

The Fifteenth 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

29th May 2020

Remote Online Meeting

The Fifteenth Meeting of the High-Level Experts and Leaders Panel on Water and Disasters (HELP) was held on 29th May 2020 by remote online meeting via Zoom. The meeting was attended by 84 participants from HELP member organizations representing national governments, international organizations, academia, civil society and private sectors.

I. Opening Plenary

1. Opening

Dr. Han Seung-soo, Chair of HELP gave the opening remarks.

2. Approval of the Agenda

The proposed agenda was approved by the members.

3. Discussion on HELP matters

Membership issue: One new member, three replaced members, and two new advisors were appointed.

4. Keynote remarks by HELP members

Remarks were delivered by Mr. Basuki Hadimuljono, Minister of Public Works and Housing, Republic of Indonesia, Mr. Roald Lapperre, Vice Minister of Environment and International Affairs, Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management, Kingdom of the Netherlands on behalf of Ms. Cora van Nieuwenhuizen, Minister of Infrastructure and Water Management, Mr. Janez Lenarčič, Commissioner, Crisis Management, European Union, Mr. Kunihiro Yamada, Vice Minister for Engineering Affairs, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, Japan, Mr. Bambang Susantono, Vice President for Knowledge Management and Sustainable Development, Asian Development Bank, Mr. Damon Lilly, Senior Executive Service, US Army Corps of Engineers Pacific Ocean Division, Mr. Janos Bertok, Director for Public Governance, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, Mr. Yusuke Amano, Senior Vice President, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Prof. Howard Bamsey, Chair, Global Water Partnership, Mr. Loic Fauchon, President, World Water Council, Dr. Kuntoro Mangkusubroto, Professor of BIT, Republic of Indonesia, and Mr. David Boys, Deputy General Secretary, Public Services International.

II. Plenary Discussion

1. Discussion on the 2020 HELP Actions under the Covid-19 Pandemic

Dr. Kenzo Hiroki, Professor at National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS), proposed future activities including symposium and a workshop. Professor Emily Ying Yang Chan, Professor and Centre Director, Collaborating Centre for Oxford University and CUHK for Disaster and Medical Humanitarian Response (CCOUC), Hong Kong showed a conceptual map that indicated the

way to approach DRR and resilience improvement. Dr. Ryoma Kayano, Technical Officer of WHO Centre for Health Development, Kobe, Japan briefed the Health Emergency and Disaster Risk Management (Health-EDRM) approach to Covid-19.

Dr. Hiroki explained the HELP 2020 Action Plan, including “Principles to Address Water-related DRR under Covid-19” by providing the rationale for the proposed principles and the drafting process and explaining the ten principles and the next steps. Then the Chair, Dr. Han Seung-soo and the participants approved the proposal.

Dr. Hiroki continued to explain about the HELP 2020 Actions and Mr. Bambang Susantono, Vice President of ADB, expressed willingness to support them. Dr. Hiroki also described upgrading the HELP Flagship actions reflecting recent changes and summarized the HELP actions adapting to / coping with Covid-19.

2. HELP Flagship Initiatives under Covid-19

Mr. Niels Vlaanderen, Netherlands introduced the Updating HELP Position Paper on Climate Change and Water Related DRR as Flagship Initiative on Climate Change. Mr. Michael Szoenyi made a comment showing a slide about resilience lessons from 2019 Cyclone Idai and Cyclone Kenneth. Mr. Kazushi Furumoto, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, Japan, made a presentation about the activities of Financing and Investment for Water-related DRR. Dr. Tetsushi Sonobe, Dean of Asian Development Bank Institute, explained ADBI’s three types of studies.

Prof. Koike, Director, ICHARM, introduced the idea of alliance of alliance. Prof. Gretchen Kalonji introduced the Initial Activities taken by HELP AoA. Mr. Pradip Khatiwada explained the vision and mission of the HELP AoA activities. He stressed strong coordination and collaboration for empowering youth and young professionals in Science, Engineering, Technology and Innovation in DRR at the global level as their vision. Prof. Koike explained about developing a portal in collaboration with various sectors. Prof. Gretchen Kalonji emphasized that making interdisciplinary in health communities or more traditional water related DRR community is the top priority. The guides for flood DRR under Covid-19 developed by Dr. Koyama, Associate professor at Gifu University, Dr. Kanbara, professor at University of Kochi, and Dr. Ohara, Senior Researcher of ICHARM were introduced.

