Global Water Partnership Southeast Asia

Quarterly

Newsletter

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Highlight

The High-Level Experts and Leaders Panel on Water and Disasters (HELP) was established to assist the international community, governments, and stakeholders in mobilizing political will and resources. HELP is committed to addressing water-related disaster risk reduction including the present challenge with the COVID-19 pandemic circumstances in hand. The consultation meeting was held to discuss and gain insights on how to practically implement key suggestions proposed in the HELP Principle to Address Water-related Disaster Risk Reduction under Covid-19 Pandemic. The consultation also aims to exchanges among decision-makers, experts, and practitioners in the Asia region on how they can be better prepared for co-occurring disasters on water and health. (PG.5)

Inside This Issue

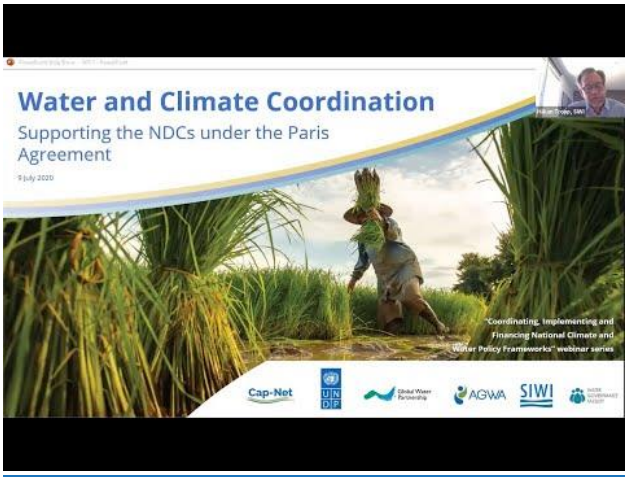
GWP NETWORK STORIES

Webinar Series Explores Linkages Between Climate and Water

In July, a 3-part webinar series was held on "Coordinating, Implementing, and Financing National Climate and Water Policy Frameworks". The series was developed by GWP and Cap-Net, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Alliance for Global Water Adaptation (AGWA), Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI), and the Water Governance Facility. The sessions highlighted climate and water linkages in national frameworks such as the National Determined Contributions (NDCs), the National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), and various investment mechanisms.

Part 1 of the webinar series was held on 9 July, on the topic "Supporting the NDCs under the Paris Agreement". The speakers discussed how improved cross-sector knowledge among decision-makers contribute to better coordination.

"In many cases, coordination is a fundamental challenge for how we are going to achieve for example the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). And it's not only for public administrations – on how they can coordinate horizontally across government and vertically at different scales, from the international, national and local level. But it's also a challenge for other stakeholders working on climate and water, in the public sector, civil society and research. There are not any standardized methods of what coordination means in practice. Much of the successes and failures of coordination depend on very particular country contexts. But even so, there are a lot of lessons learned that we can share when it comes to working with coordination," said Håkan Tropp, Programme Director Capacity Development at the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) as he opened up the session.



Part 2 of the webinar series was on 16 July and looked at "Implementation". The session aim was to improve understanding of the different processes and tools that can help in adaptation planning and implementation, starting from the strategic level adaptation planning to local level adaptation actions.

"*When it comes to country level, how do you coordinate and organise all the development commitments that have been made to climate change at international level*?" asked Kidanemariam Jembere, Technical Advisor at the GWP Southern Africa/Africa Coordination Unit, in his introduction.

The third and final part of the series on 23 July focused on "Climate Finance" and introduced the three main climate funds: The Green Climate Fund (GCF), the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Adaptation Fund (AF), with speakers looking at the mandates, investment criteria, operational modalities, funding windows and procedures for accessing resources for climate resilient water initiatives that the different funds provide.

"*A lot if information, a lot of opportunities but also a lot of challenges*", said Alex Simalabwi, GWP Southern Africa Executive Secretary & GWP Global Head of Climate Resilience when he summed up the session, stressing that the aim was to introduce the finance mechanisms and that participants can follow up with the organisers after the webinar on specific questions. ***EB***

Finds out more about the original article, recorded webinars and related information through the link provided here.

Results Are In! Seventy-Eight Water ChangeMakers Take the Next Step in Their Journey as a Semi-Finalists

The Water ChangeMaker Awards was launched during the World Water Week, 22nd March 2020 and aims to make visible the teams and organizations that shape water decisions that build climate resilience – and to create and support a community of ChangeMakers who contribute and learn from each other in shaping the lessons learned about how to make positive change happen. The

submission of an application was closed on 14 June 2020 and by the 1st of September 2020, the teams who reached the semi-finalists stage were announced.

After learning about more than 350 Water ChangeMaker stories from around the world, we are excited to share with you the list of 78 semi-finalists that have been identified by our qualified and diverse technical jury to pursue the next stage in the Awards selection process. While the possibility to submit stories was offered in six languages, a majority of the semi-finalists come to us from South Asia, South America and Central America, with wide representation from 11 other regions.

In particular, the submissions demonstrate how to leverage technology to solve common water-related challenges; to acknowledge the critical role of gender and social equity; and to engage all stakeholders in making decisions over shared water resources.

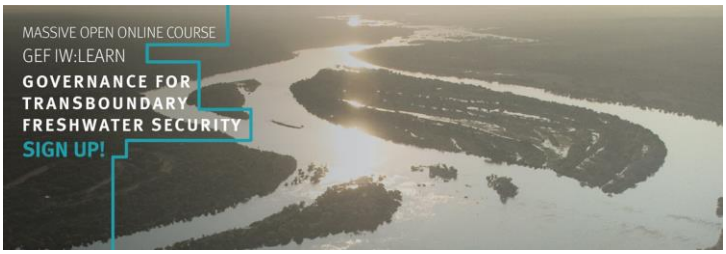
"*It was inspiring and eye-opening to learn about so many wonderful initiatives to manage water better in the face of climate change. The submissions show how much local-level initiatives - sometimes led by just one or a few individuals, often with few resources and almost always with a slew of challenges - can make communities more resilient to climate change*", said Dambudzo Josephine Muzenda, Water & Sanitation Specialist, World Bank, who was one of the jurors.

