

**International Flood Initiative (IFI)**  
**Minutes of IFI pre-AC/MC meeting**  
**13<sup>th</sup> November 2012, WMO, Geneva**

-----

On the occasion of WMO 14<sup>th</sup> session of CHy, ICHARM, the Secretariat of IFI proposed to the key members of UNESCO IHP and WMO HWRP to meet as this was the first occasion for the newly appointed Director of UNESCO Water Science Division and Director of WMO Water and Climate Division could meet and discuss the revitalization of IFI. Two meetings took place at WMO on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2012, a first one from 12:50-14:20 and a second one from 17:45-18:30. These minutes are a summary of both meetings.

## **1. Welcome, Self Introduction and Adopting the Agenda**

1.1 In the occasion of 14<sup>th</sup> session of Commission of Hydrology (CHy), a pre-AC/MC meeting of the International Flood Initiative (IFI) partners was held in WMO in Geneva on November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2012. Mr. Takeuchi (Secretary of IFI) chaired the meeting and asked participants to provide a quick self-introduction.

1.2 The list of the participants is provided at Annex I.

1.3 The Chair introduced the objective of the meeting being the occasion to restart IFI which became latent in the past years. The draft agenda was adopted by the participants as given in Annex II.

## **2. Quick overview on IFI current situation**

2.1 The Chair introduced the origin of IFI as a joint initiative between WMO and UNESCO and stressed out the importance of WMO and UNESCO commitment for the success of IFI as the necessary condition for the other partners to follow. Indeed the last meeting at directors' level took place on October 2<sup>nd</sup> 2008 and the last meeting with both UNESCO and WMO present took place on July 7<sup>th</sup> 2010. The major milestones (development of IFI concept paper, all partners activities mapping task, the IFI Action list Annex III) and achievements were then presented briefly by Ms Sugiura.

## **3. Secretariat proposition for new organization of IFI**

3.1. Mr Hiroki presented the actual challenges faced by IFI and proposed a new business model, and an organization chart with the main points being:

- One Joint committee regrouping the current Advisory and Management Committees.
- UNESCO Water Science Division director and WMO Water and Climate Division director co-chairing the new joint committee.
- The joint committee will report to CHy and IHP-IGC.
- IFI Two categories of projects as follow:

### **Category I projects' requirements:**

- i. IFI flagship projects, generic IFI projects
- ii. Should give substantial impact and added value to global improvement of flood risk reduction, management and resilience.
- iii. Be beneficial to **international community** as a whole.

- iv. Preferably already having a **core funding**.
- v. (also possibility to mobilize for additional funding to a limited extent)
- vi. Report with yearly plan of what will be done, report back to Joint committee and to Member states through CHy and IHP-IGC.

**Category II projects are:**

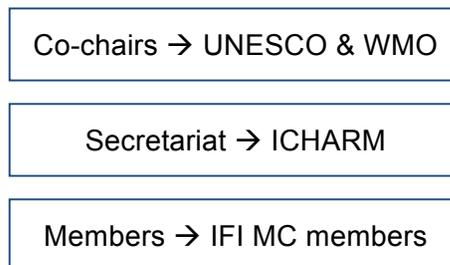
- -Projects contributed by partners and discussed and endorsed by IFI joint committee. The projects will be reported to CHy and IHP-IGC and branded with IFI logo.

3.2. The Chair explained the current organization of IFI that had two committees and one chair used to be the president of CHy (Mr Stewart until 2011 and then Mr Wellens-Mensah up to date).

3.3. Mr Grabs stressed out the fact that the organization of the committees (the necessity of a Management Committee or not) will depend on what will be the actual business plan decided. Therefore, there is a need to decide what will be done first.

3.4. Mr Stewart expressed the fact that even though UNESCO and WMO are already having activities on floods, there are always gaps, then those gaps should be address under the IFI umbrella with an united face and provide the added value to have UNESCO and WMO coming together. It was also underlined that both organizations have projects in same areas like Pakistan.

3.5. The final organization should be:



3.6. On point iv) for category I projects:

3.6.1. Ms Jimenez-Cisneros confirmed UNESCO willingness to work more closely with WMO but also underlined the willingness to have an impact on the outside and for IFI to mobilize funds and get a budget.

3.6.2. Mr Hiroki underlined the fact that the Secretariat cannot receive the IFI funds and will not be able to serve for this task and Ms Jimenez stated UNESCO could do it.

3.6.3. Mr Cullmann notified the participants that in cooperation with Mr Lins, IHP-IGC and CHy are willing to develop joint activities and were ready to address donors like ADB, WB or any other organizations.

