

INTERNATIONAL SEDIMENT INITIATIVE NEWSLETTER

Reporting ISI news to you quarterly

No. 1 July 17 2006

ABOUT ISI

1. HISTORY

The International Sediment Initiative (ISI) is a new global initiative to assess erosion and sediment transport to marine as well as their social, economic and environmental impacts, lake or reservoir environments. It is aimed at the creation of a holistic approach for the remediation and conservation of surface waters, closely linking science with policy and management needs. The International Hydrological Programme Intergovernmental Council, at its 15th session (Paris, June 2002), adopted Resolution XV-8 specifically to deal with these issues. Resolution XV-8 emphasized the development of the decision support framework for sediment management, in order to provide guidance on legislative and institutional solutions, applicable to different socio-economic and geomorphic settings. One of the recommendations of the resolution was the establishment of an international Steering Committee to develop the ISI strategy along with the participation of UNESCO officials. This Steering Committee, formerly known as ISI Task Force Group, was approved and endorsed at the IHP's 16th Session of the Intergovernmental Council. The Steering Committee has met four times since 2002, and the fifth meeting is scheduled for November 2006 in Khartoum, Sudan.

2. OBJECTIVES OF ISI

Through international cooperation in the area of erosion and sediment management, ISI aims to:

- ✧ Strengthen, at global level, awareness about the importance of erosion and sediment processes and their impacts.
- ✧ Promote exchange of information on relevant data, monitoring and management methods, including the use of global environmental observation systems.
- ✧ Foster cooperation in erosion and sediment – related research and education.

3. MAIN ACTIVITIES & PROJECTS

(1) Global Evaluation of Sediment Transport (GEST Project)

GEST assesses the sediment budgets in river basins and estimates the total sediment load entering the ocean to

create a global repository for data, information and documentation on soil erosion and sediment transport.

(2) Initiation of case studies for river basins as demonstration projects

Case studies will offer examples of monitoring and data processing techniques, procedures and methodologies for analysis of environmental, economic and social impacts, and evaluation of management practices.

(3) Setting up a global erosion and sediment information system

The information system would be comprised of at least three main components:

- Database to be generated from GEST and case studies.
- Global Sediment Portal with links to other data sources such as ICOLD, GEMS/Water, USGS, EOLSS, ICID, SedNet, publications, etc.
- Documentation on information development, showing how to extract information out of scarce, scattered and unreliable data, and instructions on how to set up sediment databases for river basins in different parts of the world.

(4) Review of sediment related research

Information on ongoing research is an important contribution to the operation of the databases and information systems; however the inadequacy of knowledge about various aspects of erosion and sediment phenomena hinders progress in addressing key sedimentation problems.

(5) Education and capacity building for sustainable sediment management

Identifying multiple modes of education to satisfy regional requirements and interests in different socio-economic and eco-hydrological settings is a medium term priority.

(6) Networking

Open to collaboration with all interested institutions, international, regional or national associations, ISI aims to establish close working contacts with international, regional, and national projects, programmes, and networks, such as SedNet, GEOSS, NGOs, etc.

4. STRUCTURE

ORGANISATION: UNESCO

Szöllösi-Nagy, András	UNESCO, Paris
Thein, Khin Ni Ni	UNESCO, Paris
Jayakumar, Ramasami	UNESCO, Beijing
Neupane, Bhanu	UNESCO, New Delhi

ISI URL: <http://www.irtces.org/isi/>

ISI STEERING COMMITTEE

Chairman: Spreafico, Manfred Switzerland

Members:

Basson, Gerrit	South Africa
Brils, Jos	the Netherlands
Bruk, Stevan	Serbia
Di Silvio, Giampaolo	Italy
Golosov, Valentin	Russia
Hotchkiss, Rollin H.	USA
Julien, Pierre	USA
Karki, Pravin	UK
Liu, Cheng	China
Moattassem El Qotb, M. El.	Egypt
Novillo, Marcelo Gavino	Argentina
Robarts, Richard	Canada
Walling, Desmond E.	UK
Yazdandoost, Farhad	Iran
Wang, Zhao-Yin	China

