

**International Flood Initiative (IFI)**  
**Third Meeting of the Advisory Committee and Management Committee**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> October 2008, ICHARM (Tsukuba)**

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**REPORT**

**1. Welcome and self introduction**

1.1 The third meeting of the Advisory Committee (AC) and Management Committee (MC) of the International Flood Initiative (IFI) was held at the International Centre for Water Hazard and Risk Management (ICHARM) in Tsukuba on Thursday, the 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2008. At the outset, Mr. Takeuchi welcomed the participants to the meeting and asked them for self introduction.

1.2 The list of the participants is in Annex I.

1.3 The chair of the IFI meeting for the next 2 years, Mr. Bruce Stewart couldn't attend the meeting. The participants selected Mr. Keizrul bin Abdullah, representing the UNESCO-IHP Intergovernmental Council (group 4) and WMO-CHy Regional Association 2 (RAII) as the meeting's chair.

1.4 The agenda was adopted is given in Annex II.

**2. Review of the IFI activities and general discussion on IFI objectives**

2.1 A brief background and history of the IFI was presented by Mr. Takeuchi. Successfully completed decisions and incomplete decisions of the past two IFI-AC/MC meetings were presented. They are summarized in Annex III.

2.2 A summary of the IFI mapping activities exercise was presented by Mr. Ali Chavoshian based on the reports submitted by the IFI partners. The main objective of the mapping activities was to identify the IFI activities' overlaps and gaps in order to help the IFI partners to propose an IFI Action Plan. The reports are available at: <http://www.ifi-home.info/Login.html>. It was mentioned that there are a few more IFI related activities in UN/ISDR and IAHR.

2.3 Following the review of the IFI mapping activities exercise, the discussion on the IFI objectives went to emphasize the role of the initiative to synthesize what we already know on flood issues and translate available research and studies to an understandable format for flood policy makers.

**3. IFI Action Plan and Outcomes**

3.1 In order to formulate sensible IFI outcomes, Mr. Andras Szollosi-Nagy suggested three types of IFI products as follows:

3.1.1 **IFI briefs:** About 2 pages (at most 4 pages); multilingual to communicate flood issues and available solutions to governments and policy makers. They can be in a printed format or web-based.

3.1.2 **IFI reference series:** A kind of guidebooks and manuals to fulfill gaps and elaborate in detail on flood issues and solutions for practical use with the respect to ongoing activities at WMO and various other valuable texts.

3.1.3 **IFI web tutorials:** web-based education and training with respect to the available e-courses at UNU and IHE.

These three types of IFI products were approved. The task force and time table of each product were adopted as follows.

### **3.2 IFI briefs:**

- Task force: UNESCO- IHP, UN/ISDR and ICHARM
- Coordinator: UNESCO-IHP (Mr. Andras Szollosi-Nagy)
- Time table: In two weeks a set of the IFI briefs' titles will be provided. The task force will do its best to provide the first series of the IFI briefs by the 5<sup>th</sup> World water Forum (WWF5) in Istanbul.
- Participation: By suggesting titles, drafting briefs, revising and editing draft briefs, translating them to other languages, distributing them, etc. (Contact: [info@ifi-home.info](mailto:info@ifi-home.info))

### **3.3 IFI reference series:**

- Task force: WMO, ICIWaRM (The International Center for Integrated Water Resources Management under the auspices of UNESCO, IWR) and ICHARM
- Coordinator: WMO (Mr. Avinash Tyagi)
- Time table: WMO is working on two guidelines. In two months, reference series topics will be prioritized for short and midterm publication. Moreover, a list of the possible contributors will be provided. (Contact: [info@ifi-home.info](mailto:info@ifi-home.info))

### **3.4 IFI web tutorials:**

- Task force: UNESCO-IHE, UNU, WMO, IAHR and ICHARM
- Coordinator: UNESCO-IHE (will be confirmed by Mr. Andras Szollosi-Nagy)
- Time table: After receiving confirmation from IHE, it will be decided.

## **4. IFI exposures and the next meeting**

4.1 It was suggested that IFI participates more actively in WWF5. Despite the tight schedule of WWF5, UNESCO-IHP, WMO and ICHARM will try for active participation.

4.2 The IFI website was present by ICHARM and there were a few suggestions for its improvement. ICHARM will work to improve it based on the feedbacks.

4.3 In order to promote the exposure of IFI activities, it was agreed in that the IFI Secretariat at ICHARM should publish IFI newsletters and/or periodical reports. They can be distributed using the UNESCO-IHP network as well as WMO-CHy and other relevant networks.

4.4 It was suggested by the representative of the UN/ISDR that it is good for IFI to participate actively in the second Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (16-18 June, 2009-Geneva). It was agreed that IFI organizes a specific session in the platform on Flood Risk Reduction upon agreement of the platform organizer. Mr. Ono will work on this.

4.5 The next meeting of the IFI AC/MC will be held at Geneva-WMO Head Quarters on the occasion of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (16-18 June 2009).

The Chair thanked all the participants for their constructive contribution to the discussions and ICHARM for organizing the meeting. The participants thanked the Chair. The meeting was closed at 1515 hrs.

