

Summary of the 15th IFI teleconference (Draft)

(first draft version: February 1 2019)

Participants:

Call #1 on January 15

Oliver Cavedon (UNISDR)

Marian Muste (IIHR, IAHR)

Toshio Koike, Tetsuya Ikeda, Mamoru Miyamoto (ICHARM)

Call #2 on January 24

Slobodan Simonovic (ICLR, ICFM)

Abou Amani (UNESCO HQ)

Hans Thulstrup (UNESCO Jakarta)

Oliver Cavedon (UNISDR)

Toshio Koike, Tetsuya Ikeda, Mamoru Miyamoto (ICHARM)

Discussion Topics:(6)

1. Review of the last teleconference
2. Draft Action Plan of IFI
3. Report of ICFM8 preparation
4. Report on IFI regional coordination
 - 11th GEOSS Asia-Pacific Symposium in Kyoto, October 2018
5. Report on related events
 - Introduction to the IFI activities at the 8th WWF in Brasilia in March 2018
 - IFI side event at the IHP IGC in Paris in June 2018
 - IFI report at a HLPF side event New York in July 2018
6. Renewal of the IFI website

Materials:(10)

- 1_Draft_Summary_14th_IFI-telecon.pdf
- 2_Action IFI.docx
- 3a_AWCI_session_agenda.docx
- 3b_Concept of the Water-Agriculture Joint Session.docx
- 3c_GEOSS AWCI_Notes2018.docx
- 4a_HELP12 Agenda 20181123.pdf
- 4b_International Symposium on Water and Disasters Agenda.PDF
- 4c_WWF8.pdf
- 4d_ihp_side_event_e.pdf
- 4e_HLPF.pdf

NEXT CALL

The 16th IFI Teleconference will be held in March 2019. Miyamoto will prepare a Doodle poll to find out the most convenient date and will set up the WebEx call accordingly.

1. Brief review of the last teleconference

M. Miyamoto briefly reviewed the participants and discussions in the last IFI teleconference held almost one year ago. Participants from UNESCO HQ, UNESCO Jakarta, WMO, ICFM, IAHR, NARBO and ICHARM discussed on five topics including the report on Resilience Forum in Tokyo, World BOSAI Forum, third APWS in Yangon, Platform meeting in Myanmar, and Action Plan of IFI. The draft Action Plan of IFI has been discussed among ICFM, UNESCO, WMO and ICHARM after the 14th teleconference and summarized by the J. Cullmann, WMO.

2. Draft Action Plan of IFI

M. Miyamoto introduced the draft Action Plan of IFI including six actions; 1) Flood project list, 2) Catalogue for risk communication, 3) Linkage between researchers and practitioners, 4) Training, 5) Multi-donor funds, and 6) Political impact.

S. Simonovic talked that the ICFM permanent secretariat, China Institute of Water Resources and Hydropower Research (IWHR), made the website (www.icfm.world) of ICFM active and maintains on regular basis. In the website, we can easily add the component that will be basically devoted to IFI and its activities. As for the implementation of Action 1, there is no obstacle and S. Simonovic can activate it with people in the permanent secretariat of ICFM. T. Koike responded that we will have a specific teleconference among ICFM secretariat, J. Cullmann, S. Simonovic and IFI secretariat. T. Koike will meet with J. Cullmann in mid-February at Geneva and propose to have a teleconference.

S. Simonovic also commented on 4) Training and 6) Political impact. For 4) Training, ICFM is only providing the platform for conferences and meetings, and website of ICFM is now trying to provide the opportunities for communication and sharing knowledge. One of next step is to spread them and combine conferences and trainings. If WMO and UNESCO are taking a lead of training opportunities, ICFM can be included into this for delivering trainings. For 6) Political impact, as S. Simonovic and T. Koike discussed in ICFM7 in UK, we need an active communication with high-level people and to organize the special session targeting high-level politicians in ICFM8, 2020. This could be an opportunity for having the special session coordinated by IFI. T. Koike added a comment for 4) Training that ICHARM will also have a responsibility of training and education in collaboration with UNESCO. We consider how to realize the corporative framework and discuss it in the IFI teleconference call. With regard to 6) Political impact, Since High-level Experts and Leaders Panel on Water and Disasters (HELP) chaired by the former Prime Minister of Korea, Dr. Han Seung-soo, will have a conference in next May, T. Koike will propose to have a high-level session collaborating with HELP in Iowa (ICFM8).

A. Amani commented that UNESCO will support the second, third and fourth actions. For fifth action, we need to think about a global platform of funding agencies. For the sixth action of Political impact, in addition to the work of HELP, we can reach to the national level framework through the global agenda such as Paris Agreement (climate change) and SDGs. Also, he stressed the expansion of IFI activities to Africa and Latin America in addition to Asia. T. Koike explained that we will finalize this Action Plan by exchanging our idea and identifying the actions to be taken by each partner under each paragraph.

H. Thulstrup mentioned that UNESCO Jakarta welcomes the items of Action Plan and also work for the particular items assigned to UNESCO with other partners.

