

International Flood Initiative (IFI)

IFI is a joint initiative carried out in cooperation with international organizations such as UNESCO-IHP, WMO, UNDRR, UNU, IAHS and IAHR. IFI focuses on research, information networking, education and training, community capacity development, and the provision of technical support and guidance. ICHARM has served as the IFI secretariat since the initiative was established.

At the UNESCO-IHP Intergovernmental Council meeting held at the UNESCO headquarters in June 2016, IFI presented its new strategy and implementation plan, outlining five key actions by defining support tools, priority areas, and partner organizations. Building on this, a side event at the 8th HELP meeting, held in Jakarta, Indonesia, in October, produced the “Jakarta Declaration,” a statement calling for interdisciplinary cooperation to strengthen flood risk reduction and sustainable development.

The Jakarta Declaration outlines the current situation, future direction, and necessary actions for flood risk reduction and sustainable development. Based on this declaration, activities to establish the “Platform on Water Resilience and Disasters” were launched. The platform serves as a national framework through which government agencies involved in flood management, meteorology and disaster management work together toward shared objectives.

At the 9th GEOSS Asia-Pacific Symposium held in Tokyo in January 2017, an IFI implementation plan workshop was organized as a side event, inviting participants from relevant agencies in Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. By promoting a shared understanding of the platform’s importance, IFI was able to take a step toward establishing the platform in these countries. Since then, IFI has supported each country in forming its own platform that brings together water-related government agencies and other stakeholders, and has advanced efforts to address national water issues through providing the outputs from research funded by Japan’s MEXT and organizing high-level meetings and seminars. In 2024, the platform project was also launched in Thailand.

Activities under each platform in Asia are reported at the Asia Water Cycle Initiative session of the annual Asia-Oceania GEOSS Symposium, providing an opportunity for participating countries to share information with one another.

These platforms have actively contributed to a wide range of projects based on each country’s circumstances and needs. The concept of the Water Cycle Integrator, proposed by ICHARM and incorporated into the United Nations’ Water Action Agenda, was also realized through these efforts.

ANNEX-1 shows a list of IFI-related meetings since 2016. The total number of meeting participants, based on available information, is approximately 1,350, demonstrating that IFI networking is well-established worldwide.