



International Hydrological Programme

17th session of the Intergovernmental Council
(Paris, 3 – 7 July 2006)

IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTIONS AND OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED BY THE 16TH SESSION OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COUNCIL OF IHP

Item 7.1 of the provisional agenda

SUMMARY

This document presents a summary of actions taken in the implementation of the resolutions adopted at the 16th session of the Intergovernmental Council of the IHP, as of May 2006.

The Council may wish to comment and provide recommendations where appropriate on the follow up of the implementation of these resolutions.

RESOLUTION XVI-1

The resources of IHP

1. The resolution expresses concern that the present human resources of the Secretariat, especially at Headquarters, is inadequate to implement the global regional/national mandate of the IHP and requests the Director-General to take appropriate measures to enhance personnel especially at Headquarters.

2. As reported to the 16th session of the IHP Intergovernmental Council, the Director-General has taken significant steps in order to strengthen field staff by creating three Hydrology Officers posts, two at P-3 level, in New Delhi, India and in Accra, Ghana, and one P-1/P-2 in Almaty, Kazakhstan. Mr. Bhanu Neupane assumed the post in New Delhi in September 2004, Mr. Anil Mishra in Almaty in March 2005 and, at the time of writing this, the recruitment process for the Accra post is being finalized. Likewise, the appointment to the new P-4 post in Harare, Zimbabwe, created to support the SIMDAS flagship project in hydrology and ecology, is imminent. There is an active cooperation with other field offices that have Science Officers and that are particularly active in hydrology, such as the Science Officers of the UNESCO Beijing Office and of the UNESCO Windhoek Office. Thus there is definitely an enhanced situation in the African and Asian continents in this respect.

3. At the IHP Secretariat in Headquarters, Ms. Khin Ni Ni Thein joined IHP in September 2005 as Chief of the Section of Sustainable Water Resources Development and Management, at P-5 level. Mr. Mike Bonell retired from the post of Chief of the Section of Hydrological Processes and Climate at the end of June 2006; the recruitment process for his successor has finished and the appointment should be made very shortly. Mr. Miguel De Franca Doria of Portugal was incorporated to the staff as a Young Professional in May 2006. The recruitment for two already existing but vacant P3 posts, one for the Section of Sustainable Water Resources Development and Management and the other for the Section of Hydrological Processes and Climate are well underway and should result in appointments within the third quarter of 2006. A new P1 post was created to be in charge of the Water Portal, and to assist in the organization of IHP statutory meetings; the corresponding recruitment process is at an advanced stage. Thus there is some improvement in the staffing situation in Headquarters, but not at the higher grades (P-4 and P-5). There has been no reinforcement of general service category, and the IHP Secretariat remains handicapped in this respect.

RESOLUTION XVI-2

Education, training and capacity-building concerning freshwater and the role of the UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education

4. The resolution (a) requests that an assessment be made of the education, training and capacity building needs to implement the MDGs and the JPOI, (b) invites the Director-General to convene a high-level conference to raise new funds, (c) strongly encourages increased cooperation and joint action between IHP and UNESCO-IHE, the category II centres, and WWAP, (d) recommends that education, training, and capacity-building activities within IHP be implemented to the extent possible by UNESCO-IHE. (e) recommends that funds within the Participation Programme be used to support water education, training and capacity building.

The status of work is as follows:

- a pilot training needs assessment was undertaken by UNESCO-IHE, but was not taken further due primarily to financial and logistical constraints.
- the Director General and the Dutch Minister of Development Cooperation jointly convened on 9 March 2006 a “Strategic Roundtable on the Future of UNESCO-IHE” which was designed to create awareness among UNESCO Member States of the opportunities afforded by this new category I institute and to draw attention to its funding situation which makes it different from other UNESCO category I institutes. Attention was drawn to the need to provide funding for fellowships if UNESCO-IHE is to maintain its current level of performance.
- IHP and UNESCO-IHE have been working hand in hand in order to ensure that UNESCO’s overall delivery in the field of freshwater is coordinated and coherent. The period between the 16th and 17th council sessions were one of transition after UNESCO-IHE had become formally part of UNESCO. Several documents submitted to the 17th session of the Council reflect the progress made and point the way to greater cooperation in the future.
- Every effort has been made since the last Council meeting to bring UNESCO-IHP programming and strategic planning in line with that of UNESCO-IHE and also WWAP. Numerous activities were undertaken by UNESCO-IHE for the IHP. The Bureau considered some of the constraints and opportunities for deepening that cooperation in the future. A document prepared by UNESCO-IHE has been prepared for consideration by the Council.
- Little if any progress was made in tapping Participation Programme funds.

