

Concept Paper

DRAFT

Theme B:

Disaster Management

Lead Organizations
ICHARM/WHO

Member organizations

Send your comments to

Tarek Merabtene (Mr.)

ICHARM

Fax: +81 - 29 - 879 - 6709

Email: APWF@pwri.go.jp

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1. Background/Objectives

The increasing levels of risk from Hydrometeorological hazards triggered by climate change and climate variability perpetually entail considerable human losses and inflict considerable damage on the vital economic system of our countries in the Asia Pacific region. According to the EM-DAT database by the Centre for Research of the Epidemiology on Disasters (CRED), water-related disasters (including flood, windstorm, wave/surge, and water related epidemic) over the period 1980-2006¹ killed nearly one million people, affected the livelihood of over 300 million people and caused over \$US 800 billion of recorded direct economic damages. The Asia-Pacific is emphatically the most vulnerable region in the world due to its particular monsoon climate characteristics as well as due to the large population and economic development in hazard prone areas.

The Millennium Development Goals (MDG)", the "Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015" and the "Hashimoto Action Plan: Compendium of Action²" together provide a set of strategic goals and global actions to substantially reduce the effects of disasters on life and livelihood over the next decade. In support to these global perspectives the Asia Pacific Water Forum places disaster management at the center of its activities for diligently improving the quality of life of the regions' populations. The APWF water weblog is expected to facilitate and advocate the discussion on the major disaster management issues that must be addressed to realize effective disaster reduction solutions in the Asia Pacific region. The discussion will include 1) to set regional targets and identify the framework and strategies to achieve these targets, 2) to define the existing technical and institutional gaps and means to enhance national and municipal capacities to monitor and respond to disasters, 3) collect and introduce various good practice, and 4) establish a process to share knowledge, experience and resources in the Asia Pacific region.

The working group on Disaster Management Theme of APWF recognizes that flood-related disasters (including landslide and windstorm) are by far the most devastating hazards threatening human security and economic development of most

¹ EM-DAT, the CRED Disaster database analyzed by ICHARM. Beyond these recorded statistics the full extent of direct and indirect disaster impacts on life and livelihood are not fully measured.

² United Nations Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation, March 2006.

countries in the Asia Pacific region. For instance during the period 1980-2006, the Asia Pacific region encompassed over 90% of the world population affected by flood, windstorm and landslide disasters. It is therefore planned during the first phase of the APWF disaster management strategy to initially concentrate on strengthening regional actions and policy decision making for effective reduction of flood disasters.

WHO INPUT

Table 1. Time line of the APWF disaster management strategic plan

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
	Phase I		Phase II		Phase II		Phase VI		Phase V	
Flood and Landslides		APWF Summit Monitoring of activities and reporting							
Drought				APWF Summit Monitoring and activity reporting					
Water pollution						APWF Summit Monitoring and Activity reporting			

2. Topics to be covered under the theme

The APWF water weblog provides an open forum space for identifying the existing gaps and initiate activities for addressing key issues in collaborative manner among the wide variety of stakeholders. During Phase I, the weblog discussion is expected to underline a collective strategic framework and plan for action to address the numerous emerging topics including but not limited to:

- Strategy to promote more effective integration of disaster reduction into the development planning and policy of all countries in the region.
- Strategy to develop and enhance institutional coping capacity including solutions for formulating effective institutional capacity building programs, skills and tools.
- Strategy and mechanism to improve our ability to monitor, forecast, mitigate and respond to flood disasters at local, municipal and national levels.

- Strategy for the creation of regional high quality and accurate disaster database including the framework for promoting community risk assessment.
- Strategy and potential solutions to substantially reduce death toll from flood-induced disasters acknowledging the current and future complex socio-economic setting of the Asia-Pacific region.
- Strategy and potential solutions to minimize societal and economic loss due to flood disasters.
- Strategy and potential solutions to strengthen access to safe drinking water and hygiene as well as to reduce incidence of water born diseases during flood disasters.
- Strategy to share and document information on good practices and lessons learned in the past flood mitigation.
- Strategy to develop better mechanism of cooperation, networking and coordination of actions among different nations at the regional level and among different municipalities and citizens at the national level.

3. Pilot Project Proposal

The working group of APWF Disaster Management Theme proposes to initiate a set of pilot projects with the aim:

- to identify suitable existing and potential management practices,
- to test feasibility and applicability of given alternatives to localities of closely-similar local conditions (i.e., assess regional adaptation),
- to evaluate the long- and short term effectiveness of identified alternatives,
- to assess the practicability of proposed alternatives in enhancing the global organizational approach to flood disaster reduction,
- to develop robust water-related disaster database that will support the formulation of flood reduction policies and activities at each stage of the flood-disaster cycle,
- to provide information and easy access to flood disaster management resources, and
- to assess the effectiveness of the outcome of the projects (measures and/or policies) in achieving the proposed regional goals.

The themes and core of the pilot project proposals will be a major subject of the APWF weblog forum. The weblog discussion is also expected to refine and reshape the above proposed aims and applications of the pilot projects.

4. Input to the 1st Asia-Pacific Water Summit

The summit will introduce good practices and successful disaster mitigation actions to serve as momentum to appeal for political commitment to adopt clear targets and strategies to achieve effective disaster reduction in the Asia Pacific region acknowledge as the most vulnerable region to water disaster in the world. The summit will also create a new conducive environment and opportunity for dialogue between leaders and disaster managers in the region as well as to create a critical awareness towards the shared role of governments and international institutions, such as the United Nations and International Funding agencies, in meeting the adopted goals and initiatives.

To achieve focused outcomes and synergetic input to the APWF Summit the *APWF Water Weblog* will be an open forum to promote creativity in policy statements and win-win thinking process among all involved national and international organizations academics, NGOs, civil society and private sector as well as individuals from governments and other interested stakeholders. The lead organizations will help to shape the inputs and create bigger opportunities to explore and develop all proposed ideas and mutual concerns. The weblog discussion is also expected to define the strategies and timeline to achieve the proposed goals and policies.

5. List of Partner/Implementing Institutions

ICHARM, Lead organization

WHO, Co-Lead organization

Asian Development Bank (ADB)

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

UNESCAP

SOPAC

Typhoon Committee

WMO

UN-ISDR

Bangladesh Water Partnership

Korea Water Forum

Flood Control & Sabo Engineering Center, DPWH, the Philippines

International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea

IDI-Japan

CTI Engineering, Japan

Unisfera International Center, NGO, Canada

Japan Water Forum (JWF)

6. Budget Plan

ICHARM and WHO will provide the necessary technical support to conduct the proposed activities. Financial requirements are needed:

- 1- to support member countries to provide inputs to each activity,
- 2- to support the organization of two workshops;
- 3- to support the services of a research assistant at ICHARM and the services of a local consultant to assist ICHARM in the preparation of the deliverable to the Asia-Pacific water summits.

	Activity Description	Cost (US\$)	Remarks
1	Support member countries to provide inputs to related activities	10,000 x 5 50,000	5 selected countries after consultation with JICA and ADB.
2	2 nd workshop of the Disaster Management Theme Working Group - 2 days workshop -	17,000	- 20 regional expert (one from each partner organization) - Under the assumption that 50% of the participants will be self supported by their organizations.
3	3 rd workshop of the Disaster Management Theme Working Group - 2 days workshop -	17,000	As above
	Expert Research assistant allowance	35,000	Expert researcher fee shall include: Air ticket + Daily allowance to do work at ICHARM for a period of 6 month + participation to APWF meetings and workshops.
4	Local consultant assistance fee	90,000	
Total (US\$)		209,000	