



APFM Flood Management News



Associated Programme on Flood Management Newsletter No.24

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HelpDesk Support Base Partners Meeting

The HelpDesk Support Base Partners (SBPs) Meeting, the first of its kind after the official launch of IFM HelpDesk in June 2009, was organized by WMO from 4 to 5 October 2010 in Geneva, Switzerland. Representatives of 10 SBPs (ADPC, Bureau of Meteorology of Australia, Cap-Net, DHI, EUROAQUA, GWP, IAHS, UNECE, UNESCO-IHE and UNOSAT) participated in the meeting, and five SBPs (ICHARM, JICE, JWA, MLIT and NBCBN) contributed through comments on the HelpDesk activities to the way forward, renewing their interest in the HelpDesk activities and their commitment.

The main objectives of the meeting were to:

- Familiarize SBPs on the APFM activities and, in particular, review and analyze the HelpDesk functionalities, and
- Enhance the roles and functions of SBPs and improve active outreach processes to potential HelpDesk clients.



The meeting was organized in three main parts. In the first part, the Technical Support Unit of APFM reported on the APFM activities since the launch of the HelpDesk in June 2009, on the HelpDesk functions and results, and on the newly drafted HelpDesk Communication Strategy. During the second part, SBPs made presentations and gave comments on their support activities for the HelpDesk. Finally, the participants discussed how to improve the promotion of the HelpDesk, and how to increase the demand for the Get Help function, while further enhancing networking within HelpDesk users and SBPs.

Some highlighted suggestions made by SBPs are as follows:

- Middle managers in charge of flood management are especially in need of assistance from the HelpDesk with respect to project formulation, funding source information, capacity building, etc.
- Mapping of the strong field of each SBP helps the HelpDesk allocate SBP resources effectively.
- Technical support for Pakistani Government in its flood management strategy will become a good case study of HelpDesk support in cooperation with SBPs.
- Videos and new social networking tools (Youtube, Facebook, etc.) as included in the Communication Strategy may become useful outreach media, and there are already good examples implemented by some SBPs.
- User profiling, for instance by web surveys, will provide clearer images of target users and HelpDesk focus areas.

At the end of the meeting, next action items to further improve the HelpDesk activities and to finalize the Communication Strategy were confirmed by the participants.

For more information about the meeting, please visit <http://www.apfm.info/HelpdeskSBP.htm>.

Flood Manager E-learning

The Associated Programme on Flood Management (APFM) and the University of Technology Hamburg-Harburg (TUHH) jointly developed the Flood Management E-learning website. The Flood Manager E-learning is a web-based platform that provides the public with the state of the art knowledge in understanding and implementing Integrated Flood Management (IFM). It also offers users opportunities to get exposed to the interdisciplinary aspects of flood management that enable them to interact confidently with specialists in these fields.

The E-learning platform is structured in three main parts:

1. Tutorial

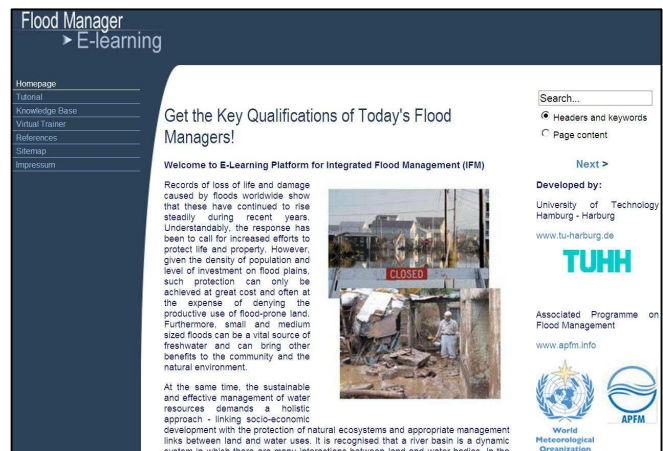
The Tutorial section is the core of the E-learning platform. Users get in-depth information on the main components of sustainable flood management. Each of the following components provides users with the objectives and methodology as well as examples of related projects and their assessment.

