

WRIC News Letter March 2006

1. Water Symposium in WRIC Tartus Center

Water Symposium in Tartus was held by WRIC Tartus Center on March 20th. This symposium was proposed and planned by Eng. Ali Assad, Director of WRIC Tartus Center and was the first symposium which was held by the initiative of WRIC local center. The main purpose was to present WRIC's activities and share the experience and knowledge with the other WRIC members.

Approximately 50 people attended this symposium and total 9 of WRIC staff made their presentations. Firstly Eng. Abd Allateef Ahmad, Director General of Tartus Water Resources Directorate, made an opening address, and Mr. MORI, Chief Advisor of WRIC made a presentation about the water resources in Syria and outline of WRIC activities. Following these presentations, 8 members of WRIC Tartus Center presented their activities and outputs concerning hydrological observation, database management, GIS operation and so on. Accordingly very active discussion was made by presenters and attendants.

WRIC Tartus Center was newly established in accordance with the MOI organizational reform in January 2006. This symposium was very useful occasion especially for the members of WRIC Tartus Center to understand the purpose, outline and progress of our activities. We hope the activities in Tartus will be more enhanced from now on.



Opening Address by Eng. Abd Allateef Ahmad



Presentation by Mr. MORI



Presentation by Eng. Ali Assad



Presentation by Eng. Hanadi
Yousef



Attendants of Symposium



2. C2C Workshop

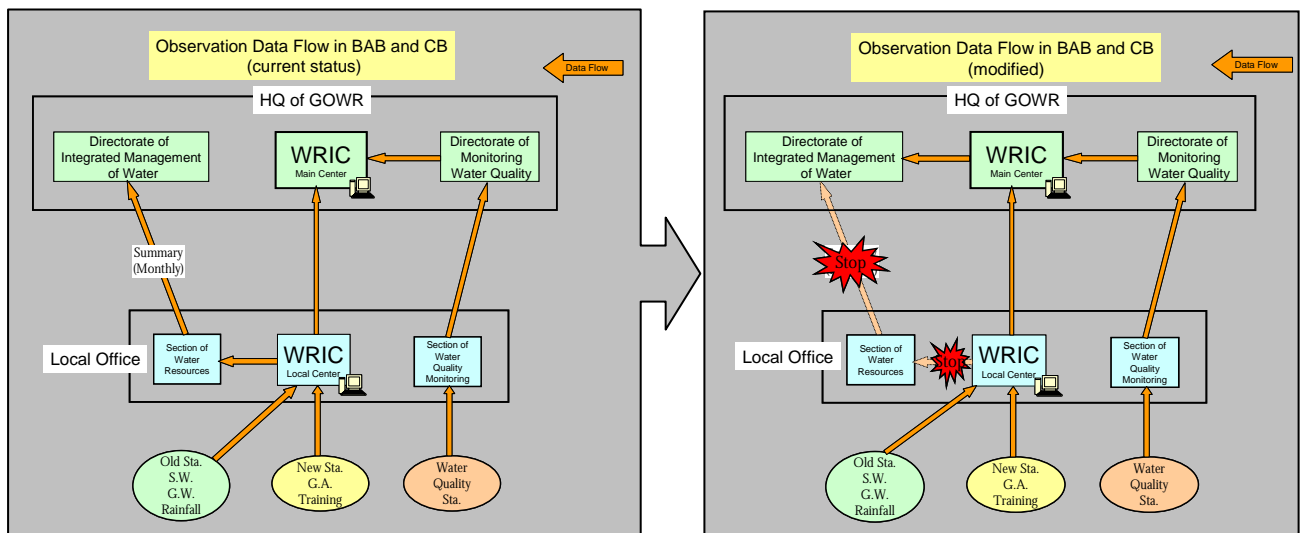
Total 5 series of C2C Workshop about database management and GIS are to be held this month. These workshops were held especially in Hama and Lattakia. GOWR is now trying to establish a new WRIC Center in Hama, therefore staff training in Hama was requested to WRIC Main Center. According to the request, WRIC Main Center staff has conducted total 3 series of C2C workshop in Hama from January 2006. In Lattakia, we also conducted workshops especially for the staff of Tartus and Lattakia who has recently joined to WRIC project.



