



**INTERNATIONAL HYDROLOGICAL PROGRAMME**

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**10<sup>th</sup> IHP Regional Steering Committee  
meeting for Southeast Asia and Pacific**

*Port Dickson, Malaysia, 18 October 2002*

**FINAL REPORT**

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**IHP-VI | Regional Steering Committee meeting | No. 10  
Regional Steering Committee for Southeast Asia and the Pacific  
UNESCO Office, Jakarta, 2002**

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## **The 10<sup>th</sup> IHP Regional Steering Committee Meeting for Southeast Asia and the Pacific**

**Port Dickson, Malaysia**

**18 October 2002**

Chairman (a.i.): Mr. Ahmad Fuad bin Embi (Malaysia)  
Secretary: Mr. Kaoru Takara (Japan)

UNESCO representative: Mr. Giuseppe Arduino (UNESCO Jakarta)

Countries represented: Australia, China, Cambodia, DPR Korea, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Thailand, Vietnam

Observing countries  
and other organizations: Canada, WMO

### **1. OPENING**

Mr. Ahmad Fuad bin Embi, acting chairman in substitution of Mr. Keizrul Abdullah, opened the meeting at 10.15 a.m., following the commemoration ceremony for the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the IHP Regional Steering Committee for Southeast Asia and the Pacific (RSC). He welcomed the participants, encouraged collaboration among member countries and thanked the Malaysian Organising Committee for their excellent organisational arrangements.

### **2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

The agenda was amended and then adopted as shown in Annex 2. Mr. Trevor Daniell (Australia) was appointed rapporteur.

### **3. SECRETARIAT REPORTS**

#### **3.1 RSC SECRETARY**

Mr. Takara reported on IHP-VI activities recommended under various themes by UNESCO's member countries of the region and informed the meeting about the Theme Advisory Boards (TAB), which are expected to consult periodically with the IHP Secretariat in order to facilitate the implementation of IHP-VI activities. For each IHP-VI theme there is one TAB, which includes one member from each different region. The IHP-National Committees were invited to contact the relevant members for the Asia-Pacific region when requiring advice for theme activities. The members for the Asia-Pacific region are:

Theme 1: Toshio Koike (Japan); Theme 2: Xia Jun (China); Theme 3: Hyoseop Woo (Republic of Korea); Theme 4: Ian White (Australia); Theme 5: Ashim Das Gupta (Thailand).

#### **3.2 UNESCO OFFICE, JAKARTA**

Mr. Arduino reported on activities carried out in the region since the last RSC meeting (see report in Annex 3). A warm welcome was made to representatives from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Philippines. Mr. Arduino then briefed on the status of initiatives highlighted in the Action Table included in the minutes of the 9<sup>th</sup> RSC meeting as Item 13.

Concerning the World Water Development Report (WWDR) Mr. Arduino reported on the contribution of the countries (Table 1 in the UNESCO Jakarta Office Secretariat Report), which highlighted the area, population, rainfall and runoff from countries within the region.

⇒ **ACTION: All countries to review their data contribution for the WWDR and pass any comments to Mr. Arduino**

Mr. Arduino reported on a new programme management system of UNESCO called SISTER. Access to this system is available to all member countries, with hydrological projects being covered in the Natural Sciences Sector. In response to a question from Mr. Ahmad Fuad bin Embi, he also clarified how Member country delegations at UNESCO Head Quarters could access this system.

Mr. Takara drew attention to the fact that this region's budget had already been decided for the 2002-2003 program, and funds were allotted for a range of activities as reported in IHP/IC/XV/28 report, which was circulated in the meeting. Discussions on the budgeting for the RSC led to the decision that the RSC should as soon as possible prepare a proposal to secure adequate funding for cooperative activities to be implemented in the period 2004-2005. Mr. Takeuchi suggested that the RSC should present its proposals and requests for funds to the next Intergovernmental Council (IC) of the IHP.

