

Post audit of flood forecasting models (Phase-I) and charting of future collaborations (Phase-II)

Jakarta 20-21 November 2015: The two-day international partners technical meeting on "Post audit of flood forecasting models (Phase-I) and charting of future collaborations (Phase-II)" organized by UNESCO Jakarta at GrandKemang Hotel Jakarta, aimed to post audit of flood forecasting models (IFAS & RRI), coordinate and schedule phase II outputs, events and workshop between all implementing partners and UNESCO.



Under the coordination of UNESCO, phase-I project implementation partners namely the International Centre for Water Hazard and Risk Management (ICHARM) under the auspices of UNESCO, Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), the Flood Forecasting Division of Pakistan Meteorological Department (FFD, PMD), the Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO) and Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources (PCRWR) have jointly contributed to the development of Indus IFAS, a flood forecasting and flood inundation model. Indus-IFAS was installed at FFD Lahore for test-operation in 2014 and in 2015 flood season. However, after 2014 floods in the Eastern rivers and in order to improve Indus-IFAS, there was a dire need to extend the Indus IFAS system to the tributary rivers of the Indus i.e. Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi, Sutlej. This is going to be taken up during the second phase of the UNESCO project "Extending Flood Warning and Management Capacity of Pakistan and Indus River Basin countries" funded by the Government of Japan and with the close cooperation and collaboration of Japanese and Pakistani partners including top Pakistani universities like National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST) Islamabad, University of Engineering and Technology, Lahore (UET) and the Centre for Disaster Preparedness and Management (CDPM) University of Peshawar.

The objective of the meeting was to post-audit the performances of Indus-IFAS during 2015 floods and identify the way forward for the improvement and the extension of Indus-IFAS to the Eastern Rivers. It was also the occasion to congregate all the implementing partners at a common platform to carve up their experiences and proficiency to develop early warning system for the Eastern Rivers and scheduling their activities for phase II of the project. The arrangement of trainings and workshops on the capacity building and education on flood management for proper utilization of flood hazard information were also be a part of the dialogue.

Each partner has presented their current achievements and reported on their planned activities. Beside technical discussions, visibility strategy as well as political engagement process was discussed taking in account partners experiences and views.

The organization and scope of the next international workshop to take place on 21-23 December 2015 in Islamabad, organized by UNESCO, PMD and PCRWR was also extensively discussed.
