

Concept Note

The 30th IHP Regional Steering Committee Meeting for Asia and the Pacific in conjunction with Expert Forum – Accelerating Changes: Inter-sector Cooperation

**8 – 10 November 2023
Putrajaya, Malaysia**

1. Background

The Asia Pacific region, with numerous water security challenges, has played significant roles in implementing water programmes initiated by UNESCO through International Hydrology Decades (1965 – 1974) and continued through Intergovernmental Hydrology Programmes (IHP) from 1975 to the present. The programmes contribute greatly to achieving the targets of SDGs and those of other water-related goals in the region.

The IHP stimulates and encourages holistic hydrological research and knowledge generation, assists Member States in research and training activities. Within the framework of [UNESCO IHP-IX Strategic Plan](#) (2022-2029) on “Science for a Water Secure World in a Changing Environment”, the IHP is focusing on five interrelated Priority Areas:

- Scientific Research and innovation;
- Water education in the Fourth Industrial Revolution including Sustainability;
- Bridging the data-knowledge gap;
- Inclusive water management under conditions of global change; and
- Water governance based on science for mitigation, adaptation, and resilience.

The remarkable development in Asia and the Pacific to deliver IHP programmes is the establishment of the Regional Steering Committee for Southeast Asia and the Pacific (RSC-AP) in 1993. It has vastly contributed to the development and implementation of UNESCO’s water programmes. The meetings have been crucial in shaping UNESCO’s Water Programmes to solve water problems such as water scarcity, water-related disasters, and water education.

The Regional Steering Committee has served as a mechanism for scientific exchange and discussion among water scientists in Southeast and East Asia over the past quarter century. Reflecting the increasing interconnectedness of Asia and the Pacific as well as the shared water-related challenges faced by countries across the region.

In co-operation with UNESCO Jakarta, as the IHP RSC-AP Secretariat and the participating member states, the RSC-AP has coordinated and implemented a wide range of initiatives including research studies, technical projects, workshops, training courses and annual symposia, bringing together many specialists involved in water-related activities. In addition, RSC-AP will serve as a platform to support the regional process of the upcoming 10th World Water Forum, which will place in Bali, Indonesia on 18 – 24 May 2024, RSC-AP. Together with the National Organizing Committee, Indonesia’s Ministry of Public Works and Housing, RSC-AP will encourage and enhance the participation from water experts and practitioners in Asia and the Pacific during the 10th World Water Forum.

This year, the 30th IHP RSC-AP meeting will be held in Putrajaya, Malaysia. The meeting is hosted by the Government of Malaysia, more specifically Department of Irrigation and Drainage, Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Climate Change of Malaysia with Malaysian National Commission for UNESCO, facilitated by the IHP RSC-AP Secretariat at UNESCO Office in Jakarta and supported by Japan Funds-in-Trust (JFIT).

2. Objectives

The main objective of the RSC meeting is to report, evaluate, and review various activities carried out within the framework of IHP in different countries in the region.

Specifically, the meeting objectives are:

1. To review previous and present achievements of activities implemented by IHP RSC members;
2. To discuss future challenges, and highlight efficient and effective ways to address those matters within key focus areas of UNESCO's water programmes in the region;
3. To coordinate and enhance scientific and educational collaboration between RSC countries in the region.

Over the past 30 years, the RSC in the Asia Pacific has evolved from an internationally coordinated hydrological research programme into an encompassing, holistic programme to facilitate education and capacity building, and enhance water resources management and governance in the region.

To commemorate the 30th anniversary of the IHP RSC-AP, a special side event is planned. This event seeks to provide a retrospective analysis of the historical significance and contributions of the RSC-AP to water challenges in the Asia-Pacific Region. Additionally, it aims to chart a path for the future, envisioning ways with youth water experts to amplify the RSC's influence and effectiveness within the Asia-Pacific region going forward.

3. Date and Venue

The meeting and its associated event will be held in a hybrid mode from 8 to 10 November 2023 at Doubletree by Hilton Putrajaya Lakeside in Putrajaya, Malaysia. The meeting schedule will be as follows:

- 8 November (Wed):
 - Morning joint session: a special session to commemorate the 30th year anniversary of IHP RSC-AP
 - Afternoon session: the 6th Workshop on Catalogue of Hydrologic Analysis (CHA) Workshop
- 9 November (Thu): the 30th session of the IHP Regional Steering Committee for Asia and the Pacific
- 10 November (Fri): Field visit to Putrajaya Wetland Park and Selangor Disaster Management Office

English is the working language of the meeting that will be held in hybrid mode, in-person, and online through the following link.

