

ICHARM and Related International Initiatives for Promoting Integrated Flood Risk Management

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The proposal of the Japanese Government to set up ICHARM was accredited by 191 member countries at the UNESCO General Conference in October 2005 and the Centre was established under the auspices of UNESCO on March 6, 2006 hosted by the Public Works Research Institute. The mission of ICHARM, as one of the 12 existing UNESCO IHP centres in the world, is to function as the international centre of excellence to provide and assist implementation of the best practicable strategies to localities, nations, regions and the globe to manage the risk of water related disasters including flood, drought, landslide, debris flow, storm surge, tsunami and water contamination. ICHARM conducts research, training and information networking activities in a combined manner, focusing, at the initial stage, on flood related disasters.

In order to achieve the primary objective of ICHARM, especially to respond to the needs of diverse localities, it is indispensable for ICHARM to collaborate and cooperate with relevant organizations and programs having activities in the related scope. Such collaboration should bring about mutual benefits by exchanging information and experiences, complementing and increasing efficiency of the use of limited resources and creating synergy for the common objectives. For example, ICHARM will participate as a proactive player in the activities of water and disaster related international organizations and their programs such as International Flood Initiative (IFI), World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP) and Asia Pacific Water Forum (APWF). The mode of collaboration would be planning and working together, sharing necessary resources, resource persons, ideas, information, communication networks, etc.

Detailed information on the activities of ICHARM including 'ICHARM Strategies and Action Plan for 2006-2008' is shown on the web site.
(<http://www.icharm.pwri.go.jp>)