III. Closing

Dr. Han Seung-soo stated it was the first time to conduct an online meeting and it was an extraordinary one. He informed that HELP would work very hard to study how to deal with the double disasters, water-related disasters and Covid-19 and announced that HELP would host the 4th UN Special Thematic Session on Water and Disasters in 2021.

Minutes of the Meeting

I. Opening Plenary

1. Opening

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

Dr. Han announced that the final draft of the “Principles to Address Water-related DRR under Covid-19” would be confirmed by the members at the meeting. He mentioned that the draft had been translated into French, Spanish, Japanese and Indonesian and would be translated into Hindi soon. These principles will be used by local practitioners, volunteers and citizens. He sincerely thanked the members and advisors of HELP for contributing to directly helping local people and stated that the actions should not stop for the completion of these principles.

He announced that an international online conference would be held to address water-related disaster risk reduction attended by high level delegates all over the world and that the HELP report on water-related disaster in 2020 will be incorporated by sharing the actions and experiences under Covid-19. He mentioned that the 16th meeting of HELP would be held in autumn 2020 and that the initiatives led by the members would be strengthened by adding new elements in order to cope with the Covid-19 pandemic.

2. Approval of Agenda

The proposed agenda was approved by the members.

3. Discussion on HELP matters

Membership issue:

A new member was announced.

Dr. Subin Pinkayan, Chairman, Board of Trustees, Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), who formerly served as Minister of Foreign Affairs, Commerce and University Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand.

The following three replaced members were announced.

H.E. Mr. Pascal Houangni Ambouroue, President of the African Ministers’ Council on Water (AMCOW) / Minister of Water, Energy and Mines of Gabon,

Mr. Janez Lenarčič, Commissioner of Crisis Management, European Union, and

Mr. Janos Bertok, Director for Public Governance, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

Two new advisors were announced.

Dr. Tetsushi Sonobe, Dean, Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI), and

Mr. Thomas Panella, Chief of Water Sector Group, Asian Development Bank

All the new members were approved.

4. Keynote remarks by HELP members

Mr. Basuki Hadimuljono, Minister of Public Works and Housing, Republic of Indonesia, firstly explained the recent water-related disaster in Indonesia. Extreme rainfall had been causing more floods. He stated that 570 floods had already been reported since the beginning of 2020 and that 31,000 people were affected by Greater Jakarta floods in January. For another issue, the Covid-19 pandemic, Indonesia has taken various response measures. The Ministry of Public Works and Housing secured a budget of 700 million US dollars this year for programs including flood mitigation activities.

Mr. Roald Lapperre, Vice Minister of Environment and International Affairs, Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management, Kingdom of the Netherlands, gave a keynote remark on

behalf of Ms. Cora van Nieuwenhuizen, Minister of Infrastructure and Water Management. He mentioned that Build Back Better is the only way forward after Covid-19, which could be achieved by accelerating transformation toward local infrastructure, green jobs, and resilience. He introduced two important developments by the Netherlands; the Global Commission and Adaptation to proactively prepare for climate change and the first-ever online global climate adaptation summit scheduled in January 2021 to offer real solutions to make the post Covid-19 world more resilient.

Mr. Janez Lenarčič, Commissioner, Crisis Management, European Union, introduced EU's dedication to providing strong and sustained response to Covid-19 crises. He stated climate change and water-related disasters remain as bigger threats than before the Covid-19 pandemic and that it is crucial to bring high-level political attention to the importance of strengthening the resilience of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene sectors against the spread of Covid-19 and climate change threats

Mr. Kunihiro Yamada, Vice-Minister for Engineering Affairs, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, Japan pointed ex-ante disaster risk reduction is more important in terms of reducing the number of evacuees, and national resilience will be indispensable to achieve both pandemic prevention and economic revitalization. He added promoting cooperation among related stakeholders had been also carried out by sharing information and awareness regarding prevention of Covid-19 pandemic as well as water-related disaster management.

Mr. Bambang Susantono, Vice President of Knowledge Management and Sustainable Development, Asian Development Bank, reported ADB's approach to the Covid-19 pandemic and its contribution to member Asian countries. ADB provided a \$20 billion aid package and has been conducting activities corresponding to the HELP Principles for Covid-19. ADB also contributed to risk reduction in West Bengal, India during Cyclone Amphan, by providing plans and technology for preparedness and response.

