

As of 19 February 2020

## **The Fourteenth Meeting of the High-level Experts and Leaders Panel on Water and Disasters The summary of the Meeting followed by the Minutes of the Meeting**

8<sup>th</sup> November 2019

Conference Room, Permanent Delegation of the Republic of Korea to the OECD, Paris, France

The Fourteenth Meeting of the High-level Experts and Leaders Panel on Water and Disasters (HELP) was held on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2019 at Conference Room, Permanent Delegation of the Republic of Korea to the OECD, Paris, France. The meeting was hosted by the Permanent Delegation of the Republic of Korea to the OECD, and was attended by some 30 participants from HELP member organizations representing national governments, international organizations, academia, civil society and the private sector.

### **I. Opening Plenary**

#### **1. Opening**

Dr. Han Seung-soo, the Chair of HELP, gave the opening remarks, followed by the welcome remarks by Ambassador Ko Hyoung Kwon, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development.

#### **2. Special Speech**

H.E. Dr. Danilo Türk, former President of the Republic of Slovenia / Chair of the Global High-Level Panel on Water and Peace and Lead Political Advisor of the Geneva Water Hub, delivered his special speech.

#### **3. Approval of the Agenda**

The proposed agenda was approved by the members.

#### **4. Discussion on HELP Matters**

Membership matters: one new member was appointed to replace retired HELP members.

Strengthening collaboration between the UN and HELP: it was reported that Ms. Taeko Yokota had been posted at the Tokyo Satellite Offices of the Centre for Regional Development (TSO-CRD), UN-DESA in GRIPS based on the agreement between UN and HELP.

#### **5. Keynote Remarks and Presentations**

Remarks were delivered by Mr. Jocelyn Bouyou Mavoungou, General Water Director of the Ministry of Water, Energy and Mines of Gabon on behalf of Hon. Norbert Emmanuel Tony Ondo Mba, Minister of Water, Energy and Mines, Republic of Gabon, and President of African Ministerial Council on Water (AMCOW); followed by H.E. Mr. Kunihiro Yamada, Vice-Minister for Engineering Affairs, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT), Japan; and Mr. Loic Fauchon, President of World Water Council (WWC).

Presentations were given by Ms. Kirsi Madi, Director of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR); followed by Mr. WooChong Um, Director General concurrently Chief Compliance Officer, Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department, Asian Development Bank (ADB); Dr. Youssef Filali-Meknassi, Director of Division of Water Sciences, Secretary of the

International Hydrological Programme, UNESCO; and Dr. Jerome Delli Priscoli, Chair of Global Water Partnership (GWP) Technical Committee .

## **II. Plenary Discussion**

The Plenary Discussion consisted of four parts; 1) Collaboration with Water for Peace; 2) The Disaster caused by Typhoon Hagibis in October 2019 in Japan; 3) Follow-up discussion in the UN on Cyclone Idai in March 2019 - How HELP can contribute to “Build Back Better” the affected countries (Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Malawi) - and 4) Preparation for the next conference and opportunities to raise awareness and promote discussion on water and disasters.

The programme of “Blue Peace” from Ms. Nadia Benani, Programme manager, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), was presented. In responding to the speech by Dr. Danilo Türk, the participants had discussions on the collaboration with “Water for Peace” initiatives, and agreed to continue to help raise the profile and promote discussions on water for peace in the global agenda.

The participants were then briefed on the recent disasters from the summer and autumn, such as Typhoon Faxai, and Typhoon Hagibis in Japan.

With regards to Cyclone Idai in March 2019, ICHARM and JICA reported on the follow-up activities, and concluded that HELP would keep reminding the international community of the long-lasting efforts by affected countries. It was announced that the Secretariat would ask HELP members for input in terms of information and ideas.

Finally, the participants were briefed on upcoming conferences and opportunities, such as the Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, 4<sup>th</sup> Asia-Pacific Water Summit and 9<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum.

## **III. Breakout Sessions**

Four breakout sessions were organized as below.

