

Preface

It is our great pleasure to present the second volume of the Catalogue of Rivers for Southeast Asia and the Pacific. This volume contains 24 rivers of 12 countries. We are especially pleased to have the rivers of Lao and Papua New Guinea which we did not have in volume 1.

The first volume was published in October 1995, containing 25 rivers of 11 countries. It was highly evaluated by the international hydrological community and its use was demonstrated in many countries and in many occasions. It was commented as a product of a unique regional collaboration at the IHP Inter-Governmental Council in June 1996 and noted in IHP Waterway no. 7, 1996.

The objectives of the publication of the catalogue are, as stated in the first volume:

- To promote mutual understanding of hydrology and water resources of the region and of the neighbouring countries. This is essential for better regional co-operation in hydrological sciences as well as for water resources development and management.
- To promote intra-national information exchange among different organisations in each country. This is essential for the development of hydrological sciences and for better development and management of the water resources within each country.
- To promote the establishment of an international data exchange and collaborative research network in the region. This is expected to serve as a hop towards the start of an Asian FRIEND (Flow Regimes from International Experimental and Network Data) Project in IHP-V, 1996-2001.

The first and the second remain same as they were. We can feel that the Catalogue is serving for the promotion of mutual interests and understanding of rivers in the region but there is still a need for experts in one administrative area to have an understanding of other related areas for effective integrated management of water resources. Internal information exchange is so essential.

About the third objective, we are pleased to see the official establishment of the Asian Pacific FRIEND and the formation of the Technical Sub-Committee at the 4th Regional Steering Committee (RSC) meeting held in Yogyakarta, Indonesia in October 1996. The Asian Pacific FRIEND has already started its Water Archive by compiling the data presented as graphs and charts in the two volumes of the Catalogue, in digital form. We have so far received data for some rivers and anticipate that more will be made available once our scientific intentions are recognised. At the same time, we hope that a data security policy is soon agreed upon and a mechanism for the Asian Pacific FRIEND research members to access such data for hydrological studies is formulated.

We would like to express our sincere thanks and respects to all the individual contributors of all countries who collected the data and information from various ramified sources, prepared the articles, maps, diagrams and tables and co-operated with us patiently by responding to many revision requests. We also express our sincere gratitude to all the institutes, agencies and other organisations that provided the data, information, facilities and, above all, the funds and the personnel to do the job. In particular, we would like to thank the following organisations for providing financial support:

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The Ministry of Education, Science, Sports and Culture, Japan
The Infrastructure Development Institute of Japan
The Tokyo Club

We wish that the Catalogues are used in various way to fulfil the national and regional objectives that were originally aimed at. Also, we sincerely ask the readers to provide critical comments and ideas to improve the successive volumes of future Catalogues.

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