



Side event

“Platform on Water Resilience and Disasters”

Time: 18:20 – 19:50, Monday, June 11, 2018

Venue: Room IX, UNESCO Headquarter

Organizers: UNESCO-IHP, ICHARM

Flooding is one of the greatest water-related environmental disasters known to us – its human, material and ecological costs can be staggering. The number of people vulnerable to devastating floods is expected to rise due to large-scale urbanization, population growth in flood-prone areas, land use changes, climate change and rising sea levels. New disaster risk reduction approaches are needed to build the necessary capacity to address these challenges.

The **International Flood Initiative (IFI)** is a worldwide framework to promote collaboration in flood management among international organizations such as **UNESCO, WMO, UNU** and **UNISDR**. **ICHARM** has been serving as its secretariat.

The establishment of the “**Platforms on Water Resilience and Disasters**” has been supported by the High-Level Experts and Leaders Panel on Water and Disasters (HELP) and IFI in collaboration with the international organizations such as UNESCO, WMO, UNISDR, UNU, IAHS and IAHR. Based on the Jakarta Statement developed by the joint efforts of HELP and IFI in November 2016, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Myanmar have already agreed on the institutional structure, data sharing policy and implementation targets of each Platform.

Along with such efforts, it has been recommended that “Platforms on Water Resilience and Disasters among all stakeholders should be formulated in countries to facilitate dialogue and scale up community-based practice” in the outcome document of the **High-Level Panel on Water (HLPW)**, which is convened by the United Nations and the World Bank Group to provide leadership in tackling one of the world’s most pressing challenges – an approaching global water crisis. The recommendation will help achieve the Agenda 2030: SDGs, the Paris climate agreements and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

The objective of this side event is to discuss how to implement the HLPW recommendation worldwide by sharing the experiences in Asia.

Side event “Platform on Water Resilience and Disasters” Agenda

18:20 – 18:25 Opening address

Mr. Koji Kitayama, Deputy Permanent Delegate of Japan to UNESCO

18:25 – 18:55 Report of progress from IFI active countries

(1) Overall report

Prof. Toshio Koike, Director, ICHARM

(2) Country report of Philippine

Dr. Anthony Cinco Sales, Regional Director, Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Davao, Philippine

(3) Report of the other countries

Dr. Tetsuya Ikeda, Chief Researcher, ICHARM

18:55 – 19:45 Panel discussion by IFI leading organizations

Moderated by Dr. Blanca Jimenez-Cisneros, Director, Division of Water Sciences, Secretary of IHP, UNESCO

(1) Speech from UNESCO-IHP

Dr. Abou Amani, Chief of Section, UNESCO-IHP

(2) Speech from WMO

Mr. Tommaso Abrate, Scientific Officer, Climate and Water Department, WMO

(3) Speech from IAHS

Prof. Christophe Cudennec, Secretary General, International Association of Hydrological Sciences (IAHS)

(4) Panel discussion

Prof. Toshio Koike, ICHARM

Dr. Anthony Cinco Sales, DOST, Philippine

Dr. Abou Amani, UNESCO-IHP

Mr. Tommaso Abrate, WMO

Prof. Christophe Cudennec, IAHS

19:45 – 19:50 Summary and Closing

Dr. Blanca Jimenez-Cisneros, UNESCO-IHP