T. Koike asked all to give additional inputs which should be added to the current document by track change for finalizing the Action Plan of IFI. Under each item, we will identify partner's specific action. IFI secretariat will integrate all inputs and circulate the revised version.

3. Report on ICFM8 preparation

(First call on January 15)

M. Muste updated the status of ICFM8 preparation. Website of ICFM8 will be posted in a few days. The program, themes for special session, and all aspects of conference will be provided in the website. Registration for the conference will be opened in about one month. The website will be the key point in connecting all the information relating to ICFM8. A request is to use the website and distribute the announcement of conference as published on the website to their communities.

(Second call on January 24)

S. Simonovic explained about the ICFM8 preparation. Website of ICFM8 will be active in January this year. Submission of abstract will be during summer this year and finalization of review will be done by the end of this year. The organizing committee is fully assembled. UNESCO, WMO and ICHARM will be involved in the close link with ICFM8. He is also going through the suggestion for the special session in ICFM8. A. Amani expressed UNESCO's intention to support ICFM8. T. Koike talked to convey the message to WMO during CHy conference in the mid-February and to review the preparation progress of ICFM8 among WMO, UNESCO and ICHARM in the IFI regular teleconference.

4. Report on the IFI Regional coordination

T. Koike reported the IFI regional coordination activity in the 11th GEOSS Asia-Pacific Symposium on October 24 – 26, 2018, in Kyoto. In the Asian Water Cycle Initiative (AWCI) session in the symposium, the participants discussed on a promotion of regional cooperation among the implementing countries. The session was attended by representatives of Sri Lanka, the Philippines, and Myanmar, including Hon. State Minister Palitha Range Bandara of the Ministry of Irrigation and Water Resources & Disaster Management of Sri Lanka.

5. Related events

T. Ikeda reported the activities on 8th World Water Forum at Brasilia in March 2018, IFI side event at UNESCO-IHP IGC in Paris on June 2018, and side event at HLPF in NY on July 2018. He also introduced the 4th Asia-Pacific Water Summit will be held in Kumamoto, Japan in October 2020 after the decision made at the APWF Governing Council meeting on January 11 in Singapore, and the planning to participate in the Asia Focus session convened by APWF during the Stockholm World Water Week this August.

6. Renewal of IFI website

M. Miyamoto suggested the renewal of IFI website and introduced a draft layout of new website composed of five contents. With the agreements of all IFI partners, the IFI website will be replaced to new one. T. Koike ask to circulate the addresses of current and new IFI website for checking and gathering comments from IFI partners. A. Amani also suggested to take three weeks for confirmation of new one. T. Koike advise to consult with S. Simonovic for linkage between IFI and ICFM permanent secretariat.

- Current IFI website: <http://www.ifi-home.info/>
- New IFI website: <http://ifi-test.tsukuba.co.jp/>

7. Any other business

A. Amani reported on the 8th Global FRIEND-Water conference held during 6 – 9 November, 2018 in Beijing, China.

A. Amani asked about the “Alliance of Alliances (AoA)”, and T. Koike responded that Dr. Gretchen Kalonji has completed the list of steering committee member and sent it to Dr. Han Seung-soo. The first steering committee of AoA will be scheduled at the end of April or May, but it is not confirmed yet.

(Additional information)

The following e-mail message have been sent from S. Simonovic after the teleconference.

Item 1. ICFM will be ready to serve as the IFI knowledge hub. I will communicate with our permanent secretariat this suggestion and we can start the implementation immediately. ICFM web site (www.icfm.world) is already doing part of the suggested work (providing permanent update of the flood related activities around the world) and I can coordinate with the permanent secretariat to actually devote a particular place on the page for IFI knowledge related material. Any suggestions from the IFI group are appreciated and please do not hesitate to contact me with suggestions that can be implemented immediately.

Item 4. I would suggest and offer that when UNESCO and ICHARM define the requirements, we use the ICFM platform for the delivery. Again, through the ICFM web site, and assistance of the permanent secretariat, we can effectively create web-based seminars, information sessions, lectures, and forms of educational communications. Institute for Catastrophic Loss Reduction (ICLR) here in Canada (who I am serving as the director of engineering works) is one of the IFI members (I am surprised to discover that the executive director Mr. Paul Kovacs pkovacs@iclr.org is not on our mailing list – this should be corrected) has considerable experience in organizing web-based forums (many of them on flood-related topics). That experience can be used for implementation of this IFI activity and IFI partners and identified target audience can be informed and participate in ICLR web lectures.

Item 6. Again, I would like to offer ICFM platform for possible contribution to the proposed activities under this item. During ICFM 7 Dr. Koike already accepted to coordinate with UNSECO, WMO, UNISDAR a special session (panel, lectures, or any other format) at ICFM 8 in Iowa. We are at the beginning of the ICFM 8 organization and I am sure that LOC under the leadership of Dr. Muste will help to include session like this into the program and give it a prominent spot (plenary or similar). If we succeed with this at ICFM 8, an effort can be made to keep this as permanent feature of future ICFM conferences.