

**Road map toward effective flood hazard mapping  
in  
Lao People Democratic Republic**

**JICA regional focused training course on flood hazard mapping  
JFY 2004**

**Prepared by  
Sounthaly MOUNTHA**

Name: *Mr. Sounthaly Mountha*  
Name of organization: *Climate Division,  
Department of Meteorology and Hydrology,  
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.*

Contract address: *Climate Division,  
Department of Meteorology and Hydrology,  
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry  
Luangphabang Roads, Vientiane, Laos  
Telephone: (856-21) 215011  
Email: dmhvte@laotel.com*

**1. Which parts of the curriculum were most impressive/insightful/relevant to you?**

All curriculums were very impressive and insightful for me some of them were provided very useful information in term of concept/theory and practical use. However, the most impressive and insightful for me is lecture and exercise, group field survey make flood hazard map and presentation, field trip. Flood management of Japan more importance for expertise. Procedure for flood hazard is a manual to make flood hazard map and distribute/use of flood hazard maps for residents awareness. The significance, hydrological statistics, flood runoff analysis, flood inundation analysis are key functional of flood hazard maps establishments. Flood mapping on the Mekong River is to be involved the compilation of hazard map in the tributaries of the main Mekong River.

**2. What do you think your country or organization need to do for effective flood disaster mitigation?**

Based on the “Water and Water Resource Law” the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry responsible for flood mitigation of damage not only in the urban/city areas, but also manage in the whole basins. The Climate Division under Department of Meteorology and Hydrology has been carried out non-structural mitigation measures (data collection for flood forecasting and warning) and support data services to the agencies concerned to construct of flood protection dike, installed of pumping station and build of flood release canal for mitigating of disasters. The condition of the DMH as long as very limited of budget, inaccurate data, low technique and inexperienced staff. However, the effective flood disaster mitigation stills the main goal of the national strategic plan for natural disaster prevention management.

**3. What action are you going to take after going back to your country? List the action will be possible within the time frame below:**

- **Within ONE year**
  - ◇ Proposal for setting up Flood Hazard Map Unit
  - ◇ Data collection (hydrology, topography, dike condition, pumping station condition, drainage system)
  - ◇ Map verification
  - ◇ Identify inundation areas
- **As short, mid and long term projects**
  - ◇ Capacity building strengthening,
  - ◇ Fund seeking,
    - Flood hazard map producing,
    - ⤴ Dissemination and use of flood hazard map,
    - ⤴ Monitoring and updating of the map.
- **Before the next training participants from your country come to Japan.**
  - ◇ Orientation workshop
  - ◇ Continuous training course for next participants
  - ◇ Prepare progress report of one-year activities.

**4. What advice/suggestion can you provide for more effective flood management in Japan?**

Japan suffered serious natural disaster e.g. typhoon, flood, earthquake, volcanic eruption, landslide etc. Government of Japan not just response/solving their internal problem but also helping of flood hazard maps of the World that facing the same problems. The flood management in Japan has been started long time ago with non-structural mitigation measures and structural measures with high technology, huge budget and manpower. I do not have any advice or suggestion for more effective flood management in Japan only small feeling that some countermeasures cannot apply for such very poor countries e.g. super levee, artificial river, operation room, flood fighting corps and etc.

**5. What advice/suggestion can you provide for a more meaningful training course?**

For more than three weeks training course with 17 subjects, 2 exercises, 1 field survey, one field trip and 2 times presentation it seem too short time for me even though I had studied some of this subject before. Some days we have to follow up from 4 to 5 subjects with totally new concept for us. For training course has more meaningful lecturer should give mark for each participant base on question response, exercise and group work presentation. Concerning to flood hazard mapping the course should have one completed example (criteria, standard...), where participant can compare with their own flood hazard map after group work

presentation and give detail comment on each Group what they have done correctly and what mistake need to improve (evaluation, analysis, assessment).

For the administration view I have found out that we start class quite late, then spent some time for transport and consume lot of time for translation. Due to limit of time many lecturers has run to finish their subject many slides just show up only with out detail explanation. Participant faced with language problem so mad training could not reach the highest goal. If supervisor can solve theses problems will make course more meaningful.

However, this training course provided me a good chance to know more about Japan, Japanese people and learn a lot how to make flood hazard map and use it effectively.