

IMPROVING URBAN WATER MANAGEMENT IN WESTERN AND CENTRAL ASIA WORKSHOP SERIAL (2021 – 2024)

High Level Panel and Kick-off Workshop (online) Essential Quality Assured Data and Information for Integrated Urban Water Management 23 June 2021, 08:00-12:00 (UTC)

Preamble

The International Centre for Water Resources and Global Change (ICWRGC) and the Regional Centre on Urban Water Management (RCUWM) are planning to organize a series of workshops (online and in-person) during the period of 2021-2024. The main objective of these workshops is improving urban water management in Western and Central Asia by discussing important roles of quality assured data and information at basin level. The first and starting workshop on "Essential Quality Assured Data and Information for Integrated Urban Water Management" will be held online on the 23rd of June 2021. This event is co-organized by UNESCO, WMO, UNEP, and the intergovernmental Group on Earth Observations (GEO).

Objective and Motivation

An important motivation is the creation of a regional network of entities and experts who are managing water-related data from interested RCUWM Governing Board Member States (Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Egypt, Germany, India, Iran, Iraq, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Sri Lanka, Syria, Tajikistan, Turkey, and Uzbekistan) for discussion and capacity development. The objective of the activity is highlighting the importance of quality-assured data and products at basin level as well as water utility level for Integrated Urban Water Management.

Workshop Description

This kick-off workshop is formed of three consecutive sessions as:

1. A high-level opening panel as demonstrated in the tentative schedule of the event attached to this concept note.
2. Three keynote speakers presenting lectures with the aim of demonstrating the state of the art on global hydro-meteorological monitoring, data collection and sharing as well as highlighting its importance and benefits. The keynote speakers brief resume are as follows:
 - **Prof. Koike** is the executive director of the International Centre for Water Hazard and Risk Management (ICHARM), a UNESCO Centre in Tsukuba, Japan. He has been leading international water cycle science projects and the inter-governmental science and technology cooperation as well as the GEO Asian Water Cycle Initiative (AWCI) since 2005. He has also contributed to the development of the "GEO Strategic Plan 2016-2025" as Co-Chair of the Implementation Plan Working Group (IPWG). Prof. Koike received 2020 GEO Individual Excellent Award for his considerable contribution to the establishment of GEO in 2005 and its subsequent expansion.

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- **Dr. Huffman** is a Research Physical Scientist at the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC), Greenbelt, United States of America. He focuses on the design, implementation, and extension of combined estimates of global precipitation, seeking to incorporate all available precipitation-relevant satellite and global surface data. Dr. Huffman has served as the Deputy Project Scientist for GPM since mid-2014 and is the GEO Precipitation Subtask Lead. In 2018 he received a NASA Exceptional Service Medal. In 2019 he was named a Fellow of the American Meteorological Society.
 - **Dr. Schöne** is a senior researcher at German Research Centre for Geosciences (GFZ) in Potsdam, Germany, and is in a leading position for the Regional Research Network “Water in Central Asia “(CAWa) funded by the German Federal Foreign Office which consists of 18 remotely operated multi-parameter stations (ROMPS) in Central Asia. He also serves as the Team Leader Geodetic Hazard Monitoring. His fields of expertise are sea level research using radar altimetry and tide gauges, subsidence monitoring, development of altimeter database and processing system, development of multi-sensor stations for remote areas, hydro- meteorological and GNSS monitoring in Central Asia, and tsunami research.
3. A technical session introducing the Global Terrestrial Network Hydrology (GTN-H), a network of global water data Centres under the auspices of various UN agencies. These data Centres support terrestrial water cycle studies on various scales by collecting, offering and assessing quality-assured water data for essential water and climate variables and contributing to several global observing systems including the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) and the UNEP Global Environment Monitoring System Water (GEMS/Water). During the session the heads of four data Centres will present their work including an overview of their existing data in the region. This will be followed by an introduction and agreement of the needed country reporting templates to be used in the further process to collect information on the current state of water monitoring, data collection and management. A common understanding for water information products to support decision-making and management of water resources in the region will be started.

Workshop Follow-up and the Future plan

The next follow-up workshop will be organized on 15th and 16th of September 2021 to discuss country reports prepared by RCUWM Member States after the first Workshop. Depending on the COVID-19 pandemic situation, future workshops will be organized during 2022-2024 either in-person or virtually. Country reports on administration of water-related data will be presented during these workshops with the aim of determining our way forward for selection and implementation of 2-3 case studies for improving urban water management at basin and sub-basin level.

Official Language of the Workshops

English will be the official language of all events, while local languages may also be considered for some particular cases for a better understanding. The workshop documents including the flyers, posters, etc. will be prepared in Arabic, English, Farsi and Russian.

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Workshop Platform

The workshop platform will be Microsoft TEAMS. The link to the event will be sent 72 hours prior to the workshop.

Participants

Participation in the workshop serial is on invitation only and will be limited to experts from regional countries and supporting countries, UN organizations and international institutions.

Expected Outcomes

The expected outcome of the two workshops held in 2021 will be as follows:

1. Survey of current situation of water data and information system at basin and municipality level;
2. Survey of needs about:
 - Water information products for decision-making in water management;
 - Tailored-made capacity development for monitoring, collecting and managing quality-assured data for Integrated Water Resource Management in urban and rural areas.

For the workshops in 2022-2024 it is intended to support the elaboration of specific products and to further develop capacity building measures.