ISI TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT

IRTCES under auspices of UNESCO
P.O. Box 366, 20 Chegongzhuang West Rd.
Beijing, 100044, China
Fax: +86-10-68411174
<http://www.irtces.org/>

Secretary-General:

Hu, Chunhong China

Advisor:

Jayakumar, R. UNESCO, Beijing

Contact

Liu, Cheng China

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Newsletter Layout and Production:

ISI Technical Secretariat

The ISI Newsletter is sent quarterly to ISI-Steering Committee members and interested experts. Please send your contributions to the Chairman of ISI SC at manfred.spreafico@bafu.admin.ch or ISI technical Secretariat at chliu@iwhr.com.

China and UNESCO signed an agreement concerning IRTCES (November 2005)



On 30 November 2005, the agreement between the government of the People's Republic of China and the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization concerning the International Research and Training Centre on Erosion and Sedimentation (IRTCES) was signed by Mr. Wang Shucheng, Minister of Water Resources, P.R. China and Mr. Koïchiro Matsuura, Director General of UNESCO in Beijing.

IRTCES was established in 1984 as a centre operating under the auspices of UNESCO and has since been a significant partner of UNESCO's International Hydrological Programme (IHP). The renewed agreement reiterated the objectives and responsibilities of IRTCES, defined the relationship between IRTCES and UNESCO, and confirmed the leading role of IRTCES in the field of international research on sedimentation. The renewed agreement will serve as an important international window for China's water sector. It will also serve as a bridge and linkage for international sedimentation researchers to carry out academic communication, technical training and programme cooperation.

The agreement signing ceremony was attended by Mr. Zhang Xuezhong, Ambassador and Permanent Delegation of the People's Republic of China to UNESCO, Mr. Gao Bo, Director-General of Department of International Cooperation, Science & Technology, Ministry of Water Resources, Mrs. Meng Zhimin, Deputy Director-General of Department of International Cooperation, Science & Technology, Ministry of Water Resources, Mr. Kuang Shangfu, Director of IRTCES and Mr. Hu Chunhong, Deputy Director and Secretary-General of IRTCES.

UNESCO delegates included Mr. Yasuyuki Aoshima, Director and Representative of UNESCO Office Beijing, Ms. Emiko Marmier-Murai, Chief of Section, Asia and Pacific Section in Sector for External Relations and Cooperation, Ms. Amita Vohra, Executive Officer, Office of Director General of UNESCO and Mr. R. Jayakumar, Programme Specialist of Science, Technology and Environment of UNESCO Office Beijing. (by Cheng LIU)

For details, please visit website:

<http://www.irtces.org/zt/Signingceremony.asp>



Meeting of Mr. Koïchiro Matsuura, Director General of UNESCO and Mr. Wang Shucheng, Minister of Water Resources, People's Republic of China (November 2005)



On 30 November 2005, Mr. Wang Shucheng, Minister of Water Resources, P.R. China met with Mr. Koïchiro Matsuura, Director-General of UNESCO and his delegates during their visit to P. R. China.

The two parties exchanged views on issues that both parties concerned. Mr. Koïchiro Matsuura, Director General of UNESCO recognized the importance of International Research and Training Centre on Sedimentation and Erosion (IRTCES) in carrying out the research, training and international networking of scientists and engineers in the field of sedimentation, erosion and related issues within water as a main focus. UNESCO appreciates the services of IRTCES and wanted to renew the two decade old agreement with more action oriented. Category II institutes under UNESCO are really an asset for UNESCO, and UNESCO would like to see all the institutes in the field of water work together in a common platform for the betterment of the world.

