Outline of
the International Centre For
Water Hazard and Risk Management
under the auspices of UNESCO
(UNESCO-CHARM)

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Background

-Water hazards as a major challenge-

The number of water-related disasters is still increasing

The water-related disasters will be …

- aggravated by population growth, rapid urbanization, and concentration of human settlements and assets in flood areas;
- hampering sustainable development at global scale

Reduction of water hazards is vital for poverty alleviation.
Background
-Necessity for dealing with water-related disasters-

2002  World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg)

2003  3rd World Water Forum (Kyoto, Shiga & Osaka)

- Necessity to improve risk management measures, technologies and capacity building relevant to water-related disasters
Public Works Research Institute (PWRI)

- **History**
  1927: Established
  1979: Relocated to Tsukuba
    (Area: 126ha, Staff: 550)
  2001: Re-organized into two institutions
    (PWRI and NILIM)

- **Staff**: 219 (including 151 researchers)
- **Research topics**: 200
- **Budget (FY 2004)**: 6 billion JPY
  (55 mil. US$)
Objective of UNESCO-CHARM

To conduct …

- Research
- Training & Capacity building
- Information networking

These **three pillar activities** deal with water-related hazards and its risk management at local, national, regional and global level
The new Centre will be established within PWRI as a global centre under the auspices of UNESCO (Category 2) in autumn 2005.

The new Centre will be collaborating with the UNESCO-IHP networks, relevant UN agencies and other key institutes & organizations of the world.
Pillar Activities of UNESCO-CHARM

Research

Data/Information

Results/Outcomes

Participation

Curriculum

Knowledge

Network

Training & Capacity building

Information networking
Activities
- Research -

- Contribution to international projects such as WWAP and IFI /P (UNESCO/WMO)
- Hydraulic / hydrological prediction, observation, modeling and analysis
- Risk assessment and risk management technologies for water-related hazards

... and others
Activities

- Training and Capacity building -

PWRI’s long experience with conducting JICA training courses for over 35 years, including:

- River and dam engineering
- Sabo engineering

Total Number of Trainees/Countries 101/27 in FY 2003
Activities
- Information Networking -

Information networking will be synergized with research and training activities in order to enhance integration and coordination:

Through the information network...

- Research output will be widely disseminated
- Feedback from countries / regions will be reflected in the research projects
- Trainees will develop domestic links to their own countries/ regions
- Local needs for training items would be clarified
Preparatory Activities

October 2003

- 32nd session of the UNESCO General Conference
  → Announcing the intention to set up the Centre in Japan

October 2003

- RSC in Southeast Asia & Pacific and in Latin America & Caribbean
  → Resolutions strongly supporting the Centre

January 2004

- International workshop at PWRI and Symposium in Tokyo

April 2004

- Proposal of the Center at the 36th UNESCO-IHP Bureau

July 2004

- Hosting a preparatory meeting of IFI/P at PWRI
A Blueprint of the Centre Building

- **Research Staff**: 20 (at the initial stage)
- **Center building**: will be completed in autumn 2005
- **Office space**: 2,000m²
In the Future

• We have already submitted an official proposal for consideration at the forthcoming UNESCO Executive Board.

• And to obtain an accreditation of the new Center at the UNESCO General Conference in autumn 2005.
Thank you for your attention.

We sincerely appreciate your support for our proposal.