



# NEWSLETTER of The Regional Humid Tropics Hydrology and Water Resources Centre for Southeast Asia and the Pacific

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### 1. Message from the Chairman of Co-ordination Committee



*Dear colleagues,*

I take this opportunity to congratulate the Director and Staff of the Regional Humid Tropics Hydrology and Water Resources Centre for Southeast Asia and the Pacific for taking the initiative to produce this inaugural newsletter. It is my hope that in addition to reporting on the activities of the Regional Centre, this newsletter

will also serve as the medium for member countries to report on their activities and developments. To this end, I would like to encourage member countries to keep us informed on your latest news update.

As you may be aware, the idea to form the Regional Centre was first mooted in 1989 during the "International Colloquium on the Development of Hydrologic and Water Management Strategies in the Humid Tropics" in Townsville, Australia. It was subsequently discussed the following year among the National Committees at a meeting in Kuala Lumpur and at many more similar meetings latter. With the strong support of UNESCO and the regional IHP National Committees, the Malaysian National Committee on IHP tabled a proposal to the Government of Malaysia on the setting up of a Regional Centre to

- co-ordinate the implementation of co-operative hydrological and water resources research projects and activities,

- associate with IHP National Committees and other similar centres for exchange of scientific and technical information on research results,
- organise training courses, seminars, workshops and meetings for knowledge and technology transfer, and
- produce related hydrological and water resources materials for distributions.

This proposal was approved by the Cabinet in April 1996.

We have now reached an advanced stage in finalising the MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) between the Government of Malaysia and UNESCO. In the meantime, we have modestly carried out some activities: a Workshop, a Technical Sub-committee Meeting of the Asian Pacific FRIEND project (Flow Regimes from International Experimental and Network Data Sets) and the inaugural Co-ordination Committee Meeting. All these events were carried out between 12 to 15 November 1997 and attended by representatives of some National Committees from the region. I am happy to announce that the physical renovation work on the Regional Centre's office has been completed and the Centre is now operational.

Last but not least, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a happy and prosperous New Year.

Warmest regards,

**Mr. Ir. Hj. Keizrul bin Abdullah**

*Chairman of Co-ordination Committee  
The Regional Humid Tropics Hydrology and Water Resources Centre for Southeast Asia and the Pacific*

### 2. Activities carried out by the Regional Centre

#### Workshop (see pic. on page 4)

A Workshop on "Local Scale Hydrological Processes in Islands, Highlands and Urban Areas in Malaysia: Needs for Future Direction" was held at the Training Centre of the Department of Irrigation and Drainage Malaysia, from 12-14 November 1997. The workshop was graced by the Director General of the Department of Irrigation and Drainage Malaysia cum Chairman of the Malaysian National Committee on IHP.

Several speakers from overseas were invited to present their current research results and provide inputs to the discussions. The majority of the presenters were local researchers presenting their research results. Fruitful recommendations and conclusions were obtained at the end of the workshop, which can guide further research related to the projects.

#### **Technical Sub-committee of A/P FRIEND Project Meeting**

The objective of the meeting was to discuss the action plan for carrying out the Asian Pacific FRIEND project. The conclusions of the meeting were tabled at the First Meeting of the Co-ordination Committee for the Regional Centre on 15 November 1997.

#### **First Co-ordination Committee Meeting**

The meeting took place at the meeting room of the Training Branch of DID Malaysia and attended by 15 representatives from Malaysia, Japan, Indonesia, Australia, Sweden, UNESCO Paris and Jakarta Office, Korea and Thailand.



Participants at the First Co-ord. Comm. Meeting - Chairman fourth from left, front row and Dir. of the Regional Centre, standing third from right, front row.



A light moment after the meeting - Chairman (left) and Prof. Janusz Niemczynowicz of Sweden

The meeting discussed among other things, issues on Rules of Elections of Members of the Co-ordination Committee, Rules of Procedure for the Co-ordination Committee besides the Report of the Director. The Director of the Regional Centre was appointed as the

Secretary of the Co-ordination Committee and Mr. Trevor Daniel, representative of Australian IHP was elected as Rapporteur to assist the Secretary at the meeting. In general, the meeting reached a consensus on what the future activities of the Regional Centre would be, based on the report presented by the Director. Participation of member countries is considered low as there was no special allocation made available for this purpose. Nevertheless, it is hoped that in future as the capacity of the Regional Centre grows, we will be able to see a bigger participation.