1. Financing and Investing chaired by Mr. Kunihiro Yamada, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT), Japan and moderated by Mr. Kazushi Furumoto, MLIT
2. Science and Technology chaired by Dr. Gretchen Kalonji, Dean, Institute for Disaster Management and Reconstruction, Sichuan University
3. HELP Flagship Documents chaired by Dr. Jerome Delli Priscoli, Chair of GWP Technical Committee and Dr. Kenzo Hiroki, Professor at GRIPS
4. Climate Change by Mr. Tomoyuki Okada, Chief Researcher, International Center for Water Hazard and Risk Management (ICHAHM), Japan

## **IV. Plenary Discussion**

After the breakout sessions, chairs/moderators of the above breakout sessions presented the recent activities of the Flagship Actions and reported their session summaries to the members.

It was proposed by the Secretariat that the next meeting of HELP be held tentatively on 27th May and the venue be in ADB headquarters, followed by the dialogue with ADB and Asian Countries’ representatives on 28th May. In addition, it was also proposed that the subsequent meeting of HELP be held tentatively on 18th October, followed by 4th APWS in Kumamoto, Japan and it was also announced that a High level session organized by HELP was being planned in the 4th APWS. The

International Symposium on Water and Culture –Learning from Water Heritage to Innovate Regional Development – was also presented.

The global process on DRR, Water, and Water & Disasters to Midterm review of the Water Action Decade in 2023 and the role of HELP were shared with members.

Finally, Dr. Han Seung-soo, the Chair of HELP provided the wrap-up and closing remarks. He thanked the participants for their contributions and informed participants that the minutes of the meeting would be circulated from the Secretariat in due course.

## **Minutes of the Meeting**

### **I. Opening Plenary**

#### **1. Opening**

##### **Opening Remarks by Dr. Han Seung-soo, Chair of HELP**

First off, Dr. Han Seung-soo expressed his appreciation to Ambassador Mr. Ko Hyoung Kwon, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to OECD for hosting the 14th HELP meeting. He recalled the success of the 4th UN Special Thematic Session on Water and Disasters in June 2019, which focused on the issues of Hurricanes Idai and Kenneth. In response to the successive water-related disasters in the world after the UN Special Session, he stressed the importance of sharing lessons learned from those disasters.

He then introduced Professor Danilo Turk, former President of Slovenia and Lead Political Advisor to Geneva Water Hub as a special guest and speaker, and remarked that HELP and the Global High-Level Panel on Water and Peace could create collaborative initiatives.

Regarding the HELP initiatives, he reported on the launch of the Alliance of Alliances on DRR Research in Chengdu, China on June 4, 2019, which discussed the Alliance's concrete strategy for the next few years. He also mentioned the first edition of the HELP Annual Report on Water and Disasters released in the UN Special Session and asked HELP members to contribute new articles to the next edition (due mid-2020). He suggested that HELP should take the next step in dealing with climate change issues and financing for water-related DRR.

Lastly, he stressed that HELP had to raise more awareness on the issues of water and disasters and needed to take more concrete actions for a disaster-free world.

##### **Welcome Remarks by Ambassador Ko Hyoung Kwon, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development**

Ambassador Mr. Ko Hyoung Kwon welcomed all participants to the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to OECD and introduced the history of the Permanent Representative. He began with highlighting his personal relationship with Dr. Han, who was his professor 35 years ago. He explained that the current building had been owned by the Permanent Representative since 2004 and that Dr. Han was one of its founding fathers and served as Chair of the OECD Ministerial Council meeting in 2008.

Mr. Ko acknowledged HELP in promoting the awareness on water and disaster issues, stressing the fact that water is a source of life and a key for sustainable growth for all. He explained that water-related disasters account for 90% of all disasters in terms of the number of affected people and stated that technological advances can cope with risks of water and sanitation.

He recognized the important role HELP plays in sharing lessons for building society's resilience through the UN Special Sessions and the HELP Annual Report on Water and Disasters.

#### **2. Special Speech**

##### **H.E. Dr. Danilo Türk, former President of the Republic of Slovenia, Chair of the Global High-Level Panel on Water and Peace and Lead Political Advisor of the Geneva Water Hub**

Dr. Danilo Türk firstly expressed his pleasure in attending again a HELP meeting, following his attendance at the last New York meeting in June 2019. He said he expected that the intense discussions on water by international organizations would continue until the mid-term review of the Water Action Decade in 2023 and considered this a great opportunity for cooperation. He reported that the members of the Global High-Level Panel on Water and Peace gathered in the Budapest Water Summit and designed their future activity plan targeting the 9th World Water Forum in Senegal and the mid-term review.

