

## **ROADMAP TOWARDS EFFECTIVE FLOOD HAZARD MAPPING IN MALAYSIA**

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### **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

The regional-focused training course entitled “Flood Hazard Mapping” began on January 26- February 18, 2005 and was organized by JICA with PWRI. A total of sixteen participants attended this course 1 from Vietnam, 3 from Laos and 2 each from China, Indonesia, Cambodia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand. The course objective is to provide practical techniques to produce flood hazard map and to enhance the understanding on the effectiveness of this map in mitigating flood damages to professionals involved in flood or river management.

### **2.0 CONTENT**

The content of this course is :-

- i) Introduction of Flood Management in Japan
- ii) Flood Hazard Map-Significance, Procedure for Mapping, Distribution, Dynamic Flood Hazard Map and Effectiveness of Hazard Maps
- iii) Field Survey
- iv) Field trips
- v) Flood Hazard Maps- Progress and experiences from other countries.

I find the whole course very comprehensive and stimulating, however I find Professor Katada’s Dynamic Hazard Maps most impressive. I also find the town watching activity very interesting.

### **3.0 EFFECTIVE FLOOD DISASTER MITIGATION**

The measures taken for flood disaster measurement in my country are

- i) Structural measures
- ii) Non-structural measures
- iii) Flood response

All these activities are running concurrently and a lot of money is spent every year for these programmes. The Department of Irrigation and Drainage has introduced Storm water Manual which emphasises “Control at source” could be one of the ways to reduce

flood. However very strict enforcement need to be carried out to ensure all the laws are adhered to.

Flood Hazard maps are definitely beneficial to my country. The problems will be in educating the public and creating awareness the significance of the hazard maps and importance of evacuating as soon as possible.

#### **4.0 ACTIONS**

Actions to be taken in order to materialise the use of flood hazard maps:-

	Activity	Timeframe
1	Carry out pilot project using existing flood map	Short term
2.	Sell idea to my department to get blessing and resources	Short term
3.	Promote the idea to the Flood Commission.	Mid term
4	Promote to local government	Mid term
5	Carry out a proper flood hazard map for a larger river.	Mid term
6	Distribution and educating public	Mid term
7	Carry out survey to study effectiveness	Long term
8	Review and if feasible continue with two or more hazards maps per year,	Long term

Before the next training, I will prepare a training report which will be also sent to the River Engineering Section and Hydrology Section of my Department. I will give some suggestions to the Training Section so that the right person will be sent for the next training.

#### **5.0 FLOOD MANAGEMENT IN JAPAN**

Malaysia regards Japan very highly in terms of river and flood management and has carried out many flood control measures based on Japan's experience and expertise. I have no suggestion to improve flood management in Japan.

## **6.0 EVALUATION OF THIS TRAINING COURSE AND SUGGESTION**

### Strong points

- a. This course is very comprehensive and allows the participants to understand everything that is involved in producing flood hazard maps.
- b. The organisation of the course is very and equipped with training materials, facilities and very competent staffs.
- c. The lecturers are very knowledgeable and lectures are interesting.

### Weak point

- a. Insufficient time to carry out more analysis.

### Suggestions

- a. This training course could be targeted to two major groups:-
  - i) Senior officers (above 40 years old) – 3 weeks, mainly to introduce flood hazard maps and create awareness.
  - ii) Junior officers (below 40 years old) - provide individual training for 3 months at one of the local government to help produce flood hazard maps.
- b. A survey to be carried out in the next five years to find out the progress of producing hazard maps for each country and identify problems in carrying out this activity

## **7.0 CONCLUSION**

The objectives of this course to introduce flood hazard maps, its production and distribution has been met and this will enable each country to produce its flood hazard maps. However it will take some time before these maps could be produced. An individual training at one of the local government will enable the participant to have a hands-on training and in depth knowledge in producing flood hazard and help to hasten this endeavour.

Finally, on behalf of my department and I, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude and appreciation to JICA and PWRI in allowing us to participate in this course and making our stay very fruitful and enjoyable. I would like to thank Miss Shibata and Mr. Tetsuya Ikeda for taking good care of us.