3.7. Need for flagship:

3.7.1. Secretariat exposed that in the context of Post-Hyogo Framework for Action (Post HFA) and SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals), the need for monitoring risk and vulnerability and therefore the need to develop standards to measure risks and vulnerability. The development of risks and vulnerability standards/indices

should be the global initiative for IFI to start with. (details on ICHARM proposal on vulnerability standards monitoring is given in Annex IV)

3.7.2. Ms Jimenez-Cisnero also exposed the need to address urban floods and early warning

3.7.3. Mr Cullmann proposed standards on vulnerability applied to the cities as an initial focus. Mr Hiroki noted it should be checked if cities can be fed into SDGs.

3.7.4. Mr Wellens-Mensah underlined the need for the global initiative on floods to be translated to regions and in this context, asked who would be the beneficiary of the development of vulnerability standards.

3.7.5. Mr Cullmann replied that the monitoring of vulnerability for industry, for food security etc integrated into indices or standards will benefit all levels from individuals like farmers to communities, local governments and governments.

3.7.6. Mr Wellens-Mensah underlined the need for the tools or models or mechanisms to be uptaken by people and apply to their areas (especially if use of satellite observations integrated into early warning system). Those tools/models/mechanisms should be packaged and presented with a joint face and this should attract funds.

3.8. On category II projects:

3.8.1. Mr Cullmann proposed: they should continue but the main IFI projects should shift to category I.

3.9. On new membership:

3.9.1. Ms Jimenez-Cisnero asked about the option of having more members and Mr Takeuchi replied it should be open.

#### **4. Coming Events and key dates**

4.1 UN Special Session on Water and Disaster in NY in March 2012 (date to be confirmed)

4.1.1 Mr Hiroki proposed to have an IFI side-event at the special session and present vulnerability standards proposal there.

4.2 IHP VIII new implementation mechanism in Koblenz on December 10-12<sup>th</sup> 2012

4.2.1 Mr Cullmann: There are several working groups, including one on floods and it could be a task for the flood working group to reflect and discuss on urban floods.

4.2.2 ICHARM could also send someone if possible.

4.3 One and a half working day with all partners of IFI (AC and MC) in Paris on February 7-8<sup>th</sup> 2012 (to be confirmed)

4.3.1 Gaps, opportunities and milestones projects should be identified.

#### **5. Conclusion and Wrap-up**

5.1. The points agreed are:

- The merge of the Advisory and Management committee into one unique committee for the moment.
- Category I type projects.

- Category II type projects.
  - 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 (10-12<sup>th</sup> December 2012)
  - 1.5 working days in Paris will all partners (MC members will be invited) 7-8<sup>th</sup> February 2012 (to be confirmed).
- 5.2. The Chair thanked all the participants for their constructive contribution to the discussions. The participants thanked the Chair. The meeting was closed at 18:30 (UTC/GMT+1).
- 5.3. Mr Grabs suggested the following point while the minutes were circulated:
- Participants agreed that the IFI Action List (Annex III) needs to be amended and updated to the content to reflect the current status. This could be done by correspondence prior to the planned IFI coordination meeting in Paris.

## **Annex I**

### **List of the Participants**

#### **UNESCO**

Ms Blanca Elena Jimenez-Cisnero

#### **WMO**

Mr. Bruce Stewart (for lunch-time meeting only)

Mr Wolfgang Grabs

Mr Tomoyuki Okada

#### **UNESCO-IHP-IGC**

Mr. Johanness Cullmann

#### **WMO CHy**

Mr Julius Wellens-Mensah (president for 2008-2012)

Mr Harry Lins (president for 2012-2016) (for lunch-time meeting only)

#### **ICHARM**

Mr. Kuniyoshi Takeuchi

Mr. Kenzo Hiroki

Ms Ai Sugiura

## Annex II

# Agenda

**Date:** 13<sup>th</sup> November 2012

**Venue:** WMO HQ– meeting room 6J

Time	Item
12:40 ~ 12:50	Welcome and self introduction
12:50 ~ 14:20	<p><b>1. Overview presentation by Secretariat:</b> What are the partners' commitment, contribution and achievement up to date?</p> <p><b>2. Discussion</b></p> <p>2.1. Implementation mechanism Discussion points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Are there any implementation gaps and opportunities?</li><li>• What are the issues</li><li>• Who for the Chairmanship for the upcoming period?</li><li>• Which would be an effective reporting mechanism to achieve regular reporting?</li><li>• What are the IFI reviews for governing bodies and research community?</li><li>• What should be the contribution of each partner?</li><li>• How to set Joint activities to be able to answer possible request from our member states?</li></ul> <p>2.2. Plan for future</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What are the focus points?</li><li>• Which Roadmap for an effective implementation?</li></ul>
14:30 ~ 17:30	CHy – General Plenary (7) – Plenaries A and B
17:45 ~ 19:45	<p><b>3. Continuation of discussion with broader participation.</b></p> <p><b>4. Wrap up and conclusions.</b></p>
20:00 ~	Dinner at Chinese restaurant "Hung Wan Sa" <a href="http://www.hung-wan.com/index.php/carte/menu">http://www.hung-wan.com/index.php/carte/menu</a>

