

## APFM newsletter No.16 Topics

- ❖ **Community preparedness and public participation for flash flood management in Europe**
- ❖ **Introducing the APFM activities at the 30th Japan- the Republic of Korea Conference on River and Water Resources Development Technology**
- ❖ **APFM provides overall guidance on Integrated Flood Management in JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency) Training Courses and Master Course**
- ❖ **Announcement of the APFM activities**
- ❖ **Announcement related to flood management events**

### Community preparedness and public participation for flash flood management in Europe

WMO and the Global Water Partnership co-sponsored a workshop with officials from National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHS), Civil Protection Services and local communities from eight countries in Central and Eastern Europe on 29-30 October 2007 in Krakow, Poland, titled "Community preparedness and public participation for flash flood management in Europe."

The workshop was held to promote approaches that can reduce the vulnerability of flash flood-prone communities across the region, which has suffered loss of life and economic damages as a result of flash floods over the past years.

The National Meteorological and Hydrological Services face tough challenges in predicting when and where flash floods will occur and so do crisis services in taking response action due to the short warning lead time available. Some countries in the

region have taken action to upgrade their monitoring, forecasting and warning capabilities while others are struggling to secure adequate funding for such essential investments.

WMO helps communities affected by flash floods prepare against future risks by recommending NMHSs to adjust forecasting and warning information to the needs of civil protection agencies and other users on the local and district levels, that usually work on the basis of local emergency response plans. A comprehensive strategy on the national level is essential to help coordinate various actors towards common aims of minimizing the losses of life from flooding and reduce the vulnerability of local communities in flash flood prone areas. Apart from NMHSs, this may entail a vast array of actors, such as legislators, district and local administrations, crisis services, but importantly also the public education sector and the mass media to raise awareness. Private sector companies that can contribute data, information products, equipment and other resources for emergency response and recovery also play an important role.

Local communities must be on the alert against flash floods, ensuring that systems are in place to monitoring rapidly rising water levels. This could provide the warning needed to initiate an evacuation of populations from areas where a flash flood is likely to occur.



*The APFM promotes the concept of Integrated Flood Management (IFM). IFM integrates land and water resources development in a river basin, within the context of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), with a view to maximizing the efficient use of floodplains and minimizing loss to life.*

In the framework of the Associated Programme on Flood Management, WMO has been working with key players involved in flash flood management in Central and Eastern Europe for the past years. The Krakow workshop has been organized in conjunction with the Global Water Partnership Central and Eastern Europe (GWPCEE), the Polish Committee of the Global Water Partnership, the Institute for Meteorology and Water Management, as well as the City of Krakow, Poland.

Recommendations of the workshop are available at: [http://www.apfm.info/pdf/cee\\_workshop/WS-Krakow-recommendations.pdf](http://www.apfm.info/pdf/cee_workshop/WS-Krakow-recommendations.pdf)

Full proceedings of the workshop are available at: [http://www.apfm.info/cee\\_workshop.htm](http://www.apfm.info/cee_workshop.htm)

### **Guidance on Flash Flood Management – Recent Experiences from Central and Eastern Europe –**

Based on the outcomes of the pilot projects in Poland, Slovenia and Romania, a synthesis workshop was organised under the auspices of APFM wherein representatives from National Hydrological Services (NHS), the civil and municipal authorities, the disaster response authorities and the national flood management authorities participated. The report "Guidance on Flash Flood Management - Recent experiences from Central and Eastern Europe" was discussed and finalized.

The report seeks to synthesize and conceptualize the approach to flash flood management that can address the issue at the national as well as the lower administrative scales of districts and communities. The report is intended to serve as a tool for local communities, mayors, emergency services on various administrative scales and the NMHS. The intent is to maximize the impact of this initiative towards a significant reduction of the vulnerability of flash flood affected communities and the associated loss of life and associated miseries.



Download (PDF): [http://www.apfm.info/pdf/pilot\\_projects/APFM-CEE-Synthesis\\_web.pdf](http://www.apfm.info/pdf/pilot_projects/APFM-CEE-Synthesis_web.pdf)

### **Introducing the APFM activities at the 30th Japan - Korea River and Water Resources Development Engineering Cooperation Meeting**

"The 30th Japan-Korea River and Water Resources Development Engineering Cooperation Meeting" was held on 5th November 2007 at Seoul, Korea. Activities of the APFM were discussed in the meeting. This annual meeting is aimed at exchange of information between the two countries on the issues of river management and water resources development. This year the meeting focused on three topics which are

- 1) Effective urban flood management in the effect of climate change.
- 2) Strategy for enhancement of socio-economic activities in the area affected by dam construction works
- 3) Strategy to improve the safety level of river management facilities.

