

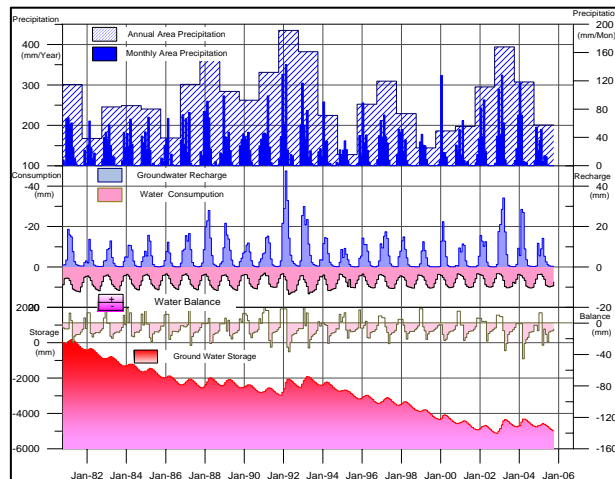


WRIC News Letter

August 2006

1. Topics: Water Crisis in Barada-Awaji Basin

Current situation of water resources in the Damascus (Barada and Awaj Basin: 8550 km²) stands on the edge of serious water shortage. According to WRIC's water balance model (tentative results of Synthetic storage Model as of 2005), the water balance is chronically in the negative balance. The water requirement is reaching 580 MCM every year (280 MCM: drinking water+ 300 MCM: agriculture and others = total: 580 MCM), while the natural renewable water is limited to 380 MCM. It results in the 200 MCM of deficit every year (reaching 70 % of renewable water). Since last 25 years, the condition continues and 4000 MCM of water resource had been lost to date from the basin. Consequently, the frangible structure of water basin is being produced and behaving very susceptible to the fluctuation of natural climate. Unfortunately, in the water years of 2004/5, the precipitation is lower than the average (observed ca. 70% of the average in 2004/5). Moreover, as already reported in WRIC Newsletter of Feb. and March 2006, the precipitation in 2005/6 in this basin is supposed to be also lower than the average. (e.g.: the observed precipitation in 2005/2006 at Zabadani and Yahour stations located upstream of Barada river was around 60-70% of the average.) It would bring about the lowering of groundwater table in particular the east of Damascus.



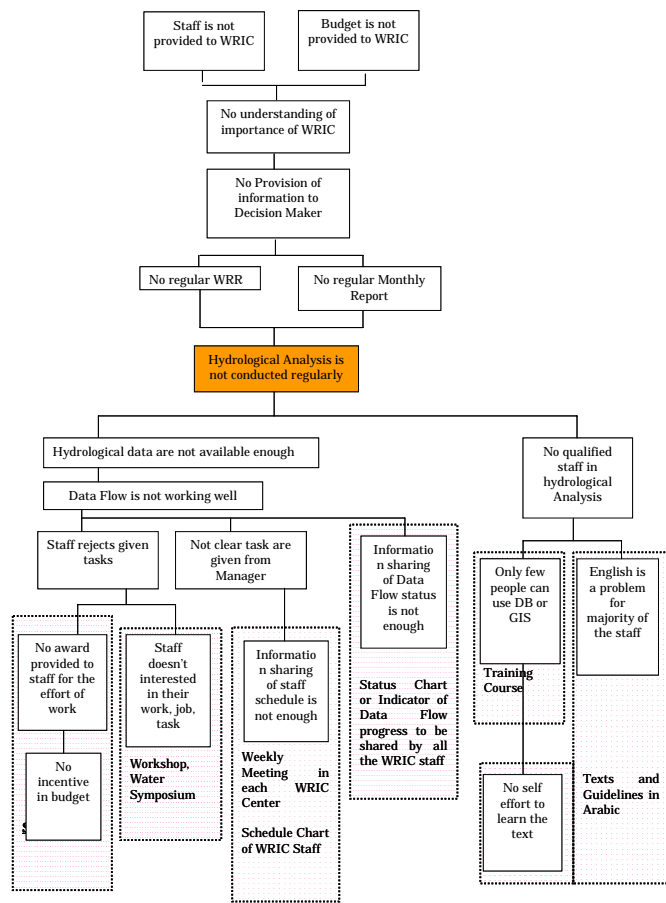
2. Summary of PCM Workshops last month

As reported the WRIC Newsletter last month, PCM workshops were held on 19th and 27th of July to clarify our problems and figure out the solutions. Based on the discussion in the first workshop on 19th, we chose three core problems, “Hydrological Analysis”, “C2C Workshop(Training by Syrian C/Ps)” and “Maintenance of Equipment”.