C2C Workshop in Lattakia on March 14th

3. Discussion about Data Flow in GOWR

As mentioned in the last WRIC Newsletter, 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. One of major causes of this problem is supposed to be unclear task allocation between WRIC and the other related directorates or sections in GOWR, and quite complicated data flow in GOWR at the present time.



Concerning the task allocation, the task sharing between WRIC and Directorate of Integrated Management of Water (DIMW) is especially unclear. According to the current situation, not only WRIC but also the DIMW are collecting the water resources information and keep the data in each database.

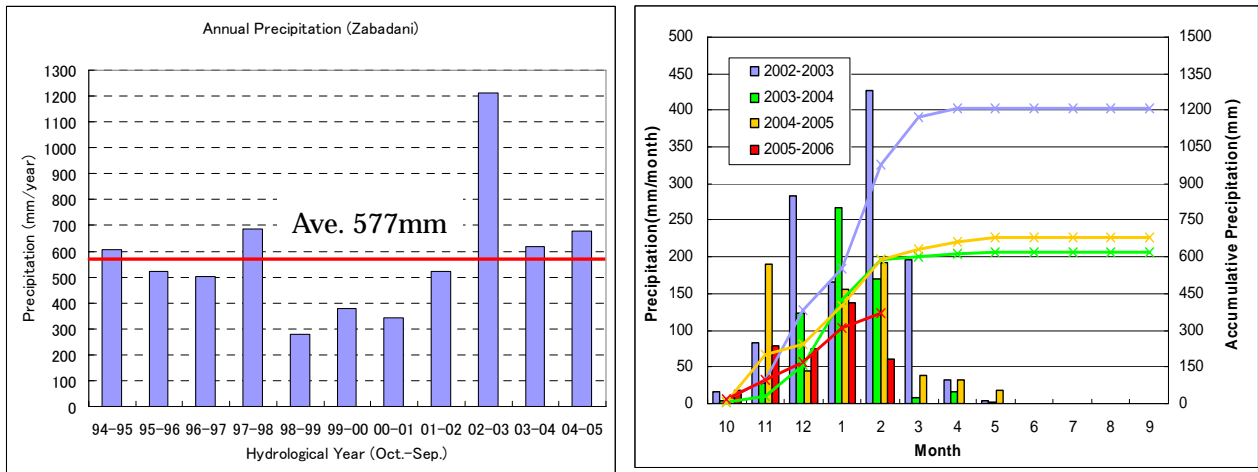


However this situation seems to be duplication of task, and may cause the fragmentation of data and uncertainty of data originality in GOWR in future. Therefore WRIC has proposed the modification of data flow in GOWR as shown in the above figure.

The important principle is that WRIC Main Center should be the core of the data bank and the data which are kept in the WRIC Main Center should be shared by all related directorate and staff in GOWR and MOI. Otherwise WRIC has no value and no meaning to exist in future. This important topic will be discussed with MOI and GOWR related officials in the Joint Coordinate Committee in April.

4. Rainfall this Winter

As we mentioned in the WRIC Newsletter in February, we have relatively little rainfall this winter. We obtained the latest precipitation observation data until Feb. 2006 of the Zabadani station which is located in the upstream of Barada River. According to the data, unfortunately, we had very little precipitation even last February which is one of the wettest months in this area. Eventually so far at least, only total 371mm of precipitation is observed this winter and it is approximately two third of average annual precipitation.

