

1. C2C Workshop at National Water Training Center (NWTC), Raqqa

Series of C2C Workshop was held in the beginning and middle of Dec.2005 at NWTC. NWTC is special training institute of MOI and located in Raqqa, one of major cities in northern part of Syria. It was established with the cooperation of Dutch Government in 2003.

From Dec.4th to Dec.7th, Eng. Ali Assad Director of Tartus WRIC Center delivered a lecture about SQL technique which is indispensable for Database operation. From Dec.11th to Dec.13th, Eng. Kassem Natouf Manager of AS Section of Barada-Awaji WRIC Center conducted training course of Hydrological Modeling and Data Processing. At that time Mr.Kato Japanese Expert (total system engineer) joined the workshop to introduce the concept of numerical analysis for water balance and groundwater. From Dec.18th to Dec.20th, Eng.Shaher Abdullah Manager of CC Section of WRIC Main Center gave a lecture about hydrological observation and observed data processing.

Mr.Suzuki Japanese Expert (Hydrologist) joined the workshop to assist the Syrian trainer.

We appreciate these Syrian and Japanese trainers' effort to hold these workshops. After January 2006 we continue this workshop not only at NWTC but also at WRIC Centers.



Participants of C2C Workshop in NWTC

2. Oracle Certification Examination in Jordan

4 Syrian C/Ps challenged Oracle Certification Examination to verify their ability of Database management in the beginning of Dec. In Syria such authorized examination is not available. Therefore they went to Jordan to take the exam. This time test items were 'Oracle 9i Database: Fundamentals 1' and 'Introduction to Oracle 9i: SQL'. As result one C/P Eng.Kamar Shahada passed both items and obtained the official certification from Oracle. Congratulations!



Eng.Kamar Shahada
with Oracle certification



3. Training Course of Hydrological Observation in Japan

Training course of Hydrological Observation was held in Japan from Dec.3rd to Dec. 24th. 4 trainees (Eng. Mazen Naaman, Eng. Mamdouf Sakr, Eng. Yashin Toameh and Mr.Bacher Ibrahim) attended the training course. The outline of the training course is following. We hope they obtained good knowledge of water management and hydrological observation system in Japan and will contribute to WRIC development. Meeting for presentation by each trainee will be held to share their knowledge and experience in WRIC.

Lastly we truly appreciate many Japanese people who made great effort to implement this training course in Japan.

4. Final Workshop of Modeling in 2005

Mr. Ota held his final workshop of Synthetic Storage Model (SSM) on Dec.12th. Mr. Ota came to Syria in the end of May and tried to transfer the SSM technology to estimate the Water Balance in Barada-Awaji Basin and Coastal Basin. During his stay in Syria he held workshops of SSM many times, however, unfortunately almost all the Syrian C/Ps had dropped off from the arduous task. Despite of such difficulties, Mr. Ota prepared the SMM model in Barada-Awaji Basin and succeeded to conduct trial run. As the result of the trial run, we found very serious decline of groundwater volume in Barada-Awaji Basin. For instance, the result shows that approximately total 4.5 billion m³ of groundwater storage have been lost from 1980 to 2003 in Barada-Awaji Basin. 4.5 billion m³ is about 4 times as much as annual total water demand in Barada-Awaji Basin. As shown in summary of calculated water balance, annual average groundwater deficit is 22.8mm of average water height (approximately 200 million m³ in the whole basin). It is supposed that such deficit of groundwater is occurred by over abstraction of groundwater mainly for irrigation and potable water.