He introduced the Geneva List of Principles on the Protection of Water Infrastructure, which aim to solve global water conflicts. He stressed that the Panel on Water and Peace and HELP have common concerns about how to ensure water cooperation in coping with natural and man-made disasters. He also introduced two good examples of flood and drought management: cooperation in the International Sava River Basin Commission, and the exchange of water data between India and China.

He then proposed three areas of possible cooperation between the Panel on Water and Peace and HELP: 1) systematic cooperation in hydrological data as means of preventing conflict; 2) water related peace and stability in Sahel region, which requires political solutions through “safe space discussion”; and 3) preventive measures and financing in the Gambia river basin.

He promoted the Blue Peace Index as a good tool to strengthen river basin cooperation, and proposed discussion with the European Union through water diplomacy for disaster management.

He concluded his speech by expressing his expectation for further cooperation between the two Panels in disaster prevention and world peace.

### **3. Approval of the Agenda**

After Prof. Kenzo Hiroki briefly explained the draft agenda, the agenda was approved by the participants.

### **4. Discussion on HELP matters**

**Membership matters:** Dr. Kenzo Hiroki, Professor at GRIPS, presented the new member: H.E. Mr. Kunihiro Yamada, Vice Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, Japan, who replaced Mr. Michio Kikuchi, former Vice Minister of Land Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism; who was approved. In addition, participants were informed that H.E. Mr. Basuki Hadimuljono would continue as Vice Chair of HELP having been appointed as Minister of Public Works and Public Housing (PUPR) under the new Indonesian Cabinet.

**Strengthening collaboration between the UN and HELP:** Dr. Kenzo Hiroki announced that Ms. Taeko Yokota had been posted at the Tokyo Satellite Offices of the Centre for Regional Development (TSO-CRD), UN-DESA in GRIPS based on the agreement between UN and HELP.

### **5. Keynote remarks and presentations**

**Remarks by Hon. Norbert Emmanuel Tony Ondo Mba, Minister of Water, Energy and Mines, Republic of Gabon, and President, African Ministerial Council on Water**

On behalf of Hon. Norbert Emmanuel Tony Ondo Mba, who could not attend the 14th HELP meeting, Mr. Jocelyn Bouyou Mavoungou, General Water Director of the Ministry of Water, Energy and Mines, Gabon, introduced the Minister’s remarks.

Mr. Ondo Mba stated that disaster risk reduction is an important aspect of water management but not properly addressed in Africa. He stressed that factual and quantified scientific data on all aspects of water-related disasters in Africa remains insufficient or non-existent, together with the lack of capacity to mitigate disasters.

He explained the recent natural disasters in Africa, such as floods in Ethiopia and Somalia in October 2019, floods in the Central African Republic, heavy rain flash flood in Cairo, Egypt in October 2019, and so on.

He pointed out that the challenge exists in identifying appropriate and timely adaptation measures in the ever-changing environment. The priority areas of research and capacity building are risk management as a strategy for adaptation, benefits of the earth observation system, and improved communication. Moreover he proposed five solutions to strengthen the policies and institutions in

Africa: 1) Expand programme of Action for African Regional DRR Strategy, 2) Increase support from African Regional Economic Communities, 3) Enhance the capabilities of the National and Regional Specialized Climate Centers, 4) Improve the knowledge of risks based on historical disaster data, and 5) Develop multi-risk financing strategies.

#### **Remarks by H.E. Mr. Kunihiro Yamada, Vice-Minister for Engineering Affairs, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, Japan**

Mr. Kunihiro Yamada reported on the recent flood disaster in Japan caused by Typhoon Hagibis last month, leaving around 100 people dead or missing, and damaging nearly 80,000 houses. He explained that the devastating typhoon disrupted local economies and reminded Japanese people of the importance of early warnings and evacuation. He also stated that the enhanced infrastructure proved to be effective in minimizing damages, using Yokohama's multi-purpose retarding basin as an example. He stressed that we must always be aware that disasters will certainly happen and that we must raise people's awareness on water-related disasters. Even in Japan, people tend to forget and care little about DRR as time goes by after disasters. Especially, he emphasized, highly-motivated leaders should take the critical decisions needed and HELP could serve for this purpose.