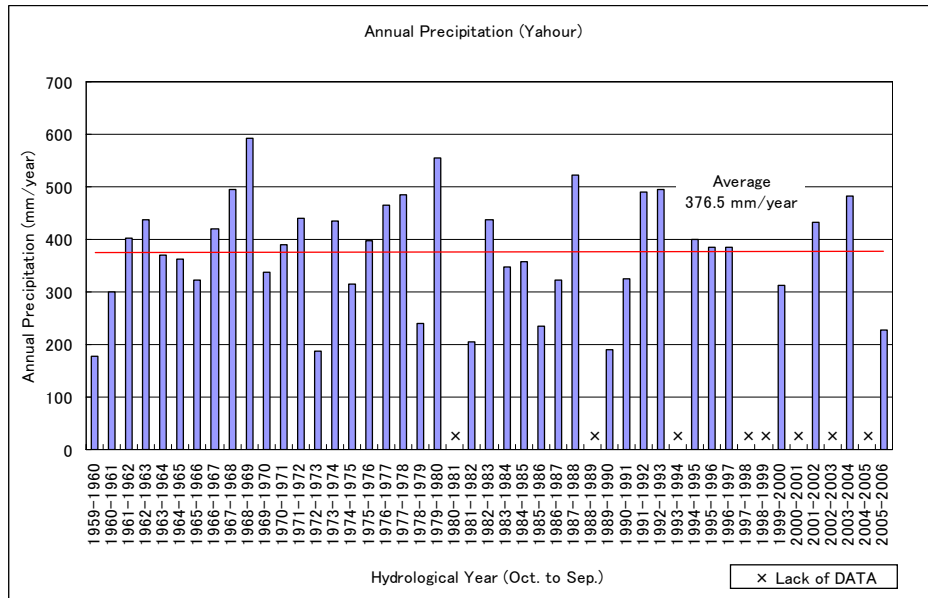


Graph-1 Annual Precipitation in Zabadani
 *Data source
 94-95 to 01-02: MOA's manual observatory
 02-03 to 05-06: WRIC's automatic observatory

Moreover Precipitation data of Yahour station are shown in the figure below. Yahour station is located in the highland area of approximately 1,000m altitude above sea level and 21 km west from Damascus city center. In Yahour station, no



historical data are available before Grant Aid station was installed in 2005. Therefore historical data of MOD's Meisaloun station which is nearest to Yahour (about 5 km distance) were used for the comparison of annual precipitation. In these data, we can also find that precipitation of 05-06 is approximately 60% of average annual precipitation.



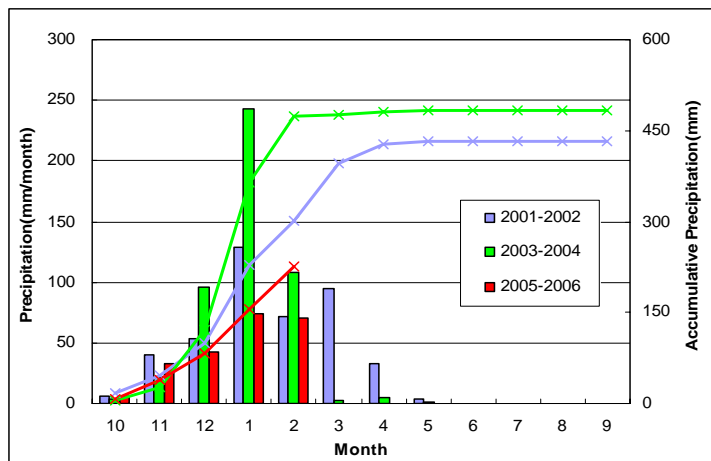
Graph-2 Annual Precipitation in Yahour

*Data source

59-60 to 04-05: MOD's manual observatory named 'Meisaloun' (BA-ME00007[MD])

05-06: WRIC's automatic observatory named 'Yafour' (BA-ME00109[BA])

Note: Meisaloun and Yahour is not same location but 5 km distance with each other.



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