

Workshop Report on Capacity Development for Integrated Flood Risk Management in Pakistan



Pakistani workshop participants (front row) with the organizers from PWRI and ICHARM

During 15-24 May 2012, ICHARM conducted a workshop, “Capacity Development for Integrated Flood Risk Management in Pakistan,” specifically designed to middle to high ranking officials of the Pakistani government.

The workshop was organized as part of a project, “Strategic Strengthening of Flood Warning and Management Capacity of Pakistan,” which was launched in response to the mega flood that hit Pakistan in 2010. The project was funded by the Japanese government through UNESCO.

Six officials from Pakistan participated in the workshop. They were the chairman of the Indus River System Authority, the director general of the Irrigation and Power Department-Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (a northern province of Pakistan), the deputy chief manager of the Pakistan Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission, the chief meteorologist of the Pakistan Meteorological Department, the director of operations/relief and coordination of the Provincial Disaster Management Authority-Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and a board member of the National Disaster Management Authority.

The workshop consisted of lectures and field studies. In the series of lectures, the participants learned about flood control measures in Japan including dam operation, know-how for collecting and disseminating meteorological and flood information, and local disaster management planning. They also learned about the latest technologies

related to flood control, such as IFAS and RRI developed by ICHARM. JAXA researchers were also invited to lecture about GSMaP.

The participants visited several places to study Japan's flood control measures currently in operation. Their destinations included: the Tsurumigawa River basin (for a retarding basin, a regulating pond, and a regulating reservoir), which is a forerunner of integrated flood control projects; the Watarase Retarding Basin, whose purposes additionally include water quality improvement and environmental conservation; the Kawaji and Ikari Dams for their joint project to promote more efficient water use; an Ashio Sabo site for their active forestation program; and the Tone Large-Scale Weir, which plays a vital role in municipal water supplies and irrigation around the middle stream of the Tonegawa River. They also visited Kuki City, Saitama Prefecture, to observe the 61st Tonegawa River System Joint Flood Fighting Drill on May 19, and were very impressed with the scale and organization of the event.



Overflow levee in the Tsurumigawa River Retarding Basin



Ashio Sabo Dam



Connecting tunnel between the Ikari and Kawaji Dams



Tone Large-Scale Weir

On May 22, the Pakistani officials visited the Hanyu City Murakimi Elementary School, which is actively promoting English education. Students gave them a warm welcome, and the officials even had lunch with them. They then went to the Hanyu City Office, where they were greeted with applause by workers there. Mayor Komei Kawata also welcomed the Pakistani group with warm words and explained about municipal efforts in disaster management.



Murakimi Elementary School



Hanyu City Office



Mayor of the Hanyu City



MLIT Water and Disaster Management Bureau

On May 23, the officials paid courtesy visits to ministerial offices including the Water and Disaster Management Bureau of MLIT, the International Cooperation Bureau of MOFA, and the Japanese National Commission for UNESCO of MEXT. At each office, they were welcomed by the bureau chief and had a great opportunity to exchange opinions and ideas with bureau officials.

On the final day of the workshop, the participants were awarded a certificate of the workshop by ICHARM Director Kuniyoshi Takeuchi, which closed the workshop successfully.



A participant (left) receives a workshop certificate from ICHARM Director.

The Pakistani participants praised the workshop for its excellent contents and organization. They also said that what they learned in the workshop will be a good foundation for planning Pakistan's future direction and measures in flood management.

Some of the field studies were joined by the students of the ICHARM master program, "Disaster Management Policy Program Water-related Disaster Management Course." This was a great opportunity for six Pakistani students enrolled in this program to discuss various issues with high-ranking officials of their home country.

Finally, the workshop organizers would like to thank lecturers and offices for their excellent contribution to this workshop. Our gratitude extends to the Hanyu City Office, the MLIT Keihin River Office, the Tonegawa Joryu River Office, the Kinugawa Dam Integrated Management Office, Ikari Dam Management Branch Office, Kawaji Dam Management Branch Office, Watarase River Office, General Office for Tonegawa Water Transmission of the Japan Water Agency, and the Japan Meteorological Agency.