Panel discussion: “Connecting lessons of Hurricane Sandy and mega-water-disasters in the world”

Facilitator: Representative of US-ACE

- Representative of US-ACE
- Lessons of Great East Japan Earthquake-: Representative, MLIT, Japan
- Lessons of the Netherlands including New Delta Plan for climate change adaptation: Koos Wieriks, Ministry of Environment and Public Works, the Netherlands
- Lessons in addressing floods in China: Representative, Ministry of Water Resources , People’s Republic of China
- Lessons of Indian Ocean Tsunami: Mr. Kuntoro Mangkusubroto, Head of Presidential Work Unit , Indonesia

12:00-15:00 Lunch Break

(Special Luncheon Meeting for HLEP/UNSGAB will be held in UN Secretariat Building at 12:15 – 13:45 hours on invitational basis)

15:00-18:00 Afternoon Session

Venue: Room 6, North Lawn Building, UN-HQs

15:00-16:30 Plenary Session 2: “Addressing Water and Disasters in the context of Post-MDG and Post-Hyogo Process”

Session Chair: Mr. Michel Jarraud, Secretary-General, World Meteorological Organization

(1) Panel discussion:

Facilitator: Kenzo Hiroki, Special Advisor, HLEP/UNSGAB

Opening presentation on Post MDG and “Water and Disasters” by Kenzo Hiroki

Panel discussion: “Post-2015– what output will help countries to be better-prepared for future disasters?”

- Ms. Margareta Warlstrom, Secretary-General’s Special Representative, UN-ISDR
- Prof. Kuniyoshi Takeuchi, Director of ICHARM
- Dr. Bai-mass Taal, Executive Secretary of AMCOW
- Dr. Jerome Delli-Priscoli, Governor of World Water Council
- Mr. Kimio Takeya, Senior Advisor, JICA
- Representative of OECD
- Representative of IRDR (tbc)
- Representative of EU (tbc)

(2) Launching of Renewed Agreement and Flagship Projects of International Flood Initiatives

- Facilitated by Bruce Stewart, Director of Hydrological Department, WMO and Blanca, Director, UNESCO

(3) Wrap-up by Session Chair

Plenary Session 3: Addressing extreme hydrological events by Integrated Water Resources Management

Session Organizer: NARBO

Chair: Dr. Keizrul bin Abdullah, NARBO Chairperson

Presentation and Panel Discussion

- Dr. Ania Grobicki, Executive Secretary of Global Water Partnership
- CEO, Mekong River Commission
- Mr. Kenyu Komura, President of Japan Water Agency
- Representative of ICIWARM, USA
- Representative of International Year of Water Cooperation
- Representative of African Development Bank
- Representative of Asian Development Bank (tbc)