Mr. Damon Lilly, Senior Executive Service, US Army Corps of Engineers Pacific Ocean Division, explained USACE's approach to water-related disaster risk reduction under Covid-19 by continuing to deliver the mission, responding to mitigate Covid-19 impacts, and planning and preparing for DRR scenarios under Covid-19. USACE has been performing roles and responsibilities while ensuring the safety precautions as in the recent flood response by dam operation in Alaska, which had been done safely and successfully despite the Covid-19 threat.

Mr. Janos Bertok, Director for Public Governance, The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, introduced the OECD Council report on managing water risks and disasters. The contents are; actions taken to assess water-related risks, actions to manage transboundary risks in shared river basins, raising awareness of exposure to water-related risks, sustained investment in water related DRR and risk governance. Mr. Bertok encouraged HELP members to use the findings of the report and stated that OECD stands ready for deeper collaboration with member countries.

Mr. Yusuke Amano, Senior Vice President, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), referred to JICA's response to Covid-19 and the importance of DRR investment under the Covid-19 pandemic. JICA is contributing to achieving human security under the Covid-19 pandemic by providing financial assistance to developing countries damaged by Covid-19 and technical assistance to essential workers. Mr. Amano also emphasized the importance of DRR investment for resilience of vulnerable people to reduce risk of post disaster and Covid-19 before the next disaster.

Prof. Howard Bamsey, Chair, Global Water Partnership, stated that GWP would continue to implement what had been asked, focusing on water security, pragmatic solutions and problems in the

water sector, particularly responses to potential disasters. GWP will increase investments in various resources to help local people. Prof. Bamsey expressed strong support to HELP Principles and Actions for Covid-19 and the importance of the implementation of principles.

Mr. Loic Fauchon, President, World Water Council, pointed out that water is an essential human right as a precautionary regime in the pandemic. The situation is likely to get worse by population growth, migration and increased settlements in vulnerable areas. Lack of preparedness will make tens of millions of people homeless. The global situation caused by the pandemic revealed sanitary risks. An immediate solution is needed to deliver WASH access as well as a long-term response of strengthening water security in multi-sectors for all fundamental needs. Water security will be a focus point at the World Water Forum 2021 in Dakar.

Dr. Kuntoro Mangkusubroto, Professor of Bandung Institute Technology (BIT), Republic of Indonesia, expressed his concerns that governments and communities would face difficulties in disaster management during the time of global pandemic. In preparations for these hardships, he focused on “hard and soft structures” consisting of four themes; “leadership” of decision-making with imperfect and overwhelming information, “information system” for collecting the right information for decision-making, “legal framework” such as UN disaster zoning for hospital locations for simplifying and speeding up disaster management and “international cooperation.”

Mr. David Boys, Deputy General Secretary, Public Services International, expressed concerns about keeping public service workers safe. Due to the lack of preparation, public service workers including health and medical, ambulance and sewage workers are not available for enough personal protective equipment during the Covid-19 pandemic. He also expressed concerns about unemployment, shrinking governments and climate change. He stressed that we must strengthen public service delivery.

II. Plenary Discussion

1. Discussion on the 2020 HELP Actions under the Covid-19 Pandemic

HELP activities between the 14th and 15th Meeting and breakout of Covid-19

Dr. Kenzo Hiroki, Professor at GRIPS and HELP Secretariat, introduced the International Symposium on Water and Culture held on February 3rd, 2020 at GRIPS in Tokyo. In presence of the Emperor and Empress of Japan, 260 participants from 43 countries and regions attended the symposium. He also introduced the Kick-Off Workshop on Formulation of Integrated Trijuga River Basin Plan held in Nepal, which was to assist Nepal in formulating the concept of the integrated Trijuga River Basin disaster risk reduction plan by using HELP principles on financing and investment.

Briefing on Covid-19 and DRR by guest speakers

Professor Emily Ying Yang Chan, Professor and Centre Director, Collaborating Centre for Oxford University and CUHK for Disaster and Medical Humanitarian Response (CCOUC), Hong Kong showed a conceptual map that indicated the way to approach DRR and resilience improvement. She also introduced Health-Emergency and Disaster Risk Management (Health-EDRM). Regarding management, she explained about hierarchy of prevention. There are some timings of intervention to prevent health risk for disaster. She also referred to water disaster and biological hazard (Covid-19) and explained the effects of waterborne and vector borne diseases caused by a wide range of bacteria,

viruses and protozoa. She stressed that the effects of vector borne diseases depend on factors such as climate, altitude, population density and specific environmental requirements of the various mosquito species.