Approximately half of the changes that were catalyzed in the submissions sought to strengthen institutional capacity and participation and dealt with issues such as integrity and transparency in decision-making. One-third of the semi-finalist submissions were sent to us by youth, demonstrating their dynamism as change agents. The full change stories of the submissions will be shared in the coming weeks on the Water ChangeMakers website. ***EB***

Notes:

- The list of eligible participants from the Southeast Asia Region can be found here and all the list can be found here.
- Find out who are the semi-finalists here
- Read the original article here

New MOOC to Advance Cross-Border Water Security



Enhancing water security between nations has become imperative with water use in river basins surpassing sustainable limits and roughly 60% of the world's freshwater resources crossing national borders. As a response, a new Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) aims to deliver the skills and knowledge for water cooperation. GEF IW:LEARN has been driving the development of the MOOC, coordinated and produced by Global Water Partnership (GWP), and with contributions from leading organisations.

The lives and livelihoods of 2.8 billion people – or 42% of the world's population – depend on countries' abilities to cooperate over shared water resources. The new MOOC, Governance for Transboundary Freshwater Security presents multiple facets of what it takes to manage shared waters sustainably.

GWP Senior Network & Transboundary Water Cooperation Specialist Yumiko Yasuda is excited about the opening of the course: "*The world faces the urgent need to better manage our shared water resources affecting half of the global population. We have always seen the need for building capacity, particularly on the governance aspect of managing these resources. This MOOC allows us to provide an opportunity, on a massive scale – to anyone in the world interested in this*."

GEF IW:LEARN Project Manager, Mish Hamid, believes that the MOOC is timely and fills an important niche as a step towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals: "*GEF IW:LEARN is well-positioned to respond to the priorities of the Global Environmental Facility's International Waters focal area strategy, including enhancing water security in freshwater ecosystems. This MOOC provides experience from a global range of experts and GEF International Waters projects, enabling participants to gain insight into the challenges, complexities and opportunities of cooperation on shared water systems*."

The building of the MOOC and all its components – with 80 experts bringing their experiences to lectures and case studies – has been under way for over a year, and the timing of the opening is set to coincide with the start of the school year. This gives educators worldwide an opportunity to build the self-paced MOOC into their curricula.

The MOOC topics are covered in six modules, ranging from the fundamentals of transboundary water security to international water law, water diplomacy, negotiations, institutions, management tools, and sustainable finance.

"*The unique aspect of this MOOC is that we have engaged a wide range of speakers, from academics to practitioners, from all parts of the world, allowing the audience to understand both theoretical principles and practical applications. This MOOC can give you new knowledge, inspiration, and new connections through peer-to-peer learning experiences, which contributes to a water secure world for all*," said Yasuda.

In addition to students, the course is suitable for many groups of people – such as those working with river basin authorities, government officials, professional organisations, civil society organisations and networks, as well as the wider public interested in transboundary water issues.

Module coordinating partners are GWP, UNU-INWEH, UNECE, Northumbria University, SIWI, UNESCO International Centre for Water Cooperation, IHE Delft, and contributing organisations can be found on this page. The MOOC platform is provided by SDG Academy. ***EB***

Find out more here, take the course here, and the original article here.

GWP Speaks on COVID-19 Climate Platform

The Japanese Government, in cooperation with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), launched an online platform for sustainable and resilient recovery from COVID-19. Non-state actors were invited to contribute video messages – with GWP Chair Howard Bamsey stressing that water is at the heart of climate change adaptation.

The website "Platform for Redesign 2020" contains climate and environmental policies by countries, as well as other resources in the context of the pandemic, aiming to build a global momentum toward COP26 in 2021. Building on the 11th Petersberg Climate Dialogue and the UNFCCC's June Momentum for Climate Change, the new platform showcases information on policies and actions taken by national governments to contribute to a sustainable and resilient recovery from COVID-19. It features messages from national leaders and ministers from the Online Ministerial Meeting on 3 September 2020, where they exchanged views on climate and other environmental measures relevant to the pandemic.

GWP was among the non-state stakeholders invited to show their support for the initiative through video messages. In his message, GWP Chair Howard Bamsey said that he's convinced that a sustainable and resilient recovery from COVID-19 must prioritize action in favour of water resource management within the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) revision process, pursuing the opportunity to build back better in the context of a green recovery.

Bamsey also highlighted some of GWP's efforts to contribute to the recovery process: "GWP has been actively bringing together the water and climate agendas as a member of the NDC Partnership and in its role as a Green Climate Fund Readiness Delivery Partner."

After successfully concluding with GCF a 2.2-million-dollar proposal for Zambia to develop its National Adaptation Plan, GWP will be carrying out virtual workshops in 30 countries around the world to further explore how to access financing to improve climate resilience in the new era of COVID. ***EB***

Watch the full statement on the video below:

Read the original article and finds out more relevant information here.

REGIONAL STORIES

Virtual Training on Online Basic Facilitation Skills

In 2020, the Global Water Partnership in partnership with UNEP-DHI Centre was appointed to support the completion of the 2020 SDG 6.5.1 global monitoring and reporting. Therefore, as part of the UNEP's data-driven approaches, GWP considered it necessary to carry out a targeted process that supports key countries in implementing a multi-stakeholder, consultative approach. In this process, GWP has committed to ensuring the implementation of a multi-stakeholder facilitation consultation process in at least 60 countries, as it did in 2017 for 36 countries. The process was led by the country water partnerships supervised by the regional office.

The Southeast Asia region's Country Water Partnerships (CWPs) have assigned at least one SDG 6.5.1 monitoring facilitator respectively at the national level, knowledgeable about IWRM and the broader development context, and well connected with different stakeholders in the national context. These appointed facilitators were responsible for facilitating the multistakeholder consultation process in each supported country.