### **3. Participation in international programmes**

#### **Workshop**

The "Third International Workshop on Rainfall in Urban Areas, Pontresina (Switzerland), 4-7 December 1997" was attended by the Director of the Regional Centre. Financial support was given by the WMO. The objectives of the workshop were:-

- To exchange experiences from different countries,
- To compare current approaches,
- To disseminate knowledge on data use and rejection, and
- To create scientific basis for improving the current practices of rainfall data preparation for urban hydrology.

The workshop was organised by members of the Group on Urban Rainfall (GUR), the working group on urban rainfall under the IAWQ/IAHR specialist group on Urban Storm Drainage (see. <http://iswvs3.bau-verm.uni-karlsruhe.de/GUR/>). The Director of the Regional Centre became a member of the GUR working group.



Opening speech by Dr. Boris Sevruc ETH Zurich, Switzerland

### **Meeting of the IHP Regional Steering Committee (RSC)**

The 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of IHP Steering Committee for Southeast Asia and the Pacific was held in Nong Khai, Thailand on 16 November 1997. It was attended by Mr. Zulkefle Ghazali, the Assistant Director I of the Regional Centre. Mr. Chiranpandh Arthachinta, the Chairman of Thailand National Committee for IHP, also Secretary-General of National Research Council Thailand welcomed all participants. It was subsequently opened by Dr. Badruddin Machbub, the out going Chairman of IHP RSC. The event was jointly organised by UNESCO and Thailand National Committee for IHP. Altogether, 25 delegates attended the meeting. Among others, the meeting reviewed the 4<sup>th</sup> RSC Meeting reports and discussed the RSC activities for 1998 - 1999. It was decided that the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> meetings will be held in the Rep. of Korea and China in 1998 and 1999 respectively. Meanwhile, Prof. Soontak Lee from the Rep. of Korea was elected the new Chairman of the IHP RSC while Prof. K. Takeuchi remains as the Secretary for 1998-1999 term. The meeting was followed by the International Symposium on Hydrology and Water Resources for Research and Development in Southeast Asia and the Pacific from 17 - 18 November 1997.



Delegates of the 5<sup>th</sup> IHP RSC Meeting

## **4. CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

### **SPECIAL EVENT**

**First Asian Pacific FRIEND Workshop on Data Archive and the Scientific Method for Comparative Hydrology and Water Resources**

#### **PLACE :**

**The Regional Humid Tropics Hydrology and Water Resources Centre for Southeast Asia and the Pacific, c/o Department of Irrigation and Drainage Malaysia Km. 7 Jalan Ampang, 68000 Ampang Kuala Lumpur, MALAYSIA**

#### **DATE:**

20-22 March 1998 - Workshop

23-27 March 1998 - Technical visit to Johor River Basin, Malaysia and Asahan River Basin, Indonesia

#### **ORGANISERS:**

**The IHP Regional Steering Committee (RSC)**

**The Regional Hydrology and Water Resources Centre for Southeast Asia and the Pacific**

**Department of Irrigation and Drainage Malaysia (DID)**

**Malaysian National Committee for IHP**

**Indonesian National Committee for IHP.**

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## **5. Message from the Director**

This is the first issue of the newsletter thus not much can be included in it. In future however, we hope to get contributions in the form of relevant articles and photographs from member countries which could be published and disseminated among us. We hope this newsletter will be published regularly provided enough materials can be obtained. As such, your contributions are particularly vital in ensuring our success.

Any suggestion towards improving the contents and appearance of this newsletter is greatly appreciated. Last but not least, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a happy New Year. Thank you.

Warmest regards,

**Dr. Hj. Mohd. Nor bin Hj. Mohd. Desa**

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This newsletter is produced by the staff of the Regional  
Humid Tropics Hydrology and Water Resources Centre for  
Southeast Asia and the Pacific.

**Advisor:** Mr. Ir. Hj. Keizrul bin Abdullah  
(Chairman of Co-ordination Committee)

**Editor:** Dr. Hj. Mohd Nor bin Hj. Mohd. Desa



Participants for the workshop on "Local Scale Hydrological Processes in Islands, Highlands and Urban Areas in Malaysia: Needs for Future Direction."

**LATEST NEWS!!**

Prof. K. Takeuchi and his research associate,  
Dr. Hiroshi Ishidaira of Yamanashi  
University, Japan, have assisted us in setting  
up a Data Archive Home Page through the  
internet. We hope it will be fully functional  
soon.

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