



APFM Flood Management News



Associated Programme on Flood Management - Newsletter No.26

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Advisory Committee and Management Committee meetings

The Associated Programme on Flood Management (APFM) Advisory Committee and Management Committee (AC/MC) meetings took place from 8 to 9 June 2011 in Geneva, Switzerland. In addition to annual agenda items of reviewing the progress of the Programme activities for the past year and approving the activity and budget plan for the next year, the Committees reviewed the comprehensive APFM activities in Phase II (2006-2010) and discussed future orientations and focus areas in Phase III (2010-2014) including the newly drafted APFM Communication Strategy. This year, the membership of AC/MC meetings was for the first time extended to HelpDesk Support Base Partners (SBPs). Consequently, five SBPs (IAHS, Deltares, DHI, KWRA and UNOSAT) participated in and significantly contributed to the meetings. The Committees expressed overall satisfaction with progress achieved by APFM and appreciated the continuous support by donors (Japan, Switzerland and Italy).



APFM Communication Strategy

We are happy to announce the new APFM Communication Strategy. It contains a schematic guide highlighting the key aspects of the communication strategy and other related topics. The aim of the APFM Communication Strategy is to provide a framework for managing and coordinating communication between APFM and its SBPs and target groups, and engendering stakeholder engagement and commitment to the implementation of various activities through the Social Media tools such as Facebook and LinkedIn. The Communication Strategy identifies the major stakeholders affected and involved in the Programme, outlines the communication and new



management approach and articulates a range of steps and events to meet the objectives of this strategy. As communication is a two-way mechanism the plan is to actively solicit and where possible, respond to feedback from the audiences. In this way, the strategy is both dynamic and ongoing. It is envisaged that through improvement of the communication planning, the APFM Programme will be able to successfully accomplish its objectives with the cooperation of all relevant stakeholder groups.

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Associated-Programme-on-Flood-Management-APFM/108348765907919>

LinkedIn: <http://www.linkedin.com/pub/apfm-wmo/28/60b/a0b>

“Training for Trainers” for Mekong River Commission member countries



The training for trainers “Integrated Flood Management (IFM) for Sustainable Development” was organized by WMO through APFM, Mekong River Commission (MRC), and Capacity Building for Integrated Water Resources Management (Cap-Net) from 5 to 8 April 2011 in Hanoi, Vietnam. The four-day training course was targeted to policy makers, top- and mid-level managers and professionals in water resources management, disaster management, land use management and spatial planning from Mekong River Basin countries, namely Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Vietnam. The course aimed to provide participants with in-depth exposure to the social, economic, environmental and institutional dimensions of flood management and to help them develop integrated perspectives on floods, floodplains and development processes in their country. At the end of the

course, the participants agreed to seek for means to integrate IFM concept and practices into MRC’s Flood Management and Mitigation Programme, to create opportunities for training workshops at national levels, to establish knowledge network and platform at national and MRC levels in cooperation with WMO and Cap-Net, and to establish National Flood Coordinators identified by MRC as focal points for APFM-HelpDesk activities.

For more information about the training, please visit: <http://www.apfm.info/mrchanoi.html>

Integrated Flood Management Training Workshop for Flood Hazard Mapping

The Training Workshop on Integrated Flood Management (IFM) for Flood Hazard Mapping was organized by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and International Centre for Water Hazard and Risk Management (ICHARM), in collaboration with UNESCO-IHE and Takeo Office of River, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT) in Takeo City, Japan from 8 to 9 February 2011. Twelve flood management practitioners from Southeast, South and Central Asian countries participated in this field training workshop. Because of its geographical features in lowland area, residents of Takeo are so enthusiastic about flood management that quite a few numbers of communities have taken part in developing flood hazard maps. The participants of the training learned that those maps cover not only flood hazards but also daily emergency information, such as location of hospitals and fire extinguishing pools. The trainees showed interest in the process of developing the maps and responsibilities of residents.



For more information about the training, please visit: http://www.gsr.mlit.go.jp/takeo/html/eng_03_01.html

Integrated Flood Management lecture at JICA Project on Caribbean Disaster Management

In the framework of a JICA Project on Caribbean Disaster Management, one-hour lecture on Integrated Flood Management (IFM) was organized for three participants from Caribbean Islands, namely Guyana and Barbados, on 7 February 2011 in Tokyo, Japan. The lecture introduced an IFM concept as a balanced approach to flood management, various aspects of IFM that should be addressed in decision-making processes, and activities of the Associated Programme on Flood Management. During the lecture, the participants agreed the importance of a balanced approach to flood management. Their interests, among others, were focused on stakeholder involvement and institutional arrangements in decision-making processes of flood management. It was recognized that effective decision-making processes are always challenging for their countries, because such processes are often time consuming and require long time to reach consensus among various stakeholders.



