

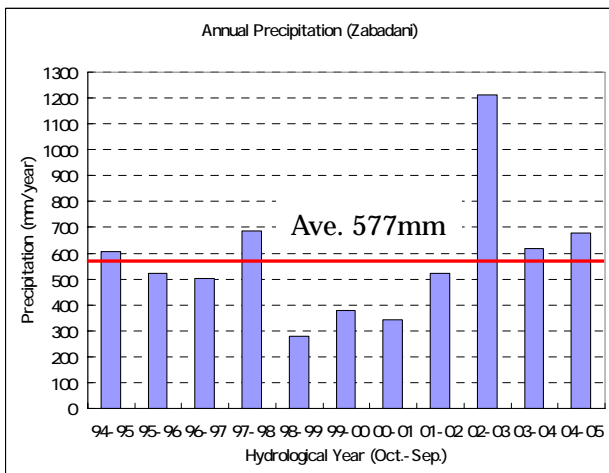
# WRIC News Letter February 2006

## Warning of draught

According to our observation data of precipitation, we have had relatively little rain in this winter. For example, historical annual precipitation in Zabadani observatory is shown in the graph-1 and monthly data from 02-03 to 05-06 hydrological year is shown in the graph-2. Although we have obtained the observation data until Jan. 2006, the accumulative amount of precipitation in 05-06 year is considerably small compared to the previous years.

Zabadani observatory locates in the upstream of Barada River which runs through Damascus city. At the same time, Zabadani area is one of the most important water sources of municipal water in Damascus city. Therefore the amount of precipitation in this area will badly affect the stability of water supply in coming summer season.

Unfortunately the available data are not enough because data uploading and transmission from WRIC local center to Main Center are ongoing so far. However this data warn that we might suffer from serious draught in this summer season and measures for saving water consumption should be conducted by Syrian government in advance.

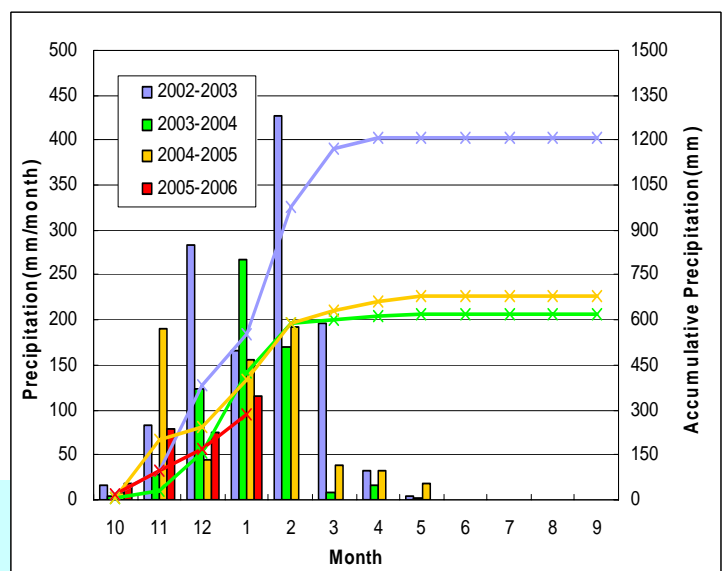


Graph-1 Annual Precipitation in Zabadani

\*Data source

94-95 to 01-02: MOA's manual observatory

02-03 to 05-06: WRIC's automatic observatory



Presentation of Training Course in Japan

Training course of hydrological observation was conducted in Dec.2005. The Syrian trainees made presentations about their experience and knowledge in each WRIC center in the middle of Feb. 2006, according to the following schedule.

- Feb. 15<sup>th</sup>: Eng. Yashine Tome (DRD Center)
- Feb. 19<sup>th</sup>: Eng. Mandouf Shakr (Main Center)
- Feb. 20<sup>th</sup>: Eng. Mazen Naaman (Lattakia Center)



At DRD



At Lattakia

Meeting with Eng. Samir Haifa, new Director General of Lattakia

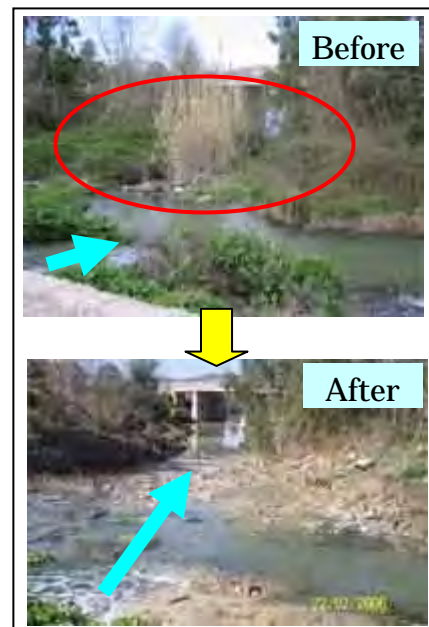
In accordance with MOI organization reform on Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> 2006, Eng. Samir Haifa was assigned as Director General of Lattakia local office (Water Resources Directorate in Lattakia). Therefore Mr. MORI, Chief Advisor, and Mr. Sugiura visited Lattakia to meet with him on Feb.1<sup>st</sup>.



Meeting with Eng.Samir Faiha

At that meeting we discussed many subjects such as smooth implementation of budget for WRIC activities, proper maintenance and improvement of automatic surface water observatories and so on. Concerning the automatic surface water stations, Mr. Kodama, short-term Japanese Expert, made many recommendations to improve the current situation. Eng. Samir Haifa promised us to make effort to enhance the WRIC activities.

*\*Photo: example of improvement of surface water station. This place is just upstream of S.W.station (Al Kesh). Sedimentation and grass on the river bed were blocking the smooth river water flow. Therefore excavation and cleaning of river bed was conducted.*



Data Flow and Check List

Needless to say, data flow is the most important concept for our project because the purpose of WRIC is to collect and keep water resources data in WRIC. Data flow, however, has not been working well in past. In order to



overcome such situation, new circular system of data collection and processing check list was introduced by Mr.Suzuki, Japanese expert (hydrologist). Firstly we adopted this check list for automatic weather stations. After we succeed it, the system will be extended to the other observation items step by step.

#### C2C Workshop

Eng. Kassem Natouf presented training for database management for WRIC staff on Feb.19<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. This time 5 C/Ps attended this workshop and get lecture and hands-on training. 5 workshops will be held in March 2006 in the field of database management and GIS. We hope that it will be effective for participants to join such workshops.

Eng. Nimer F Assad obtained Japanese Government Scholarship

Eng. Nimer F Assad obtained the Japanese government scholarship which was offered by Ministry of Education and Science of Japan, and will study in the master course of Saitama University in Japan from April 2006 to March 2008. His main topic of research in Japan is to hydrological analysis such as water balance analysis and ground water modeling.

Technology of hydrological analysis is indispensable for the WRIC activities in future. Therefore JICA dispatched Japanese expert to conduct technology transfer in this field to WRIC staff from May 2005. However such training by Japanese expert in Syria is not enough to develop the capacity of Syrian C/P fully, because it needs proper study environment such as excellent supervisors, colleagues and equipment and requires intensive effort to obtain enough knowledge and experience.

We hope that his study in Japan will contribute not only WRIC activities but also appropriate water resources management in Syria in future.



Eng.Nimer F Assad

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