

Dear Colleagues,

Please find below periodic thematic digest on 'Water and Hazards', Issue 9 from the Asia Pacific Mountain Network (APMN).

Regards,  
APMN team

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News  
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[1] It's getting harder to find water fit to drink

April 9, 2010

The task of providing decent water where needed is becoming increasingly difficult all across the world. As a result, about 700 million people in over 40 countries are affected by water shortages. Human encroachment on water environments is also a growing problem.

By 2030 the United Nations predicts that 75 percent of the world's population will live in coastal areas, putting at risk wetlands that help clean the water environment as well as exposing hundreds of millions of people to the water-related hazards associated with climate change.

Source: <http://bit.ly/dzxi3O>

[2] One of world largest lakes Aral Sea shrinks by 90% in 50 years

April 5, 2010

The Aral Sea, once the world fourth largest lake has shrunk almost 90% in size and was described by U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon as 'one of the world's worst environmental disasters'.

The lakes disappearance has also had a devastating effect on the fishing industry with towns on the side of the once huge lake which resembled a part of a sea making their living from it.

Source: <http://bit.ly/au8CKC>

[3] Settling the science on Himalayan glaciers

March 16, 2010

The remote glaciers of the Himalayan mountains have been the subject of much controversy, yet little research. Mason Inman looks at the clues scientists have garnered on the fate of these glaciers from ground- and space-based studies.

Source: <http://bit.ly/ca88Xa>

[4] U.N. creates Center for Asian Disaster Relief

March 21, 2010

Rattled by earthquakes, deluged by typhoons and devastated by a tsunami, Asia in recent years has repeatedly felt its vulnerability to natural disasters.

The response to disaster-stricken communities in Asia, however, will soon be bolstered by a new regional supply hub to be set up in Malaysia by the U.N. World Food Program.

Source: <http://nyti.ms/9xpiH5>

[5] Central Asia: Floods, avalanches wreak havoc

March 15, 2010

Floods have killed 34 people in Aksu District, Almaty Province, southeastern Kazakhstan, according to the government-run Kazinform news agency on 15 March.

Hundreds have been displaced and a further 926 evacuated to the provincial capital of Taldykorgan, it said.

Source: <http://bit.ly/d0ZaPk>

[6] Chinese rescuers step up search for quake survivors

April 15, 2010

Emergency teams have been pouring into western China's Qinghai province, a day after a deadly earthquake devastated the mountainous region.

Thousands of homeless people have spent the night in freezing temperatures. Officials say 617 people died and 9,980 were injured when the quake hit early on Wednesday - 313 remain missing.

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

[7] Trans-boundary Initiative for Mt Kailash Landscape conservation launched

April 9, 2010

A major transboundary project for conservation and sustainable development of the Greater Mt Kailash Region, involving India, Nepal and China has been launched under the guidance of the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD). The project is titled 'Mount Kailash Sacred Landscape Conservation Initiative: Developing a Transboundary Framework for Conservation and Sustainable Development in the Greater Mt. Kailash Region of Nepal, India & China'.

Source: <http://bit.ly/ahmZH8>

[8] Peru glacier break worries ecologists, government officials

April 13, 2010

A Peruvian glacier break that killed three people and smashed a water processing plant serving 60,000 citizens is worrying ecologists and government officials amid fears other glacier disasters may be on way but will be costly or impossible to predict.

Source: <http://bit.ly/9Dt3hM>

[9] China drought leaves millions short of water

March 17, 2010

Millions of people face drinking water shortages in southwestern China because of a once-a-century drought that has dried up rivers and threatens vast farmlands, state media reported Wednesday.

The drought has gripped huge areas of Guizhou, Yunnan, and Sichuan provinces, the Guangxi region, and the mega-city of Chongqing for months, with rainfall 60 percent below normal since September, the Global Times said.

Source: <http://bit.ly/d4FbOe>

[10] Vietnam: Drought heightens forest-fire risk

March 30, 2010

Vietnam is bracing for further forest fires because of the continuing drought. The increase in forest fires is one of the most severe and visible impacts of the drought," Pham Manh Cuong, a senior forest and environmental officer with the Vietnamese Forestry Directorate said.