⇒ **ACTION: before the 16<sup>th</sup> IC, all countries to submit to the RSC Secretary their requests for funding specific activities, in order to allow the preparation of a regional proposal**

Mr. Takeuchi also requested that the "Catalogue of Rivers" publications be directly funded by Jakarta's Office regular budget.

Mr. Ahmad Fuad bin Embi asked whether individual countries could apply to UNESCO for getting funds also for unscheduled activities. Mr. Arduino explained that in such cases there are other ways of requesting funds from UNESCO, in particular through the Participation Program. Mr. Takara advised that countries requesting funds under the Participation Programme for activities to be carried out in 2003 should submit their proposals to UNESCO's headquarters by the end of November 2002.

⇒ **ACTION: Mr. Arduino to inform deadline for future proposals under the Participation Programme**

Mr. Ahmad Fuad bin Embi referred to the outstanding items listed in the above-mentioned Action Table of the previous RSC meeting (Ha Long City, Viet Nam, 2001; see final report of the 9<sup>th</sup> RSC meeting, minutes of the RSC meeting, item 13). He encouraged all countries within the region to continue cooperating with each other for implementation of RSC activities and pointed out that this could also be done through the AP-FRIEND program. The inclusion of Myanmar and the Pacific Islands as effective RSC member countries was discussed, and this matter will be on top of the agenda for the next RSC meeting, planned in Fiji.

#### **4. COUNTRY REPORTS**

The official Country Reports are attached in Annex 5. Delegates and observers made the following verbal comments during the meeting:

##### **4.1 AUSTRALIA**

Mr. James reported on the two river basins included in the HELP program and drew attention to the groundwater centre courses and conferences being undertaken in Australia.

#### **4.2 CAMBODIA**

Mr. Mao Hak reported on future activities of the Cambodia National Committee. Cambodia will attempt to get a river included in the next Catalogue of Rivers.

#### **4.3 PR CHINA**

Mr. Yuanfang Chen summarised IHP China's activities. He elucidated on a workshop on sustainable development.

#### **4.4 INDONESIA**

Mr. Jan Sopaheluwakan informed on recent changes in the Indonesian IHP committee. He reported on a number of courses, conferences and publications carried out within the framework of IHP. It was noted that Indonesia is progressing on a number of future activities in Ecohydrology. Research on several rivers in Indonesia was also reported. Finally, it was noted that the Indonesian IHP committee prepared the brochure for the commemoration of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the RSC, which was handed out to the delegates.

#### **4.5 JAPAN**

Mr. Takeuchi emphasized the success of the participation in IUGCC and some courses in Japan. He also referred to a report on Japan's international cooperation through funding of international activities. One Japanese basin was designated as a HELP basin. Japan will host the 3<sup>rd</sup> World Water Forum and an IAHS symposium in Sapporo. Mr. Takeuchi also praised the high interaction with the RSC for the preparation of the Catalogue of Rivers and the AP-FRIEND activities.

#### **4.6 DPR KOREA**

Mr. Ri thanked the organisers for supporting his country's participation in this meeting. Mr. Ri informed the meeting on the hydrometeorological aspects and administrative structure of DPRK. He outlined data collection and analysis programs as well as damages occurred after severe floods in DPRK. Mr. Ri also announced that DPRK will submit a river for the volume V of the Catalogue of Rivers and would try to attend future meetings of the RSC.

#### **4.7 REPUBLIC OF KOREA**

Mr. Lee outlined that the number of activities carried out by the national IHP committee will significantly increase during IHP-VI.

#### **4.8 LAO PDR**

Mr. Soukhathamvong highlighted severe floods occurring in central Lao.

#### **4.9 MALAYSIA**

Mr. Foong briefed the meeting on the structure of the national IHP committee and the sub-committees for scientific research.

#### **4.10 NEW ZEALAND**

Mr. Ibbitt commented that New Zealand ran a number of courses specifically focussed on country's issues, particularly on hydrological monitoring. He also referred to NZ involvement in Pacific Island activities. Future activities include assisting the Mekong River Commission with updating procedures for preparation of their data yearbook, explaining that previous and future yearbooks will be published as CD-ROMs.

