

# APFM Flood Management News

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## ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

### 8-9 September, Geneva, Switzerland

On 8-9 September 2014, the Advisory and Management Committees (AC/MC) meetings of the APFM took place in WMO's headquarter in Geneva, Switzerland. The unusual date (two months later than the traditional dates in June) was due to the decision of convening the boards back-to-back with the Integrated Drought Management Programme (IDMP) AC/MC meetings, with which the APFM shares many partners. Participation has remarkably grown since last year: 25 people representing 22 institutions were sitting at the table, together with WMO, GWP and the Technical Support Unit (TSU) of the programme.

The broad attendance allowed fruitful discussions about the work done in 2013/2014 and the way forward for the next four years. Appreciating the results achieved by the TSU, the Advisory Committee provided valuable recommendations about the further development of publications, capacity building initiatives, pilot projects and outreach efforts, with many Support Base Partners showing their interest in assisting with the different activities.

As the APFM enters its Phase IV, most of the debate concerned the approaches to be taken in this new stage, commenced in August 2014 and running till December 2018. It focuses on the mainstreaming of IFM into practice through the building of synergies with SBPs and other WMO's and GWP's programmes for the implementation of field demonstration projects.



Equally constructive interactions among participants characterized the Management Committee on the second day. It endorsed the suggestions of the AC and approved the financial report of last year, as well as the

budget plan for the coming period.

In this regard, the economic outlook for 2014/2015 was somewhat positive. The Swiss Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN) confirmed its financial support to the programme for next two years. It is recognized that this level of funding will not be enough to ensure by itself the continuity of the APFM HelpDesk at its current pace of activity. Hopefully, the brainstorming of numerous additional funding channels by the partners will result in additional contributions.

The AC/MC meetings report 2014 will soon be published on the APFM website [www.apfm.info](http://www.apfm.info) in its news section.

## PEARL - Preparing for Extreme And Rare events in coastal regions

### Second Project Committee Meeting, 2-3 July, Rethymno (Crete), Greece

On 2-4 July 2014, the 24 international institutions and universities partner to the PEARL project gathered in Rethymno (Crete), Greece for the 2nd Project Committee Meeting. The aim of the get-together was to present the results of the first 6 months of work to the other parties in the Consortium. As leader of work package 7 concerning the dissemination of project outputs, the APFM illustrated the outreach products developed till July:

- PEARL website: [www.pearl-fp7.eu](http://www.pearl-fp7.eu);
- Social media profiles: Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter;
- The project flyer;
- IWA Water Wiki for internal communication;
- Young Researchers Network, facilitating knowledge exchange between young researchers.

A field trip was organized in the old town of Rethymno, one of PEARL's case studies. The location was chosen owing to its exposure to coastal flooding, further exacerbated by stormwater draining from the North of Vrysinas mountain through the streams of the city. Main research in PEARL will focus on the enhancement of existing infra-

structural and operational flood management strategies in collaboration with local stakeholders.

The next project meeting will be held in Copenhagen, Denmark, in January/February 2015.



## OUTREACH AND NETWORKING

### World Water Week, 31 August-5 September, Stockholm, Sweden

Among the most eagerly-awaited annual events about water issues, the World Water Week 2014 was convened by the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) from 31 August to 5 September in Stockholm, Sweden. This year's thematic scope, "Energy and Water", with special focus on the "Water, Energy and Food Security Nexus", was addressed from two new viewpoints: the societal opportunities and challenges, and the cross-cutting issues. As part of UN-Water's pavilion in the exhibition, the APFM welcomed many of the 3,600 delegates from over 140 countries at WMO's booth. Flyers, publications, and CDs about integrated flood management were distributed side by side with information material on the Integrated Drought Management Programme (IDMP), the twin programme on drought management.

WWW 2014 had a distinctly different flavour as many young professionals took part to the Young Professionals' Day. An entire day of the WWW was dedicated to actively engaging those at the start of their careers in various activi



ties. This resulted in a large number of enthusiastic young water specialists visiting WMO's booth.

In 2015, the World Water Week will celebrate its 25th anniversary under the theme "Water and Development". For the special occasion, it will take place in its original location, the City Conference Centre, Stockholm, Sweden from 23 to 28 August.



