

1. Preparation of Annual Record of Hydrology and Water Resources Report is on going

As reported in the last month's News Letter, Annual Records of Hydrology for 2002-2003 Syrian hydrological year are now being prepared with using the database system. Actually, this is the first trial to use Database system to prepare the Annual Records, therefore, it has taken considerably long time to finish this task. Draft was already prepared by the end of last month and final modification is now being conducted now. We can finish this task within a few weeks. After that, the preparation of Annual Records for 2003-2004 will be started continuously.

The 1st edition of Water Resources Report is also now being prepared by Syrian C/Ps. In the 1st edition of report, water resources information which has been collected and accumulated in past will be reported mainly.

2. German and Dutch Experts visited WRIC

German mission members visited WRIC on April 13th to get information about WRIC activities and to discuss the future corporation in the field of capacity development of water resources management in Syria. The German mission was dispatched to survey mainly the feasibility of water resources management training courses for Syrian people.

Mr. T.T. van Beek, Dutch expert also visited WRIC on April 20th. Until now, Dutch government has implemented many projects in the field of water sector such as Groundwater Modeling in Orontes Basin, Training courses in National Center of Training and Water Study in Raqqa, water resources study in Costal Basin and so on. Now they are considering the strategy of further corporation in water sector. Mr.van Beek visited WRIC to know the outline of our activities and discuss the coordination between our project and Dutch project. We agreed to invite the Orontes Basin staff of MOI, counterparts of Dutch project, to the lectures for water balance and groundwater modeling, which will be given by Japanese Expert during coming two years. We will keep the contact with each other for the efficient corporation in water sector in Syria.



3. Hydrological Observation with Automatic Stations granted by Japanese Government

Now total 248 automatic observation stations have been installed in the Barada-Awaji Basin and Coastal Basin. We now, however, face some difficulties in operation and maintenance of this equipment. One of these difficulties is the troubles of some equipment which are caused mainly by the inappropriate combination of equipment parts or computing software. These troubles were not detected during installation work and commissioning test. Actually in the present time, about 15% of observation stations have some problems. Japanese Expert and Syrian C/P are trying to solve these problems as soon as possible with the corporation of Mitsubishi Co., contractor of this grant aid project, and the other related staff of Japanese observation equipment manufacturers. Another point is the data processing of the observed data. Now the WRIC Basin Centers prepared local database system to store the raw observation data. From now, we have to develop the application software to process the collected observation data automatically and smoothly. Regarding the development of application software, Japanese programming expert will come to Syria in coming May or June. Moreover we have to establish the data flow which includes the assignment of responsible staff.

Outline of observation stations granted by Japanese Government

Basin		Meteorology	Surface water	Groundwater
GDBAB		A.W.S. 14 Rainfall gauge 14 Snowfall gauge 15	34	110 (33 water quality)
GDCB	Lattakia	A.W.S. 4 Rainfall gauge 5 Snowfall gauge 4 Evaporation 4	12	16 (5 water quality)
	Tartus	A.W.S. 3 Rainfall gauge 5 Snowfall gauge 3 Evaporation 2	7	18 (8 water quality)

Note) A.W.S: Automatic Weather Station which has multiple observation equipment for rainfall, temperature, humidity, sunshine radiation, sunshine duration, wind speed and direction.



4. H.E.Eng. Nader Al-Bunni, Minister of Irrigation will visit Japan in May, 2005

Minister of Irrigation will visit Japan from May 7th to 14th to view the water resources management in Japan. He will tour the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport (MLIT), Japan Water Resources Agency and Foundation of River and Basin Integrated Communications which is mainly in charge of hydrological information database system, etc. We hope that this training tour will contribute to the promotion of WRIC activities and to the development of water resources management in Syria.

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