

## 2<sup>nd</sup> ICHARM Governing Board Meeting held in Tokyo

ICHARM was officially established on March 6, 2006, as a UNESCO Category 2 center based on the agreement between the government of Japan and UNESCO and as one of the research centers of the Public Works Research Institute (PWRI) of Japan. The center has since been recognized worldwide for its significant contributions in the area of water-related risk management, and this year marked the 10th anniversary.

On March 3, 2016, the 2nd governing board meeting was convened at the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism in Chiyoda Ward of Tokyo, as the agreement, which was renewed in July 2013, stipulates that the ICHARM Governing Board shall meet biennially.

The ICHARM Governing Board comprises seven board members including the president of PWRI. The board meeting started with the confirmation of the Rules of Procedure. They then reviewed the ICHARM Activity Report for the last two years from April 2014 to March 2016, the ICHARM Long-Term and Mid-Term Programmes, and the ICHARM Work Plan for fiscal 2016 and 2017. The long-term and mid-term programmes had been revised in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction devised in March 2015, the Sustainable Development Goals adopted by the United Nations in September 2015, and the Paris Agreement on climate change adopted at COP21 in December 2015.

After the thorough review, the governing board approved all reports and proposals submitted for this occasion. Through the meeting, the board members came to acknowledge that the self-evaluation was reasonable on the reported activities including applications of the Integrated Flood Analysis System (IFAS) and the Rainfall-Runoff-Inundation model, leadership in the Asia-Pacific region, and expansion of the information network with graduates from ICHARM master's, doctoral and other educational programs, and also understood that all goals were achieved by maximizing all resources provided for the center. In relation to the mid-term and long-term programmes, they stressed the importance of understanding the needs and conditions of each country and region, as well as the importance of developing disaster prevention technologies that are finely tuned to such needs and conditions and that are highly applicable to concrete measures. The board also expressed high expectations that ICHARM will exercise strong leadership among water centers through various channels including the International Flood Initiative (IFI), for which ICHARM has served as its secretariat.

Major changes made on the adopted ICHARM mid-term programmes will be listed in the following page. ICHARM will continue playing an active role in mitigating water-related disaster damage worldwide by implementing the approved programmes and projects, while promoting the three principal pillars of research, capacity development and information networking and cooperating with organizations at home and overseas.

### Summary of the 2<sup>nd</sup> ICHARM Governing Board Meeting

Date: 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 2016 (Thu) 10:00~12:00

Venue: International Congress Room, MLIT

Agenda:

- Confirmation of Rules and procedures for ICHARM Governing Board
- Examination of ICHARM Activity Report
- Examination and adoption of Long-term and Mid-term Programmes
- Examination and adoption of Work Plan

Participants (*Alphabetically order of the organization*):

Shoichi Ando, Director, Disaster Management Policy Program, Professor,

on behalf of Dr. Takashi Shiraishi, President, National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS)

David Korenfeld Federman, Chairperson, International Hydrological Programme (IHP) Intergovernmental Council

Kunihiro Yamauchi, Director General of Global Environment Department,

on behalf of Mr. Shinichi Kitaoka, President, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

Koji Ikeuchi, Vice Minister for Engineering Affairs, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT)

Taketo Uomoto (Chairperson), President, Public Works Research Institute (PWRI)

Shahbaz Khan, Director, UNESCO Regional Science Bureau for Asia and the Pacific,

on behalf of Ms. Irina Bokova, Director-General, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

Yuki Matsuoka, Head of the UNISDR Japan Liaison Office,

on behalf of Mr. Robert Glasser, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR)



### Major changes made on the ICHARM mid-term programmes

The ICHARM mid-term programmes consist of three categories: innovative research, effective capacity development, and efficient information networking. The themes in the innovative research category have been restructured into five new themes as follows:

Old Themes	New Themes
(1) Develop methodologies to observe, predict and analyze water-related hazards (2) Pioneer new methods and models to assess, analyze and monitor exposure and vulnerability to water-related hazards (3) Propose practical policy tools for integrated and comprehensive water and risk management to enhance human and ecosystem resilience	(1) <b>Data collection, storage, sharing and statistics on water related disasters</b> (2) <b>Risk assessment on water related disaster</b> (3) <b>Monitoring and prediction of changes in water related disaster risk</b> (4) <b>Proposal, evaluation and application of policy ideas for water related disaster risk reduction</b> (5) <b>Support in constructing the applicability of water-related disaster management</b>

*All texts of the ICHARM Long-Term and Mid-Term Programmes will be uploaded in the ICHARM web site soon.*