



WRIC News Letter

February 2007

1. Training course of groundwater modeling with GMS

Training course of the groundwater modeling started on Feb. 11th at Hydraulic Research Institute (HRI) of Egypt, which lasts till March 1st. Total five of Syrian counterparts participated in this training course to learn the groundwater modeling by using MODFLOW. As reported in the newsletter last month, WRIC has already established very close and cooperative relationship with Egyptian government organizations in water sector, especially with HRI. Thanks to the cooperation with HRI, 3 weeks of system management training course (computer network) was conducted very successfully in July 2005. Following the last training course, WRIC and HRI have considered the further possibility of cooperation, and the groundwater modeling course was formulated subsequently.

On the first day of the course, opening ceremony was held with the attendance of Eng. Ibrahim A.El-Desouky (Director of HRI), Dr. Mohamed Ahmed Soliman (Manager of Regional Training Center of HRI) and other related officials of HRI. Following the opening ceremony, the lecture of the principle and theory of hydrological character of groundwater was given by the Professor of Cairo University.

During three weeks of the course, theoretical lectures as well as hands-on training of the MODFLOW by using the actual data in the target area of Syria will be given, which should be very useful and effective for them to develop the groundwater model in Syria in future. We hope their successful achievement in this training course.



Opening Ceremony



Hydraulic experiment facility of HRI



The first lecture of the course on Feb 11th

**Five Syrian participants of the training course*

Eng. Kassem Nattouf (Director / WRIC DRD Center)

Eng. Ali Assad (Director / WRIC Tartus Center)

Eng. Mazen Naaman (Manager of Analysis section/ WRIC Lattakia Center)

Eng. Hiam Al-Ashkr (Analysis Section / WRIC Main Center)

Eng. Samir Houssein (C&C Section / WRIC Tartus Center)



2. International Conference on WRM in Islamic Countries

The 1st International conference on Water Resources Management in Islamic Countries was held at Power and Water University in Teheran, Iran on Feb. 19th and 20th. In this important event, Mr. Mori, Chief Advisor of WRIC attended to make a presentation about the activities and achievement of WRIC project.

This international conference was organized by Regional Center of Urban Water Management (RCUWM) in Teheran, which is one of UNESCO-IHE regional centers. Total 400 officials of government or international organization, researchers and graduate students of 20 nationalities participated in this event including remarkable key note speakers such as Prof. A. Szollosi-Nagy (Deputy Director-General of Division of Water Sciences, UNESCO), Prof. Peter Loucks (Cornell Univ., USA), Prof. Gordon Young (Former WWAP Coordinator, UNESCO), Prof. Eelco van Beek (Delft Univ. The Netherlands), Prof. Soroosh Sorooshian (California Univ. Irvine, USA) and so on.

Firstly, at the opening ceremony, H.E. Mr. P. Fattah (Minister of Energy of Iran) presented opening address. Following the opening ceremony, four sessions were held. Total 5 of key notes speakers and 20 of speakers made their presentations, concerning the country reports about situation of water resources in each countries, policy and strategy on water resources management, challenges and projects for IWRM, water ethics in Islamic countries. Mr. Mori made a presentation entitled “Establishment and Achievement of Water Resource Information Center in Syria” at the third session.

After the sessions, a panel discussion with key note speakers were held and with the cooperation and participants of audiences, the declaration were prepared and agreed at the end of the conference. The summary and declaration of the conference will be updated shortly at the website of RCUWM www.rcuwm.org.ir, according to the conference secretariat.

This conference was very successful and useful to exchange information and experience in Islamic countries, in which they may share some common attitude and tradition about water. This conference is to be held every three years and next one will be held in 2010.



Presentation by Mr. Mori on Feb. 20th



View of Teheran city



3. Japanese Ambassador visited WRIC

H.E. Mr. Kunieda, Japanese Ambassador visited WRIC main center on Feb. 14th. In this visit, Dr. Bacher Fayad, Director of WRIC made a presentation about the WRIC activities and outputs and active discussion was made with Mr. Kunieda. Following the visit at WRIC main center, he visited one of surface water observation stations in Barada river to see the actual hydrological observation of WRIC.



Presentation by Dr. Bacher



Site visit by Ambassador at Barada river

4. Training course in Japan

From Feb. 3rd to Feb. 28th, training course of water resources management was held in Japan and four Syrian counterparts were dispatched to Japan. In this training course, they will visit Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport of Japan and water related organizations such as Japan Water Agency and many project sites, and also receive intensive training for database management and hydrological analysis at Sanyu Consultants Co. We hope that the trainees will get useful knowledge and experience to contribute to WRIC in future.

(End)

Contact

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