With the global crisis with the COVID-19 pandemic situation, it was deemed necessary to equipped the facilitator with skills on managing a virtual meeting as many countries applying strict movements or lockdown. Reviewed the situation, GWP-SEA successfully organized online training focusing on the online basic facilitation skills. The Facilitator Network Indonesia was chosen to give an online course and hands-on training.

During the two days of training, 4 hours a day that was held on 20-21 July 2020, 13 participants and 4 trainers were engaged. The participants consist of Regional secretariat representatives in Southeast Asia and South Asia, and the SDG 6.5.1 monitoring facilitators.

Before the training days, the participants were assigned pre-training tasks such as reading, and pre-tests which allowed them to be on the same page and understanding after received the feedback and reflection from the trainers. Utilized the Google virtual classroom, the two days of the training consists of subject as follows: 1) Focus, Principles, Value and Application of Facilitation; 2) Facilitator: Roles, Behaviors, Ethics and Competence; 3) Facilitating a small group discussion; and 4) Reflection, Action Plan, and Evaluation. Each subject comprise of lecture, exercise on the IWRM case study, consensus building, and reading materials. ***AW***

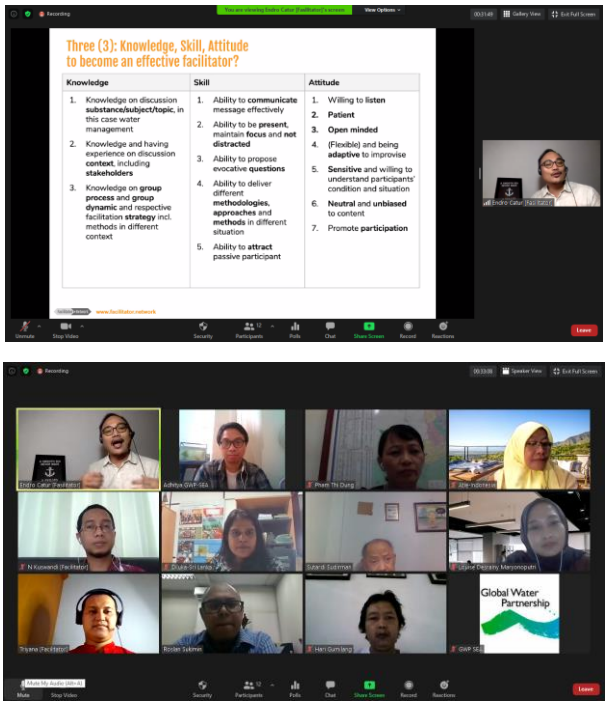


Photo 1 The discussion during the virtual training on online basic facilitation skills

The High-Level Experts and Leaders Panel on Water and Disasters (HELP) - GWP PAN ASIA Online Consultation Meeting: Draft Principles on Addressing Water-Related Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) During Covid-19 Pandemic

The High-Level Experts and Leaders Panel on Water and Disasters (HELP) was established to assist the international community, governments, and stakeholders in mobilizing political will and resources. HELP is committed to addressing water-related disaster risk reduction including the present challenge with the COVID-19 pandemic circumstances in hand. The consultation meeting was held to discuss and gain insights on how to practically implement key suggestions proposed in the HELP Principle to Address Water-related Disaster Risk Reduction under Covid-19 Pandemic scenario. The consultation also aimed exchanges among decision-makers, experts and practitioners in Asia region on how they can be better prepared for co-occurring disasters that might affected the water and health sectors.

On 30 July 2020, Global Water Partnership Southeast Asia (GWP-SEA) successfully co-organized the HELP-GWP PAN Asia online consultation meeting with more than 100 participants engaged in

the discussion. Dr. Zelina binti Zaiton Ibrahim, lecture at the Universiti Putra Malaysia, Alternate Steering Committee member for Malaysia Country Water Partnership moderated the event. The **GWP-SEA chairman Dr. Inthavy Akkarath of Lao PDR** warmly welcomed the participant with an opening remark. He explained, *"the risk from the pandemic and the natural disaster, particularly water-related disaster, has created a term called twin risks, and therefore we are forced to learn how to build back better"*. He added that the principles that HELP is currently developing can help governments and other stakeholders to be more prepared in managing the situation; and the online consultation meeting will focus to gain practical insights into how such principles can be implemented on the ground. His key message was "disasters won't change by luck but we have to change the disasters".

Photo 2 GWP-SEA chairman Dr. Inthavy Akkarath presented an opening remark

On this special occasion, the **vice-chairman HELP water and disaster Dr. Basuki Hadimuljono who also currently act as the Minister of Public Works and Housing Republic of Indonesia** shared his keynote speech. He explained, "*The implementation of the health protocol will considerably increase the need for clean water. Therefore, we need to anticipate such a situation in the new normal era and ensure the provision of water to support environmental health"*. He emphasized the importance of preparing Standard Operation Procedures (SOPs) for emergency evacuation that complies with health protocol. This includes the preparation of a suitable evacuation site equipped with well-designed tents, mobile water processing installation, and mobile sanitation. Furthermore, he added improving the current early warning system is crucial. With more accurate weather prediction, water can be managed better as it will have a longer 'lead time' to anticipate various disturbing events such as floods, water shortages, and droughts. The operation and maintenance of infrastructure and related data collection and analysis should be conducted in compliance with the 'New Normal' protocol. He also underlined the most important message was to carry out these initiatives by close partnerships and cooperation.

In his keynote speech, He gave several examples of how the government of the Republic of Indonesia's response to water management that will increase the country's resilience against disasters and pandemic. These examples are built 61 new dams and revitalized existing dams since 2015; cooperate with other government agency, the Agency of Meteorology, Climatology, and Geophysics to improve the early warning system; anticipate food shortages due to declines in food production activities by developed food estate in Central Kalimantan together with related ministries.

