

4th Meeting of HELP

The 4th meeting of HELP was held on 17 October 2014 at St. Regis Hotel in Washington D.C., hosted by the US Army Corps of Engineers. The meeting was attended by about 40 participants from HELP member organizations representing national governments, international organizations, civil society and private sector.

Dr. Keizrul Bin Abdullah, Chairperson of NARBO, introduced 'Water Related Challenges in Asia - A Tale Of Three Cities (Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur, Metro Manila)'. He concluded the following points as Asian Voices.

- Policy response has been modified to learning to live under extreme hydrological events and to adjust by building resilience capabilities in the communities and flood infrastructure.
- However, continuing urbanization of the catchments in and around the city had resulted in flood runoffs increasing many-fold, bringing with it challenges for the flood planners to come up with more innovative solutions, from both the engineering as well as the financial perspectives.
- It would be prohibitively costly to invest in the necessary defensive infrastructure to protect city from disasters. Policy responses have been to focus on improving disaster preparedness and management.



Photo of the 4th HELP on 17 October 2014

5) 5th Meeting of HELP

a) Outline of this meeting

The 5th meeting of HELP was held in Seoul, Korea on 9-10 April 2015 hosted by Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport (MoLIT), Republic of Korea. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Han, Seung-soo, Chairperson of HELP. Approximately 60 delegates from HELP member organizations, national governments, international organizations, civil societies and NGOs joined, and intensive discussions were held.

Field visit to the Hang River Flood Control Office near Seoul to see how MoLIT tackles the flood by making use of Information and Communication Technology effectively was held on 1st day.

2nd day was a day of discussion. H.E. Mr. Yoo, Il-ho, MoLIT, Republic of Korea, offered opening remarks and welcomed the delegates and the members of HELP.

Followed by the opening remarks, H.E. Ms. Melanie Schultz van Haegen, Vice-Chair of HELP, Minister

of Infrastructure and the Environment, Kingdom of the Netherlands made an address and introduced 'Delta Coalition' which was proposed by the Netherlands during the UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai'.

According to the agenda of the day 2, Mr. Kim, Young-mok, President of Korea International Cooperation Agency and Dr. David Korenfeld, Director-General and National Water Commission of Mexico were welcomed as new members of HELP in accordance with HELP's Terms of Reference.

After the approval of new members, MoLIT introduced National Strategy for Climate Change Adaptation and Water Management, and Korea Agency for Infrastructure Technology Advancement presented application of Research and development Projects in Science and Technology for Water-related Disaster Risk Reduction as good case studies and innovative activities on water and disaster in Korea.

One of the main agenda of the 5th HELP was the discussion on HELP's contribution at the 7th WWF. Preparation for issuing special edition of "Water Policy" on Water and Disasters has been led by Dr. Jerry Delli Priscoli, US Army Corps of Engineers to launch at the 7th WWF. Advanced copy of the publication has been distributed to the participants, and the discussions have been held on ways of dissemination and possibility of the development of the 2nd edition.

NARBO contributed to the special edition by offering case studies on water-related disasters in Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand as "A tale of three cities: water disaster policy responses in Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur and Metro Manila" by Dr. Keizrul Bin Abdullah, Chairperson of NARBO, Dr. Apichart Anukularmphai, Senior Advisor of NARBO and Ms. Dolora Nepomuceno, Vice-Chairperson of NARBO.

In addition to the discussion on publication, discussions were held on HELP's additional flagship activities and HELP's actions for Post-2015 Development Goals (MDGs) and follow-up of the UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction which was held in March, 2015 in Sendai, Japan.

The meeting was successfully concluded, and contributions at the special session on Water and Disasters on 14 April 2015 at the 7th WWF were requested to the participants.