Dr. Ryoma Kayano, Technical officer of WHO Centre for Health Development, Kobe, Japan, briefed Health Emergency and Disaster Risk Management (Health-EDRM) approach for Covid-19. WHO published Health-EDRM framework last year. He introduced five Covid-19 research & development activities by WHO. He explained the conceptual framework for WHO Health EDRM and hazard management. WHO is planning for research on Health-EDRM in the context of Covid-19. The research deals with health emergency mechanisms. Among the research topics are; focusing on community risk acceptance and their behavior, risk communication, health system preparedness, service delivery and health workforce development (education and training). He stressed that the issues should be addressed to the research.

HELP 2020 Actions under Covid-19

Dr. Kenzo Hiroki explained the HELP Actions in 2020. He made the presentation on “Principles to Address Water-related DRR under Covid-19”. After talking rationale for proposing the principals and the drafting process, he showed and explained the following ten principles:

- Principle 1: Enhance leaders’ awareness on disaster risk reduction (DRR) in the pandemic
- Principle 2: Integrate risk management of disasters and pandemics
- Principle 3: Provide clean water, sanitation and hygiene sustainably during and after disasters
- Principle 4: Protect disaster risk management stakeholders from the threat of Covid-19
- Principle 5: Protect scarce medical resources from disaster impact
- Principle 6: Protect disaster evacuees the from threat of Covid-19
- Principle 7: Protect Covid-19 patients from the threat of disasters
- Principle 8: Develop Specialized Evacuation Guidance for Cities and Areas under Covid-19 Lock-Down
- Principle 9: Finance DRR actions under Covid-19 effectively to avoid economic catastrophe
- Principle 10: Strengthen global solidarity and international cooperation to cope with these co-occurring challenges towards building our world back better

Dr. Hiroki also described the following plans as the next steps:

- The principles to be uploaded to HELP Website by Monday, June 2nd.
- Draft principles in French, Spanish, Indonesia, Chinese and Japanese have been produced. Hindi version will be uploaded in a week. Versions in other languages will be produced upon suggestion/request of Members.
- Secretariat in cooperation with Members and Advisors will produce “HELP Water-related DRR Manual under Covid-19 for Practitioners and Citizens” based on the Principles.
- The principles will be updated periodically. etc.

The Chair and the participants of the HELP Members approved the principals and next steps.

As one of example of learning lessons from Covid-19, Dr. Hiroki, in cooperation with Sayako Watanabe of GRIPS, introduced “an analysis on Covid-19 and Leadership” that shows correlations between the daily number of cases and support rate to national leaders in eight counties. He mentioned leaders’ quick actions may be positive impacts for their nations and HELP actions would contribute to leaders’ decisions on pandemics like the Covid-19.

Dr. Hiroki continued to explain about the HELP actions in 2020 which include the “International Online Conference in August to Address Water-related DRR under Covid-19”, “HELP Web-based

Communication on Water and Disasters under Covid-19”, “Virtual side event in High Level Political Forum of UN (tbd)”, training workshops and so on.

Dr. Hiroki also described upgrading HELP Flagship Actions reflecting recent changes including Covid-19, which are Climate Change Adaptation, Financing and Investment for Water-related DRR, Alliance of Alliance for Water-related DRR, and New Flagship by HELP for input to post-Sendai Process.

Lastly Dr. Hiroki summarized HELP actions adapting to/coping with Covid-19.

Mr. Bambang Susantono, Vice President of ADB, made two comments following Dr. Hiroki’s presentation. One is that ADB is happy to support the International Online Conference, which is timely and important. The other is that ADB would like to have a strong community-based conference not only for protecting communities but also for developing their own management, and if the members permit, ADB will follow up with HELP Secretariat to put the project on the table.

2. HELP Flagship Initiatives under Covid-19

Flagship Initiative on Climate Change (the Netherlands)

Mr. Niels Vlaanderen, Netherlands, introduced Updating HELP Position Paper on Climate Change and Water Related DRR as Flagship Initiative on Climate Change. He proposed three items; Droughts, Policy Coherence, and Value of Resilience for the Economy. Then, he showed two papers; Drought Briefing and OECD report on Policy Coherence. Drought is an emergent issue in Netherlands, therefore, she stressed that better understanding of changes in global drought characteristics and their socioeconomic impacts in the 21st century is urgently needed. He also explained the OECD report, which has common ground between the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework. Finally, she stated that Position Paper update would be prepared with HELP Advisors from July to September and that final draft would be prepared for endorsement with HELP members at the 16th HELP meeting.

