

WRIC News Letter

January 2006

New year 2006 started. We hope that this year will be fruitful for all of you.

1. Major events and expected outputs of WRIC in 2006-2007

Coming one and half year is very important for WRIC, because JICA Technical Cooperation Project will complete in June 2007 and Syrian C/Ps have to obtain enough knowledge and experience during remaining period.

Moreover institutional capacity of project management should be developed further especially to keep the sustainability of this project. For the capacity development for project management, initiative of project should be handed over from Japanese side to Syrian side gradually.

In the remaining period, major events and expected outputs of WRIC are following. To achieve items, WRIC staff should work much harder than before. Japanese side will also provide assistance as much as possible to facilitate Syrian C/Ps' activities.



2006	
Feb.	Business Trip to Turkey
March	Annual Record of Hydrology for 2003-2004
June	4 th Syrian-Japanese Water Symposium
June	Water Resource Report 2006 (2 nd Edition)
Sep. (?)	Annual Record of Hydrology for 2004-2005
Oct. (?)	Training Course in Japan (Hydrological Observation)
Dec. (?)	Final Project Evaluation Mission Team from Japan
2007	
May (?)	5 th Syrian-Japanese Water Symposium
June	Water Resources Report 2007 (3 rd Edition)
June	Completion of JICA project

*note that this plan is subject to be changed in accordance with the budgetary situation etc.



2. Eng. Kassem Natouf passed Oracle Certification Exam

Following Eng. Kamar Shahada's success of the examination last month, Eng. Kassem Natouf also obtained Oracle database management Certification of 'Oracle 9i Database: Fundamentals 1' and 'Introduction to Oracle 9i: SQL'. We hope these staff will contribute our activities and transfer their technique to the other members of WRIC. Congratulations!



Eng. Kassem Natouf

3. Business Trip to Turkey and Selection of Syrian Participants

We are planning a business trip to Turkey in the end of February. The purpose is to visit Turkish governmental organization related to water resources information management to share their experience in Turkey. Moreover we will visit GAP project site in the upstream area of Euphrates River, which is well known as an integrated project for the economic and social development of southeastern Anatolian area of Turkey, including one of the largest dam projects in the world.

To select Syrian C/Ps joining this business trip, open competition system was adopted. C/P who wants to join this trip is required to submit a brief report including his/her own purpose of tour and questionnaires to Turkish organizations in advance. Based on the evaluation of submitted reports, nominees are to be selected accordingly.

So far total 14 Syrian C/Ps submitted their reports, and appraisal of the reports and selection of nominees are ongoing. This is the first trial to conduct such way of nominee selection in this project. We expect that competition among Syrian C/Ps will contribute to increase motivation of WRIC staff.

4. WRIC project Advisory Committee held in Japan

Advisory committee of WRIC project was held in Tokyo, Japan on 17th January. Mr. Kato, Mr. Ota and Mr. Kodama, Japanese Experts who went back to Japan last month made presentations about WRIC activities in 2005. Although detailed minutes of meeting is not available yet, importance of water resources report and relationship with user of water resources information was stressed by committee members.



5. Dr. Ueno, JICA SV for Aleppo Chamber of Industry visited WRIC

Dr. Ueno, JICA Senior Volunteer for Aleppo Chamber of Industry visited WRIC on 19th January. Dr. Ueno's expertise is industrial waste water management and is now conducting a preliminary research of the actual Syrian situation concerning water quality and waste water treatment etc.

Mr. MORI, chief advisor introduced the overall activities of WRIC and Mr. Suzuki, hydrologist explained water quality data and waste water treatment in Damascus area. We hope that information exchange will be continued with Dr. Ueno for collaboration in the field of water quality preservation.

6. Meeting with Eng. Hussein Maklouf, Director General of GOWR

Due to a drastic organizational reform of MOI, General Organization for Water Resources (GOWR) was newly established and started on 1st of January. Eng. Hussein Maklouf, former Director General of Coastal Basin of MOI was assigned as Director General of GOWR. Officials of JICA Syria Office and Japanese experts met with him for courtesy call and discussed some issues about WRIC project. The Director General talked that he saw this organizational reform as an opportunity to improve efficiency of WRIC activities and would like to do his best to realize it.



Eng. Hussein Maklouf (right side)

7. C2C Workshop in Hama

GOWR is now planning to establish WRIC Center in Hama of Orontes Basin. Last year Dutch government provided General Directorate of Orontes Basin of MOI with computers for database system. For the capacity development of staff in Hama, our Syrian C/Ps are conducting OJT training for them in Damascus and Hama. Such technical transfer from C/Ps to C/Ps is important for sustainability of project.

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