

Asia Pacific Water Forum

1st Governing Council, 21-22 February 2007, Singapore



Theme B Disaster Management



Lead Organizations

-  International Centre for Water Hazard and Risk Management (ICHARM)
-  World Health Organization (WHO)



Water Disasters in Asia-Pacific Region



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- o Flood, Windstorm, wave/surge, water-related epidemic
- o From 1980 to 2006 nearly:
 - one million people killed
 - 300 million people affected
 - 88 billion USD of direct economic loss
- o From 2001 to 2005 it is estimated that
 - **62,273 people were killed in the Asia Pacific region** compared to
 - **13,432 people in other regions** of the world
- o Damage would increase due to climate change and population explosion.



Water Disasters in Asia-Pacific Region



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- o The 4th WWF concluded that Asia Pacific must:
 - look beyond coping with hazards, and
 - pay attention to reduce vulnerability.
- o The Second High Level Meeting on Health and Environment in ASEAN and East countries adopted a Regional Charter to establish thematic working groups, that includes the **“Contingency Planning, Preparedness and Response in Environmental Health Emergencies”**



Water-related disasters are a global concern to achieve the MDGs



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- o The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015, and the Hashimoto Action Plan 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.



APWF's objectives in relation to the Theme B: Disaster Management



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- to serve as a forum for cooperation among all stakeholders;
- to facilitate information sharing on water disaster management issues;
- to develop and disseminate relevant technologies;
- to develop evidence and information to support policy and strategy making; and
- others to be discussed on the water weblog.



The topics to be cover under the Theme B - Disaster Management -



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- o The working group on Disaster Management Theme recognizes that **flood-related disasters** (including landslides and wind storms) are among the most devastating hazards threatening human security and economic development of most 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, wind storm and landslide disasters.
- o Therefore it is planned during the first phase of the APWF disaster management strategy to initially concentrate on strengthening regional actions and policy for effective reduction of **flood disasters**.
- o Other critical issues confronting the region, such as water scarcity and drought, and water pollution, will be addressed in subsequent phases.




The topics to be covered under the Theme B - Disaster Management -

- Emerging topics proposed for discussion include 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;
 - Strategy and mechanism to improve our ability to respond to flood disasters at all levels;
 - Strategy for the creation of accurate disaster database including community risk assessment;
 - Strategy and potential solutions to strengthen access to safe drinking water and hygiene;
 - and more.

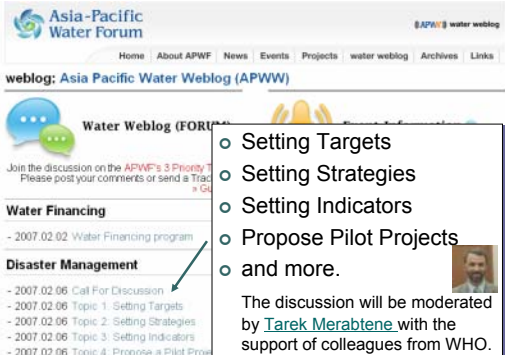


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The Theme B water weblog

<http://www.apwf2.org/weblog/disaster/>



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- Setting Targets
- Setting Strategies
- Setting Indicators
- Propose Pilot Projects
- and more.

The discussion will be moderated by [Tarek Merabtene](#) with the support of colleagues from WHO.


Hashimoto Action Plan: Compendium of Actions

Water and Disaster Objective 1
-Establish, with unified political will, a **clear-cut global-level target** that articulates the direction for global actions for reducing the loss of life and livelihood caused by water-related disasters.

Water and Disaster Objective 2
- Provide adequate safe water and sanitation during and after disasters.


Pros and cons of setting a clear-cut target

- Needs of target setting (Hyogo Framework as the base document)
 - cultural/societal (class, gender)/economic
 - death/affected/economic damage
 - Regional/country imbalance
- Reliability of disaster damage data
 - purpose and motivation
 - national level/data collection/database
- Attainability of goal
 - structural/non-structural
 - social/cultural/psychological
- Difficult measurement/monitoring of potential reduction





Thematic input to the 1st Water Summit

- With relation to Theme B disaster management the Asia Pacific Water Summit will:
 - Introduce good practices in flood disaster mitigation to serve as momentum to appeal for political commitment,
 - create a new favorable environment and opportunity for dialogue between leaders and disaster managers in the region,
 - create a critical awareness towards the shared role of governments and international institutions in disaster reduction.




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A way forward

- The APWF Water Weblog** will be an open forum to identify emerging issues and formulate a consolidated input to the water summit.
- You are cordially invited to participate the water weblog discussion. ICHARM and WHO will work diligently to consolidate all proposed inputs and mutual concerns.
- You are cordially invited to participate to the 2nd Workshop of the Disaster Management Theme Working Group, planned in Spring 2007.



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