

## WRIC News Letter

## March 2005

### 1. Handing Over of Observation Equipment granted by Japanese Government

Handing Over Ceremony of Observation Equipment granted by Japanese Government was held on March 3, 2005 in the presence of H.E.Eng. Nader Al-Bunni, Minister of Irrigation SAR, and H.E.Mr. Azusa Hayashi, Ambassador of Japan. In Barada-Awaji Basin and Coastal Basin, total 248 stations of automatic observation equipment were installed in order to enhance the meteorological and hydrological observation network.



Ambassador of Japan and Minister of MOI at Ceremony

Until now WRIC has received meteorological and hydrological data from MOI and the other related organizations. Almost all of these data, however, have been measured mainly by manual method. Therefore the frequency and accuracy of data were not satisfactory. The automatic observation stations which were granted by Japan are expected to contribute to enhance the quantity and quality of hydrological and meteorological data in both basins.

On the other hand, appropriate operation & maintenance of equipment and processing of huge amount of observation data from the automatic observation data are big challenge for WRIC staff during the remaining project period.

### 2. Japanese Experts and Syrian C/P visited Egypt

Japanese experts and Syrian C/P visited Egypt from March 6 to March 9 to view the Egyptian water resources management system and training & research institutes under the umbrella of Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation (MWRI). Moreover we discussed the feasibility of training courses for Syrian C/P in these Egyptian training institutes.



Meeting with Vice Minister of MWRI

Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation has conducted many corporation projects with United States, Canada, Japan, United Nations and so on. They emphasize the sustainability of the projects, and have tried to make self-reliant



development from the beginning of the projects in order to keep the sustainability.

Regarding the feasibility of training courses for Syrian C/P in Egypt, RCTWS and HRI have regular or tailor-made courses with good training and accommodation facilities. Tailor-made courses, however, have minimum requirement of participant number (about 7-10) and it may make the tailor-made courses for our project unfeasible. On the other hand, they have variety of regular courses and provided us the schedule of training courses. We will keep contact with RCTWS and HRI in order to seek the feasibility of the training courses for Syrian C/P in Egypt.

### 3. Joint Coordinate Committee and Conclusion of R/D for WRIC project extension

Joint Coordinate Committee (JCC) was held on March 23 in Cham Palace Hotel of Damascus and Record of Discussion for WRIC project extension was concluded between Ministry of Irrigation and JICA. Last October, Project Evaluation was conducted by Japanese evaluation mission and JCC member based on the DAC Five Criteria (Relevance, Effectiveness, Efficiency, Impact and Sustainability).



This project was planned as 3 years project from June 2002 to June 2005. As the result of the evaluation, however, some activities were behind the schedule and some activities such as the analysis capacity development for water balance were supposed to be added to the project. Therefore extension of project period was recommended. In accordance with the recommendation, MOI and WRIC staff made the Plan of Operation during the 2 years extension period from June 2005 to June 2007. Based on the plan Record of Discussion (R/D) for project extension was concluded.

Main focuses during the extension period are following.

- Operation & Maintenance of automatic observation stations
- Appropriate processing of huge amount of observation data from automatic stations
- Capacity Development for analysis such as water balance and ground water modeling



- Improvement of data accuracy
- Monitoring of operation and maintenance of Database and GIS system

#### 4. Mr. Kato and Mr. Umeda left Syria

Mr. Kato and Mr. Umeda who are Database and GIS experts finished their tasks in Syria and left on March 7. At this time, their stay in Syria was only 1 month and they supported the modification of database structure in accordance with the data format of automatic observation equipment. Moreover they encouraged the preparation of various GIS theme maps which should be used as the material of Water Resources Report. They will be back to Syria in coming June or July. We appreciate their efforts very much.

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

Annual Records of Hydrology for 2002-2003 Syrian hydrological year are now being prepared with using the database system. Last year Annual Records of Surface water and Groundwater level were issued. However another data books such as precipitation and water quality were not issued, and these data books were actually prepared not by Database System but by primitive manner with using excel data sheets.

The Annual Records of Hydrology for 2002-2003 covers all items such as precipitation, groundwater, surface water and water quality. Moreover by using the database application which was developed by Syrian C/P during the summer of 2004, we can print out the data sheets automatically from Database. After checking the data books, they will be issued as soon as possible.

Another matter is Water Resources Report. Now the Syrian C/Ps are preparing the 1<sup>st</sup> edition of Water Resources Report which should be issued by the middle of June. In the 1<sup>st</sup> edition of report, water resources information which has been collected and accumulated in past will be reported mainly.

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