Photo 3 Vice-chairman HELP Water and Disaster Dr. Basuki Hadimuljono who also currently act as the Minister of Public Works and Housing Republic of Indonesia delivered his key-note speech

The consultation then continued by the **HELP coordinator and GRIPS Professor, Professor Kenzo Hiroki**'s presentation on the draft principles and its urgency. He started the presentation by highlighted several water-related disasters that happened between June-July 2020 which happened during the COVID-19 pandemic such as floods in Fubei – China, Assam – India, Polan, Nigeria; tornados in New Zealand; storms in New England – USA; and cyclones in Southern Brazil. He emphasized there was a correlation between an increased number of daily new COVID-19 cases about 2 weeks after a cyclone hit the Amphan – West Bengal India. The presentation also illustrated the draft principles as an action-oriented guideline which suggested 10 principles to be addressed by governments in dealing with water-related DRR under the COVID-19 pandemic; illustrated how practical the principles are by the example of the US Army Corps of Engineers in responding to the New York's situation and how several municipals in

Japan responding to the post-disaster situation under the COVID-19 pandemic.

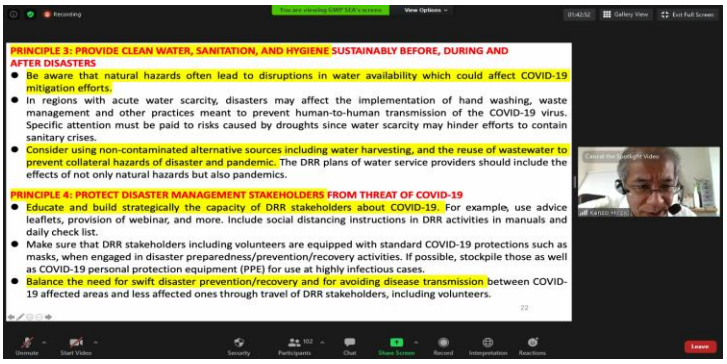
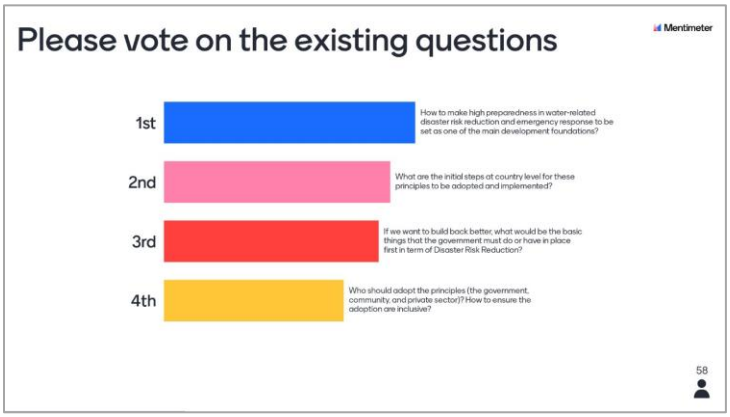


Photo 4 HELP Water and Disaster Coordinator and GRIPS Professor, Professor Kenzo Hiroki's presentation on disaster response under COVID-19 in Kumamoto - Japan

To engage the participants, the organizer introduced an 'ice-breaker' session with polling during the introduction session. The results of the polling are shown below.



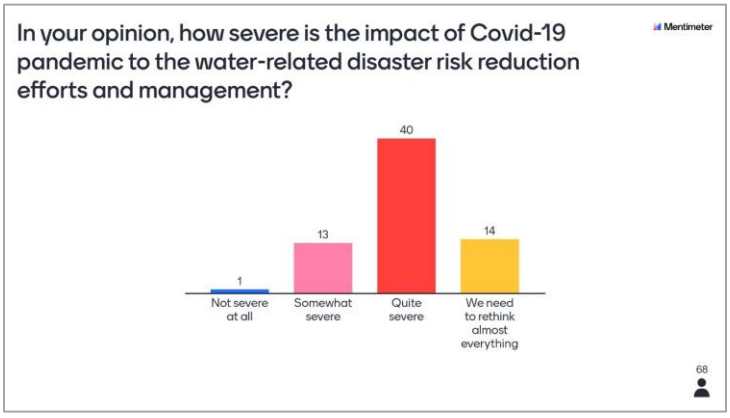


Photo 5 Results from the check-in polling

After the introduction section, **6 panelists representing diverse stakeholders gave a response to the draft principles**. **The first panelist represented private sectors was Ms. Basja Jantowski, Program Director for the Alliance for Water Stewardship Indonesia**. In her presentation titled 'ahead of the curve', corporations to some extent impacted by water-related disaster and pandemic; and She stressed the need to re-imagine and re-design the business. The AWS standard which aligned with the CEO Water Mandate and the UN global compact offered a corporation a way to be a responsible water steward. This can be done by "*the use of water that is: socially & culturally equitable, environmentally sustainable and economically beneficial*" that achieved through a stakeholder-inclusive process that involves site and catchment-based actions. The framework, in particular, the 'commit and plan' step are aligned with the HELP principles in particular: Principle 2 -**Integrate** actions on risk management of disasters and pandemic; Principle 3 - **Provide** clean water, sanitation, and hygiene sustainably during and after disasters; and Principle 9 - **Finance** DRR actions under COVID-19 effectively to avoid economic disaster.

Photo 6 Ms. Basja Jantowski explained the synergy between HELP principles with the business sector's global initiatives

The second panelist was Dr. Alexander Mindorashvili, Georgian Focal point for "Water & Health Protocol". He argued that like many developing countries, Georgia has a problem in ensuring equal access to water and sanitation in all parts of the country and therefore several strategies and programs were developed to this end. Given the COVID-19 pandemic situation, the country statistically has the smallest number of cases (infection and casualty) in the Caucasus region. This happened as the government immediately respond to the scientist's recommendation, the community strictly complied with the instructions and a successful non-compliance penalty implementation.

