



WRIC News Letter

July 2006

1. Kickoff and Project Monitoring Workshop was held

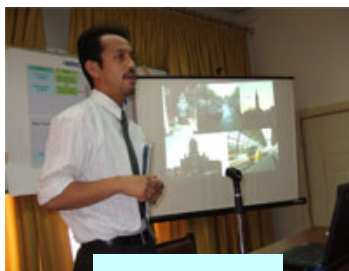
On July 19th, Kickoff and Monitoring Workshop was held at DRD in Harasta. This workshop has two objectives. One is to let all the WRIC staff know the fifth year activity plan, and the other one is to clarify the problems our project is now facing, analyze the cause of problems and figure out the solutions to overcome the problems.

As for the activities in fifth year, outline of activities in each field such as hydrological observation, database management, application development and hydrological analysis was explained by Mr. Kato, Mr. Kanayama, Mr. Suzuki and Mr. Ota, Japanese experts.

After the presentations of Japanese experts, a workshop was conducted by all the Japanese experts and Syrian C/Ps in accordance with PCM (Project Cycle Management) Method in order to discuss our problems. The feature of this method is that all the participants should join by writing their ideas on small pieces of paper and put them on a wall to share the information with each other. Many ideas and opinions were expressed by participants especially related to data flow, modification and development of application software, training etc.

Following this workshop, classification and analysis of the submitted ideas will be conducted at the management committee on July 27th and problem (cause-effect) analysis and objectives analysis should be also done.

As the result of the discussion in our workshop and management committee, we are hopefully able to understand the current situation, problems and solutions.



Lecture by Expert



PCM Workshop



Discussion and Summary

2. Advisory Committee of WRIC project was held in Japan

Advisory committee of WRIC project was held in Japan. This committee was established in JICA HQ to support the implementation of WRIC project. This time, eight members headed by Mr. Matsuda, a chairperson of the



committee, as well as three Japanese experts of WRIC, Mr. Mori, Mr. Kato and Mr. Ota attended it and made a discussion about the present situation of WRIC and future cooperation by Japanese side.

Firstly, Mr. Mori and Mr. Kato explained the activities and outputs of fourth year and plan of activities in fifth year of the project. Open discussion followed it. The important topics such as the organizational status of WRIC, drastic change of administrative area of local center from river basin to governorate (Mohafazat), institutional problems of MOI and WRIC, effective utilization of water resources information of WRIC were mainly discussed. At the same time, future cooperation strategy for WRIC was also discussed and the committee members basically agreed to the plan which had been discussed and approved in the last JCC held on April 12th in Damascus.

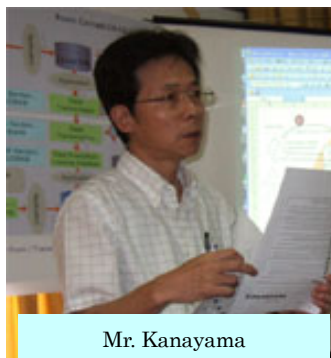
In December 2006, the final evaluation mission will come to Syria from Japan. Based on the result, the detail of future cooperation for WRIC will be decided.

3. Three Japanese Experts came back to Syria

Mr. Kato (total system engineer), Mr. Ota (hydrological analysis) and Mr. Kanayama (application development), arrived in Syria on July 12th. They will stay in Syria for 4-6 months in Syria this time.

As for the hydrological analysis, SSM (Synthetic Storage Model) in Barada-Awaji basin should be brushed up more accurately. Moreover SSM in coastal basin should be prepared and technical transfer of MODFLOW is going to be conducted hopefully based on the progress of capacity development of Syrian C/Ps.

Concerning the application development, modification and improvement of our application software such as DBx_Tool should be conducted this year in accordance with the users' requests and suggestions about the application.



Mr. Kanayama
(Application Development)



Mr. Kato
(Total System)



Mr. Ota
(Hydrological Analysis)



Needless to say, Syrian C/Ps should join all these activities to gain the techniques and know-how to keep the sustainability and hopefully should take an initiative in the activities, because this is the last occasion for Syrian C/Ps to receive the technical transfer directly from Japanese experts in these fields within our project period until June 2007.

4. Audit Mission Team of JICA HQ visited WRIC

Mr. Ihara, Auditor of JICA and Mr. Hibi, JICA HQ visited WRIC to make an audit of WRIC accounting as well as to understand the actual situation of WRIC project. Mr. Ihara was very interested not only in the WRIC activities but also in the situation and problems of water resources in Syria. At that meeting, Mr. Ihara discussed these issues actively with Mr. Mori, Chief Advisor of WRIC and expressed hope that WRIC would be the center of water resources information management as well as the center of cooperation in the water sector in Syria.



Discussion with Mr. Ihara (right side)

5. Japanese Experts met with Mr. Nimer and Mr. Nazeer

Last month, Japanese experts met with Mr. Nimer F Assad in Japan and Mr. Nazeer Ismail in Netherlands respectively.

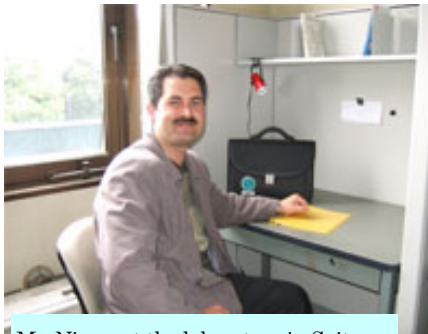
Mr. Nimer was dispatched to master course of Saitama Univ. from April 2006 with Japanese government scholarship to study mainly the hydrological analysis and water resources management. On June 30th, Mr. Mori (Chief Advisor), Mr. Kato (Japanese expert), Dr. Irie (Tokyo Institute of Technology, advisory committee member of WRIC) visited Saitama Univ. to meet with Mr. Nimer and Prof. Watanabe, his supervisor. We found that Mr. Nimer was very busy to attend lecture of master course in this semester. After this semester he is going to begin his research activity and his main theme will be application technology of genetic algorithm to water resources management, which is supposed to support the decision making in the field of water resources allocation and development etc. Before this visit, Mr. Sugiura had also visited him in last May.

Mr. Nazeer was dispatched to UNESCO-IHE at Delft in Netherlands from Oct. 2005 in the technical cooperation scheme of Dutch government. He is a former section manager of C&C section of WRIC Main Center. On June 28th, Mr. Suzuki, hydrologist of Japanese expert, visited Delft to meet with him during



his holiday trip in Europe. According to Mr. Suzuki's story, he is also very busy to attend many lectures and after October the research course will start to prepare the thesis for the master degree which lasts for half a year, probably including the activity in Syria to collect the necessary data for the research.

We hope that they will do well in their study as well as in their lives in foreign countries, and contribute to the development of water resources management in Syria in future.



Mr. Nimer at the laboratory in Saitama
Univ. Japan



Mr. Nazeer (right side) and Mr. Suzuki at UNESCO-IHE, Delft

6. Four Project Cars came back to WRIC

After our long struggle against Syrian governmental organizations, four project cars came back to WRIC centers on July 9th. These cars were provided by JICA in the beginning of this project and allocated to WRIC main center and local centers for the smooth implementation of our activities such as daily transfer of Japanese experts, training of hydrological observation and so on. For eight months after November 2005, however, we have not been able to use these cars because of the troubles and delay in the car registration procedure and so on. This matter badly affected our activities regretfully.

The Syrian government should recognize their obligation to cooperate with us, in order to make this technical cooperation project implementation more efficient and more effective.



Land Cruisers provided by JICA and Drivers (WRIC MC)

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