

# 4 conclusions and key achievements

This meeting was attended by high-level country representatives from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Nepal, Myanmar, and Pakistan, and international technical experts as well as representatives from donor agencies. The meeting was an ideal opportunity to exchange knowledge and know-how in state-of-the-art flood forecasting and information exchange in the HKH region. The participants agreed to further support the initiative to improve flood forecasting in the entire region. Supporting the initiative will entail establishing a Regional Flood Information System by improving hydrometeorological networks, improving telecommunication and dissemination of real-time data and information, improving forecasting techniques and reliability, facilitating access to data and information, and building capacity within the individual national institutions. The development of the flood information system will be a fully voluntary, participatory effort of the countries of the HKH region.

The existing and successful bilateral agreements between countries could be the starting point for the development of a regional framework. This framework would then allow for the exchange of data and information beyond the limitations of bilateral agreements in the context of regional and even global interests. The participants agreed on the goals and objectives for the establishment of a regional flood information system. In this way, the aims and objectives of a regional flood information system would be implemented through an HKH-HYCOS. The participants drafted a resolution of the meeting and endorsed it subject to the revision of the draft project document. The participants also agreed on an action plan for further development of the project. The participants agreed to hold national consultations to identify the specific needs and priorities of each country for the establishment of a regional flood information system. A road map for further development of the project was agreed. This includes a testing phase to demonstrate the technical feasibility of the project.

## Key Achievements

The key achievements of the meeting were as follow.

- Exchange of knowledge in state-of-the-art flood forecasting and information exchange both from within the region and from outside it
- Detailed discussions on the draft project document for the establishment of a regional flood information system
- Adoption of a set of recommendations in the form of a resolution of the meeting upon revision of the draft project document (see Box).
- The regional countries present unanimously agreed to encourage both WMO and ICIMOD to continue in their endeavours to pursue further steps that would ensure project implementation – this could also including mobilising resources

- Adoption of an action plan
- Willingness of the regional countries to hold national consultations
- Participants approved the commencement of a testing phase during which the technical feasibility of the project will be demonstrated
- General consensus by all participants to continue to support the development of this important regional initiative

### **Resolution of the 2<sup>nd</sup> High Level Consultative Meeting**

**Considering** the urgent need for improved hydrological and meteorological forecasting to provide timely and accurate flood information for saving lives and property from water induced disasters in the Hindu Kush-Himalayan Region;

**Considering** the existing bilateral agreements between some of the participating countries and the need to support and build on these agreements within the framework of the project;

**Noting** the recommendations of the First High Level Consultative Meeting on "Developing a Framework for Flood Forecasting in the Hindu Kush-Himalayan Region," from 15 to 18 May 2001 in Kathmandu, Nepal;

**Noting** further the results of the first meeting of the Consultative Panel for the establishment of an HKH-HYCOS project, from 19 to 21 May 2002 in Kathmandu, Nepal;

**Recognising** the Concept Document for the Establishment of a Flood Information System in the Hindu Kush-Himalayan Region, which has been finalised by the Consultative Panel on the basis of the recommendations from the First High-level Meeting;

**Recalling** the request by the Consultative Panel to develop a draft project proposal for the establishment of a flood information system in the Hindu Kush-Himalayan Region;

#### **It is agreed that**

The Draft Project Document circulated by ICIMOD in January, 2003 which was discussed in the 2<sup>nd</sup> High Level Consultative Meeting held during 10-13 March 2003 will be revised incorporating the comments and observations of the member countries. The Revised Draft Project Document would then be circulated by ICIMOD to the member countries for further consideration.\*

The member countries expressed their willingness to support the further development of the project, after the incorporation of the comments/observations of the member countries in the revised draft project document.

The facilitating organisations in the development of this project, namely WMO and ICIMOD, will undertake further adequate activities, including resource mobilisation, for the implementation of the project.

\* The Revised Draft Project Document was circulated to member countries in early August 2003.