ADB Project: Technical Assistance No. 7276, Supporting Investments for Water-Related Disaster Management

Signing a collaborative agreement with ADB in November 2009, ICHARM conducted a project, “Regional Technical Assistance (RETA) 7276: Supporting Investment in Water-Related Disaster Management (TA7276),” which ended in March 2013. This project was planned to build an environment to encourage investment in disaster management in developing countries. In the 1st Asia-Pacific Water Forum in 2007, ICHARM was the lead organization of the water disaster session and assigned as a Knowledge Hub on disaster risk reduction and flood management. ICHARM’s involvement in this project was part of the responsibilities as a Knowledge Hub. This was the first international project that the Public Works Research Institute (PWRI) had ever conducted under a collaborative agreement, and it was a major challenge for ICHARM to broaden its scope of activity as an international organization.

In this project, ICHARM first conducted field investigations to collect a wide variety of local data on past inundations, observation systems, livelihood on hinterland, urbanization in basins before flood prediction and flood risk assessment. Complying with our principal policy of localism, we proposed solutions that were considered best suited to target localities based on the needs and conditions confirmed from the field investigations.

ICARM was involved in the following five projects:

1. Bangladesh: Development of a basic plan for a new flood forecasting and warning system
2. Indonesia: Implementation of a satellite-based flood forecasting system in the Solo River
3. Cambodia: Development of a flood vulnerability assessment method for the Mekong flood plain
5. Development of the prototype of flood risk assessment indices for the Asian region

Projects 1 to 4 are efforts to contribute to national flood risk reduction while Project 5
contributes to regional flood risk reduction. The results of TA7276 are very promising, for the technologies and concepts produced for the projects can be applied to other river basins with some technological customization based on local basin characteristics.

In March 2013, Taketo Uomoto, the chief executive of PWRI, and Kuniyoshi Takeuchi, the director of ICHARM, visited Seethapathy Chander, the director general of the ADB Regional and Sustainable Development Department to report the results of the TA7276 project. Mr. Chander expressed deep gratitude and highly praised ICHARM for its achievements and hoped for its involvement in future projects as well. Convinced that the strong trust built between ICHARM and the counterpart countries through this technical assistance is indispensible, we will continue our commitment to water-related disaster risk reduction in the Asia-Pacific region, maximizing our strong technological advantage and adequate experience in disaster risk reduction and flood management as a Knowledge Hub.

For more detailed project report, please visit the ADB site: