

## Session Report Cover Sheet

<b>SESSION CODE: ASIA - 04</b>	
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<b>DATE:</b> - March, 2003 (18 )	<b>Session Title:</b> “Asian and Pacific water issues in the world water context” -Are water issues of Asia and Pacific region different from the world water issues? -
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### 1. Key Issues

In Asian and Pacific area, people's life is based on mountains and volcanoes and alluvial and diluvial plains formed by sediment deposition. Human activities extend to mountains and floodplains. In alluvial plains, increasing urban populations have been suffering constant inundations, deterioration in the water environment and shortage of available water. Furthermore irrigated agriculture and water supplies are threatened by water pollution.

The regional characteristic is included in water problems, however, due to the presence of western initiative for the discussions of traditional water problems, the main issue has been "Too little water" problem (water shortage) in western countries and in the areas that have a strong historical relation with those countries such as arid or semi-arid areas in Africa and the Middle East. In Asian and Pacific area, however, people face not only the "Too little water" problem but also "Too much water" problem. According to the report of the International Red Cross Society, the annual average number of people suffered from flood between 1973 and 1997 is approximately 66 million and presents the biggest figure among all the other natural disasters such as earthquakes and droughts. Also in some river basins flow can be so heavily diverted and regulated that security of future water supply is threatened and the riverine environment continues to decline.

### 2. Actions

In the past 10 years, the international joint research projects and research sharing of various activities in the fields of hydrology and water resource in Asian region have been carried out with the Japanese initiative. Although various international technical cooperation projects have been put forward from far back through ODA and other financial support in the practical aspect, no occasions were met for systematic and continual sharing of science and technique in the systematic consideration of problems as "hydrology and water management in Asian and Pacific area".

In taking such current situation into account, the objective of the session is to gather information on the climatic and land conditions, flood control and water use, and the natural environment unique to the Asian and Pacific region and to discuss our water problems and management that are different from those in the West.

### 3. Recommendations

Hence, Asian and Pacific area, it is required to improve knowledge, provide policy advice and support technical development which consists of following elements;

- Maintenance for the network of hydrological, hydrogeological, geochemical and meteorological observation
- Development of effective mitigation techniques for water pollution and salinity
- Development of agricultural production system suitable for natural conditions, especially in mountains and alluvial plains
- Proposal for integrated management of floods, droughts and environmental flows
- Proposals for conjunctive use of surface water and groundwater, including contamination issues
- Development of simulation model that can explain the mechanism of water cycle and predict the impact of human activities in the basin

- Development of the model for hydrology and water resource including environmental assessment in all Asian regions
- Development of water resources to meet basic human needs and provide livelihoods

In addition, for the implementation of these measures, it is fundamental for respective countries and experts in the Asian and Pacific region to reinforce their activities in each field. Alignment and collaboration through information and research sharing and the associational network that supports them such as that of Asia Pacific Association of Hydrology and Water Resources can play an important role in solving the mutual problems in Asia.