In his conclusion, he encouraged the participants to share their lessons learned so that the world could effectively improve its DRR policies and prevent future disasters. He called for fostering the global culture of effective disaster management.

#### **Remarks by Mr. Loic Fauchon, President of World Water Council (WWC)**

Mr. Loic Fauchon firstly raised a question: how should we prevent, evaluate and prepare for issues where preserving the nature and preserving humankind are closely linked? He pointed out that climate change often becomes a scapegoat for human mistakes.

He made the point that water scarcity is as important as floods because two to three billion people are affected by water shortages globally. He explained that disasters due to excess water need short-term action, while the lack of water often requires several years to be recovered from.

He mentioned that WWC is promoting a concept of "neo dam" and we need to find the right balance of water between humans and nature. He proposed the two ways of improving water efficiency: thrifty water management of dams, canals, etc., and a sustainable way of reducing food waste. He stressed the importance of awareness raising, behavioral change, and digitization. He also promoted non-conventional water and energy observatory, such as desalination, reuse of wastewater, rainwater harvesting, and so on. He encouraged more hydro-diplomacy, for example, conflict resolution of the dispute between Egypt and Ethiopia. Lastly, he invited the participants to the 9th World Water Forum in Senegal on March 22-27, 2021.

#### **Presentation by Ms. Kirsi Madi, Director, UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)**

Ms. Kirsi Madi introduced two key concepts discussed during the UN General Assembly in September 2019, namely, the Decade for Action and acceleration of impacts. She explained that the changing risk landscape was also discussed in the last Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in May 2019 and that we should treat disaster risks in a systemic and effective way. She emphasized that prevention pay offs and investments in DRR pay dividends in multiple sectors. UNDRR is accelerating the Sendai Framework Target (e), which means Member States make, implement, and report DRR strategies. She informed participants that 94 countries already reported their national and local DRR strategies and that the goal of Target (e) is 150 countries by 2021.

She stressed the fact that many displacement cases happen not due to conflict but, to disasters. She explained that UNDRR's making cities more resilient campaign is very successful in mobilizing local communities into DRR actions. Regarding the Sendai Framework monitoring, 125 countries already reported data, targeting 150 countries by 2021. In 2020, UNDRR plans to identify challenges in the monitoring and data collection.

She introduced the special report on drought problems to be published during the Africa Regional Platform in the first quarter of 2021, and the newly launched guideline for the National Adaptation Plans. In conclusion, she stressed that it is critical to invest in DRR and reduce humanitarian costs.

**Presentation by Mr. Woochong Um, Director General concurrently Chief Compliance Officer, Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department, Asian Development Bank (ADB)**

Mr. Woochong Um explained that ADB used to focus on sector works but had realized the need to go upstream and to focus more on disaster preparedness. He stated that almost 75% of disaster damages over the last 30 years were water-related in the 10 highest disaster risk countries. He introduced ADB's Strategy 2030: Achieving a Prosperous, Inclusive, Resilient, and Sustainable Asia and the Pacific (published last year), and listed its seven operational priorities. One of the seven priorities is related to resilience, that is, tackling climate change, building climate and disaster resilience, and enhancing environmental sustainability.

He then informed participants that ADB is preparing guidelines to mainstream integrated flood risk management, which includes five steps for risk reduction, providing the example of an early warning system through cellphones in the Philippines. Moreover, ADB is working with insurance and reinsurance companies and mobilizing private sector funds. He reported that the transition of ADB investment in flood management increased from \$95 million in 2011 to \$1.21 billion in 2020.

He also explained that ADB was preparing the 4th Asian Water Development Outlook (AWDO), to be published for the 4<sup>th</sup> Asia-Pacific Water Summit.

**Remarks by Dr. Youssef Filali-Meknassi, Director of the Division of Water Sciences, Secretary of the International Hydrological Programme, UNESCO**

Dr. Youssef Filali-Meknassi explained that UNESCO supports the scientific and technical capacities of Member States through its International Hydrological Programme (IHP), which has a mandate to leverage science and technology. He also explained to participants that the name of IHP would change from International to Intergovernmental based on the decision of the Member States. IHP benefits from a network of 169 national committees, 36 water-related UNESCO Centres, 58 water-related UNESCO Chairs, and a total of over 3000 water experts worldwide. He mentioned that the current IHP Phase VIII stresses water security, and local, regional and global challenges, setting water-related disasters as one of six themes.