Mr. Wang Shucheng, Minister for Water Resources, P. R. China pointed out that, China is now facing four serious water problems: flood, drought, water pollution and land degradation. During the long-term process of dealing with water, the water concept in China has been transformed from "man succeeds nature" in the past to "man coexists with nature". Sediment problem is an important component for China's water issue. China has accumulated rich experiences as well as lessons through long-term river training and harnessing practice. China would like to share these research results with other countries, and at the same time China would also like to learn successful experiences from other countries. China would like to cooperate with UNESCO to find out effective solutions for the water and sedimentation problems among member states. (by Cheng LIU)

International Training Workshop on Watershed Eco-environment and Water Resources Management, Sept. 11-19, 2005, IRTCES Beijing, China

Within the framework of UNESCO's Intergovernmental Programme for the "International Hydrological Programme (IHP-VI)" activities under International Sediment Initiative (ISI), UNESCO Office Beijing in collaboration with IRTCES organized the International Training Workshop on Watershed Eco-environment and Water Resources Management from Sept. 11-19, 2005 at IRTCES, Beijing, China. In order to

have wider participation and dissemination of knowledge UNESCO Office Beijing offered equal number of participation from outside its cluster countries. By taking this opportunity UNESCO Office Tehran and UNESCO Office Almaty sponsored candidates from their cluster countries. This kind of inter-cluster activity is more welcomed by the member states in terms of sharing knowledge and experience with other cluster countries. There were 25 participants from China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Mongolia, Republic of Korea, Islamic Republic of Iran, Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan. The training workshop was aimed at the trainees mastering the fundamental knowledge, modern technology, method and new concept in this field and to exchange practical experiences among the participants. The topics and contents of the training workshop included:

1. Basic theories on mechanics of sediment transport
2. Fluvial processes
3. Watershed eco-environment management
4. Water resources management
5. Laboratory and field study
6. Exchanging information and experiences among participants

The training workshop included lectures in classroom, demonstrations in laboratories of IWHR and field trip at the Soil and Water Conservation Station of Yanqing County, and seminar.

The internal evaluation done by UNESCO Office Beijing indicated that the results were very much encouraging and the same kind of workshops would be organized in the coming years.

For details, please visit website:

http://www.irtces.org/WebNews_View_en.asp?WebNewsID=379



Opening Ceremony of the Training Workshop



Laboratories visiting



Group Photo

National Workshop on Advanced Sediment Measurement Techniques successfully held in Zhengzhou, China (November 2005)



As one of UNESCO-IHP-ISI activities, the National Workshop on Advanced Sediment Measurement Techniques organized by IRTCES was successfully held on November 23 to 25, 2005 in Zhengzhou, China. More than 40 experts, scholars and engineers in this area attended the workshop. The workshop was aiming to promote the development and application of sediment measurement techniques.

The topics of the workshop includes sediment measurement techniques in physical models, in rivers, in reservoirs and estuaries. In the workshop, new theories, new measurement techniques, new measuring equipments development were discussed. The participants also visited the Yellow River Experimental Base and the field measurement stations on the Yellow River.



Summary of ISI Yellow River Basin Case Study

In recognition of the increasing importance of erosion and sedimentation processes for water resources management, the IHP Intergovernmental Council adopted a resolution during the 15th session of its International Sediment Initiative (ISI). Subsequently the ISI Task Force has formulated a project proposal on the Global Evaluation of Sediment Transport (GEST) to develop representative case studies to verify the socio-economic and environmental risks caused by erosion and sedimentation. One case study identified by the Task Force Group is the Yellow River Basin of China. The

Yellow River is well-known as one of the most heavily – sediment- laden rivers in the world. The case study of the Yellow River contributed to the ISI project for increasing awareness of sedimentation and erosion issues. The study would promote sustainable management of soil and sediment resources and advising on policy development and implementation. IRTCES completed the case study in phased manner and come out with final report.

ISI - Yellow River Basin Case Study Summary can be free downloaded at website:

<http://www.unescobeijing.org/projects/view.do?channelId=004002002001002002>

ISI Workshop was held at Sheraton Hotel, Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt on 9-10 November 2005



On November 9-10, 2005, the ISI Workshop was successfully held at Sheraton in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt. The opening was attended by the following distinguished representatives who addressed the meeting: Prof. M. Spreafico the Chairman of ISI Steering Committee, Dr. Ir. Khin Nini, the Chief Sustainable Water Management Section, Division of Water Science, Prof. M. Gaweesh Vice-Chairperson of National Water Research Center (NWRC), Prof. Radwan El Weshah Regional Advisor for Water Sciences of UNESCO Cairo Office, Prof. M. El Moatassem Elqotb NWRC. Prof. M. El- Moatesssem the Local Organizer opened the session and welcomed the participants and observers, emphasizing the importance of this workshop.