**Annex III**  
**IFI Action List (as of October 2010 revised by Mr Grabs and Ms Sugiura November 2012 *comments in green*)**

**Orange rows: Short-term products/activities**

**Blue rows: Mid-term products and/or continues activities**

**Green rows: New proposals and/or early stage projects**

No	Items	Task Force	Coordinator	Contributors	The Next Step(s) and Deadline
1	Web-tutorials: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Water Harvesting and Flood Risk management</li> <li>- Floods and landslides</li> <li>- International River Basins</li> <li>- Resilience of Coastal Cities</li> <li>- Climate Change Impacts [Under Construction]</li> <li>- Governance and Participation [Under Construction]</li> </ul>	- UNU-ISP (Herath) - UNESCO-IHE (Uhlenboork) - UNU-EHS (Renaud)	<b>UNU-ISP (Herath)</b>	- WMO - UNESCO-IHP - ICHARM	All items are available on-line at: <a href="http://cecar.org/groups/ifi/">http://cecar.org/groups/ifi/</a>
2	Flood Hazard Mapping Manual (WG: <i>get update on status</i> )	- WMO - ISDR	<b>WMO (Stewart)</b>	- UNU(EHS) - ICHARM	- Circulate a brief formal description of the manual to use IFI brand - Peer-review of the manual by IFI partners
3	Peer-review of the Flood Forecasting Manual (WG: <i>manual has been published already</i> )		<b>WMO (Stewart)</b>	All IFI Partners	- <i>Published</i> <a href="http://www.whycos.org/chy/manual_on_flood_forecasting/manual_on_flood_forecasting.html">http://www.whycos.org/chy/manual_on_flood_forecasting/manual_on_flood_forecasting.html</a>
4	Peer-review of the Large-scale Flood Report		<b>ICHARM (Takeuchi)</b>	All IFI Partners	- <i>Published September 2011</i>
5	Catalogue of Flood Management Projects		<b>IHP (Demuth)</b>		IFI Book Series <i>Published</i>
6	Flood disaster prevention and mitigation measures in the Asia and the Pacific	- UNESCO-IHP (Demuth) - ICHARM (Takeuchi)	<b>IHP (Demuth) through UNESCO-Jakarta Office</b>	UNESCO-Jakarta	- Sharing information and report to the IFI partners

7	Flood Frequency Analysis	- UNESCO-IHP - WMO - ICHARM	<b>IHP (Demuth)</b>	- ICIWaRM (Stakhiv) - Australia-BOM (Stewart)	- Sum-up studies and working together to develop a new guideline for developing countries
8	IFM HelpDesk (WG: what is the definition of IFI Brand as well as which are the implications?)	All IFI Partners	<b>WMO (Grabs)</b>		- Circulate a brief formal description of IFM HelpDesk to use IFI brand - Contribution to the HelpDesk by IFI partners when it is necessary
9	Strategy for Flood Forecasting and Early Warning in the Zambezi Basin		<b>WMO (Stewart)</b>	- USAID/OFDA	- Sharing information of the project with IFI partners to use for the West Africa Flood Management, etc.
10	IFAS		<b>ICHARM (Takeuchi)</b>	- WMO - UNESCO	- Circulate a brief formal description of the project to use IFI brand - Contribution of the project to the new project of UNESCO-IHP on hydrological modelling of extreme events (flood& drought)
11	West Africa Flood Management	- UNESCO - WMO (Stewart) - ICHARM	<b>IHP (Demuth)</b>	UNESCO-IHE	- Reporting the result of the meeting in Benin in February - WMO will support the project by involving the national meteorological services in six target countries (WG: Need of an update on the current status)
12	UNSGAB/HELP Item No. 2 on Flood Forecasting and Early Warning Systems	- UNESCO-IHP - WMO - ISDR - ICHARM	<b>ICHARM (Takeuchi)</b>	- UNU - UNESCO-IHE	- IFI partners will report on their related activities to this item - Link this item to the ongoing activities by IFI partners such as manual on flood forecasting by WMO, IFAS by ICHARM and web-tutorials by UNU - IFI products can be delivered to achieve target of this item
13	UNSGAB/HELP item No. 30 Flood Preparedness Indices and Risk Indicators	- UNESCO-IHP - WMO	<b>ICHARM (Takeuchi)</b>	- UNU-EHS - WWAP	- Sending documents and information on checklists and preparedness indices such as UNESCO-WMO manual on assessing capabilities for water resources management to ICHARM - Formulation an outline of the activity for IFI partners contribution
14	<b>Floods in a Changing Climate: Extreme Precipitation</b> by Ramesh S. V. Teegavarapu, Florida Atlantic University.	- UNESCO -IHP - WMO - UNU -ISP - ISDR - IAHS	<b>IHP (Demuth)</b>	-All IFI partners	- IFI Book Series "Flood Management in a Changing Climate" <b>Published</b>
15	<b>Floods in a Changing Climate: Hydrologic Modeling</b> by P. P. Mujumdar, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore and D. Nagesh Kumar, Indian Institute of	- UNESCO -IHP - WMO - UNU -ISP - ISDR - IAHS	<b>IHP (Demuth)</b>	-UNU-ISP - ICHARM	- IFI Book Series "Flood Management in a Changing Climate" <b>Published</b>