He explained the importance of transboundary cooperation especially in the area of flood and drought management, because 153 sovereign states share transboundary rivers and lakes. He assured participants of UNESCO's commitment to support international activities, such as HELP, Alliance of Alliances, International Flood Initiative, and International Drought Initiative.

**Presentation by Dr. Jerome Delli Priscoli, Chair, Global Water Partnership (GWP) Technical Committee**

Dr. Jerome Delli Priscoli explained the economic impacts of floods and droughts by showing the relationships between rainfall and GDP growth in Zimbabwe and Ethiopia. He stressed that investment in DRR is a key to economic development.

He introduced the Integrated Drought Management Programme and the Associated Programme on Flood Management as GWP's joint initiatives with the World Meteorological Organization. Their HelpDesk interface is supported by around 60 partner organizations. He introduced GWP's report entitled Climate Insurance and Water-related Disaster Risk Management, which focuses on climate insurance contributing to resilience and promoting investment in prevention. Another publication he introduced is the UNFCCC Technical Guidelines for the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) Process. He explained that only 13 developing countries submitted a NAP out of 153, although all countries are mandated to prepare a NAP by 2020. He also stressed the importance of financing multipurpose infrastructure, which diversifies distribution of benefits, and revenue streams over time. He

concluded stating that GWP tries to break silos by bridging the climate community, the development and finance community, and the water community.

## **II. Plenary Discussion**

Dr. Han Seung-soo chaired the Plenary Discussion. It consisted of four parts; 1) Collaboration with Water for Peace; 2) The Disaster caused by Typhoon Hagibis in October 2019 in Japan; 3) Follow-up discussion initiated at the UN on Cyclone Idai in March 2019 - How HELP can contribute to “Build Back Better” the affected countries (Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Malawi) - and 4) Preparation for the next conference and opportunities to raise awareness and promote discussion on water and disasters.

### **Discussion on collaboration with Water for Peace**

The programme of “Blue Peace” from Ms. Nadia Benani, Programme manager, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) was presented. Dr. Kenzo Hiroki, HELP Secretariat, explained the collaboration with Switzerland (Geneva Water Hub, SDC, and the Swiss Government) to strategically raise the profile and promote discussions on water for peace.

With responding to the speech by Dr. Danilo Türk, the participants had discussions on the collaboration with “Water for Peace” initiatives, and agreed to continue to help raise the profile and promote discussions on water for peace in the global agenda.

The following comments were made:

Mr. Jack Radisch, Senior Project Manager, OECD, mentioned the importance of how to collect and analyze the data and information in view of the economy.

Gretchen Kalonji, Sichuan University, suggested the international collaboration with higher education to promote this initiative, and inclusion to the initiative of the Alliance of Alliances.

Dr. Danilo Türk, former President of the Republic of Slovenia / Chair of the Global High-Level Panel on Water and Peace, stressed the significance of indicators to generate political will and that it should be highlighted accordingly. In addition, institutional frameworks between related organizations would be an important component.

Dr. Youssef Filali-Meknassi, Director of the Division of Water Science, UNESCO, asked what is the purpose of the indicator, and it was explained that it was to identify the area to be improved, not for international comparisons.

Dr. Jerome Delli Priscoli, GWP Technical Committee, proposed there should be collaboration between “Water and Disasters” and “Water for Peace” initiatives.

Dr. Johanness Cullmann, Director, Climate and Water Department, WMO, stressed that the role and focus of HELP in the additional approach to Blue Peace should be clarified.

Dr. Kenzo Hiroki mentioned there was work with the Asia-Pacific Water Forum, in consultation with Swiss colleagues, to produce a target for the Asia Pacific Region on “water for peace” by using the Blue Peace Indicator.

### **Report on the disasters caused by Typhoon Hagibis in October 2019 in Japan**

The participants were then briefed on the recent disasters of the summer and autumn, such as Typhoon Faxai, and Typhoon Hagibis in Japan from Kazushi Furumoto, Director for International Coordination of River Engineering, International Affairs Office, River Planning Division, Water and Disaster Management Bureau, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT), Japan. He also explained the effect of the investment for preparedness for the discharge channel in Kano River basin.