The third panelist was Prof. Santosh Kumar, Professor, and Head of the Governance, Public Policy and Inclusive Development Department of the National Institute of Disaster Management, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India. He explained that water-related disasters in India has affected 3 billion people, with 1,6 million fatalities for the past 20 years andincreased

significantly every year. The economic loss is huge as it is comparable to the number of populations within the country. Water issues are closely intertwined with the international agendas such as Paris agreement, SDG, and Sendai Framework for DRR that pose a dilemma "too much and too little water". He underlined the need for investment in physical resilience as it can prevent catastrophe and allows a faster recovery. Several examples in building financial resilience were given such as through sovereign risk transfer, contingent credits, or budget reserves/budget reallocations. In the last part of the presentation, he suggested: regional and sub-regional collaboration, strengthening local government, reinventing response protocol, and addressing gender perspective.

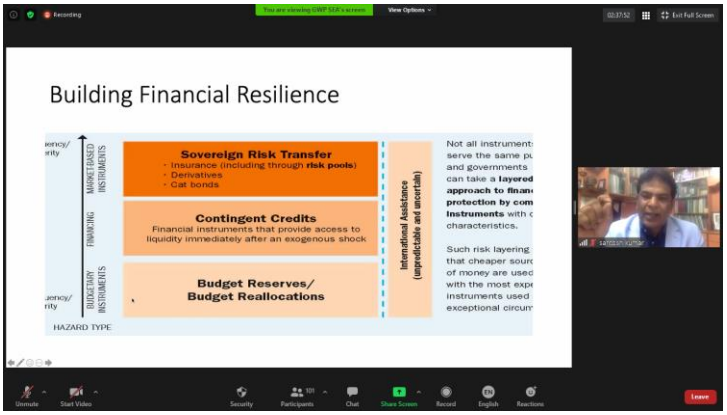


Photo 7 Prof. Santosh shared how can building financial resilience can help the government to better dealing with pandemic and safe-guard the economic

Professor Sheng Jifang, Professor, Chief Physician, Doctoral Supervisor, Director of the Department of Infectious Diseases, that act as an expert team for COVID-19 prevention and control of Zhejiang Province shared "*Lesson from China: Hospital strategies for managing COVID-19*" as the fourth panelist; and Her supervisee Mr. Junwei Su M.D presented on her behalf the optimization of admission and screening process as a devised strategy that involved three different aspects namely transportation of patients, the fever clinic, and procedure for patient's admission. He argued, "*Pre-hospital management is a very important part of infectious disease control, as we should avoid new hospital infection but also avoid missed diagnosis"*. First, all confirmed cases should be transported by negative pressure ambulances and ambulance attendants should be welled-equipped by personal protective equipment. The fever clinic also should be restructured to make visits more convenient and safer. In the later stage, a questionnaire will be filled by patients before preview triage; and according to the results, nurses will classify fever patients into two groups, suspected and excluded. China's lesson also highlighted the importance of an evolving strategy based on stages of the epidemiologic curve. Furthermore, there are several control measures to be employed to avoid infection to the non-COVID-19 patients, in particular, transferred patients to local hospitals (one room one patient), minimizing public panic, on-line clinic medications delivery, and to delay non-urgent surgery. It is also important to make arrangements and backup of medical workers, including staff workflow management and training, and staffs' health management.

The fifth panelist represent NGO and community-based practitioner in Malaysia, Dr. Kalithasan Kailasam, River Care Program Manager at the Global Environment Center. He said, "*The draft Principles are very useful as a community-based NGO – it is key to iron out those principles align to the pandemic*". From the community perspective, there are several key challenges faced by communities during the disaster. Based on his experience in managing several programs, the challenges are access to latest/relevant information (rainfall/water level/early warning), effective communication especially with rural/indigenous communities, immediate clean water and food supply during the disaster, improve sanitation services especially in rural/indigenous communities, mindset change from a curative community-based preparedness measures to a more proactive role, legislation and enforcement, lack of financial resources, proper understanding on mitigation or adaptation, localized mechanism, and limited access to indigenous community sites for support during pandemic. Therefore, the draft principles need to address several issues: human and financial resources limitation (Principle 1), maintenance of community-based equipment are limited due to the lockdown orders (principle 4), Recovery planning measures are costly due to the nature of the virus being highly infectious and not with a vaccine in sight (principle 10). Lastly, he showed the advantages on implementing the principles at the ground level by improving the monitoring system and support financing scheme to access fund from public and private sector as only 10 percent of the community able to bear the cost of DRR.

Dr. Miho Ohara, Senior Researcher for International Centre for Water Hazard and Risk Management (ICHARM), and Public Works Research Institute, Japan was the sixth and the last panelist who share the Japan experience in managing water related DRR in time of COVID-19. During the year 2009-2018 approximately 97% of the municipalities experienced one or more floods; and more than half (56.6%) of the municipalities have been flooded more than 10 times. Therefore, in the time of COVID-19, infection is the key issues for all the municipalities in Japan. Responding to the situation, the Public Works Research Institute (ICHARM) has developed a guidebook, a collection of critical situations during flood emergency response. A critical situation is a situation in which local government officers panic, do not know what to do, cannot decide, are confused or in dilemma during an emergency response effort. Based on this definition, 28 cases are considered as a critical situation. The guidebook consists of a local government response and an appendix for a response under COVID-19. The appendix section is divided into 8 chapters and describing possible critical situations and necessary

countermeasures under the plague in terms of "Facilities," "Management," "Public announcement" and "Emergency response."

During the **Question and Answer session**, several topics were discussed. Prof. Kenzo replied to the question of whether maintaining the safe distance is enough and how we can deal with disaster under COVID-19. He replied, "*The priority during disaster event is to save lives and should consider to go to a safe place, then later to think about COVID-19 and safe distancing with additional ventilation and prevention of contact by the COVID infected people*". He added, *"During disaster a large number of populations need to be evacuated, if the boat is not designed with response equipment with proper ventilation – the whole operation is at risk. Therefore, it is important to increase the capacity of local governments*". A question regarding public-private partnership also arises and Ms. Basja replied with, "*Create financial modules to deal with the disasters – need a proper assessment and what the financial counterparts can bring*". For the question on dealing with crowded situation, Dr. Kalithasan replied, "*Need to have champions on drills to get the people to prepare for such incidents" "expose to stimulation modules people at all levels of the communities, even at schools*".