In the two days' workshop, the members of ISI Steering Committee delivered their presentations on Sediment Budget, Collection, Analysis and Utilization of Data, and Education and Training.

The 4th Steering Committee Meeting was held at Sheraton Hotel, Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt on 11 November 2005

The fourth Steering Committee Meeting was held at Sheraton Hotel, Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt on 11 November 2005, fifteen participants attended the meeting. At the opening of the meeting, Dr Ir Khin Ni Ni Thein, Chief of Sustainable Water Management Section Division of Water Sciences, UNESCO, gave a presentation on the history of the IHP Programme and the UNESCO water related centers. She introduced the objectives and the governance structure of the IRTCES and informed the meeting on the recent agreement between UNESCO and IRTCES which was renewed for the next six years. In the meeting, the organizational matters, such as the role of UNESCO headquarters, the role of ISI Secretariat at IRTCES, and the role of the Steering Committee were discussed. Prof. Manfred Spreafico, Chairman of ISI Steering Committee, briefed the meeting on the status of the ISI Strategy Document, which is in the final stages of editing. The case studies of Rhine River, Danube River, the Yellow River, the

Mississippi River and the Nile River were presented. It was decided that possibilities of getting further case studies would be explored. Other issues of working groups for database, state-of-the-art in sediment research, education and training, networking, observatory, ISI conference and so on were also reported and discussed.

ISI Database Working Group Meeting was held at Sheraton Hotel, Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt on 12-13 November 2005

On 12-13 November 2005, the Database Working Group Meeting was held at Sheraton Hotel, Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt. According to the decisions of the 3rd ISI Steering Committee Meeting (Vienna, 28 – 30 April 2005), a working group consisting of 2 subgroups was set up. The mandate of the 1st subgroup is to elaborate the contexts, contents and related matters, while that of the 2nd group is to decide the system side. In the two days' meeting, the members of the two subgroups discussed the related issues. It is decided that the database would be located in the IRTCES. The name of the database would be "ISI Information System", which including three parts: "Info development" consisting of examples, trainings, SMIO and measurement, "Info repository" consisting of database example and case studies, and "Info access" consisting of database links and other links.

The main frame of the ISI information System is expected to be ready by early November 2006.

The 3rd ISI Steering Committee Meeting was held in Vienna on 28 – 30 April 2005

On 28 – 30 April 2005, the 3rd ISI Steering Committee Meeting was held at the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management Department VII, Vienna, Austria. Nineteen participants of UNESCO officers, ISI Steering Committee members and observers attended the meeting. The outcomes of the meeting summarized as the following:

1. STRATEGY DOCUMENT OF ISI The proposal was made that the name "International Sedimentation Initiative" shall be changed to "International Sediment Initiative". The ISI brochure of 4-6 pages shall be made based on the draft document.

2. REPORT AND DISCUSSION (1) CASE STUDIES FROM LARGE RIVER BASINS: The Steering Committee members decided to adopt in general the common guideline for the case studies at this stage. (2) AN OVERVIEW OF ISI NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES IN SOUTH AND EAST ASIA: The communions with other programmes within IHP, e.g. G-WADI, Eco-hydrology, FRIEND, HELP, IFI/P will be sought. The conclusion of MOU with International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) may be considered. The close cooperation between UNESCO Beijing office and IRTCES will continue. (3) DATABASE: A working group consisting of 2 subgroups will be set up and discuss about the database issues. The mandate of the 1st subgroup is to elaborate the contexts, contents and related matters, while that of the 2nd group is to decide the system side. (3) STATE-OF-THE-ART IN SEDIMENTATION RESEARCH: The prepared documents will be submitted to any magazines, technical reports or Journals after some modification. The possibility will be sought to submit the editorial of the ISI activities to, e.g., the Journal of Hydraulic Research, International Journal of Sediment Research, or any other possible media. (4) EDUCATION AND TRAINING UNDER THE LEAD OF IRTCES: The training and education programs in IRTCES are continuously carried out. The regional courses in South American region especially for professionals are kept in active. The possibility of the