In the second workshop which was held by the management committee members on 27th July, the cause-effect analysis for the three core problems was conducted respectively. Accordingly, some solutions were also discussed and figured out for each group of problems. One of which is shown below.

As for the solutions, we found that information sharing about the staff's task and schedule, the actual situation of database management, conditions of IT and observation equipment etc. should be enhanced much more. According to this result, we are going to start the implementation of these measures step by step from now on.



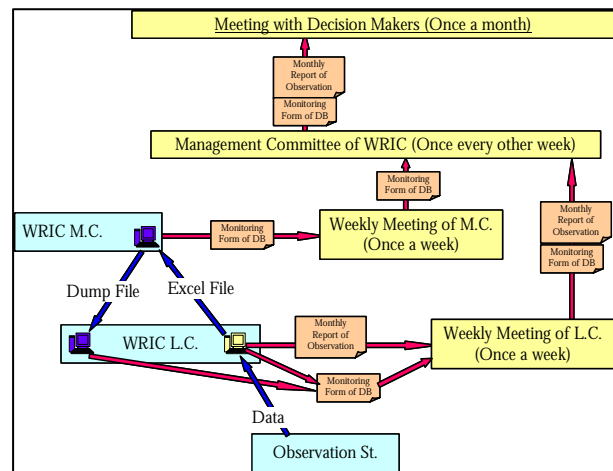
3. Dataflow Workshop on Aug. 3rd

Dataflow means the total system and scheme to make our observation data collected, processed, transmitted and uploaded smoothly in the WRIC Local Centers and the Main Center. So far, however, the dataflow has not worked well and consequently the serious delay of data upload in the MC database happens now. For instance, as for the automatic observation stations which were installed by Japanese Grant Aid project in 2005, the rate of data upload completion to the MC database is totally around 50%, despite of our target rate of 95% in our Project Design Matrix (PDM). As for the meteorological observation stations and the ground water stations, the rate is around 70-80%, which is much better than the other items such as river and spring discharge, however, is still lower than the target rate of 95%.

To deal with such situation, the dataflow workshop was held and some solutions were discussed. One of the solutions is supposed to be information sharing among all the WRIC staff about the actual situation of data upload to



Main Center and Local Center database. To implement the data sharing, monitoring scheme was proposed by Japanese side as shown below. Accordingly necessary application development was started. After the completion of application development for database monitoring form, this scheme should be put into practice as soon as possible.



4. Annual Schedule of C2C Workshop for 2006-2007

C2C Workshop, in which Syrian C/Ps transfer their acquired knowledge and experience to other Syrian C/Ps, is very important activity for the sustainability of WRIC in future.

Last year series of C2C Workshops was conducted in accordance with the annual schedule. Based on the result of the workshops last year and the actual needs of technical transfer for Syrian C/Ps, the new schedule of C2C workshops for 2006-2007 was prepared. This year Syrian C/Ps are to hold the workshops as well as to prepare the original text books in Arabic for each training items. The workshops are open not only to the existing members of WRIC center, but also to other people of MOI and related governmental agencies would join the training. The annual schedule will be published in our web site.

5. Joint Coordinate Committee (JCC) will be held on Aug. 31st

JCC will be held on August 31st to present the draft of 2nd edition of Water Resources Report etc. and to discuss the progress and problems of WRIC activities especially such as the implementation of dataflow, hydrological analysis. Hopefully it would be useful to understand the current situation of WRIC and to tackle our problems.

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