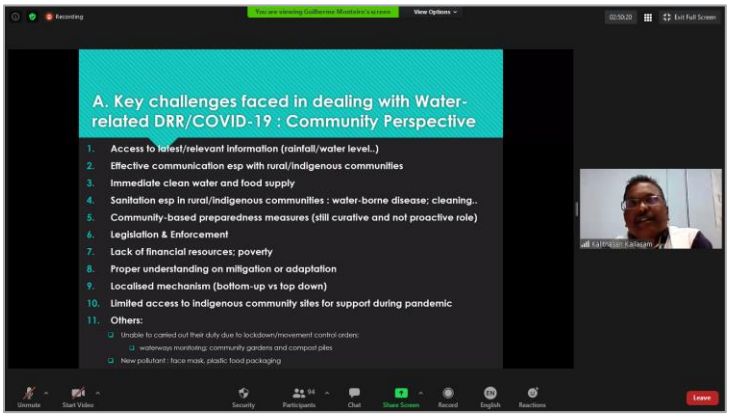


Photo 8 Dr. Kalithasan explained the key challenges faced by the community in the time of pandemic on water-related hazards

The next session, **zoom's breakout** room was introduced; and participants were distributed to 6 different groups. **The discussed questions were: 1) How applicable are the principles to be implemented on the ground, 2) Which principles can be implemented in 3-5 years (short term), 3) What are the biggest challenges and opportunity to implement the principles**. Different responses to the questions were given. However, in summary the answer to question number 1 is that several principles are being implemented by countries and some other possible to carry out under the right stimuli. Responding to question number 2, the participants also agree that most of the countries already have a foundation to implement the principles within a short-term period (3-5 years), though it is important to differentiate between local intervention and national intervention. In addition to that, government should launch a special fund to transferred risks into insurance products and obligation or reallocate the budget and allocating budget reserves. Responding to question number 3, the biggest challenges in implementing the principles is good leadership in utilizing science as the basic for decision making process. Other challenges need to be address are financial modality and resources, raising awareness of the non-water sectors, changes in situation before and after vaccine, including a bottom-up process and take the community-level wisdom into account while at the same time able to unlock community potential. Regarding the opportunity in implement the principles, it is crucial to integrate action from different government agencies in dealing with delivery of DRR and COVID-19. In addition, bring together different stakeholders and implement different financial scheme is highly recommended. At the community level, it is important to enhance community unity and trust to the covid-19 centre, especially to those communities that have many elderly people; and focus on the disaster preparedness such as drilling so the community can use their own resources especially in a difficult site during the response and recovery phase.

The event then closed by an a**nnouncement that on 20 August (8:30 a.m.-11:05 a.m., Central European Time), the International Online Conference to Address Water-related DRR under the COVID-19 Pandemic will be held**. At the conference, Mr. Angel Gurría the secretary general of OECD, and H.E. Dr. Danilo Türk the Chair of the Global High-Level Panel on Water and Peace and Lead Political Advisor of the Geneva Water Hub (former President of the Republic of Slovenia) will deliver a keynote speeches. Following by discussion by the HELP members: H.E. Mr. Basuki Hadimuljono, Minister of Public Works and Housing, Republic of Indonesia; H.E. Ms. Cora van Nieuwenhuizen, Minister of Infrastructure and Water Management, Kingdom of the Netherlands; Mr. Ilkka Salmi, Director for Disaster Preparedness and Prevention, DG ECHO, European Commission; Dr. Shinichi Kitaoka, President, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA); Mr. Bambang Susantono, Vice President for Knowledge Management and Sustainable Development, Asian Development Bank; Ms. Catarina de Albuquerque, Chief Executive Officer, Sanitation and Water for All; Representative of WHO. Ms. Yumiko Yasuda the GWP's Senior Network Officer for Asia in her closing remarks informed the participants if they have any further comments share them with event organizers and thanked all who attended the consultation. The result of check-out polling can be seen below.

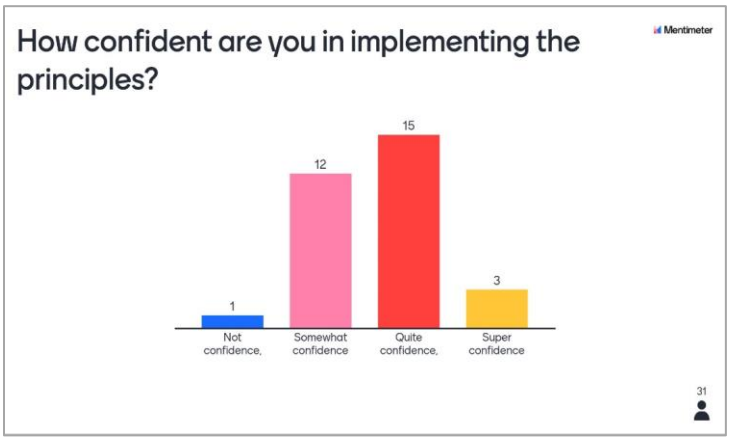


Photo 9 Result from polling: check out question

The SDG 6.5.1 2020 country's IWRM Progress Monitoring

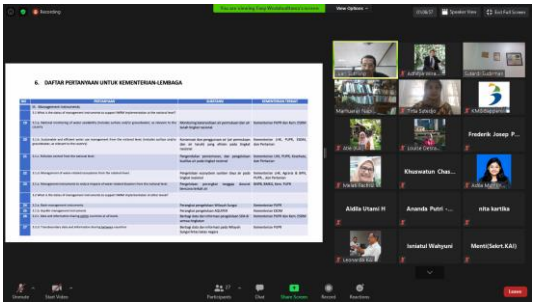
The SDG 6 IWRM Support Programme assists governments in designing and implementing country-led responses to SDG indicator 6.5.1, the degree of implementation of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), as an entry point to accelerate progress towards the achievement of water-related SDGs and other development goals, in line with national priorities. This is in direct support of the official SDG monitoring and reporting processes and should lead to measurable progress on the relevant SDG target(s).