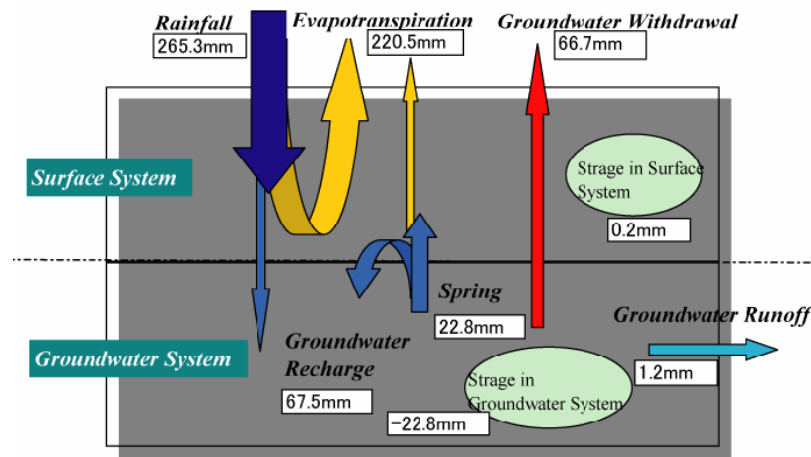
At present the prepared model itself is not accurate yet enough mainly because of inaccuracy and lack of available data. In fact the above figure of



Mr.Ota at his final workshop



annual average groundwater deficit (22.8mm/year, 200millin m³/year) is about 4 times as much as a result of water balance simulation in JICA Development Study Phase 2 (1998-2000). Therefore such figure will be changeable considerably in accordance with further calibration of SSM model. However the result implies that groundwater might dry up in near future unless necessary countermeasures are not implemented urgently.



Result of Water Balance Analysis by using SSM

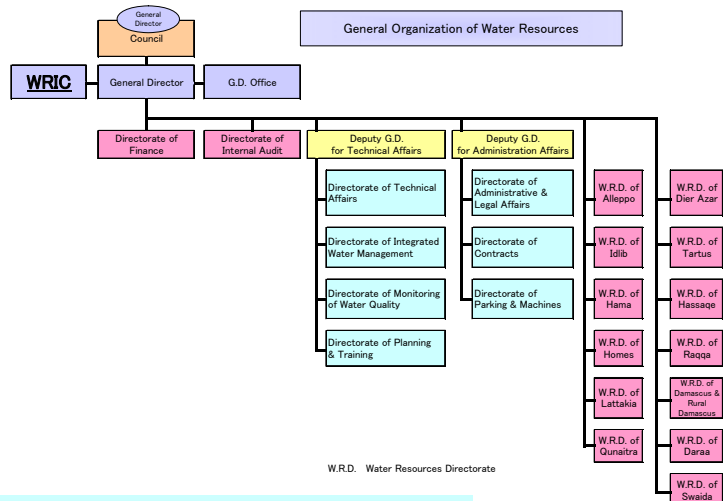
Preliminary Analysis for hydrological balance in current condition was carried out. (average of 23 years in water year from 1980/81 to 2002/03)

Result of Preliminary Run of SSM in Barada-Awaji Basin
(Annual average of 1980/81-2002/3)

5. Organizational Reform of MOI in January 2006

Organization of MOI will be reformed drastically in January 2006. Instead of most directorates of MOI HQ and General Directorates in basin, General Organization for Water Resources (GOWR) will be established. WRIC will move to the new organization GOWR after January 1st 2006.

Detailed final information of structure and task allocation is not available yet, however, we hope that this reform improves the organizational efficiency and performance of work of MOI.



GOWR organization chart (tentative)



6. Mr.Kato, Mr.Ota and Mr.Kodama left Syria

3 Japanese Experts finished their assignment in 2005. Mr.Kato and Mr.Ota left Syria on Dec.19th. Mr.Kodama also went back to Japan on Dec.31st. Mr.Kato supervised the other IT and Analysis experts, and prepared the GIS Theme Maps. Mr.Ota, as above mentioned in 3., mainly conducted the SSM model preparation and technical transfer to Syrian C/Ps. Mr. Kodama conducted training for observation data checking and supervision of hydrological observation in Coastal Basin.

We appreciate their contribution to WRIC project. Hopefully they will be back to Syria next year again.



Mr.Kodama



Mr.Kato

***This is the last WRIC News Letter in 2005. We appreciate your cooperation for WRIC project this year.
We hope you will have a nice enjoyable Christmas and New Year.***



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