

Dear Colleagues,

Please find below periodic thematic digest on 'Water and Hazards', Issue 8 from the Asia Pacific Mountain Network (APMN).

Regards,
APMN team

News

[1] ADB to issue inaugural water bond

February 22, 2010

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Daiwa Securities Group announced ADB's planned issuance of its inaugural Water Bond to finance its work in the water sector in Asia and the Pacific.

The Water Bond is expected to have two tranches, denominated in Australian dollars and South African rand, and be issued in April. ADB will provide assistance in an amount at least equal to the net proceeds of the notes to water-related projects in Asia and the Pacific.

Source: <http://bit.ly/9GmcbU>

[2] 102 confirmed dead in north Pakistan's avalanche

February 21, 2010

Death toll from an avalanche and consequent landslide in northern Pakistan has reached 102 and 45 people are still buried in snow, a mayor in the affected area has said.

Last week, heavy snowfall and rain had caused avalanche in Saheri village, some 50 kilometers from Dasu, a main city in the Kohistan district, near the Karakorum Highway, which connects Pakistan and China, according to local police Muhammad Ilyas.

Source: <http://bit.ly/ao4xtw>

[3] Tajikistan facing water shortages and climate extremes, report warns

February 17, 2010

Falling supplies due to rising temperatures and retreating glaciers could spark conflict between water-stressed countries in the region, says Oxfam.

It has been occupied by the Russians, the Mongols, the Turks, the Arabs and the Uzbeks, the Chinese, as well as Genghis Khan. But the ancient, mountainous state of Tajikistan, which has been at the crossroads of Asian civilisations for over a thousand years, is in danger of being overwhelmed by water shortages, rising temperatures and climate extremes.

Source: <http://bit.ly/cT9l6U>

[4] Peru says Machu Picchu site to reopen in April

February 16, 2010

The famed Incan citadel Machu Picchu is expected to reopen in April after being shut last month when torrential rains cut off most access to the ancient site. The heavy rains triggered mudslides that washed away parts of the only railroad that connects the mountaintop ruins with the nearby city of Cusco.

Source: <http://bit.ly/aRzw6t>

[5] Drought causes economic loss of 952 mln USD in Yunnan Province

February 7, 2010

The worst drought in 60 years has inflicted a direct agricultural economic loss of 6.5 billion yuan (952 million U.S. dollars) in southwest China's Yunnan Province, a local official said.

The efforts have helped temporarily ease drinking water shortage for 4.25 million people and 2.42 million large livestock, and irrigate 733,333 hectares of crops, Zhou said. The drought from last July had left 4.9 million residents and 3.34 million large livestock with drinking water shortages.

Source: <http://bit.ly/buRYYi>

[6] Navies step in as natural disasters rise four-fold

February 7, 2010

With natural disasters registering a four-fold increase in the past decade owing to a variety of factors, the navies of the Asia-Pacific region are gearing up for an increasing humanitarian role and deliberating on the means to provide succour during calamities.

Source: <http://bit.ly/bmDlCw>

[7] Landslide, flood in Sukabumi damage 23 houses

February 7, 2010

Some 23 houses in Margaluyu and Cicukang villages, Sukabumi district, Indonesia are damaged due to a landslide and flood that hit the area.(Feb 5). According to information received here on Saturday, the Friday flood happened due to incessant rains in Sukabumi district since Friday (Feb 5) afternoon.

Source: <http://bit.ly/cONPhw>

[8] Gannan Grassland listed one of China's most beautiful prairies

February 4, 2010

The Gannan Grassland in Gannan Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, southwestern Gansu Province, was chosen as the fourth on the list of China's six most beautiful grasslands.

The major scenic spots there include the Gahai Lake, the largest fresh lake on the grassland and an important wetland on eastern Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, the Labrang Monastery, one of the six major monasteries for Tibetan Buddhism and the Langmu Monastery, which is almost 300 years old.

