

# **national consultation meetings on the establishment of a regional flood information system in the hkh, May 2003**

## **(revised document\*)**

**Contents**

Background

National Consultation Meetings

Objectives

Expected Outcomes

Expected Participants

Duration

Venue

Number of Participants

Provisional Programme and Agenda

Organization of National Consultation Meetings

Preparatory Work Prior to the National Consultations

Criteria for the Selection of Pilot Basins

Annex (1) Proposed Dates for the National Consultations

Annex (2) List of Testing and Demonstration Activities of HKH-HYCOS

**Acronyms**

WMO	World Meteorological Organization
ICIMOD	International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development
HKH	Hindu Kush-Himalayan region
WHYCOS	World Hydrological Cycle Observing System
HYCOS	Hydrological Cycle Observing System
NGO	non-government organization
CBO	community-based organization
DCP	data collection platform

\* After the discussions at the 2<sup>nd</sup> High Level Consultative Meeting (March 10–13, 2003), the original draft document on National Consultation Meetings was revised. This revised version incorporates the suggestions made during the discussions.

## Background

The draft project document on the "HKH-HYCOS: Establishment of a Regional Flood Information System in the Hindu Kush Himalaya", which has been prepared as per the recommendations of the 1<sup>st</sup> High Level Consultative Meeting on "Developing a Framework for Regional Cooperation in Flood Forecasting and Information Exchange in the Hindu Kush Himalayan Region" in May 2001 and the First Meeting of the Consultative Panel in May 2002 was discussed during the 2<sup>nd</sup> High Level Consultative Meeting held from March 10-13, 2003 in Kathmandu.

The draft project document developed by WMO and ICIMOD proposes an implementation plan for the project in three interlinked phases. The First Phase of this implementation plan, which is proposed to be of 18 months duration, will be devoted to "Feasibility Study and Infrastructure Testing". This phase which is already in progress is expected to develop a full-fledged project on: "Regional Flood Information System in the Hindu Kush-Himalaya: The HKH-HYCOS", through a series of National Consultation Meetings in the participating member countries of the region, between April and December 2003. These consultation meetings, which are expected to assess national needs and priorities, will be participated in by representatives of the principal (nodal) and cooperating partner institutions of the participating countries. The next phase of the project beginning from April 2003, also includes pilot testing of data acquisition and disseminating systems including the possibility of using satellite communication within the framework of WMO's WHYCOS. The National Consultation Meetings will also assess the needs and requirements for pilot testing of such data acquisition and disseminating systems for government agencies responsible for flood forecasting and disaster mitigation for the benefit of communities in pilot basins/sub-basins that are exposed to floods. Following the National Consultation Meetings, WMO and ICIMOD are expected to finalize the draft of the regional project incorporating the recommendations and suggestions received during such meetings, which will then be submitted to participating national governments of the region for endorsement.

The National Consultation Meetings are obviously of critical importance to further identify national priorities within the framework of regional cooperation on the establishment of a regional flood information system in the HKH region and to obtain the first-hand technical and organizational information needed for the preparation of a detailed implementation plan for the project. The national consultations will be held from April to December 2003 (the tentative schedule is given in Annex 1).

These National Consultation Meetings will be organized by ICIMOD, WMO and the Principal National Partner Institutions or their nominees for which ICIMOD will provide necessary financial support.

## National Consultation Meetings

### Objectives

- To assess the current institutional capacities (including technical know-how and human resources), needs, and requirements and make recommendations on specific institutional linkages, frameworks, and cooperative mechanisms required within the country and outside for a regional flood information system.
- To identify specific national needs of equipment and communication systems at a basin (sub-basin) level to be installed for pilot testing of the technical feasibility of real-time data acquisition and communication systems for an operational regional network.
- To define a hydrometeorological network that is adequate for national requirements in the framework of the regional framework of the project.
- To help prepare a realistic assessment of funding requirements based on national needs and priorities for the full-scale regional project.

### Expected Outcomes

- Nominations of candidate basins finalized.
- Assessment of institutional capabilities, needs, requirements (human, technical know-how, and equipment) and cooperation mechanisms for testing and development of a flood forecasting and

information system based on a fully participatory approach that involves national and international institutions and the definition of a contributing hydrometeorological network for the project.

## Expected Participants

Representatives of the following institutions are expected to participate.

- Principal National Partner Institutions: National Hydrological and Meteorological Services including national flood forecasting agencies, who will be the principal organizers and regional coordinating agencies for the National Consultative Meetings in the participating countries
- Ministry of External Affairs
- Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Planning, Planning Commission
- Other key institutions: to be identified jointly with/by the Principal National Partner Institutions. These will include national agencies in telecommunications and satellite communications, and other national institutions directly involved in water resources sector planning and development,
- Disaster Management Services /Institutions
- People-based institutions: to be identified jointly with/by the Principal National Partner Institutions. These will include elected representatives NGOs & CBOs from the basins (sub-basins) selected for pilot testing of the project.
- WMO & ICIMOD
- A WMO representative and the ICIMOD Coordinator will participate in the national consultation meetings in the participating countries. WMO and ICIMOD may also invite other experts or consultants to assist in these meetings.

**Duration:** 2 to 3 days as required (to be decided by the Principal Partner Institutions)

**Venue:** As decided by the Principal National Partner Institutions

**Number of Participants:** The Principal Partner Institution in consultation with ICIMOD and WMO will decide the number of participants. There is however no restriction to the number of participants.