### **Following-up Cyclone Idai from March 2019 – How HELP can contribute to “Build Back Better” affected countries (Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Malawi)**



First, Dr. Kenzo Hiroki briefed participants on the purpose of this discussion on the follow-up activities for Cyclone Idai. Dr. Kazuhiko Fukami, Deputy Director, International Center for Water Hazard and Risk Management (ICHARM), presented the water disaster platform to enhance climate resilience in Africa (WADiRE-Africa) and capacity building focusing on water hazards and risk management.

Mr. Toshiro Suzuki, Senior Director, Disaster Risk Reduction Group, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), presented the post disaster needs assessment for Cyclone Idai

Dr. Kenzo Hiroki concluded stating that HELP would keep reminding the international community of the long-lasting efforts by affected countries with the possible package including regularly raising awareness on needs through the biennial Special Thematic Session on Water and Disasters, calling for attention for ongoing/proposed projects and programs to build back better affected countries, and promoting educational programs to enhance capacities of government officials.

### **Preparation for the next conference and opportunities to raise awareness and promote discussion on water and disasters**

Finally, the participants were briefed on the next conference and opportunities. Mr. Cees van de Guchte, Director Global Agendas and International Organizations, Deltares, presented a draft of the new strategy of the HELP Flagship Initiative on Water-related Disasters and Climate Change Adaptation, including three actions, such as promoting its position paper on Climate Change and developing the guidance note for practitioners.

Ms. Kirsi Madi, Director, UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), presented the Regional Platforms for DRR in 2020, including the Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Australia and the 7th Regional Platform for DRR for the Americas in Jamaica, based on the key messages for the 2019 Global Platform.

Mr. Kevin Chretien, Project officer, World Water Council, presented the 9th World Water Forum in Dakar, Senegal. The overarching theme “Water Security for Peace and development” and Four multi-stakeholder priorities were introduced.

## **III. Breakout Discussion**

### **Breakout Session 1: Financing and Investing**

The session was chaired by Mr. Kunihiro Yamada, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT), Japan and moderated by Mr. Kazushi Furumoto, MLIT. Firstly, Mr. Yamada explained the objective of this session, and the 10 participants discussed how to focus on the next steps of the Principles, following the publication of the Principles.

Mr. Jack Radisch, Senior Project Manager, OECD, suggested there be more explanatory documents, such as cost benefit analysis, including intangible values, for persuading the financial sector, and a collection of good practices and evidence related to the Principles. He also mentioned the difficulty of collecting data and the importance of the collaboration with related organizations.

Mr. Michel Szoenyi, Zurich Insurance Company stressed / supported the establishment of a database collecting good practices, such as the Flagship document of case studies. He also suggested the effectiveness of tracking the transition of terminology described in disaster risk reduction policies.

Mr. WooChong Um, Asian Development Bank, introduced the recent strategic directions for addressing water-related disasters in Asia and the Pacific and reported an increase of investment in flood management. Ms. Nadia Benani, Programme Manager, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), shared the expectation of sharing this strategy with other donors.

From the aspect of climate change adaptation, Mr. Tomoyuki Okada, Chief Researcher, International Center for Water Hazard and Risk Management (ICHARM), stressed the importance of

collecting information not only in view of climate change, but also in view of the impact to industry, such as agriculture.

Mr. Jocelyn Bouyou Mavoungou, Ministry of Mines, Energy and Hydraulic Resources of Gabon mentioned that the track towards achieving the target of the Principle depends on the circumstances of each country.

### **Breakout Session 2: Science and Technology**

The session was chaired by Dr. Gretchen Kalonji, Dean, Institute for Disaster Management and Reconstruction, Sichuan University.

In the session, the first topic discussed the challenges related to staffing. It was discussed that one of the potential solutions for staffing issues could be an exchange program of staff with existing organizations, such as UNESCO and WMO. It could be done through secondment or rotation of the staff within the existing organizations among the Alliance. The potential of working with under-utilized talent such as the retired researchers was also mentioned.

The second discussion topic was the themes for building collaboration throughout the Alliance. The participants agreed that all have a communication challenge; therefore, to build partnerships with media would be useful. One of the examples mentioned was to have a short course on water and disasters for journalism schools, and media training for hydrology students. Other areas of focus mentioned during the session were: multiple use of infrastructure, return on investment and the mapping of water and disaster research education.