RESOLUTION XVI-3

Regional Centre for Ecohydrology in Cibinong (Indonesia) under the auspices of UNESCO

5. The Council welcomed the offer of the Indonesian Institute of Sciences to host a Regional Centre for Ecohydrology under the auspices of UNESCO, in collaboration with other organizations concerned. The resolution requested UNESCO’s assistance in preparing the documentation to be submitted to the governing bodies of UNESCO towards the creation of this centre. The UNESCO Regional Hydrologist based in Jakarta is in the process of carrying out a feasibility study for the centre in coordination with the Indonesian authorities, in anticipation of presenting the centre to UNESCO’s governing bodies for their approval. It is anticipated that the centre will conduct scientific research, undertake professional training and capacity building and create information networks for ecohydrology and other related fields in Southeast Asia.

RESOLUTION XVI-4

Establishment of an International Centre for Water Hazard and Risk Management (CHARM) under the auspices of UNESCO located in Japan

6. The Council welcomed the proposal of the Government of Japan to establish the International Centre for Water Hazard and Risk Management (ICHARM) under the auspices of UNESCO. In this resolution, the Council UNESCO’s assistance in preparing the documentation to be submitted to the governing bodies of UNESCO towards the establishment of this centre. Establishment of ICHARM as a category II centre under the auspices of UNESCO was approved by the 33rd session of the UNESCO General Conference on 19 October 2005. Agreements between UNESCO and the Government of Japan and between UNESCO and the Public Works Research Institute (PWRI) concerning the establishment and operation of ICHARM were duly signed. ICHARM was established on 6

March 2006 in Tsukuba, Japan. Mr K. Takeuchi, Chairman of the IHP National Committee of Japan, has been nominated Director of ICHARM.

RESOLUTION XVI-5

IHP-HELP Centre for Water Law, Policy and Science at the University of Dundee

7. The Council requested UNESCO's assistance in preparing the documentation necessary to be submitted to the governing bodies of UNESCO towards the creation of this Centre. The IHP-HELP Centre for Water Law, Policy and Science at the University of Dundee, the U.K. was approved by the 33rd session of the UNESCO General Conference in October 2005. An Agreement between UNESCO and the Government of the United Kingdom concerning the establishment and operation of the International IHP-HELP Centre for Water Law, Policy and Science under the auspices of UNESCO at the University of Dundee, Scotland, was duly signed on behalf of UNESCO and the Government of the United Kingdom on 15 November 2005. An Agreement between the University of Dundee and UNESCO is also foreseen.

RESOLUTION XVI-6

Enhancing hydrological activities in the Arctic

8. The resolution recommended more emphasis to be given within the IHP on the Arctic environment and the establishment of closer links between IHP and IPCC activities. In this resolution, the Council invited the IHP Secretariat to encourage and support the development of a coordinated, proactive collaborative network to address research, monitoring, and information needs in the Arctic region. Informal discussions on the future implementation of the activity were held with the Norwegian IHP/NC, June 2005. It was decided that an informal planning meeting of key country representatives/ IUGG-CCS (formerly ICSI) will take place in 2007 to prepare for activities during IHP-VII (2008-2013).

RESOLUTION XVI-7

IHP Governance

9. The resolution invited the Member States and the Secretariat to seek innovative solutions to address the funding problem to enable all National Committees to take part in regional meetings. Furthermore, it included the decision that the Council will consider, at its 17th session, the establishment of regional intergovernmental councils, after receipt from the Bureau of the appropriate documents.

10. The Bureau, at its 38th session, reviewed resolution XVI-7 and decided to use the principles outlined in document IHP/IC-XIII/11, in which a previous Bureau had proposed to the Council guidelines for IHP National Committees as a basis for implementing Resolution XVI-7 concerning the strengthening of IHP National Committees. The Bureau emphasized that Resolution XVI-7 was intended to strengthen IHP National Committees. Further, the Bureau requested the Secretariat to investigate in close collaboration with the Legal Advisor of UNESCO as well as the IHP Finance Committee the legal and financial consequences of establishing RICs. The Secretariat presented the Bureau, at its 39th session, the results of its consultations with the Legal Advisor of UNESCO regarding the legal consequences of establishing RICs and the Chairperson of the IHP Finance Committee made an oral presentation on the financial consequences of establishing RICs. Noting with satisfaction that the creation of RICs was both legally possible and financially viable, the Bureau decided to prepare a proposal for the establishment of RICs for presentation to the Council of the 17th session.