## 6th International Conference on Flood Management (ICFM6), 16-18 September, São Paulo, Brazil

From 16 to 18 September the APFM participated in the 6th International Conference on Flood Management (ICFM6), held in São Paulo, Brazil. More than 230 participants gathered from 31 different countries to attend the meeting, hosted by the Brazilian Water Resource Association (ABRH).

The APFM, in cooperation with its partners, developed three papers (available at the ICFM6 proceedings webpage) and presented them at the Conference:

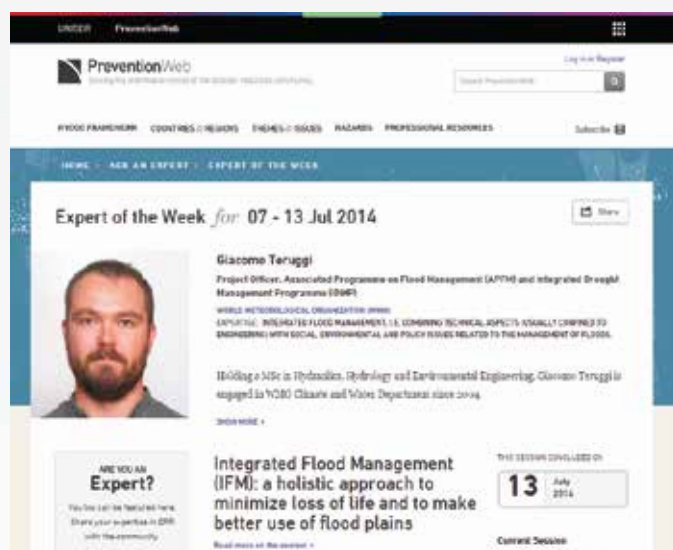
- "Integrated Coastal Flood Risk Management as a Means to Build Resilient Communities", a case study from Vietnam, introduced in a poster session by Prof. Huynh Thi Lan Huong, Deputy Director General of the Viet Nam Institute of Meteorology, Hydrology and Climate Change (IMHEN);
- "PEARL - Preparing for Extreme And Rare events in coastal regions", illustrated during the same poster session by Mr. Giacomo Teruggi, member of the APFM TSU; and
- "Needs for Adaptation of Urban Flood Management under Climate Change", described in an oral session by Dr. John Labadie, APFM consultant.



Because of the long involvement of the World Meteorological Organization in the International Flood Initiative, advocating for the concept of Integrated Flood Management, the APFM was also invited to join the plenary session "International Flood Initiative – IFI" with a presentation on "Benefit Indicators for Flood Management".

## UNISDR "Ask an Expert" initiative, 7-13 July

In the week from 7 to 13 July 2014, Mr. Giacomo Teruggi (on behalf of the APFM) was the "Expert of the Week" in the initiative "Ask an Expert" organized by PreventionWeb, a participatory web platform to serve the information needs of the disaster risk reduction (DRR) community by UNISDR.



As part of its tasks in the initiative, the APFM provided input to an online Question and Answer (Q&A) session, similarly to the service delivered through the IFM Help-Desk "Rapid Guidance" facility. Five questions were received and exhaustive replies were published on the platform during the one week session, entitled "Integrated Flood Management (IFM): a holistic approach to minimize loss of life and to make better use of flood plains". Different topics were covered, starting from science-policy interface for flood disaster risk management, moving to environmental aspects of flood management and ecosystem services for developing countries, integrated manage



ment of floods and droughts, urban flooding issues due to intense rainfall, and conceptual relations between Integrated Flood Management and Integrated Watershed Management.

The APFM would like to take this occasion to thank the PreventionWeb Team for providing this dissemination opportunity and congratulate them for the excellent initiative.

## STAFF MOVEMENTS

### New intern: Luis Roberto Silva Vara

Luis Roberto Silva Vara joined the APFM TSU on the 14th of July for a one-year long internship. He studied civil engineering at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM) in Mexico City, Mexico, where he specialized in water management. Recently, Roberto graduated from the Erasmus Mundus master programme JEMES (Joint European Master in Environmental Studies) where he focused on sustainable flood management working as research assistant for the Institute of River and Coastal Engineering of the Technische Universität Hamburg-Harburg (TUHH), Hamburg, Germany. In the APFM, he is involved in several activities, including the development of the IFM Tool Series, the EU-funded project PEARL, PRONACH - the national flood prevention program of Mexico, as well as the operation of the HelpDesk.