** (link to be provided)*

4. Participant and Agenda

It is anticipated that about 50 water professionals, experts, practitioners, policymakers, and researchers from region countries will take part in the event, including representatives of water-related UNESCO Category 2 Centres, will also participate in the event. The provisional agenda of the event is provided in the following pages of this Concept Note.

**30th IHP Regional Steering Committee (RSC) Meeting for Asia and The Pacific
8 – 10 November 2023, Putrajaya, Malaysia**

TENTATIVE AGENDA

Venue: Doubletree by Hilton Putrajaya Lakeside in Putrajaya, Malaysia

Time (UTC+8)	Agenda item	Resource Person/PIC
Day 1: 8 November 2023		
08.30 - 12.45	The 30th year anniversary of IHP-RSC in Asia-Pacific	
08.30 - 09.00	Registration	
09.00 - 09.10	Opening National Anthem	Local MC
09.10 – 09.20	Opening Remarks	Minister of Minister of Natural Resources, Environment & Climate Change* H.E. Nik Nazmi Nik Ahmad
09.20 – 09.30	Brief introduction to UNESCO IHP and the objective of the seminar	UNESCO Jakarta
09.30 – 09.35	Photo session	
09.35 – 10.15	Session 1: I Historical Overview of IHP RSC-AP 1. Panel Discussion on the retrospective analysis on the role of the IHP RSC-AP 2. Q&A Session	Moderator: Kwansue JUNG, RSC-AP Chair Panellists: - Kaoru TAKARA (TBC) - Kuniyoshi TAKEUCHI (TBC) - Soontak LI (TBC)
10.15 - 10.30	Coffee break	
10.30 - 11.45	Session 2: IHP RSC-AP's Impact on Water Science and Governance 1. Case studies by countries 2. Best Practices by C2C Centre	Moderator: Nor Azazi Zakaria Vietnam, Malaysia, Pacific Islands (TBD) ICHARM, HTC-KL (TBD)
11.45 - 12.30	Session 3: Outlook and Enhancing Impact 1. Visionary address on a way forward by youth representative 2. Inter-generational panel	Moderator: Takahiro Sayama Neil Andika (TBC), 10 th World Water Forum youth focal from National Organizing Committee of the 10 th World Water Forum Presenters and youth

Time (UTC+8)	Agenda item	Resource Person/PIC
	discussion for the future RSC	representative (TBD)
12.30 - 12.45	Closing remarks	Malaysian IHP Representative RSC Chairperson
12.45 - 14.00	Lunch Break	
14.00 – 18.00	The 6th RSC Catalogue of Hydrologic Analysis (CHA) Volume 3 Workshop	
18.00 - 20.00	Welcome Dinner	
Day 2: 9 November 2023		
08.30 - 16.30	The 30th Session of the IHP Regional Steering Committee for Asia and the Pacific	
08.30 - 08.40	Welcome Remarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Department of Irrigation and Drainage, Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Climate Change of Malaysia Malaysian National Commission to UNESCO
08.40 - 08.55	Opening Remarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNESCO Jakarta Kwansue Jung, RSC-AP Chair
08.55 - 09.00	Adoption of the Agenda	Kwansue Jung, RSC-AP Chair
09.00 - 09.10	RSC-AP Secretariat report	RSC-AP Secretariat
09.10 - 09.20	Update from the 62 nd Session of The IHP Bureau	Zhongbo Yu, IGC Chairperson
09.20 - 09.25	Group photo	
09:20 - 11.30	Country reports (On-site/Online) (5 min/country) (15 min Coffee break in the middle)	Moderator: Delegates from IHP National Committee from countries in Asia and the Pacific
11.30 - 12.30	Updates from water-related Centres under the Auspices of UNESCO in Asia and the Pacific (5 min/institutions)	Moderator: xxx UNESCO Water Family including UNESCO water-related Category 2 centre, chair, and networks.
12.30 - 14.00	Lunch Break	
14:00 - 14:45	"July 2023 Is Hottest Month Ever Recorded on Earth": Quick updates on water-related disasters/extreme weather events in 2023	Moderator: ICHARM Presenter: TBC
14.45 - 15.45	Toward the 10 th World Water Forum 2024 in Bali, Indonesia: Updates from the 2 nd Stakeholder Consultation meeting	Moderator: Ryuichi Fukuhara National Organizing Committee of the 10 th World Water Forum
15:45 - 16.00	Coffee Break	
16.00 - 16.10	Election IHP RSC-AP Secretary	RSC Secretariat