	Science, Bangalore.				
16	<b><i>Floods in a Changing Climate: Inundation Modelling</i></b> by Giuliano Di Baldassarre, UNESCO Institute for Water Education.	- UNESCO -IHP - WMO - UNU -ISP - ISDR - IAHS		-All IFI partners	- IFI Book Series “Flood Management in a Changing Climate” <b>Published</b>
17	<b><i>Floods in a Changing Climate: Risk Management</i></b> by Slobodan P. Simonović, University of Western Ontario.	- UNESCO -IHP - WMO - UNU -ISP - ISDR - IAHS		-All IFI partners	- IFI Book Series “Flood Management in a Changing Climate” <b>Published</b>
18	Monitor/evaluate IFI activities and how to use IFI brand?		<b>IFI Chair (Stewart)</b>	All IFI Partners	- Outline the format of a brief project description to circulate among IFI partners
19	IFI Exposure in International Conferences			All IFI Partners	- IFI participation in WWF, Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction, UNESCO-IHP Intergovernmental Council, ICFM5 in 2011, WMO-CHy General Assembly and so on.
20	IFI Reporting/Evaluation Mechanism		<b>IFI Chair (Stewart)</b>	All IFI Partners	- Chair to revise progress reporting procedures with assistance from IFI Secretariat - IFI Secretariat at ICHARM will assist the IFI Chair for reporting of the IFI activities - The progress of the IFI activities will be evaluated in the next IFI meeting
21	The Next IFI Meeting		<b>IFI Chair (Stewart)</b>	All IFI Partners	- IFI Secretariat at ICHARM will assist the IFI Chair to organize the next IFI meeting in June/July 2010

- The IFI Secretariat at ICHARM will assist each activity’s coordinator/task force and will report the result to the IFI Chair.
- A report on IFI achievements will be delivered in the next UNESCO-IHP Intergovernmental Council in June 2010.
- IFI website will continuously cover IFI activities.

**INTERNATIONAL FLOOD INITIATIVE**

**Proposal for further steps towards post MDG and post HFA**

*Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for Sustainable Development, 11-15 June 2012, Rio de Janeiro*

- # 7: Reduce the population exposed to natural water-related disasters:
- Proposed goals are:
  - (1) Halve the population without protection from hydro hazards below a 10 year return period.
  - (2) Halve the population without access to the basic early warning for extreme hydro hazards.
- Define **standard scales** of measuring risk, preparedness and vulnerability, as well as systems to monitor and reduce risk. In the face of uncertainty, prepare for the worst.



**INTERNATIONAL FLOOD INITIATIVE**

**Proposal for further steps towards post MDG and post HFA**

**Standard scales for which use?**

1. Standards operational for local and community to use for their DRR management.
2. Establishing standard scales of measuring **disaster risk, vulnerability, preparedness and remaining risk for communities, local governments and regions** of any scale to assess their level of risk and preparedness in an **absolute value** and to take an action in a positive spiral to reduce the remaining risk.



**INTERNATIONAL FLOOD INITIATIVE**

**Proposal for further steps towards post MDG and post HFA**

**Keys to DRR & Sustainability**

- Monitoring of Vulnerability
  - Not only hazards but also vulnerability, the human side of disaster causes, should be monitored.
- Integrated approach, collaboration of all players at all levels
  - UNISDR, UNEP, UNDP, WB GFDRR, OECD GDMO, ICSU/ICCS/ISDR IRDR, WMO-HWRP, UNESCO-IH
- Common scale to measure risk and preparedness
  - Establish International Disaster Preparedness Standard



**INTERNATIONAL FLOOD INITIATIVE**

**International Disaster Preparedness Standard**