## Provisional Programme and Agenda

The full scope of participating organisations/agencies would be determined by the country's Principal Partner Institution and may therefore vary from country to country.

### Day 1: Regional Project & National Needs and Priorities

- Brief highlights of the Regional Project, Objectives and Outcomes of Phase I Activities and the critical importance of National Consultation Meetings:  
Presentations by Principal National Partner Institutions, WMO & ICIMOD.
- Nomination of basins (sub-basins) to test technical feasibility of all components of the proposed flood information system. (It is expected that these basins (sub-basins) will be transboundary and may or may not be already a part of bilateral agreement between two countries):  
Presentations by Principal National Partner Institutions.
- Needs and priorities of national institutions including NGOs & CBOs (human resources, technical know-how, equipment for data acquisition and transmission through satellite communication systems and financial resources):  
Presentations by national institutions (including NGOs and CBOs and media representatives)
- Existing national and regional flood project websites on floods and flood-related information: coordination of information flow:  
Presentations by Principal National Partner Institutions, other relevant institutions, and ICIMOD/WMO.

## **Day 2: Identification of Specific Needs and Priorities of National Partner/Participating Institutions.**

The following issues should be discussed in a suitable form (i.e. using working groups) and general agreement reached between the partners.

- Identification of needs in flood forecasting from national and regional viewpoints
- Existing hydrometeorological networks and telecommunication facilities
- Resource requirements for the establishment of flood information systems as components of the planned regional system. This includes technical and financial resources and human resources
- Institutional capacities including coordination and communication efforts within the framework of specific responsibilities

Coordination and necessary project inputs for smooth flow of information from pilot test basins to national and regional data and information centers will also be discussed.

Annex 2 provides a list of activities that are expected to be undertaken to test the feasibility of the proposed regional flood information system.

## **Day 3: Finalization of Specific Needs and Requirements of National Partner/Participating Institutions**

Finalization of proposed pilot basins (sub basins) proposals and documentation of national requirements and policies for participation in the regional project to be included in the full project proposal.

### **Organization of the National Consultation Meetings**

It is expected that the Principal National Partner Institutions or their nominees will be willing to organize National Consultation Meetings in their respective countries. It is also hoped that preparatory work for the identification and nomination of pilot basins/sub-basins and identification of institutions or individuals and experts (including people's representatives, NGOs & CBOs and media representatives) which will be invited to the National Consultation Meetings as well as to participate in the project will be undertaken by the Principal National Partner Institutions in collaboration with ICIMOD and WMO.

For the organization of National Consultation Meetings and necessary preparatory work, ICIMOD will provide some financial support to each Principal National Partner Institution of the participating countries.

### **Preparatory work prior to the National Consultations.**

Preparatory work needs to be completed prior to the meetings by the Principal National (Nodal) Partner Institutions. The following paragraphs serve as guidance.

- Identification and nomination of pilot basins/sub-basins for the testing of real-time data acquisition and transmission/communication system.
- Identification of institutions or individuals and experts (including people's representatives, NGOs & CBOs and media representatives), which will be invited to the National Consultation Meetings as well as to participate in the project. This will be done by the Principal National (Nodal) Partner Institutions in consultation with ICIMOD and WMO.

- Identification of necessary equipment, training and other support (including financial support) to Principal National (Nodal) Partner Institution and other participating institutions including NGOs and CBOs.

ICIMOD has already secured funds for these meetings of about US\$ 6,000 per country. The Principal National (Nodal) Partner Institutions may also utilize a part of this fund for the necessary preparatory work.

Criteria for the selection of pilot basins.

It was also suggested to consider the following while selecting basins for pilot studies:

- **Operational Feasibility:** the basins (sub-basins) need to be operationally feasible for pilot studies
- **Suitability for testing:** the basins (sub-basins) need to be suitable for testing of different equipment and models
- **Saving of lives and property:** the implementation of the project in the basin (sub-basin) should help in a tangible way to save lives and property through an improved framework for flood forecasting
- **Expansion of coverage:** the selected basins (sub-basins) should allow expansion of the existing station networks, i.e the network, selected for the pilot basins can become part of the regional flood information network
- **Trans-boundary:** basins (sub-basins) from trans-boundary rivers should be selected for pilot studies as a priority.

## Annex (1)

### Proposed Dates for the National Consultations\*

In the 2<sup>nd</sup> High Level Meeting some of the member countries proposed dates for the National Consultative Meetings in their respective countries. The proposed dates are as follow:

- Bangladesh: Middle of October
- Bhutan: Middle of July
- China: End of September
- Pakistan: Middle of November

The representatives from India and Nepal said that they would host the meeting as per ICIMOD and WMO's feasibility, for which they require prior notice. For meetings in Afghanistan and Myanmar it is necessary to first finalize their status.

## Annex (2)

### List of Testing and Demonstration Activities of HKH-HYCOS

- Institutionalized communication channels including satellite systems,
- Identification of test stations in the field,
- Data Collection Platforms (DCP) and telecommunication systems,
- Data and information dissemination system including the use of the internet,
- Prototype archival system for data and information
- Communication links and input of data for flood forecasting services
- Communication links to organizations responsible for disaster prevention
- Other Activities: as decided during the National Consultation Meetings

\* As of November 2003, National Consultations have been held in Bhutan (22-23rd July 2003), China (24-25th September 2003), Bangladesh (18-19th October 2003), and are planned for Pakistan, Nepal, and India in early 2004.