

## Foreword

It was a great pleasure to receive an invitation to write a short Foreword for this volume of the "Catalogue of Rivers for Southeast Asia and the Pacific". With the aid of the selected examples from the contributing countries, this monograph provides a comprehensive survey on the environmental attributes of selected drainage basins and their linkages with the hydrology and water resources. Each contribution is a wealth of 'new' information in the sense that until the preparation of this volume, such details were not easily accessible to the global hydrological community at large.

A stimulus for this project was the initiation of the Humid Tropics Programme within the fourth phase of the International Hydrological Programme (1990-1995), in recognition that the socio-economic pressures of this climatic zone on the water resources required special attention. The Humid Tropics Programme covers all facets of hydrology and water resources management, and the contributions from this volume provides an excellent framework for beginning to understand the linkages for example, between river hydrographs of selected drainage basins and land-use manipulations, both in rural and urban settings. This volume also provides a useful benchmark for launching a Southeast Asian FRIENDS (Flow Regimes from International Experimental and Network Data Sets) project within the fifth phase of the International Hydrological Programme (IHP-V, 1996-2001). Through their overlapping interests, the FRIENDS project will also reinforce further planned activities within the continuation of the Humid Tropics Programme and in other themes of IHP-V, especially those addressing surface water quality problems.

This has been an ambitious project which has only succeeded through the co-operative efforts of all contributors within the framework of the International Hydrological Programme. In that regard, I have to state our deep appreciation to the Japanese IHP National Committee who initiated both this project and a Regional Steering Committee for Southeast Asia and the Pacific, the latter of which proved a necessary vehicle for co-ordinating all the individual country contributions. Furthermore, I must also acknowledge that the financial contribution of Japan has made publication of this volume possible.

András Szöllösi-Nagy  
Director, Division of Water Sciences  
Secretary, International Hydrological Programme  
UNESCO, Paris