

Dear Colleagues,

Please find below periodic thematic digest on 'Water and Hazards' from the Asia Pacific Mountain Network (APMN).

Regards,
APMN team

News

[1] Severe food shortage threatens nearly 400,000 people in Tajikistan – UN

September 23, 2009

Some 390,000 people in Tajikistan, about 9 per cent of the rural population, face severe food shortages due to both chronic vulnerability and the impact of this spring's floods, the United Nations reported today.

"The economic crisis, resulting in loss of employment and a decrease in remittances, has also hampered households' access to food," the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said following a food security survey conducted by the UN World Food Programme (WFP) and the UN World Health Organization (WHO).

Source:

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=32172&Cr=tajikistan&Cr1>

OR

<http://tinyurl.com/y9xj82p>

[2] ADB to Extend \$600 Million Urban Services Investment Program to Azerbaijan

September 23, 2009

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) will extend up to \$600 million in loans to Azerbaijan for water and sanitation improvements in towns that have suffered from decades of neglect and underinvestment in infrastructure.

The Board of Directors today approved a multitranche financing facility that will release loans periodically to support the Government of Azerbaijan's Water Supply and Sanitation Investment Program. The Government has earmarked up to \$200 million for the 8-year investment program, with ADB financing up to \$600 million from its ordinary capital resources. In the first tranche, ADB will provide a \$75 million loan.

Source:

<http://www.adb.org/Media/Articles/2009/13004-azerbaijan-water-health-projects/>

OR

<http://tinyurl.com/yboardb>

[3] China's hydropower capacity to nearly double by 2020: state media

September 20, 2009

China's hydropower capacity is expected to nearly double to 300,000 megawatts by 2020, state media said, as the nation powers ahead with the development of renewable energy sources.

Water resources minister Chen Lei, who was quoted by the official Xinhua news agency as giving the target, also said hydropower would play a more important role in China's strategy for energy security in the future.

Source:

http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/Chinas_hydropower_capacity_to_nearly_double_by_2020_state_media_999.html

OR

<http://tinyurl.com/yebowsz>

[4] Project to Improve Water Supply, Sanitation Services in Nepal

September 18, 2009

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) will support a Nepal Government project to improve access to water and sanitation services in small towns throughout the country.

ADB's Board of Directors approved a \$45.1 million grant for the Second Small Towns Water Supply and Sanitation Sector Project, which is expected to bring significant health and hygiene benefits to residents, particularly through the reduction of waterborne diseases. The Government of Nepal will provide \$20.5 million to the project, while beneficiaries and local governments will contribute \$6.1 million.

Source:

<http://www.adb.org/Media/Articles/2009/12991-nepalese-sanitations-projects/>

OR

<http://tinyurl.com/y9z487h>

[5] Rains keep rivers on swell

September 17, 2009

Though state remained by and large dry, rains in the Himalayan region led to rise in water level of major rivers in the. The Met department has forecast cloudy weather with possibilities of rains only in isolated places on Thursday.

Meanwhile, all the major rivers including the Ganga and Yamuna continued to rise in the state. There were also reports of light showers in the Terai region, but heavy rains were reported from Nepal and Uttarakhand, leading to spate in rivers in UP. According to the Central Water Commission report, while Ganga was in swell at Kanpur, Ballia, Allahabad and Rae Bareli, Ramganga was rising at Shahjahanpur and Yamuna in Mathura, Agra, Auraiya and Kalpi.

Source:

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/news/city/lucknow/Rains-keep-rivers-on-swell/articleshow/5020472.cms>

OR

<http://tinyurl.com/ybrnwek>

[6] Flood impact on Nepali households to increase by 40pc: Study

September 12, 2009

A recent study on the impact of climate change on Nepal's development and climate change induced uncertainties has concluded that the increase in the number and intensity of natural disasters will prevent many Nepali households from breaking through the poverty line. It has projected that the flood impact on each household will double and the number of households affected directly will increase by 40 per cent.