As one of the international collaboration of River Bureau, Ministry of Land Infrastructure and Transport (MLIT), Japan, the importance of partnership to give substantial inputs to the programme was emphasized in the meeting.

### **APFM provides overall guidance on Integrated Flood Management in JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency) Training Courses and Master Course**

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) organized two training courses annually for flood practitioners and water resources managers. APFM delivered lecture on the Integrated Flood Management for both training courses; "River and Dam Engineering" training course and "Flood Hazard Mapping" training course on 13th November and 20th November 2007 respectively under the cooperation with Japan Institute of Construction Engineering (JICE). The students of Master Course of "Water Related Risk Management Course of Disaster Management" also joined the lecture in the "Flood Hazard Mapping" training course. This Master Course has newly been launched in 2007 as a one-year programme to acquire knowledge and techniques to be able to develop integrated risk management policy and strategies. The lecture showed the basic concept of IFM and various aspects of its policy to the trainees. All publications and information available in APFM including flood management policy series papers and outcomes of pilot projects were introduced and explained as basic materials for the lectures. The lecture provides opportunity to acquire comprehensive view in

formulating flood management strategies and share their views with other trainees and students based on the common understanding of the issues they gain through the lectures.



Infrastructure Development Institute (IDI) of Japan supervised the course “River and Dam Engineering” and 9 trainees were from Cambodia, China, Georgia, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Sudan participated. International Centre for Water Hazard and Risk Management (ICHARM) supervised the course “Flood Hazard Mapping” and 20 trainees were from Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Philippine, Thai, Vietnam and Sri Lanka (<http://www.icharm.pwri.go.jp/html/training/index.html>).

### Announcement of the APFM activities

#### ***New publication, Strategy for Flood Management for Kafue River Basin, Zambia, has been published***

Regional pilot project report “Strategy for Flood Management for Kafue River Basin, Zambia” is now available.



For more information:

[http://www.apfm.info/regional\\_projects/africa.htm#zambia](http://www.apfm.info/regional_projects/africa.htm#zambia)

#### ***Tools for Integrated Flood Management***

Integrated Flood Management (IFM) requires specialists from various disciplines to work together under a joint flood management strategy or policy.

Therefore, APFM is making efforts to provide guidance tools for flood managers and various other specialists working in flood management in order to facilitate communication support them and to help implement IFM.

These tools are set under the umbrella of the “Flood Management Tools Series”. Following tools are now available.

- Formulating a Basin Flood Management Plan
- Conducting Flood Loss Assessments
- Applying Environmental Assessment for Flood Management

They are intended to help gain quick access to relevant technical guidance over the internet. The compilation of the tools is an ongoing process and as such these tools should be considered as living documents. They will be periodically updated based on experiences shared with the readers.

APFM encourages flood managers and other experts engaged in flood management to participate in the enrichment of the "Flood Management Tools Series". Please submit your inputs to the following e-mail address: [apfm@wmo.int](mailto:apfm@wmo.int) indicating in the ‘Subject’ line the name of the particular Tool. For more information, please see [http://www.apfm.info/ifm\\_tools.htm](http://www.apfm.info/ifm_tools.htm)

### Announcement related to flood management events

#### ***International Conference “Water Resource Systems Management under Extreme Conditions”, 4-5 June 2008***

The conference will be organized by the Russian Federal Agency for Water Resources and the Netherlands Water Partnership under the patronage of World Water Council (WWC) and supported by the International Water Resources Association (IWRA), World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), the European Water Partnership (EWP) and International Network of Basin Organisation (INBO).

The conference is targeted to discuss the most important issues of water resources management. It will focus on extreme conditions of two origins:

#### *Natural*

- Forecast of extreme hydrological conditions
- Floods and droughts risks assessment and planning of water resource systems
- Monitoring, operation and management of extreme hydrologic conditions
- Methods and technologies in support of operation of water resource systems

*Man made*

- Land use development and water resources management
- Technical state of water infrastructure and assessment of risks in extreme situations
- Lessons from past management practices, their origin and impacts
- Social and economic factors in making decisions to manage water resource systems
- Prevention and mitigation of damages resulting from floods and droughts

**For more information please contact**

Conference Secretariat

P.O. Box 105, Moscow 105062, Russia

Tell / Fax: +7 495 225 5986, 782 1013

E-mail: [waterextreme@sibico.com](mailto:waterextreme@sibico.com)

Website: <http://waterextreme.sibico.com>



**For more information**

The Technical Support Unit (TSU)

Associated Programme on Flood Management (APFM)

World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

7 bis, avenue de la Paix, CH-1211 Genève 2, Suisse

Phone: +41 22 730 84 79 Fax: +41 22 730 80 43

E-mail: [apfm@wmo.int](mailto:apfm@wmo.int) Web page: <http://www.apfm.info>

