

APFM newsletter No.17 Topics

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APFM Advisory Committee and Management Committee Meeting

The Associated Programme on Flood Management (APFM) Advisory Committee and Management Committee Meeting were held on from 16 to 17 June 2008 in Geneva to review the progress of the programme activities during the second year, that is 2007/2008, of the Phase II of APFM (Phase II: 4years, Aug 2006 – Mar 2010) and discuss the activity plan for 2008/2009. The Committee has appreciated the excellent efforts made by APFM towards advocating a practical and demand driven approach to flood management. It noted that APFM is helping countries in putting into practice the concepts of Integrated Flood Management (IFM) through the national and regional activities. These efforts will be continuously developed further so that importance of IFM can be widely disseminated and adopted in county policies and on the ground through IFM Tools, national and regional activities, capacity development and their services on Integrated Flood Management.

The Phase II of APFM lays emphasis on wider implementation of the IFM concepts in the field, and to support countries in implementation of IFM principles.

The government of Switzerland has joined the APFM and now supports the programme both technically as well as financially.



Expert Group Meeting on the preparation of Guidelines on Flood Mapping

APFM has engaged a number of experts around the world to prepare guideline for understanding flood mapping exercise. An "Expert Group Meeting on the preparation of Guidelines on Flood Mapping" was organized in Geneva, 24-26 Apr 2008.

Flood Maps are tools to visually organize the flood information for use by decision makers and the public. They form the basis for developing flood risk scenarios based on various climate conditions, development alternatives, and social and economic conditions. In addition to the general objective of a flood map, special uses like tools for evacuation routes may be of utmost importance in cases of tsunamis and floods in large flatlands. Some other functions of flood maps are (non-inclusive):

- Regulatory: Land use regulation and building codes
- Planning: Impacts of urbanisation, other land uses and climate change
- Rescue Operations: Building shelters and earmarking escape routes
- Flood Insurance
- Vulnerability Index
- Informational/Educational: record of flood magnitudes in an area

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.

The decision making process does not end with the preparation of a flood maps. It is only the first necessary step. The information regarding the risks needs to be communicated to the planners, flood managers and the public at large. Flood maps may be developed following various methodologies, but the final product should contain the necessary information that allows making sound decisions. The guideline would include case studies to show the use to which maps can be put.

For more information, please see:
http://www.apfm.info/flood_mapping.htm



Vocational training in collaboration with Cap-Net

The advancement of collaboration with Cap-Net (Capacity Building for Integrated Water Resources Management) has further led to capacity building initiative on "IWRM (Integrated Water Resources Management) and Adaptation Climate Change - acting today; preparing for tomorrow". APFM is collaborating with Cap-Net in shaping the contents particularly from the flood management perspective to promote IFM as an element of a climate change adaptation strategy. The first concrete event is planned to be staged in form of a global training of trainers in August 2008 in Panama together with a Cap-Net affiliated regional capacity building network (REDICA). The training materials are further developed into a training package towards the end of the year.

Workshop on Integrated Flood Management in Bolivia for Municipalities

The workshop on Integrated Flood Management was held in Cochabamba, Bolivia from 3 to 7 March 2008, co-organized jointly with Cochabamba Municipality, SENAMHI (Bolivia's National Meteorological Service), Centro Agua from the Universidad Mayor de San Simon and WMO. It addressed the needs of Municipal Chief Technical Officers of several Bolivian municipalities who, according to Bolivian legislation, are responsible for flood management in their jurisdiction. The workshop was inaugurated by the

Honourable Mayor of Cochabamba and was attended by over sixty professionals.

The workshop issued a statement declaring their willingness to adopt IFM and agreeing on a series of actions to be undertaken to achieve a rational flood management policy in Bolivia. The statement includes four project profiles: two of a general scope and two more specific: one for the River Rocha, which basin includes the municipality of Cochabamba and one for the city of Trinidad, affected by the floods in the river Mamore. During 2007 and 2008 the city was suffering from extensive flooding. Advice was given during the workshop on how to better plan to prepare to apply the IFM concept.

4th International Symposium on Flood Defence (ISFD4), Toronto, Canada

As part of its efforts to strengthen the capacity of flood managers from developing countries, APFM facilitated participation of experts from developing countries to attend the 4th International Symposium on Flood Defence (ISFD4), held in May 2008 in Toronto, Canada. The support is intended to provide an opportunity for such participants to bring to the attention of global audience opportunities, constraints and good practices in flood management in their countries, and to facilitate discussion at the symposium about various available flood management options for countries with different socio-economic framework conditions. International Symposium on Flood Defence is an exclusive three-yearly event that constitutes a unique gathering of flood managers, scientists and development managers. The theme of this symposium focused on the management of flood risk, reliability and vulnerability. The conference provided a unique opportunity to bring the interdisciplinary group of flood experts together to share critical knowledge from regional and international perspective. Presentation was made on behalf of APFM at the plenary session on the mainstreaming climate variability and change in flood management.

The organizing committee of International Symposium on Flood Defence decided to rename the series of symposium into "International Symposium on Flood Management". It has also requested the International Flood Initiative (IFI), which has adopted propagation of Integrated Flood Management approach for its activities to incorporate this event into their regular plans. The next symposium in the series would be organised by International Centre for Water Hazard and Risk Management (ICHARM), Tsukuba and would be held in Japan in 2011.

IFM concept paper now available in Russian

Opportunity for collaborative activity for the Russian speaking countries has been established through the Moscow State University for Environmental Sciences. APFM participated and presented the IFM concept in a central conference of the Russian Water Sector, namely International Conference "Water Resources Systems Management in Extreme Conditions" that was organised as a part of ECWATECH in June 2008. The IFM Concept Paper was made available in Russian with courtesy of the Moscow State University. Opportunity is further being explored to continue the capacity building initiative for Integrated Flood Management for the Russian speaking countries. A session was scheduled during the conference titled "Managing Floods for Sustainable Development and Climate Change Adaptation".

Announcement of the APFM activities

New Tools for Integrated Flood Management released

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

New Tools released!!

- Organizing Community Participation for Flood Management
- Reservoir Operations and Managed Flows
- The Role of Land-Use Planning in Flood Management
- Urban Flood Risk Management

Tools released in the past

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

They are intended to help gain quick access to relevant technical guidance over the internet.

These are 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 these tools. Please submit your inputs to the following e-mail address: 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

Announcement related to flood management activities by another organization

The official website of the International Flood Initiative (IFI) has been launched

International Flood Initiative (IFI) is a joint initiative in collaboration with such international organizations as United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), World Meteorological Organization (WMO), United Nations University (UNU), International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR), IAHS and IAHR.

IFI made its official launch in January 2005 at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction (WCDR) in Kobe, Japan. The overall aim of the initiative is to build capacity in countries to understand and better respond to floods by taking advantage of their benefits while at the same time minimizing their social, economic and environmental risks.

The official website of the International Flood Initiative (IFI) has launched by the IFI Secretariat at the International Centre for Water Hazard and Risk Management (ICHRM).

For more information, please see: <http://www.ifi-home.info/>

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