#### **4.11 PAPUA NEW GUINEA**

Mr. Lenga appreciated the help of UNESCO Jakarta in enabling the IHP National Committee of Papua New Guinea to have access to electronic mail. There are plans to include a PNG river in Catalogue 5. Mr. Lenga also highlighted funding constraints related to maintenance and development of the country's hydrological network.

#### **4.12 PHILIPPINES**

Introducing the national report, Mr. Liongson noted that “after at least three years of inactivity and lack of participation since 1999 in (IHP-RSC) activities, the Philippine National Committee for IHP is indeed ready to rise from ‘hibernation’, make up for its long absence, resume its work in the continuing IHP activities in which it was active in the past, such as AP-FRIEND and the Catalogue of Rivers, and be responsive, contributory and cooperative in the current and new programs and projects of the IHP-RSC and its member countries”. He also emphasized that this was in part due to frequent discussions held with the RSC Secretary, Prof. Takara. A number of IHP-related activities carried out in the period 1999-2001 were highlighted. The Philippines committee has been actively involved in both national and regional activities in capacity building. Mr. Liongson also outlined the Philippine Water Partnership (PWP), which was established on 22 March 2002 and aims at promoting major reforms in water legislation; he also mentioned a number of meetings and workshops already organized by the PWP.

#### **4.13 THAILAND**

Mr. Pratishtananda reported on IHP activities noting a change in the name of the government department dealing with water resources.

#### **4.14 VIETNAM**

Mr. Tran Thuc commented on activities and new ministerial arrangements within Vietnam. It was noted that the Vietnam IHP committee was deeply involved in the organisation of the conference associated with this RSC meeting. He also commented that the composition of the national committee is changing as some senior members retire.

#### **4.15 PACIFIC ISLANDS**

Mr. Curry summarised a report by Mr. Rishi Raj. The report draws attention to the lack of IHP committees in small island countries of the Pacific region but also emphasizes that nevertheless some reasonably healthy research and training programs are taking place. Special attention was also given to a meeting held in Sigatoka (Fiji), which outlined a number of major activities that need further funding and expressed recommendations pertaining to various areas. The report also highlights the importance of training programs on data collection activities, as well as the Pacific HYCOS project, which is expected to contribute to water resources management, climate change monitoring, disaster management, poverty alleviation, agriculture and health.

### **5. REPORT FROM THE ASIA-PACIFIC FRIEND TECHNICAL SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING (APF-TSC)**

Mr. Takeuchi outlined that a report on the APF program was included as a chapter in the Global FRIEND Red Book publication “FRIEND – a global perspective 1998-2002”.

Mr. Ross James reminded to the meeting the key dates for the finalization of the AP-FRIEND Phase-1 Report and elaborated on the process to be followed (see Annex 5).

⇒ **ACTION: all participants are invited to contribute to the final editing of APF Phase-1 report by providing as soon as possible their comments, before its final publication**

The editorial work will be undertaken at Yamanashi University under supervision of Mr. Takeuchi and with outside review by Mr. Van Nguyen.

Phase-2 planning has progressed, and the structure of the continuing work to be done was outlined in the form of an action table. It was emphasized that the Phase-2 plan must reflect the needs and priorities of the region. To identify these needs a questionnaire has been developed, based on provisional Phase-2 objectives and Mr. Ibbitt commented that all countries should answer it in order to allow identification of the most important issues for the region.

⇒ **ACTION: all countries to provide their response to the questionnaire, through the chairpersons of the national IHP committees**

- All countries should be able to respond as to why a particular objective is important and its level of priority. The answers should in particular clarify the type of project or research activities to be focused on to achieve the agreed objectives.

- Each existing Working Group is to provide justification for continuing

For each Working Group that continues in operation, the objectives, strategies to achieve the objectives and outcomes must be clearly stated.

- Proposals for any new working groups are also requested

These proposals also are to contain clear statements of the objectives, strategies to achieve the objectives and outcomes expected. Working group objectives should align with regional needs and priorities. Timing for these proposals is yet to be determined, but the proposals must be available before the next RSC meeting.