education and training activities in UNESCO-IHE will also be sought. The possibility to send the professionals to the developing country instead of inviting them to a region should also be considered. (5) NETWORKING: ISI will cooperate more closely with IAHR and IAHS-ICCE. Keep sending information of ISI to ISSS, ASCE, WASER, IASWS, IAHR, ICCORES, FRIEND, HELP, SedNet etc. will be helpful for expanding the network. The possibility of MOU conclusion between ASCE and UNESCO may be considered. (6) EOLSS: The possibility of the interaction between EOLSS and ISI will be considered. (7) OBSERVATORY: The strategy of SMIO and its cooperation with IRTCES and GEMS-Water will be further elaborated in database working group.

3. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS Following the recommendation of the IHP-IC, it is decided to locate the Secretariat of ISI at IRTCES, China. This function will be legally activated in November after the renewal of the agreement on IRTCES between UNESCO and Ministry of Water Resources, China.

4. MEETINGS, WORKSHOPS AND CONFERENCES The 4th Steering Committee meeting will be held on 9-11 November 2005 in Scharm el Scheik, Egypt. The 5th Steering Committee meeting will be held at IRTCES, Beijing, 1st May 2006. Participants from India, Teheran, Russia also expressed their strong wishes to host the subsequent ISI SC meetings.



CONFERENCE REPORT

Conference Report: Ninth International Symposium on River Sedimentation (Oct. 18-12, 2004, Yichang, China)



The Ninth International Symposium on River Sedimentation (9th ISRS) has been successfully held on Oct. 18 to 21, 2004 at the site of the partially completed Three Gorges Project on the Yangtze River near Yichang of Hubei Province, China. The Symposium is organized by the Ministry of Water Resources, People's Republic of China (MWR), sponsored by International Research and Training Center on Erosion and Sedimentation (IRTCES), Changjiang River Water Resources Commission (CWRC), China Institute of Water Resources and Hydropower Research (IWHR) and Chinese Hydraulic Engineering Society (CHES). Twenty nine organizations including the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), International Association of Hydraulic Engineering and Research (IAHR), International Association for Hydrological Sciences (IAHS)

and National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC) are co-sponsors.

A total of 450 scientists, engineers, researchers and decision makers from 40 countries, including officials from international organizations, government Departments and other organizations attended the important technical event. Mr. Shucheng WANG, Minister of the MWR, Lisheng SUO, Vice Minister of the MWR, Dr. A. Szollosi Nagy, Deputy Assistant Director General of the UNESCO, Dr. Christopher George, Executive Director of the IAHR, Prof. Kuniyoshi Takeuchi, President of the IAHS and Prof. Desmond E. Walling, newly elected President of the World Association for Sedimentation and Erosion Research (WASER) and other VIPs attended the Symposium and made opening addresses.

The ISRS is a triennial conference series initiated in 1980 by the Chinese Scholars and supported by UNESCO. Since then, eight such symposia have been held in Asia, America, Europe and Africa, respectively. The IRTCES, being authorized by UNESCO, has served as the permanent secretariat for the organization of the ISRS. This Symposium is the pageant for the scientists and engineers from all over the world to exchange information and strengthen cooperation and friendship.