APFM at Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction

Side Event

The Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction (GPDRR), managed by UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR), was held in Geneva from 8 – 13 May 2011 under the overall theme “Invest Today for a Safer Tomorrow – Increased Investment in Local Action”. APFM co-organized a side-event at the GPDRR on 12 May 2011 in partnership with the World Bank, funded by the Global Facility for Disaster Risk Reduction (GFDRR), and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). The side-event titled “Cities and Flooding in the 21st Century – Trends, Impacts and Policy Implications” brought together policy makers, city planners and other experts from developed and developing countries to exchange knowledge and experience in urban flood management. Presentations and discussions focused on the IFM concept and its application to urban areas, especially under consideration of increasing urban flooding rates due to climate change and rapid global urbanization, and management of urban flood risk.



For more information about the side event and presentations, please visit:

<http://www.preventionweb.net/globalplatform/2011/programme/side-events/v.php?id=201>

Exhibition Booth

APFM was also present at the GPDRR at WMO's shared booth with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and drew much attention from the international community including over 2,000 registered participants such as policy makers and practitioners, government officials, international organizations, NGOs, academia, and the private sector who visited the booth. Approximately 650 APFM publications and materials were distributed about Integrated Flood Management and the HelpDesk promoted to satisfy the high demand for information relating to flood related disasters and climate change.



FLOOD-WISE First Political Expert Forum



On 6th of April 2011 APFM was invited to participate in the first political expert forum in the framework of the FLOOD-WISE project, which was held in Mühlberg, Germany.

FLOOD-WISE is an EU-funded project. It enables authorities in border areas of six international rivers in Europe to cooperate and exchange experiences. The project aims at improved cross border flood risk management for the rivers Bug, Elbe, Meuse, Rur, Sava and Somes. The project is expected to result in a higher willingness of responsible authorities to develop harmonized or joint flood strategies and policy measures across borders within the frameworks of EU and national policies and regulation, thus contributing to

safer and healthier river basins for people and environment in Europe. Reports and good practices will be made available in the so called Water Information System for Europe (WISE), the European database related to EU water management directives. During the FLOOD-WISE project, this database will be extended with a section on the EU Floods Directive. The forum provided an excellent occasion to present APFM objectives and activities to the participants of the FLOOD-WISE project, and to identify synergies in information exchange between APFM and the FLOOD-WISE project.

For more information about the project, please visit: <http://floodwise.betawerk.eu/elgg/pg/pages/view/850/>

International Disaster and Emergency Resilience Conference

On 13 and 14 April 2011 APFM participated in the 11th International Disaster and Emergency Resilience (IDER) in Florence, Italy. IDER is an international conference focusing on best practices and solutions to ensure **readiness** for, **response** to, **recovery** from and **resilience** for **disasters** and major emergencies, whether caused by nature or by accident. It also constitutes an international network of emergency responders.

Since 1997, IDER has established itself as the leading international forum where specialists in disaster readiness meet to develop effective disaster avoidance, readiness and response techniques and strategies. Specifically, IDER has explored the role of the media during disasters, training for preparedness, planning initiatives, disaster responder/emergency services interoperability and international standards and certification. At the conference APFM presented the outcomes of the pilot projects on community based flood management, while at the same time established contacts for further development of educational and training materials for increasing resilience of populations living in flood prone areas.

For more information about the conference, please visit: <http://www.iderweb.org/programme%20ider%202011.html>



Third meeting of the Working Group on Flood Management and Climate Change Adaptation under the Dniester III Floods and Climate Project

In the framework of the UNECE Pilot Projects on Climate Change Adaptation in the Water Sector, to which WMO is providing expert advice, APFM participated in the third meeting of the working group on Flood Management under the Dniester III pilot project on 18 April in Chisinau. The meeting aimed at promoting cooperation between Ukraine and Moldova in the Dniester River basin, identifying pilot areas for the development of flood risk maps, and the way forward to the implementation of the project. APFM presented and promoted



the tool on Rapid Legal Assessment for the implementation of Integrated Flood Management, and suggested, based on successful past pilot projects, the implementation of pilot Community Based Flood Management practices in the two countries.

UNECE, Second Workshop on Adaptation to Climate Change in Transboundary Basins: challenges, progress and lessons learnt

The workshop was held on 12 and 13 April 2011 in Geneva, Switzerland, before the fourth meeting of the Task Force on Water and Climate (14 April 2011). The meeting included different countries and stakeholders engaged in developing activities on water and adaptation to climate change, in particular in transboundary basins. The conference was opened to experts from UNECE member States as legislative authorities, the private sector, non-governmental and international organizations, and so on. Focal points were to circulate information on the topic and to make working groups of professionals from different countries. The workshop aimed to share useful knowledge and shape up lessons-learned on the practical aspects of adaptation to climate change. APFM representatives had the chance to promote and talk about the function of Integrated Flood Management and the specific challenges of adapting water management to climate change in the transboundary environment, identifying best practices, achievements and lessons learnt, and taking the special steps of developing an adaptation strategy.



For more information about the conference, please visit: http://www.unece.org/env/water/water_and_climate.htm

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

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

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