A vote of appreciation for Mr. Takeuchi's work in the APF-TSC was acknowledged. Following, all RSC members endorsed Mr. Trevor Daniell as the new chairman of the TSC.

Mr. Mohd Nor Desa questioned whether AP-FRIEND should continue in a form which is separate from IHP-VI themes or rather be more integrated with them. Mr. Daniell then outlined how the IHP-VI themes would be integrated with project and research activities within the new AP-FRIEND phase.

Mr. Lee suggested that the chairman of the TSC should outline a timetable for the second phase of AP-FRIEND. Mr. Daniell responded that after the evaluation of the above-mentioned questionnaire a relevant set of tasks, actions and deadlines will be clearly outlined for the new phase of the APF programme.

Mr. Ibbitt stressed the need to answer the question "why are we doing any particular activity?" Mr. Van Nguyen maintained that it is necessary to understand the justification of any research programs and interests of the member countries and concerned researchers. Mr. Takeuchi agreed and suggested that three countries having a common interest could establish a FRIEND's working group.

Mr. Takara proposed that the final report of the AP-FRIEND Phase-1 be printed in Japan as it will be required for the Third World Water Forum. He also commented that at this stage it is not possible to know the exact number of copies to be printed, as it would depend on the cost of the final edited report.

⇒ **ACTION: AP-FRIEND Phase-1 report to be published in Japan**

## **6. REPORT ON WHYCOS**

Mr. Tommaso Abrate reported on WMO activities in Asia, in particular those in the Mekong Basin and in the small island states of the Pacific region. He also described the establishment of an on-line database within the WHYCOS Project, observing that it could be used as an important tool for flood forecasting. Different approaches are being considered and an overview is provided by the website of WMO ([www.wmo.ch](http://www.wmo.ch)).

## 7. PROGRESS OF THE CATALOGUE OF RIVERS

Mr. Takara invited delegates to indicate whether the volume V of the Catalogue of Rivers should be also published as hard copy or just as a CD-ROM and whether data reported in volumes 1 and 2 should be updated or not. Mr. Takeuchi expressed support for producing both hard and soft copies of the new Catalogue. It was eventually determined that a Catalogue of Rivers V will be published and all countries were invited to submit their new contribution, as well as to review and submit any corrections of previously submitted river's data to the Archive manager at the HTC and to Mr. Ross James.

⇒ **ACTION: All countries to submit to Mr. Takara their contribution regarding rivers to be included in Catalogue vol. V (full list with number and names)**

Mr. Ibbitt commented that the Catalogue of Rivers is a bonding activity for the region and stressed its importance by observing that it provides an extensive amount of meta-data which supplement the AP-FRIEND Water Archive. Considering it as a high priority for the future, delegates eventually agreed that most of the information from the previous Catalogues should be added to the on-line Water Archive and frequently updated. Discussions then revolved around the need for clarification of the summary spatial data, which often changes little with time, and the need to update the temporal data reported in previous volumes.

⇒ **ACTION: Mr. Takara will contact Mr. Jayawardena for obtaining the files of Volumes 1 and 2**

## 8. THE NEW PHASE OF IHP: IHP-VI (2002-2007)

Mr. Takara briefed on the draft implementation plan of the sixth phase of IHP, referring to the IHP/IC-XV/Inf.28 document of the 15<sup>th</sup> Intergovernmental Council of the IHP. He explained that the outlined activities, which are to be carried out in 2002-2003, have been proposed by UNESCO's offices in Jakarta and Beijing. Mr. Arduino commented that eco-hydrology, which includes various activities within UNESCO's Main Line of Action 3 to be implemented through interaction of IHP and MAB programs, should be given special attention within the regional planning, also considering that Indonesia is expected to have a leading role. He also underscored that there are good chances for activities within the theme of ecohydrology to be supported by significant extra-budgetary funds from a range of international donors.