It was also discussed that having effective mechanisms for collaboration among the Alliance was important and that it should be done together with Youth. As another way to strengthen the collaboration among the Alliance, it is suggested to leverage the existing large-scale multinational initiatives which have major implications on water and disasters.

The Chair of the breakout session stated her appreciation for the enthusiasm among the current members of the Alliance and said that the Alliance would be open to new members.

### **Breakout Session 3: HELP Flagship Documents**

Future actions were discussed related to the Flagship Documents of HELP.

Dr. Jerome Delli Priscoli, Chair of the GWP Technical Committee explained that the updated Flagship document “Drought Policies -Case Studies on Mega-droughts” will be published, and that the next edition of the Water Policy Journal would focus on adapting risk-based engineering for climate uncertainties.

Dr. Kenzo Hiroki, Professor at GRIPS, explained that the next issue of “HELP Global Report on Water and Disasters”, would cover the disasters of 2019 and would be launched in the middle of 2020 at the 4th Asia-Pacific Water Summit (4th APWS), and would include a report of major disasters.

The participants confirmed the Flagship documents consist of thematic documents and the annual report.

### **Breakout Session 4: Climate Change**

The session was chaired by Mr. Tomoyuki Okada, Chief Researcher, International Center for Water Hazard and Risk Management (ICHARM), Japan.

Two documents prepared by the Netherlands were distributed for discussion, that is, “Prevention of Water-related Disaster Risk: bringing principles into practice – Proposal on guidance for practitioners” and “Droughts: At the Intersection of Water, Climate, and DRR - Briefing Document.”

Firstly, Mr. Okada briefly introduced the contents of the first document as well as the comments of HELP advisors who had gathered on the previous day. Then he invited participants for comments on

the document. Dr. Johannes Cullmann, WMO supported the proposed guidance and mentioned that reference document is available in WMO, UNESCO, UNDRR, etc. He suggested that the proposed guidance should be tailored to climate change and utilized for awareness raising. Mr. Woochong Um, ADB said climate change affects not only the water sector but all sectors. Dr. Cullmann further explained that Germany predicts a future rise in sea level and should immediately start discussions on the adaptation to climate change, which could be triggered by the proposed guidance. He also stressed the importance of project characteristics, such as objective, feasibility, and depreciation rates of a feasibility study. Mr. Um emphasized the two aspects of climate change: 1) matters of urgency, and 2) preparation for the unexpected event. He showed the example of Mongolia that experiences *zud* disasters from cold weather, and the melting permafrost due to climate change. Mr. Jack Radisch, OECD suggested that the proposed guidance can influence the loan policy of financiers.

Secondly, Mr. Okada briefly described the contents of the second document focusing on droughts and relayed the favorable comments of HELP advisors on developing this briefing document. In the following discussion, Dr. Jerome Priscoli, GWP, pointed out that the description of an advisor's comment "IWRM is focusing on water allocation" is not appropriate. Prof. Kenzo Hiroki, GRIPS, requested further clarification of the briefing document, such as, time frame of development, position and target (avoiding duplication with others), and support for development. He emphasized the characteristics of droughts, which gradually start from regular times, and suggested that the briefing document can follow a similar development process as the flood document.

#### **IV. Plenary Discussion**

Moderators of the above breakout sessions presented the recent activities of each flagship actions and reported their session summaries to the members.

Dr. Kenzo Hiroki explained the tentative plan for the next HELP meeting. He mentioned that it would be held on 27th May at ADB headquarters in Manila, followed by the dialogue with ADB and Asian Countries' representatives on 28th May. In addition, it was also proposed that the next, next meeting of HELP be held tentatively on 18th October, followed by the 4th Asia-Pacific Water Summit (4th APWS) in Kumamoto, Japan, with a planned high-level session to be organized by HELP in the 4th APWS. Dr. Hiroki also shared information on the global process and the role of HELP on DRR and Water to Midterm review of the Water for Action Decade in 2023.

Finally, Dr. Han Seung-soo, the Chair of HELP provided the wrap-up and closing remarks. He thanked the participants for their contribution and informed participants that the minutes of the meeting would be circulated from the Secretariat in due course.