The theme of the 9th ISRS is "interactions between fluvial systems and hydraulic projects and pertinent environment impacts". Under this central theme, six topics are suggested for in-depth discussion, namely large-scaled hydraulic projects and their impacts, river sedimentation, estuarine and coastal engineering, environmental problems in sedimentation, Soil and water and Sediment information. Twelve Keynote lectures were presented in the Plenary Sessions, they are:

Lisheng SUO: River Management and Eco-Environment Construction in China

Kuniyoshi TAKEUCHI: Importance of Sediment Research in Global Water System Science

Sam S.Y. WANG: River Sedimentation and Morphology Modeling

Guoying LI: Keeping the Yellow River Healthy

Leo C VAN RIJN: Estuarine and Coastal Sedimentation Problems

Zhen LIU: Soil and Water Conservation in China

K.G. RANGA RAJU: SEDIMENT MANAGEMENT IN HYDROELECTRIC PROJECTS

Des E. WALLING: Using Environmental Radionuclides to Trace Sediment Mobilisation and Delivery in River Basins as an Aid to Catchment Management

Zhaoyin WANG: Interactions Between Fluvial Systems and Large Scale Hydro-Projects

Ren ZHANG: Sediment Research for the Three Gorges Project on the Yangtze River since 1993

Sven HARTMANN: Sediment Management of Alpine Reservoirs Considering Ecological and Economical Aspects

Jinyou LU: Progress of Sedimentation Research for the Yangtze River

About 200 papers were presented in the Parallel Sessions, among which three special sessions were organized, namely, sediment problems in hydraulic engineering, observation and measuring technique of river sedimentation, and simulation technique on river sedimentation. There were also several poster paper presentations. The lectures, presentations and discussions covered a very wide range of objectives related to river sedimentation, such as hydroprojects and their impacts on fluvial processes and ecological system in rivers, flood control and river training, reservoir sedimentation and its management, headworks and desilting chambers, harbours and waterways, bridge and bed scour, sediment abrasion and energy dissipation, estuarine and coastal processes, debris flows and landslides, sediment biochemical processes and sediment quality, surface erosion and sediment yield, erosion control and watershed management, GIS and RS application, climate change and its impact, hydraulics and fluvial dynamics, physical and mathematical modeling, erosion and sediment measurement, and modern information technique, etc. A rich mixture of theory and practice was provided with a number of notable case studies on some projects and rivers from five continents, including, for example, the Three Gorges Project (TGP) and Yangtze River, and the Xiaolangdi Reservoir and Yellow River in Asia, the Aswan High Dam and Nile River, and the Lake Victoria in Africa, the Mississippi River in North America, The Belo Monte Reservoir and Xingu River in South America, the Rhine and Danube rivers in Europe, Erapah Creek in Oceanica and others. All the lectures and contributions are highly appreciated for their advancement and good quality.



Opening Remarks by Dr. A Szollosi-Nagy, Deputy Assistant Director General of UNESCO



Prof. Lisheng Suo delivering keynote lecture



Question



Three Gorges Project visiting



Vice Minister Lisheng SUO meeting with Dr. A.Szollosi Nagy



Minister and Vice Minister of Water Resources of China meeting with council members of newly inaugurated WASER

WASER, the World Association for Sedimentation and Erosion Research, has been inaugurated during the 9th ISRS. The objectives of WASER are: 1) to promote the study and development of science of erosion and sedimentation interpreted in its widest sense and 2) to foster the application and dissemination of knowledge of sedimentation and erosion. Prof. Desmond E. Walling was elected as the President, Prof. C. Ted Yang and Prof. G. Di Silvio were elected as the Vice President and Prof. Zhao-Yin Wang as the Secretary-General. Dr. A. Szollosi-Nagy, UNESCO representative, Dr. Christopher George, IAHR Executive Director, Prof. Kuniyoshi Takeuchi, IAHS President, Prof. Zhimin Meng, Deputy Director-General of Department of International Cooperation, Science & Technology, MWR. and Prof. George Gergov, representative of WASWC made congratulation speeches in the inauguration.

Four volumes of the proceedings published by the Tsinghua University Press contain the keynote and invited lectures and selected papers, total 390 papers, 2689 pages, ISBN 7-302-09684-8. These papers cover a broad spectrum and reflects the vibrant research activity on erosion and

sedimentation all over the world. A CD-ROM contains all of the content of the four volumes of the proceedings in pdf files.

For details about the 9th ISRS, please visit the website: http://www.irtces.org/old/irtces/report/9isrs/e_index.html
(by Cheng LIU)



Culture evening