Mr. Takeuchi asked which activities needed to be addressed and tasks that needed to be performed. Mr. Arduino proposed two items that did not have a detailed plan and which included data assessment, acquisition and interpretation (in the frame of general capacity building within Member States). It was requested of Mr. Arduino that he approaches the National IHP committees when they were recalcitrant with detailed proposals of what could happen.

Some RSC delegates questioned some of the activities reported in UNESCO's plan. After discussions between the RSC delegates and the UNESCO's delegate, it was agreed that is a responsibility of the RSC to develop appropriate strategies for the needs of the region, taking care of ensuring coordination and integration with Jakarta's Office, so that financial support could be obtained and submission of activities to the IHP governing bodies could be made on time. It is therefore necessary for national delegations to prepare programs of activities and send these to the UNESCO Jakarta Office within the deadline. Mr. Takara proposed that a small sub-committee be established to prepare a program of activities that the RSC should submit for budgeting in the next biennium.

⇒ **ACTION: the RSC will establish a small sub-committee for preparing a program of activities for the next biennium**



## **9. CONTRIBUTION TO THE THIRD WORLD WATER FORUM BY THE WORLD WATER COUNCIL**

Mr. Takara informed that the RSC submissions for the 3<sup>rd</sup> World Water Forum (WWF-3) will include an AP-FRIEND Phase-1 published report and some information material on RSC activities over the past ten years, like the draft brochure circulated to the delegates. Mr. Takara also highlighted how the RSC could participate in some of the sessions of the WWF-3, particularly referring to the two-day session for science and technology, which will also involve IHP. Furthermore, the WWF-3 program includes a special Asia-Pacific day on 18 March, which offers good opportunities for promoting activities of the RSC, particularly those under the AP-FRIEND program. It was then suggested that UNESCO Headquarters be asked to reserve some time and space for the RSC in the IHP Session of the World Water Forum.

The Regional Humid Tropics Hydrology and Water Resources Centre for Southeast Asia and the Pacific (HTC) has volunteered to prepare a multimedia presentation of the RSC activities at the WWF-3. The HTC will therefore submit as soon as possible to UNESCO Jakarta a specific proposal for requesting the necessary funds to carry out this activity.

⇒ **ACTION: HTC will produce a multimedia presentation on RSC activities at the WWF-3 (budget proposal to be submitted as soon as possible to UNESCO Jakarta)**

## **10. ORGANISATION OF THE 11<sup>TH</sup> RSC MEETING IN 2003**

Japan proposed to convene the next RSC meeting in Fiji. However, organisational costs need to be investigated yet. Mr. Arduino and some delegates from the Pacific region will investigate on the feasibility of the proposal. If a meeting in Fiji is not possible, then the RSC meeting will be held in Japan.

⇒ **ACTION: Mr.. Arduino and delegates from the Pacific region will verify the feasibility of the 11<sup>th</sup> RSC meeting in Fiji.**

Australian delegates stated that Australia might host the 12<sup>th</sup> RSC meeting in 2004.

## **11. ELECTION OF THE RSC SECRETARY**

The Acting Chairman raised the matter of the election of the RSC Secretary. Mr. Soontak Lee proposed that Mr. Takara be nominated to continue as Secretary for the next two years and after his acceptance of continuing in the position this was unanimously supported.

## **12. OTHER ISSUES RAISED**

### **12.1 LOGO**

Mr. Takara suggested that a logo be developed for representing the RSC. Following discussions among the delegates, it was agreed that this could be done by means of a "Logo competition" and logos may be submitted to the HTC and then made available for viewing through the worldwide web. Mr. Arduino was then asked to verify the possibility of producing an RSC logo under the aegis of IHP.

⇒ **ACTION: Mr. Arduino will inquire UNESCO's HQ about the possibility of producing an IHP logo for the RSC**

## **12.2 DEPUTING FOR RSC CHAIRPERSON**

The matter was raised due to the absence of the RSC Chairperson at this meeting. Delegates discussed a number of proposals and finally agreed to adopt a deputy from the Chairperson's country in the event of the designated chairperson being unavailable to perform his/her duties.

