

1. Minister of Irrigation visit Japan

From 8th May till May 14 2005, H. E. Minister of Irrigation Eng. Nader Al-Bunni and Dr. Bachar Faiad director of WRIC visited Japan to attend a program of integrated management of water resources that was conducted by JICA headquarter in Cooperation with Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transportation (MLIT). This program was conducted in the frame work of WRIC project which is directly supervised by Minister of Irrigation. H.E. Eng. Nader Al-Bunni met Vice-Minister of MLIT Mr. Hasumi, Mr. Aoyama president of JWA and the other high officials at JICA headquarter in Tokyo, Mr. Tomimoto G.D. of Global Environmental Department, Mr. Kitahara Executive Director, Mr. Adatchi Head of Water Resources Group...etc.

The program that include various activities such as, presentations on the tasks of JWA, Dam control office, field trip to Aimata Dam on Tonegawa River...etc. at the end, this visit concluded the following results:

- JICA supports WRIC till 14 June 2007.
- JICA will receive Syrian trainee on Dam safety management from 2005.
- H.E. Minister of Irrigation requested JICA to assist MOI to establish remote training room at MOI, and to facilitate Al-Raqqa Training Center.



Mr. Hasumi, Vice-Minister of MLIT (left side)
and Eng. Nader Al-Bunni, Minister of Irrigation



Control room of Tone River dams

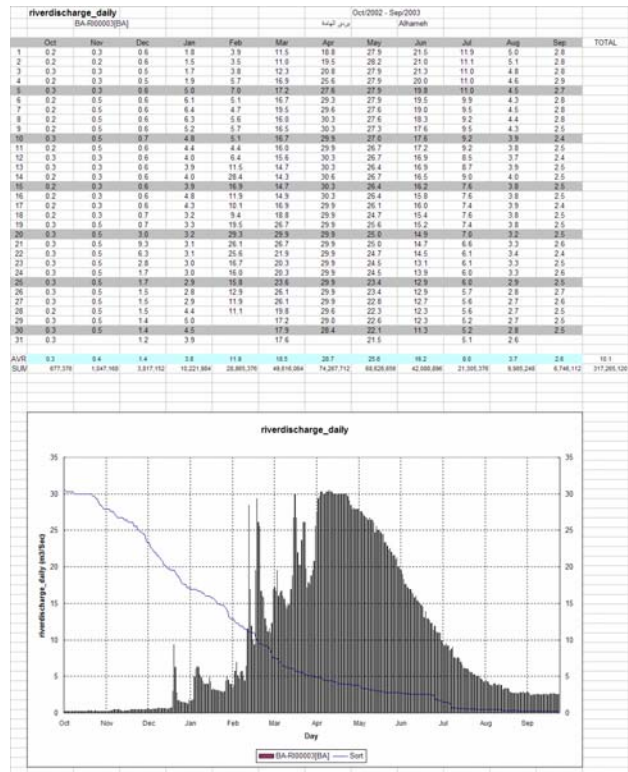
2. Annual Record of Hydrology was prepared

Preparation of Annual Records of Hydrology for 2002-2003 was finished and we are almost ready to distribute it. The Annual Records of Hydrology covers such items as precipitation (GDBAB 55stations, GDCB 26stations), surface water discharge (GDBAB 109stations, GDCB 84stations), groundwater



level (GDBAB 148stations, GDCB 91stations) and water quality (GDBAB 187stations, GDCB not finished yet). These annual records were prepared by using the WRIC Database System.

On June 16th, Syrian - Japanese Joint Coordinate Committee of WRIC project will be held in Ministry of Irrigation. At that time, the Annual Record of Hydrology will be distributed to Minister and the other high officials of MOI. After the JCC, we will distribute the Annual Records of Hydrology to the related organizations such as Meteorological Bureau of Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Housing and so on. Following these Annual Records for 2002-2003, we will begin the preparation of the data book for 2003-2004 Syrian hydrological year.



Example of Annual Record of Hydrology (Daily river discharge)

3. Preparation of Water Resources Report is almost finished

The 1st edition of Water Resources Report is now being prepared by Syrian C/Ps and it will be finished until June 14, the end of 3rd year of WRIC project. In the 1st edition of report, water resources information which has been collected and accumulated in past will be reported mainly. It will be reported and distributed in Joint Coordinate Committee on June 16th.

4. Database and Analysis Experts arrived in Syria

On May 26th, Mr.Kato, Mr.Kanayama and Mr. Ota arrived in Syria. They are experts for database and analysis and they will stay in Syria for 5 – 6 months. Their main tasks are followings.

- Application development for automatic processing of meteorological and hydrological data from 248 automatic observation stations.
- Application development for outputting Monthly Report from database.
- Water balance modeling and technical transfer



-Monitoring of operation and maintenance of database/GIS and network system.

Especially, technical transfer of water balance modeling was planned originally at the beginning of this project. On the way of this project, however, such technical transfer for analysis work was abandoned because of delay of the other activities and because of the lack of the qualified staff.

During coming two years of project extension period, we decided to try it once again. These tasks will be considerably more difficult than the tasks in past three years for Syrian C/Ps. Therefore, Syrian C/Ps are requested to work harder. At the same time, MOI should assign more qualified staff to WRIC project.

5. Mr. Someya, former Japanese Expert (Hydrologist) passed away on May 12th in Japan

Mr. Someya, former Japanese Hydrologist, passed away on May 12th. He had been in Syria from June 2002, the beginning of WRIC project and made the great effort and contribution to establish this center. In May 2004, unfortunately, it was found that he got leukemia and he had to go back to Japan to receive the treatment. In Japan, he fought against his disease for one year; however, he passed away last month. Many Syrian C/Ps received training from him and they will never forget him. We express our deep condolences for his death and appreciate his effort in Syria. We would like to pray that he sleep in heaven peacefully.

6. Joint Coordinate Committee will be held on June 16th

Joint Coordinate Committee will be held on June 16th at the head quarter of Ministry of Irrigation. This is just the end of 3rd year and beginning of 4th year of WRIC project. Therefore, achievement of 3rd year including 1st edition of Water Resources Report and activities plan of 4th year will be discussed by MOI high officials and WRIC staff.

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