Mr. Michael Szoenyi made a comment showing the slide, “Resilience Lessons from 2019 Cyclone Idoi and Cyclone Kenneth.” He expected that OECD, World Economic Forum, UN and HELP would contribute to coordinating and collaborating with other organizations more in the near future.

Flagship Initiative on Financing and Investment for Water-related DRR (Japan)

Mr. Kazushi Furumoto, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, Japan, made a presentation about the activities of Financing and Investment for Water-related DRR. He mentioned that there were two goals of the principles for financing and investment for water-related DRR. He introduced that dissemination and practice are the main issues for the activities now. He introduced the Kick-Off workshop for Project Formulation using Principles on Investment and Financing for Water-related DRR held on February 13, 2020, in Kathmandu, Nepal. Then he explained the future direction of this flagship initiative during and after Covid-19. Good practices for DRR under pandemics such as reducing the number of evacuees and supporting guidance for implementation of principles are indispensable for the next step. He stressed that accumulating good practice for DRR under Covid-19 is very important, however, as it would take a very long time, we need to strive with persistence.

Dr. Tetsushi Sonobe, Dean of Asian Development Bank Institute, former vice president of GRIPS, explained that ADBI had three types of studies related to water and disasters under the previous

Dean, Professor Naoyuki Yoshino. The first type of studies related to water and disasters was the empirical and theoretical studies of financing of infrastructure investment, especially how to encourage the private sector to participate in infrastructure development. The second was to develop a flood forecasting system using big data and risk communication theories. The third type of studies was to organize policy dialogue with ICHARM conducted last January. He concluded that ADBI would study using big data to answer the question what kind of correct actions should be effective under what conditions.

Flagship Initiative on Alliance of Alliances for Water-related DRR Researches (ICARM and Sichuan University)

Prof. Koike, Director of ICHARM, introduced the idea of alliance of alliances and its concept using PPT figures and Dr. Chen, Hong Kong University, added her comments.

Prof. Koike introduced the workshop held in Chengdu in July last year. There are 14 organizations based on this workshop. He explained their various challenges toward policy targets discussed in the workshop. The policy targets include evidence-based policy making and community of practice, knowledge integration to be shared with society, balancing investment, strengthen national platform, and water for peace.

Prof. Gretchen Kalonji introduced the Initial Activities taken by HELP AoA. She explained about establishing the AoA secretariat at Sichuan Univ., enabling youth leadership, making catalog/mapping of existing alliances and their activities including the people database.

Mr. Pradip Khatiwada explained the vision and mission of the HELP AoA activities. He stressed that strong coordination and collaboration for empowering youth and young professionals in Science, Engineering, Technology and Innovation in DRR at the global level as their vision. He also introduced U-INSPIRE Alliance's Engagement in Covid-19.

Prof. Gretchen Kalonji stressed that the Covid-19 situation was very tragic. Horrible consequences worldwide, then, strategic opportunity probably should be doing in the public space. She emphasized the importance of linking water related disasters with health emergency disaster risk management communities. She also emphasized that making interdisciplinary connections in health communities or more traditional water related DRR community was a top priority.

Prof. Koike explained about developing a portal in collaboration with various sectors. There are three activities they conducted in this portal. One was the guide for flood DRR under Covid-19 which was developed by Dr. Koyama, associated professor at Gifu University, and Dr. Kanbara, professor at Univ. of Kochi. The second one was developed by Dr. Ohara, senior researcher of ICHARM, the critical situation reviews of the past flood incidents. She is now combining this guide and these reviews into one recommended action for flood DRR under Covid-19. The third component was the standardized operation procedure for flood risk management taken by municipalities and local government. This SOP was developed by the University of Tokyo, which is shared with Cabinet Office of Japanese Government through all of the prefectures of Japan. This SOP is now being shared with all of the municipalities in Japan.

III. Closing

Dr. Han Seung-soo, Chair of HELP, stated that it was the first time to conduct an online meeting and it was an extraordinary one. He informed that HELP would work very hard to study how to deal with the double disasters, water-related disasters and Covid-19, while the intensity of storms are being exacerbated by climate change and water disaster prone areas had been already contaminated

by Covid-19. He announced that HELP would host the 4th UN Special Thematic Session on Water and Disasters at UN Headquarters in New York in 2021 and asked the members for good advice and ideas on how to conduct it successfully. He thanked the participants for their attention and wished all the members best in this difficult period and that their countries would overcome Covid-19 as soon as possible.