Time (UTC+8)	Agenda item	Resource Person/PIC
16.10 - 16.20	Any other issues	RSC-AP Chair
16.25 - 16.25	Adoption of Resolutions	IHP delegates
16.25 - 16.30	Closing of the meeting	Kwansue Jung, RSC-AP Chair
Day 3: 10 November 2023		
09.00 - 16.30	Field Visit to Putrajaya Wetland Park and Selangor Disaster Management Office	
09.00 – 09.30	Registration/travel to Putrajaya Wetland Park	
09.30 – 11.00	Visit Putrajaya Wetland at Putrajaya Wetland Park	
11.00 – 12.00	Travel to Selangor Disaster Management Office	
12.00 – 13.00	Briefing function of Selangor Disaster Management	
13.00 – 14.00	Lunch Break	
14.00 – 15.00	Travel to SMART (Stormwater Management and Road Tunnel)	
15.00 – 16.00	Briefing function of SMART	
16.00 – 16.30	Travel back to hotel	

The IHP-RSC in Asia and the Pacific: A 30-Year Retrospective and Future Prospects

Since establishing the IHP Regional Steering Committee for Southeast Asia and the Pacific (RSC-AP) in 1993, the committee has significantly facilitated knowledge exchange and discussion among water experts in Asia-Pacific. It has stimulated a deeper understanding of water, enhanced technical capabilities, and strengthened human and institutional capacities among water scientists and professionals in the region.

The idea of establishing the Regional Steering Committee for Southeast Asia and the Pacific as a regional platform to promote IHP activities was spearheaded by Prof. Yutaka Takahashi, Vice-chairman of the IHP Inter-Governmental Council, in 1990. The invitation letter was circulated among all the IHP member countries in the region through UNESCO Office in Jakarta, then Regional Science Bureau for Asia and the Pacific. Twelve member states warmly welcomed the initiative. The resolution then resulted in the official establishment of RSC in July 1993 at the regional meeting of IHP at Yokohama, Japan, where Mr Yutaka Takahashi (Japan) and Mr Kuniyoshi Takeuchi (Japan) were elected as the first Chairman and Secretary, respectively. At the 25th session of the RSC Meeting in 2017, in Manila, the Philippines, the Committee decided to extend the countries represented to the countries in Group IV-Asia and the Pacific and to change the name of RSC to "IHP RSC for Asia and the Pacific".

The RSC-AP has witnessed the growing numbers of IHP National Committees and the increased number of water-related Category 2 Centres and Chairs in Asia-Pacific. This is complemented by a broader range of activities undertaken and well-maintained contact among UNESCO Water family in the region.

In this regard, in commemoration of the 30th RSC Meeting, RSC Members have planned a commemorative side event to reflect the historical journey of RSC-AP and explore strategies for further amplifying RSC's impacts for a Water Secure World in a Changing Environment. The event will take place on:

Date:	8 November 2023
Time:	9.00 – 12.45 (GMT+8 Kuala Lumpur Time)
Venue:	Doubletree by Hilton Putrajaya Lakeside

This anniversary event will be open to the public and enhance the visibility of RSC's overarching visions and notable achievements.

Key speakers:

TBD

The 6th Catalogue of Hydrologic Analysis (CHA) Workshop
8 November 2023
Putrajaya, Malaysia

The Catalogue of Hydrologic Analysis (CHA) aims to share information on water-related issues such as disaster preparedness, water environment conservation, and water resources management in Asia and the Pacific.

Following the second volume of the Catalogue of Hydrologic Analysis for Asia and the Pacific with the topic “Dam reservoir operation for addressing water-related disasters, water scarcity and quality in Asia and the Pacific”, published in 2021, the workshop will celebrate publishing the 3rd Volume of CHA on Groundwater, featuring contributors of 12 chapters from Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, the Philippines, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Timor-Leste. It will be accredited as one of the outcomes of the international cooperation of the member countries of the Regional Steering Committee for Asia and the Pacific (RSC) under the auspices of the UNESCO Intergovernmental Hydrological Program Phase IX (IHP-IX, 2022-2029).

The 6th RSC CHA workshop will feature presentations on groundwater status in 12 countries, and papers published in the 3rd CHA volume. Furthermore, the workshop will discuss the prospective theme and timeline of the 4th Volume of CHA in line with IHP-IX. The detailed publication undertaken and plan will be elaborated on the occasion of the CHA workshop, which will take place on:

Date:	8 November 2023
Time:	14.00 – 18.00 (GMT+8 Kuala Lumpur Time)
Venue:	Doubletree by Hilton Putrajaya Lakeside
Online Participation:	link

The third volume of the CHA publication on "Groundwater" can be accessed through the following link: * (link to be provided).