

**Message from the Joint Sessions of the People's Republic of China,
Japan and Republic of Korea**

March 21, 2006

Flood Management (16:45-18:45, March 21)

River Restoration in the Asian Monsoon Region (16:45-18:45, March 20)

Water Resources Information System (14:30-16:30, March 21)

Co-convened by:

Ministry of Water Resources, People's Republic of China

Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, Japan

Ministry of Construction and Transport, Republic of Korea

On the occasion of the 4th World Water Forum, the People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea held three joint sessions on the 20th and the 21st of March, 2006 to discuss the issues of "Flood Management", "River Restoration in the Asian Monsoon Region" and "Water Resources Information System". After overall and profound discussions on these issues, we have reached an agreement on delivering the international community such messages as follows:

Flood Management

1. Since the international community has recognized that human beings can never control flood completely, but should learn to live with floods and make room for floods, the shift from conventional Flood Control to Flood Management is inevitable and essential for achieving harmonious coexistence between mankind and nature. Flood management consists of structural and nonstructural measures, including flood hazard mapping, community-based flood fighting organizations, land use regulation and guidance, flood forecasting and warning systems, utilization of floodwater, in harmony with river environment and ecosystems as well as different water uses.
2. There is a growing consensus that floods, like other natural disasters, must be viewed as a worldwide problem requiring concerted action. At the national level, we call for the action of central and local governments, and cooperation among multi-stakeholders, including civil society, private sector, scientific community, and the general public. At the regional and international level, we encourage the sharing and exchange of data, information, knowledge and experience and further collaboration among relevant stakeholders to reduce vulnerability and make the best prediction and forecasting tools available to decision makers and water managers.

River Restoration in the Asian Monsoon Region

3. Deterioration of river ecosystems around the world has become one of the greatest global problems. It has been recognized that river restoration is of vital importance to the improvement of river ecosystems and socio-economic sustainable development in parallel with flood management and water use management. It is necessary for the countries in Asian monsoon region to establish the suitable methodology and technology for river restoration, considering the characteristics of their river basins such as dense population, frequent and severe flooding, and abundant rice paddy.
4. As a result of complexity of river ecosystems, river restoration is a task of multi-discipline and multi-organization, which requires the joint participation of river scientists and engineers, environmental scientists, ecologists, water managers and the public. Meanwhile, it is important to

develop a database and an Asian network of projects and knowledge of international experts in river restoration in order to share experience and knowledge. Consequently, it is essential to carry out collaborative research and personnel exchange among organizations in different regions or countries. It is urgent to establish a river restoration guideline suitable for the Asian monsoon region as a reference for countries with similar social and natural conditions. The guideline will be designed to foster an understanding of the varied conditions and challenges for different countries and a knowledge that can be shared, and to promote international undertakings in restoration of river systems.

Water Resources Information System

5. Integrated water resources management has been widely recognized by international community as an effective approach to sustainable management and utilization of water resources, disaster management. It becomes a matter of vital importance and extreme urgency to establish unified water resources information systems for the integrated water resources management (IWRM). And the modern information technology has provided IWRM with an excellent technical platform, making it possible to establish the systems nationwide or worldwide to be user-friendly, efficient and effective for decision makers to manage water resources as well as citizens to obtain the appropriate information so as to cope with their own water-related issues at community level.

6. The high priority of monitor precipitation, water level, water flow, water quality, ground water and water use etc., is needed to facilitate efficient water management. The central, local governments and government-affiliated organizations should join their efforts to conduct water monitoring services. For more efficient water management, measured data need to be shared among all related organizations. Therefore the water resources information system provides an integrated tool for the connection with monitoring system and decision support for policy making and public service.

There is still a long way to go before us. We hope that our three countries could join our hands with the international community to carry out broader, deeper and more comprehensive communication and cooperation in water resources and flood management, river restoration, construction of water resources information system and any other water-related fields, in order to spread the knowledge and experience all over the world and contribute the technology to mankind.