Under the guidance of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and coordinated by Global Water Partnership (GWP) in close collaboration with UNEP-DHI Centre and Cap-Net UNDP, the Support Programme brings together a unique blend of partners in each country, representing governments, civil society, academia, and the private sector. The Support Programme is structured according to the following three stages: Stage 1 – Identifying challenges through SDG 6.5.1 monitoring results; Stage 2 – Formulating responses in the form of action plans, project documents, or similar; Stage 3 – Implementing solutions that improve IWRM as a contribution to other water-related SDGs. The decision on the stage was based on their previous SDG 6 IWRM support program involvement.

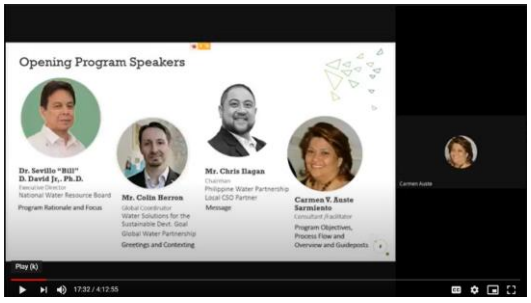
Six countries in the Southeast Asia region received the SDG IWRM support program in 2020, among others: Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Philippines, and Viet Nam.

The methodology to implemented the focus group discussion in each country was vary and depends on the country's COVID-19 pandemic health protocol. For example, the Viet Nam Water Partnership which started stage 1 in 2019 continued the process by involving the task force consists of senior IWRM experts from different sectors and stakeholders.

By September 2020, all the CWPs successfully submitted their reports to the UNEP.



(a)



(b)

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Photo 10 The consultation processes lead by each CWP in the country of: (a) Indonesia on 24 August 2020, (b) Philippines on 1 and 4 Septem-ber 2020, (c) Cambodia on 13 August 2020, (d) Lao PDR on 27 July 2020, (e) Malaysia on 18 August 2020, (f) Viet Nam on 28 July 2020

Asia Online Regional Workshop Supporting the Monitoring and Implementation of the SDG indicator 6.5.2 on Transboundary Water Cooperation

The Sustainable Development Goals target 6.5 calls on countries by 2030 to implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate. To measure the progress of transboundary, SDG indicator 6.5.2 was developed. It is defined as the percentage of transboundary basin area within a country with an operational arrangement for water cooperation. The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is custodian agencies (responsible agencies) for this indicator, given their experience and mandate on the topic. The support and follow up at the regional level is given by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in the context of the Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) and coordinates the regional activities of UN-Water. As such, ESCAP is involved in monitoring progress on SDG 6 and its targets in Asia and the Pacific, in particular through developing an SDG 6 Goal Profile and by reviewing reporting mechanisms from Asia-Pacific countries on SDG 6 through different processes. The involvement of GWPO at its regional secretariats in the region in supporting the SDG 6.5.1 monitoring and assessment has provided an opportunity to jointly organized this event as GWP has a wide range network in the PAN-Asia region.

Photo 11 Participants of the Asia online regional workshop supporting the monitoring and implementation of the SDG indicator 6.5.2 on transboundary water cooperation

The Asia Region Online Workshop Supporting the Monitoring and Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicator 6.5.2 on Transboundary Water Cooperation was successfully held virtually on 17 September 2020. GWP is one of the partners behind the workshop along with UN-ESCAP, UNESCO-IHP, and UNECE.

The Asia Online Regional Workshop Supporting the Monitoring and Implementation of the SDGs Transboundary Water Cooperation SDG 6 Indicator 6.5.2 successfully held on 17 September 2020. Co-organized by the UN ESCAP, UNESCO Global office and Asia Pacific Office, GWP Global and regional Southeast Asia office, IHP, and UNECE, the workshop engaged 64 participants representing Southeast Asia, South Asia, East Asia, and Central Asia.

Photo 12 Prof. Shahbaz Khan, the Director of Unesco Jakarta Office, Regional Science Bureau for Asia and the Pacific delivered an opening remarks

The workshop was officially started by the UNESCO Jakarta Office Director, Prof. Shahbaz Khan's opening remarks who welcomed all the organizers and the water experts from relevant ministries. He conveyed a message, "We need to look at transboundary water cooperation in a bigger context as we are now in a difficult period of our lives with COVID-19 and the importance of water, in particular, the access to water and sanitation has never been more important". He added, "Water is critical for dealing with this pandemic, water is critical for achieving all the 16 SDGs and the number 17 which is about international cooperation, is the heart of bringing all the participants together from within the region and from another region". He was very pleased to see the contribution from other regions on how their knowledge will enrich our understanding of identifying the baseline from the transboundary water cooperation and how it fits the Integrated Water Resources Management. In his speech, Prof. Shahbaz Khan also told us that the participants will learn the key challenges from managing both the surface water and groundwater in the context of floods, droughts, or water quality challenges we need to promote a better understanding of how to make better cooperation across a border. In his closing remarks, he argued that water can help create peace and cooperation across the border, and it can help us to achieve all the 17 SDGs indicators by 2030.

Ms. Sonja Koeppel of UNECE opened the first session of 'setting the scene: SDG 6 and transboundary water cooperation' by sharing the rationale behind the workshop and its main objectives. On the rationale side, she emphasized the importance of effective transboundary collaboration to achieve the overall SDG 6 indicator. She added, "the transboundary water cooperation is crucial for any other SDG indicator such as peace, health, food, energy, climate change". On the overall objective, the workshop was held to support countries in the region in reporting the SDG 6.5.2 in 2020 by introducing the methodology for calculation of the value indicator, highlighted good practices and discussed implementation challenges, discussed gaps of data in particular concerning aquifers, identified synergies between reporting on SDG indicator 6.5.2 and SDG indicator 6.5.1, and how all of these can improve transboundary cooperation by 2030. This session was followed by the introduction of the workshop agenda by Mr. Hans Thulstrup of the UNESCO Jakarta Office/ Regional Office for the Asia Pacific.