Source: <http://bit.ly/9rFmDP>

[9] Kashmir's wetlands shrinking fast

February 3, 2010

Kashmir's four premier wetlands - attraction for migratory birds from across the globe - have witnessed 28 to 50 percent shrinkage over the years.

The data provided by the Wetland Management wing of the wildlife department reveals maximum 50 percent shrinkage in Mirgund Wetland, which has reduced from four-kilometre area initially to mere two kilometres presently. It is seconded by the 38 percent area reduction in Shalbugh Wetland, 29 percent in Hokarsar Wetland and 28 percent in Haigam Wetland.

Source: <http://bit.ly/a5bRCL>

Events

[1] Great Himalaya Trail international conference, 1-2 March 2010

Contact: ekruk@icimod.org

More at: <http://www.icimod.org/?page=700>

[2] World Sustainable Energy Days 2010, 3 - 5 March 2010, Wels/Austria

More at: <http://www.wsed.at/en/world-sustainable-energy-days/>

[3] 2nd International Conference on Integrated Water Resources Management and Challenges of Sustainable Development (GIRE3D), 24 - 26 March, 2010, Agadir, Morocco

More at: <http://www.fsa.acma/gire3d/index.php?lng=en>

[4] 13th International River symposium, 11 - 14 October 2010, Perth, Australia

More at: <http://www.riversymposium.com/>

Announcements

[1] 6th Asian Regional Conference, 10 - 16 October 2010 , Yogyakarta, Indonesia

Abstract submission deadline: 28 February, 2010

Contact: secretariat @icid2010.org

More at: <http://icid2010.org/>

[2] Call for Abstracts: Humboldt Students' Conference on Sustainability

Abstract submission deadline: 1 March, 2010

Contact: hsk-nachhaltigkeit@hu-berlin.de

More at: <http://hsk-nachhaltigkeit.hu-berlin.de/>

[3] River Restoration Short course: Fluvial-Geomorphic & Ecological Tools, 7-11 June, 2010, Provence, France

Registration deadline: 1 March, 2010

More at: <http://institutbeaumont.com/>

[4] 5th Annual Natural Hazards Research and Applications Workshop, 10- 13 July, 2010 Broomfield, Colorado, USA

Application deadline: 29 March, 2010

More at: <http://www.colorado.edu/hazards/workshop/current.html>

[5] 7th International Summer Academy 'Energy and the Environment', Transnational Energy Grids: Challenges on the Way to Sustainable Energy Transmission , 18 – 31 July, 2010, Greifswald, Germany, Application deadline: 12 April, 2010

Contact: joerg.scharrer@uni-greifswald.de

More at: <http://www.rsf.uni-greifswald.de/index.php?id=gisa>

Resources

[1] ICIMOD shares results of glacial lakes studies, 22 February 2010

Available at: <http://www.icimod.org/?page=777>

[2] Training manual on agricultural water management

Available at: http://www.ilri.org/Infoserv/webpub/fulldocs/IWMI_IPMSmodules/Modules1_5.pdf

[3] Safeguarding the World's Water: 2008 Report on USAID Water Sector Activities, December 2009

Available at: <http://www.ehproject.org/PDF/ehkm/usaaid-water2009.pdf> (pdf, 9MB)

[4] Living with water stress in the hills of the Koshi basin, Nepal (2009)

Available at: <http://books.icimod.org/index.php/search/publication/667>

[5] Traditional knowledge and local institutions support adaptation to water-Induced hazards in Chitral, Pakistan (2009)

Available at: <http://books.icimod.org/index.php/search/publication/666>

[6] Asia Pacific Mountain Courier: Winter Vol. 10 No. 2, ICIMOD

Available at: <http://books.icimod.org/index.php/search/publication/678>

[7] Good Practices for Community Resilience, Practical Action Bangladesh (2009)

Available at: <http://practicalaction.org/disaster-livelihoods/docs/ia1/good-practices-community-resilience-052009.pdf>