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**INTERNATIONAL FLOOD INITIATIVE (IFI)  
Third Meeting of the AC/MC meeting  
2<sup>nd</sup> October 2008, ICHARM-Tsukuba**

**LIST of PARTICIPANTS**

**UNESCO**

Mr. Andras Szollosi-Nagy  
Mr. Toshihiro Sonoda

**UNESCO (IHP Regions)**

Mr. Keizrul bin Abdullah  
Mr. Eugene Stakhiv  
Mr. Carlos Eduaedo Tucci

**WMO**

Mr. Avinash Tyagi

**IAHR**

Mr. Nobuyuki Tamai

**UN/ISDR**

Mr. Yuichi Ono

**UNU**

Mr. Srikantha Herath

**ICHARM & MLIT**

Mr. Kuniyoshi Takeuchi  
Mr. Akira Terakawa  
Mr. Tosho Okazumi  
Mr. Junichi Yoshitani  
Mr. Kazuhiko Fukami  
Mr. Katsuhito Miyake  
Mr. Ali Chavoshian

## Agenda

**Date:** 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2008

**Venue:** The International Centre for Water Hazard and Risk Management (ICHARM-Tsukuba)

**Access:** 1-6 Minamihara, Tsukuba, Ibaraki, 305-8516 Japan

<http://www.icharm.pwri.go.jp/html/about/access.html>

Time	Item
10:00 ~ 10:15	Welcome, self introduction and chair election
10:15 ~ 10:20	Adoption of the Agenda
10:20 ~ 10:40	Secretariat review of the past meeting's minute and progress report
10:40 ~ 12:15	IFI mapping activities, identifying gaps and overlaps
12:15 ~ 13:00	Lunch
13:00 ~ 15:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-IFI Action Plan</li> <li>-IFI exposure meetings (WMO CHy 2008, ISDR Global Platform, WWF5)</li> <li>- Other topics (scheduling next meeting, etc.)</li> </ul>

## Review of the past two IFI-AC/MC meetings

### A) First IFI AC/MC Meeting , 26 Jan 2007, WMO-Geneva

#### Participants:

WMO-CHy(B. Stewart and Z. Jian Yu), IAHS(P. Hubert), IAHR(C. George), ICHARM (K.Takeuchi and A. Terakawa), ISDR(J. Harding and Y. Ono), UNESCO IHP SECRETARIAT (A.Szöllösi-Nagy, S. Demuth, T. Sonoda and J.A. Tejada-Guibert), UNU (F. Renaud) and WMO SECRETARIAT( A. Tyagi, G. Arduino and W. Grabs)

*Chaired by Bruce Stewart from CHy*

#### Successful Accomplishment Decisions:

- ✓ The Concept Paper was adopted. It was however agreed that the paper should be treated as a living document in order to allow other potential partners to join the Initiative and at the same time keep the Action Plan up to date and adaptable to the evolving needs.
- ✓ Printing Concept Paper, along with the Action Plan and a brief 4-page brochure
- ✓ Flood Disaster Preparedness Standard idea was proposed by ICHARM. It was agreed that a brief note on the idea should be prepared by ICHARM. It could then be taken up for discussions under the possible project activity under the Action Plan.
- ✓ It was decided that efforts should be made to organize the next meeting of the Advisory Committee sometime during the first quarter of 2008

#### Incomplete Decision of the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting

- ☒ It was agreed that the preliminary mapping carried out during the meeting would be revisited by the partners and confirmed by 15<sup>th</sup> February 2007. This mapping process would help in identifying the action points, which would be prepared by the end of December 2007 and presented in the next meeting of the Advisory Committee.
- ☒ It was decided that following will act as the coordinators for the topics:
  - Research Agenda: IAHS and IAHR
  - Education and Training: UNESCO
  - Information Networking: UNU
  - Technical Assistance: WMO

The coordinator would provide an analysis of the inter-linkages of various activities and carry out the gap analysis as per format for mapping of activities.
- ☒ IFI website by ICHARM

## **B) Second IFI AC/MC Meeting 5 May 2008, ICLR-Toronto**

### Participants:

IAHS(G. Young), IAHR(A. Mynett), ICHARM (K.Takeuchi and K. Miyake and Ali), ISDR(S. Briceno and Y. Ono), UNESCO IHP SECRETARIAT (S. Demuth and T. Sonoda), UNU (J. Birkmann and E. Plate), ICLR (S. Simonovic) and WMO SECRETARIAT( A. Tyagi)

*Chaired by Salvano Briceno from ISDR*

### Successful Accomplishment Decisions:

- ✓ It was decided that all the MC members submit their activities reports using the template provided by Mr. Birkmann to ICHARM by the end of May 2008.
- ✓ ICHARM will combine and analyze the submitted reports to identify possible gaps and parallel activities by the end of July.
- ✓ All the submitted reports and mapping activities will be posted to the designated section of the IFI website with access limited to the MC members.
- ✓ Proposal of establishing flood disaster preparedness indices was prepared by Mr. Takeuchi. It will be considered for possible project activities under Action Plan.
- ✓ A chair position for overall coordination was proposed by the MC members. Mr. Bruce Stewart, president of WMO/CHy was nominated and agreed upon as the chairman of IFI for the next 2 years starting from the next IFI meeting on October 2nd, 2008.

### Incomplete Decision of the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting

- ☒ The coordinator of each main theme will formulate a draft of Action Plan by the next IFI MC/AC meeting on October 2nd, wherein it should be presented. The coordinator of each main theme based on the consensus in the first meeting are as follow:
  - a) Research Agenda: IAHS and IAHR
  - b) Education and Training: UNESCO
  - c) Information Networking: UNU
  - d) Technical Assistance: WMO