Source:

http://myrepublica.com/portal/index.php?action=news_details&news_id=9719

OR

<http://tinyurl.com/yeakk5q>

[7] Floods in Istanbul bring calls for better urban planning

September 12, 2009

The deadly flash floods that swept northwest of Turkey's Istanbul province this week have upgraded criticism against the government for years of poor urban planning and negligence in disaster prevention.

With another body found in an Istanbul town Saturday, the deluge caused by torrential rains has killed 33 in the northwest coastal regions, with the death toll in Istanbul province reaching 27, according to the semi-official Anatolia news agency.

Source:

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-09/12/content_12042980.htm

OR

<http://tinyurl.com/ybw8h6l>

[8] Nepal home to more than 5,300 lakes

September 12, 2009

Though it appears to be a small country in the globe, Nepal boasts of more than 5,300 lakes, if a recent study of researchers is to be believed. The study was conducted by the researchers of Nepal Lake Conservation Development Committee (NLCDC) — a government body established under the Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation in 2006. Experts from Nepal Academy of Science and Technology and National Trust for Nature Conservation were also among the researchers.

The initial study showed altogether 5,358 lakes across the country, said Ukesh Raj Bhujju, one of the researchers, adding that the same was hitherto unknown due to lack of comprehensive research.

Source:

<http://thehimalayantimes.com/fullNews.php?headline=Nepal+home+to+more+than+5,300+lakes&NewsID=33035>

OR

<http://tinyurl.com/yeo3j3x>

[9] World: Thirst for Water

September 9, 2009

Experts predict that by 2025, two-thirds of the world's population will face water shortages, and Europe will be no exception. Worldwide, more than 1 billion people live without access to safe water and up to 4 million people (mostly children) die every year from water-related diseases.

Growing population and environmental trends such as desertification, pollution and climate change increasingly suggest that unless water management is improved the future will bring significant challenges. Indeed, the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) predicts that by 2025 two-thirds of the world's population will live in water distress, which is associated with famine, disease and water conflicts.

In South Asia, India and Pakistan have been at odds over the Indus, and in Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia and Sudan have been considered to be at high risk of war over shared water resources in the Nile River basin. Water shortages in those countries necessitate the import of food, since domestic production is not sufficient.

Source:

<http://www.isn.ethz.ch/isn/Current-Affairs/Security-Watch/Detail/?ord633=grp1&ots591=EB06339B-2726-928E-0216-1B3F15392DD8&lng=en&id=105802>

OR

<http://tinyurl.com/ydvxr4k>

Events

[1] Climate Change in the Himalayas: The Gender Perspective; e-discussion 5 to 25 October 2009

The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) is organizing an e-discussion on 'Gender and Climate Change' from 5-25 October 2009. This discussion aims to attract views, concrete examples, and stories on climate change in the Himalayan region from a gender perspective.

For more information and to register <http://www.icimod.org/?page=609>

Or write to tmahat@icimod.org

[2] Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Workshop Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea (PNG): 14 – 16 October 2009

For further details of the workshop,

Mr Shawn Hunter, FDC,

Email: ShawnHunter@fdc.org.au

or

Mr Chris Piper, Director, TorqAid

Email: pipercm@iprimus.com.au

For more information : <http://www.fdc.org.au/files/news/2009/July/PNG DRM 09.pdf>.

[3] Opportunity – ICIMOD competition for journalists on climate

ICIMOD is organizing a competition for journalists with a thematic focus on climate change in the Himalayas. The aim is to capture published media reports and to encourage journalists to write on mountain, and especially Himalayan, issues.

Articles and reports on a topic related to climate change and/or its impacts in the extended Hindu Kush Himalayan region and first published in a printed or online publication between 01 August and 07 December 2009 (the start of 'COP 15' in Copenhagen) are eligible for submission.

For more information <http://www.icimod.org/?page=607>

Or write to ccc@icimod.org