Source: <http://bit.ly/ahiUv3>

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Events  
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[1] International Workshop on Advances in Flood Forecasting and the Implications for Risk Management , 25 - 26 April, 2010, Netherlands

More at: <http://www.chr-khr.org/en/international-workshop-advances-flood-forecasting-and-implications-risk-management>

[2] 5th International Conference on Water Resources in the Mediterranean Basin (WATMED5), 26 - 28 May, 2010, France

More at: <http://watmed5@univ-lille1.fr/>

[3] 2010 International climate change adaptation conference, 29 June - 01 July 2010, Australia

More at: <http://www.nccarf.edu.au/conference2010/>

[4] Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum 2010, 21 - 22 October 2010, Bangkok, Thailand

More at: [http://www.rrcap.unep.org/projects/ccakp/Adaptation%20Forum%20Announcement\\_21-22%20Oct%202010,%20Bangkok.pdf](http://www.rrcap.unep.org/projects/ccakp/Adaptation%20Forum%20Announcement_21-22%20Oct%202010,%20Bangkok.pdf)

[5] 3rd International Conference on Water and Flood Management (ICWFM 2011), 8 - 10 January 2011 Dhaka, Bangladesh

Contact: [icwfm2011@iwfm.buet.ac.bd](mailto:icwfm2011@iwfm.buet.ac.bd)

More at: <http://teacher.buet.ac.bd/dirwfm/index.html>

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Announcements  
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[1] Call for applications: International Resource Award for Sustainable Watershed Management

Application deadline: 30 April 2010

More at:

<http://www.swissre.com/pws/about%20us/corp.%20responsibility/corporate%20citizenship/swiss%20re%20resource%20award%20for%20sustainable%20watershed%20management.html>

[2] MPhil in Conservation Leadership, University of Cambridge

Application deadline: 30 April 2010

Contact: [nigel.leader-williams@geog.cam.ac.uk](mailto:nigel.leader-williams@geog.cam.ac.uk)

More at: <http://www.geog.cam.ac.uk/graduate/mphil/conservation/>

[3] Final call: CAS IWRM (Integrated Water Resource Management) 2010-2011: Integrated Water Resource Management in the context of Developing and Transition Countries, 16 – 27 August 2010, Switzerland

Application Deadline: 14 May 10

Contact: [wb.ahb@bfh.ch](mailto:wb.ahb@bfh.ch) ;

More at: <http://www.ahb.bfh.ch/ahb/en/Weiterbildung/cas/>

[4] Certificate of Advanced Studies in Disaster Risk Reduction, Vulnerabilities and Capacities in the Context of Climate Change, 6-17 September 2010, Switzerland and 8-19 November 2010, India

Application deadline: 30 May 2010

More at: <http://cooperation.epfl.ch/Jahia/site/cooperation/op/edit/pid/72010>

[5] ICID WatSave Awards – 2010 - Invitation for nominations –

Deadline 31 May 2010

More at: <http://www.icid.org/awards.html>

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Resources  
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[1] The Rural Water Livelihoods Index, FAO

[http://www.fao.org/nr/water/docs/FAOW\\_RWLI\\_paper.pdf](http://www.fao.org/nr/water/docs/FAOW_RWLI_paper.pdf)

[2] The International Classification for Seasonal Snow on the Ground, UNESCO, Paris, 2009

Available at: <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0018/001864/186462e.pdf>

[3] Progress on sanitation and drinking-water 2010 update,WHO, 2010

[http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2010/9789241563956\\_eng\\_full\\_text.pdf](http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2010/9789241563956_eng_full_text.pdf) (8.66 mb)

[4] Protection Against Severe Earthquake Risks in Central Asia, March 23, 2010

Read at: [http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2010/0323\\_central\\_asia\\_linn.aspx](http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2010/0323_central_asia_linn.aspx)

[5] Asia Pacific Human Development Report :A turning point for Gender Equality in Asia and the Pacific, 2010

Available at: [http://www2.undprcc.lk/ext/pvr/pdf/Main\\_Report.pdf](http://www2.undprcc.lk/ext/pvr/pdf/Main_Report.pdf)