

Technical Assistance for Supporting Investments in Water-Related Disaster Management (ADB TA-7276)

ICHARM, under the partnership agreement concluded with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in November 2009, implemented an ADB project, "Technical Assistance for Supporting Investments in Water-Related Disaster Management (TA-7276)," in Asia. The project aimed to create and provide flood risk information by developing an early warning system and contribute to the mitigation of flood disasters. ICHARM implemented and managed the entire project by mobilizing its resources, while ADB financed necessary expenses for the activities of TA-7276 and employed international consultants, who conducted field surveys under the instruction of ICHARM. The project consisted of the following two components:

- (1) In-country project support component, in which each country conducted a project on its own theme, and
- (2) Program quality support component, in which participating countries cooperate to promote the sharing of technology within the region.

The project lasted for three years and four months until March 2013 after the conclusion of the agreement.

(1) The in-country project support component was implemented in Bangladesh, Indonesia, the Philippines and the Lower Mekong Basin (Cambodia) (Figure 1). In Bangladesh, a national policy roadmap was created to develop a flood early warning system. In Indonesia, a flood early warning system using IFAS was developed for the Solo River basin and technical assistance was provided for community-based disaster prevention activity. In the Philippines, flood conditions were analyzed using IFAS, and training programs were conducted for local engineers to learn how to operate IFAS to (a) identify the causes of floods, (b) understand the mechanism of floods, and (c) provide additional information that supplements the existing systems in the Pampanga and Cagayan river basins (Figure 2).

In the Lower Mekong Basin, quantitative assessment was conducted on flood vulnerability of agriculture and housing.

Regarding the program quality support component, knowledge sharing workshops and IFAS training were held at various locations.

In implementing this project, it was noticed that basic meteorological data, such as rainfall, river water level, and flow level, and topographic data were not sufficiently available, particularly in developing countries. Therefore, in this project, satellite rainfall data (such as GSMaP) and satellite topographic data (such as SRTM) were used to supplement the lack of basic data. As a general rule, we start a project like this one with investigating the characteristics of the project area and the past events of flood and inundation, and based on the results, develop a system and assess flood risk in cooperation with local engineers. In Bangladesh, we organized a series of consultation meetings with related organizations to discuss and confirm the contents of the national roadmap developed for the implementation of a flood early warning system. In Indonesia, we took a participatory approach involving local communities. In the Philippines, we calculated and compared flood analysis results using ground and satellite rainfall data with local engineers to deepen their understanding of the simulation model. In Cambodia, based on the local characteristics of agriculture and housing, we assessed their flood damage. In addition, we also conducted activities to develop proto-type water-related disaster risk index (WRDRI).

In March 2013, Taketo Uomoto, the chief executive of PWRI, and Kuniyoshi Takeuchi, the director of ICHARM, visited Seethapathy Chander, the director general of the ADB Regional and Sustainable Development Department

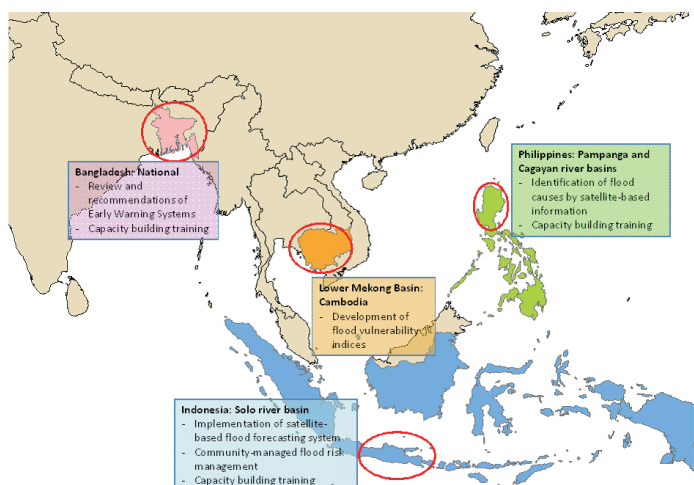


Figure 1 In-country project support

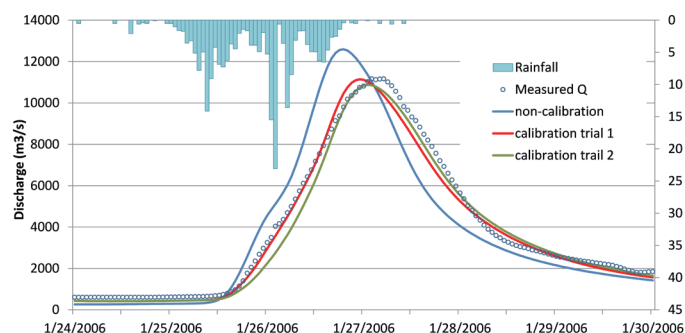


Figure 2 IFAS results at Gamu Station, Cagayan River basin, the Philippines

to report the results of the TA7276 project. Mr. Chander expressed deep gratitude and highly praised ICHARM for its achievements and hoped for its involvement in future projects as well.

The TA-7276 project was the first internationally-funded project for ICHARM to extend its technical cooperation to other countries. Through the implementation of this



Photo 1 Signing ceremony of ADB TA-7276: ADB Director-General of the ADB Regional and Sustainable Development Department Yao (left), PWRI Chief Executive Sakamoto (center) and Director Takeuchi (right) on November 13, 2009

project, ICHARM expanded its range of activities and established a good relationship with each participating country, which has led to further cooperation.

For more detailed project report, please visit the ADB site; <http://www.adb.org/projects/documents/supporting-investments-water-related-disaster-management-tac>



Photo 2 Final Report to ADB on March 12, 2013