## **12.3 RESOLUTIONS**

Mr. Soontak Lee was the Chairman of the Resolutions Committee of the 15<sup>th</sup> Intergovernmental Council (IC) of the IHP. He reported that all resolutions proposed by members of the RSC were rejected. RSC delegates felt that a better-coordinated process should be undertaken in future IC meetings: this involves the need for resolutions submitted to the IC to be discussed much in advance of its sessions, to allow garnering appropriate support from the region.

## **12.4 DURATION OF RSC MEETINGS**

Delegates discussed on the issue of duration of RSC meetings, following comments raised by Mr. Arduino. Mr. Foong suggested to reserve more time for the presentation of the Country Reports and that the agenda of the meeting be prepared and circulated in due advance.

The meeting deliberated that the duration of the next RSC meetings should be extended to at least one and a half-day.

## **13. CLOSING OF MEETING**

Mr. Ahmad Fuad bin Embi, Acting Chairman of the RSC, closed the meeting at 5:00 p.m. He thanked the participants for their deliberations and encouraged strong cooperation among member countries before the next RSC meeting.

Mr. Takara, with acclamation from the committee, thanked the Malaysian organising committee for the efforts in making this RSC meeting and the associated International Conference on Urban Hydrology very successful.

## **14. FOLLOW-UP**

<b>ACTION ITEMS</b>	<b>BY WHOM</b>	<b>WHEN</b>
1. Review and comments on the table of regional rainfall and runoff data	All contributing countries to report to UNESCO Jakarta (Mr. Arduino)	By Nov 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2002
2. RSC should prepare budget proposals for activities to be implemented in 2004-2005	All countries to submit proposals to the RSC Secretary	By Apr 30 <sup>th</sup> 2003
3. Inform deadline for future proposals under UNESCO's participation programme	UNESCO Jakarta (Mr. Arduino)	ASAP
4. Editorial comments on AP-FRIEND Phase-1 report	All RSC delegates	ASAP
5. Provide response to the questionnaire on AP-FRIEND Phase-2	Chairpersons of all the National IHP Committees	By Nov 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2002
6. Publication of the AP-FRIEND Phase-1 Report in Japan	Mr. Takeuchi and Mr. Takara.	Feb 28 <sup>th</sup> , 2003
7. Submit contributions for Catalogue of Rivers vol. V (full list with number and names)	All countries to provide their contribution to Mr. Takara	Jan 31 <sup>st</sup> , 2003.
8. Obtain source files of volumes 1 and 2 from Prof. Jayawardena	Mr. Takara	Mar 31 <sup>st</sup> , 2003
9. Prepare a multimedia presentation on RSC activities for the 3 <sup>rd</sup> World Water Forum	HTC (Mr. Mohd Nor)	Feb 28 <sup>th</sup> , 2003
10. Verify feasibility of the 11 <sup>th</sup> RSC meeting in Fiji (or, as an alternative, in Japan)	UNESCO Jakarta (Mr. Arduino), New Zealand delegates and Mr. Takara	ASAP (by first quarter of 2003)
11. Inquire UNESCO's HQ about the possibility of producing an IHP logo for the RSC	UNESCO Jakarta (Mr. Arduino)	April 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2003



**ANNEX 1**

**PARTICIPANTS, 10<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE IHP  
REGIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE FOR  
SOUTHEAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC**

**ANNEX 2**

**AGENDA, 10<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE IHP  
REGIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE FOR  
SOUTHEAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC**

**ANNEX 3**

**SECRETARIAT REPORT  
BY  
UNESCO OFFICE, JAKARTA**





**ANNEX 4**

**COUNTRY REPORTS**

**MISSING REPORTS: CAMBODIA (DID NOT PROVIDE THE TEXT)**

**ANNEX 5**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
TECHNICAL SUB-COMMITTEE FOR  
THE ASIA-PACIFIC FRIEND PROJECT (APF-TSC)**

**ANNEX 6**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COORDINATION COMMITTEE OF THE  
REGIONAL HUMID TROPICS HYDROLOGY AND WATER RESOURCES  
CENTRE FOR SOUTHEAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC (HTC)**