- (1) Integrated Flood Management (IFM): Policy and Planning Aspects
- (2) Flood Probability Assessment
- (3) Flood Risk Management
- (4) Flood Management Plans

2. Knowledge Base

The Knowledge Base section offers users direct access to basic information about the most relevant topics of IFM. A part of major concepts explained in the Knowledge Base are:

- Integrated Flood Management
- Flood Risk Management
 - Risk Assessment
 - Flood Management Measures



- Flood Risk Mapping
 - Flood Vulnerability Assessment
 - Flood Probability Assessment
 - Flood Damage Assessment
- Uncertainty Analysis
- Flood Modelling

3. Virtual Trainer

The Virtual Trainer section helps users evaluate their acquired knowledge by answering questions related to the different topics of the Tutorial.

Example Question on “Social Aspects and Stakeholder Involvement”

Question 2 Check all that apply!

Which of the following issues are beneficial flood impacts?

Your answer:

- Providing seasonal habitat for fish.
- Providing space for human settlements.
- Recharging groundwater resources.
- Fertilizing flood plains.

You can visit the Flood Manager E-learning website at <http://daad.wb.tu-harburg.de/homepage/>.

The Fifth IFM Lecture at the JICA Training Course

In the framework of the JICA Training Course on Comprehensive Management of River and Dam, an Integrated Flood Management (IFM) lecture was organized on 6 October 2010 at the JICA Tokyo Office in Japan. Six (6) participants from Asian countries, namely Indonesia, Iraq, Myanmar, Philippines, Syria and Vietnam, joined the lecture. The lecture covered the concept of IFM and the aspects presented under the Flood Management Policy Series, with an overlook on the latest outcomes of the APFM activities and the IFM HelpDesk.

The APFM has been making numerous efforts in capacity development activities and in the advocacy and dissemination of IFM principles through its pilot projects. During the lecture, it was highlighted that an IFM approach aims at maximizing the net benefits from the use of flood plains, therefore focusing not only on negative aspects of floods, but also on its positive aspects. To implement this approach, various aspects of IFM, such as legal and





institutional, environmental, social, and economic ones should be taken into consideration, involving various stakeholders in decision-making processes. The participants of the lecture welcomed an IFM approach and expressed their interests in getting access to the IFM HelpDesk as the first step towards adopting IFM in their countries.

Web Survey on APFM/HelpDesk Activities

The Associated Programme on Flood Management (APFM) is conducting a web survey for the purpose of improving the APFM/HelpDesk activities and its communication methods through its Newsletter and Website. The survey targets the Newsletter audience and the participants of the past APFM workshops and trainings.

Participation in the survey is voluntary and the survey follows the WMO privacy policy (http://www.wmo.int/pages/disclaimer/privacy_en.html). The results of the survey will be used only for the APFM activities and they will be reported anonymously on the next issue of the APFM Newsletter.

If you can spend a few minutes on answering 10 simple questions below, please click the following survey website.
<https://spreadsheets.google.com/viewform?formkey=dEQ0VzZnNGNwbDBQcXRnUTnPaW5ieVE6MQ>

- Q1. Which country do you currently live in?
- Q2. Which organization do you belong to?
- Q3. What is your overall impression on the APFM Newsletter?
- Q4. Which article of the APFM Newsletter No.24 interests you?
- Q5. What is your overall impression on the APFM Website?
- Q6. Which APFM Webpage have you already visited?
- Q7. What is your overall impression on the IFM HelpDesk Website?
- Q8. Which IFM HelpDesk Webpage have you already visited?
- Q9. What kind of flood management concerns/problems do you have?
- Q10. If you have additional comments on APFM and IFM HelpDesk, please provide them here.

APFM Website (<http://www.apfm.info/>)

IFM HelpDesk Website (<http://www.apfm.info/helpdesk.htm>)

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