

SUMMARY OF TRAINING COURSE ON "FLOOD HAZARD MAPPING"

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PWRI organized the Region-Focused Training Course "Flood Hazard Mapping" from January 31 to February 18, 2005 in cooperation with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). This is a 5-year training course aiming to transfer professional knowledge necessary to produce flood hazard maps as well as to enhance understanding of their effectiveness. This course has started inspired by the flood hazard mapping project of Typhoon Committee, and we will collaborate with them in the future.

The course content for the first year was designed for technical managers or engineers engaged in river or flood management in public sectors in East and Southeast Asia. Participants are expected to acquire:

- (a) Professional knowledge on hydrology, hydraulic and river engineering necessary to produce flood hazard map,
- (b) Understanding on the effectiveness of flood hazard map and on the way to disseminate and utilize it for the people,
- (c) Methods to enhance people's capability and promote public awareness to mitigate flood damage,
- (d) Understanding on the way of producing and applying the flood hazard map for his/her own country/region.

The training course invited 16 participants from eight Asian countries: namely, Indonesia, Malaysia, Cambodia, Thailand, the Philippines, Lao PDR, China and Vietnam.

This training course was also designed to offer various lectures in relation to the science and technology of flood hazard mapping. The course program is shown in annex1. The lectures included those in their objectives and procedures of producing flood hazard maps, and also advanced research topics in the field. The invited lecturers and professional researchers were not only from Japanese research organizations but also from other international organizations such as the Mekong River Commission and the China Institute of Water Resources and Hydropower Research (IWHR).

The program included sessions where the participants had opportunities to exercise the learned knowledge in practical settings. For instance, the participants practiced "Town

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Watching (On-site inspection)" as a case study. We distributed participants three maps shown in Fig.1, 2 and 3. "Town Watching" was conducted in the middle reach of the Tonegawa River which has been historically most flood-affected in Japan. The 1947 flood caused by Typhoon Kathleen was a typical example. On the assumption that actual flood disasters were about to occur, all the participants conducted a field survey and tried to identify critical points and barriers for smooth and safe evacuation. They also had interviews with local people about their awareness of flood disasters (Photo 1). And they made presentations in groups and discussed about them (Photo 2 and Fig.4).

This activity was followed by two complementary field trips regarding "flood hazard mapping": the first trip was to the Fukushima Office of River and National Highway, Koriyama City Office; the second to the Kanto Regional Development Bureau, Arakawa River Downstream Work Office.

At the end of this training course, participants were requested to show their 'Action plan', which means their future activities in their countries concerning flood hazard mapping. About half of them planned to disseminate flood hazard maps to enlighten residents around rivers and make preparations, for it by collecting data and developing hydrological models, in order to produce flood hazard maps in a few years.

In order to ensure effectiveness of this training course, PWRI will organize annual reviews to identify what participants would do in their countries to apply the new knowledge learned from the training course or promote their activities. For example, new participants would be asked to report activities of the previous participants from their respective countries, or we would hold a workshop with all participants at the last year of this training course to make them report their activities.

REFERENCES

Flood Hazard Map Manual for Technology Transfer: March 2003,
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