

Side Event at the UNESCO IHP IC on

New Strategy for International Flood Initiative (IFI)

- A Challenge by Hydrology Responding to Sendai Framework, SDGs and Paris Agreement -

Briefing Note ver.0621

1. Background

To reconcile the relationships among development, environmental issues, and disasters, important global decisions were made and came to fruition in 2015, with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (Sendai Framework) in March, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in September, and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change (Paris Agreement) in December. Connected and concerted actions among these agreements are required to address the issues associated with development.

Flooding is one of the greatest water-related environmental disasters known to us—its human, material and ecological costs are staggering. The number of people vulnerable to devastating floods is expected to continue to rise due to large-scale urbanisation, population growth in flood-prone areas, deforestation, climate change and rising sea levels. On the other hand, floods are natural phenomena that contribute to the biodiversity and sustainability of ecosystems and many human activities.

It is essential to the three global decisions in 2015 to develop a new holistic risk-based approach to the Integrated Flood Management (IFM) that aims at minimising loss from flooding under climate change and maximising the net benefits from the use of flood plains for sustainable development. The International Flood Initiative (IFI) has revised the strategy for promoting the IFM by identifying seven focus areas and the direction of implementation plan. This side event shares the key ideas and discusses how to realize them and their implementation in policy-making.

2. Structure of the event

Organizer	UNESCO-IHP
Date and Time	Monday 13 June 2016, 13:15-14:25
Venue	UNESCO HQ, Room II
Chair	Mr. Abou Amani, UNESCO

Draft Agenda

- i. Introductory Remarks by Ms. Blanca Jimenez-Cisneros, UNESCO (5min)
- ii. IFI Strategy 2016-2022 and Draft of Implementation Plan by Mr. Toshio Koike, ICHARM (5min)
- iii. Panel Discussion (45 min)
Inputs by IFI Partners (5min each)
 - Mr. Johannes Cullmann, WMO
 - Mr. Christophe Cudennec, IAHS
 - Dr. Blanca Jimenez-Cisneros, UNESCO
 - Mr. Toshio Koike, ICHARM

Discussion with Audience

- iv. Summary of commitments and conclusion by Mr. Abou Amani, UNESCO (5min)

3. Discussion

- i. Ms. Blanca Jimenez-Cisneros, UNESCO remarked on the brief background about IFI and the context of this event in the opening.
- ii. Mr. Toshio Koike, ICHARM reported the communication over IFI so far and introduced the IFI Strategy 2016-2022 with the further expectation on its implementation using the PPT presentation file.
- iii. Mr. Johannes Cullmann, WMO raised three points for the IFI and its implementation: early warning, a new thrust for monitoring and data exchange, and crucial technical and technological development, both low and high tech for mitigation and preparedness. For these aspects, WMO offers its expertise on monitoring and data exchange, and science and technology support. The accuracy and resolution of flood risk assessments should be further enhanced, also through be closer cooperation with partners like ECWMF.
- iv. Mr. Christophe Cudennec, IAHS offered the implementation of IFI especially through IAHS's academic network on hydrology and capacity building. The methodology on Prediction in Ungaged Basin (PUB) might help while IAHS are processing the "Panta Rhei" (science decade 2013-2022).
- v. Ms. Blanca Jimenez-Cisneros, UNESCO emphasized the collaboration with OECD and pro-active assessment on risk especially by private sectors.
- vi. Mr. Toshio Koike, ICHARM put earmarks on data aspects: management, archive and sharing as well as political visibility through the communication with high level panel, such as in the coming panel in Indonesia, September 2016.
- vii. From the audience, Mr. Shabaz Khan, UNESCO-Jakarta Office, highlighted the activities in the Asia Pacific region through tool development (hydrological prediction and structural vulnerability assessment), early warning with the meteorological services and capacity building like the ICHARM's MSc course. Mr. Robert Pietrowsky, Director of ICIWaRM showed the multi-sectors collaboration from meteorology to geographical services, mentioning the "Living with flood" cases mostly in the US.
- viii. Mr. Abou Amani, UNESCO summarized the inputs and concluded the event.

4. Related materials

- i) Leaflet
- ii) International Flood Initiative Strategy 2016-1022
- iii) PPT presentation file by Prof. Koike, Director of ICHARM