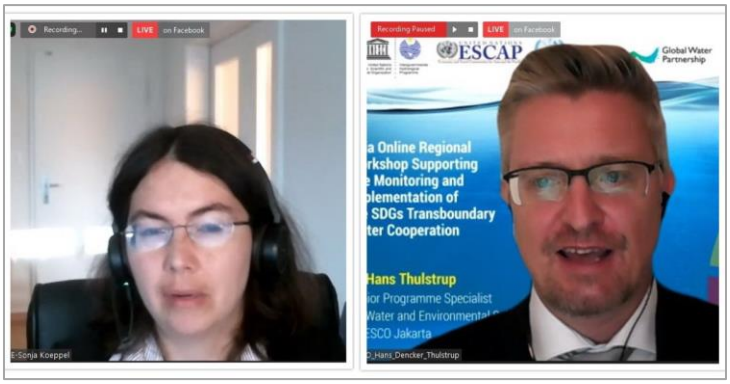

Photo 13 Ms. Sonja Koeppel of UNECE (left) and Mr. Hans Thulstrup of the UNESCO Jakarta Office (right) opened the first session

The session was then followed by the introduction for the 2020 SDG 6.5.2 data collection by Aurélien Dumont – UNESCO Headquarter Office. He presented the overview of SDG indicator 6.5.2 and integrated monitoring of SDG 6, the result of the baseline exercise in 2017-2018, the availability of guidance documents for national reports, as well as tips and advice for organizing reports and filling the questionnaire.

Photo 14 Introduction for the 2020 SDG 6.5.2 data collection by Aurélien Dumont – UNESCO Headquarter Office

Ms. Solene Ledoze from UN ESCAP continued the session by sharing the reporting on SDG 6 in Asia and the Pacific. She explained

the UN ESCAP is involved in the regional follow-up and review of all SDGs, including SDG 6, through the Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development. Besides, ESCAP facilitates the UN-Water regional coordination group on SDG 6 and supports monitoring as needed; maintains a regional SDG statistical database and supports capacity building for national statistical offices; and supports countries on their Voluntary National Reports on SDGs. She highlighted the issue of data management and strengthening SDG 6 monitoring at institutions and the country level. She underlined the progress of SDG 6.5.2 for transboundary water cooperation SDG in the region still encounter by a setback due to insufficient data. A few things to improve this situation are by identifying national focal points and ensuring effective coordination systems for monitoring at the national level to support a better decision-making process.

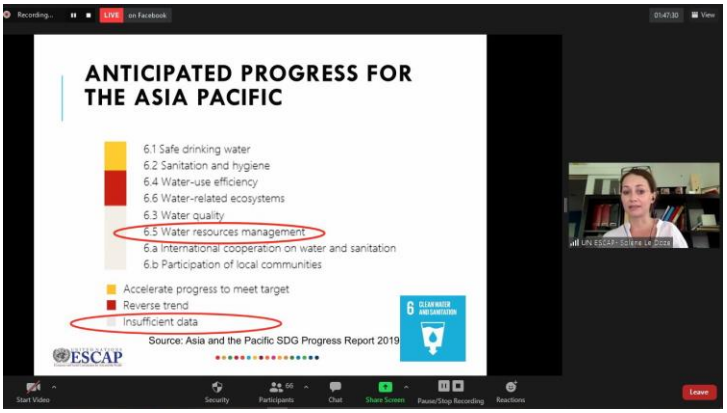

Photo 15 Ms. Solene Ledoze from UN ESCAP shared the reporting on SDG 6 in Asia and the Pacific and showed that the progress might be slowed down due to insufficient data

Alistair Rieu-Clarke, UNECE consultant & Northumbria University shared an overview of the most common difficulties in completing the National Reports. In his presentation, some of the challenges and difficulties by countries in submitting surface water reports were highlighted and focus on two areas: how do we calculate the area, and how do we determine water operational arrangements. In summary, the surface area of the basins should be calculated only for the part of the basin that is within the territory of the country and should not double count the main and sub-basin. As for the 'operational arrangement', he argued it could be in a formal commitment between the riparian parties in the form of a joint body or mechanism, regular formal communications between riparian states, joint or coordinated water management vision/ plan or similar instrument in place, and lastly regular exchange of data and information. The key here is to consider whether there has been some level of commitment to implement a particular strategy, policy, or plan under an agreement. For countries that have a transboundary aquifer, Aurélien Dumont – UNESCO underlined the importance of an adaptable process, by starting from a rough estimation of delineation and try to improve as the progress is made.

Photo 16 Alistair Rieu-Clarke, UNECE consultant & Northumbria University shared an overview of the most common difficulties in completing the National Reports

In session 2, countries in the region and other region shared their experiences in managing the SDG 6.5.2 national report. The purpose is to exchange on experiences from SDG 6.5.2 within Asian countries, and discuss challenges and opportunities, identify possible areas of improvement or collaboration in the future, and set a floor for interaction for participants with the organizers. Among these countries were: Cambodia, Lao PDR, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Botswana. After series of presentation, the participants arranged in 3 groups to discuss three questions: 1) What are the common challenges and opportunities that you face in completing the 6.5.2 survey; 2) How can we help countries to complete the report in this remaining time of 2020; and How can neighboring countries collaborate while filling in the report.

In session 3, the group's rapporteur reporting back on what had been discussed and followed by a plenary session, moderated by Alistair Rieu-Clarke. The last part of this session shared the next steps and closure of the meeting. Just before the closing, GWP's Senior Network Officer for Asia and Transboundary Water Cooperation Specialist, Ms. Yumiko Yasuda, introduced the Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) "Governance for Transboundary Freshwater Security" that still on-going and encouraged the participants to enroll to this course. The details of the course can be read through this link. ***AW***

Image: Pexels from Pixabay

Quote of the day

"Thousands have lived without love, not one without water"

- W.H.Auden-

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