

# INTERNATIONAL SEDIMENT INITIATIVE

# NEWSLETTER

*Reporting ISI news to you quarterly*

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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](mailto:manfred.spreafico@bafu.admin.ch) or ISI technical Secretariat at [chliu@iwhr.com](mailto:chliu@iwhr.com).

## NEWS

### The 17<sup>th</sup> session of the Intergovernmental Council of the IHP was held at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris from 3 to 7 July 2006



The 17th session of the Intergovernmental Council of the International Hydrological Programme (IHP) was held at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris from 3 to 7 July 2006. Thirty-five Member States that are members of the Council sent delegates. Forty delegations from Member States that are not members of the Council attended. Twelve governmental and non-governmental organizations and seven UN organizations were also represented.

In the opening speech by Mr Matsuura, the UNESCO's Director General, he highlighted the creation of a UNESCO network of twelve category II centres devoted to water, and noted that the General Conference (at its 33rd session) and the Executive Board (at its 174th session) had approved the establishment of five new centres. He further noted that UNESCO would soon launch a review process of the centres that had been in operation the longest in order to ensure that their activities were in line with UNESCO's strategic objectives. In addition, he noted with satisfaction that the Council would be spending a considerable part of its discussion in identifying the best mechanisms for achieving synergy between the centres themselves along with UNESCO-IHE.



On July 5, 2006, Dr Khin Ni Ni Thein, representing the IHP Secretariat reported the progress on new IHP initiatives. About the International Sediment Initiative (ISI), Mr Manfred Spreafico, the Chairperson of the ISI Steering Committee, reported on the overall progress of ISI. This was then followed by a report by Mr Cheng Liu, representing the International Research and Training Center on Erosion and Sedimentation (IRTCES) in Beijing, China, which acts as the technical secretariat of ISI. Several delegates, including Italy, Costa Rica, USA, Egypt, India and Sudan, highlighted the importance of ISI, and introduced some activities taking place in their countries concerning sedimentation. Italy encouraged

collaboration with other initiatives related to sediments, such as the Sediment Management International Observatory (SMIO) and IAHS's PUB. The representative of Sudan invited the delegates to the first ISI International Conference, to take place in November 2006 in Khartoum. A representative of AGRHYMET (Centre Regional d'Agro-Hydro-Meteorologie) suggested that ISI deal with issues that are of great concern in Western Africa, such as lack of information on sedimentation and on how to measure sedimentation, while Egypt noted the importance of integrated management of watersheds and isotope techniques for sediment control.

During the council meeting, the ISI-SC members, Dr. NiNi Thein, Prof. M. Spreafico, Prof. G. Di Silvio and Dr. C. Liu had a meeting discussing issues of ISI WebPages, newsletters, first ISI conference, ISI work plan and others. (by Cheng LIU)



### ISI SC Core Member Meeting was Held in Beijing on May 26, 2006

ISI Steering Committee Core Member Meeting was successfully held at the International Research and Training Center on Erosion and Sedimentation (IRTCES) in Beijing on May 26, 2006. The participants are:

Dr Khin Ni Ni Thein, Chief, Sustainable Water Management Section Division of Water Sciences, UNESCO,  
Prof. Manfred Spreafico, Chairperson of ISI Steering Committee,

Dr Jayakumar Ramasamy, Programme Specialist for Science, Technology and Environment, UNESCO Beijing office,

Prof. Chunhong Hu, Secretary-General, IRTCES,  
Prof. Ying Tan, former Secretary-General, IRTCES,  
Prof. Zhao-Yin Wang, Chairman of Advisory Council of IRTCES and member of ISI SC,

Ms. Yuling Tong, Deputy Secretary-General, IRTCES,  
Prof. Yangui Wang, Chief of Department of Research and Training, IRTCES, and

Dr. Cheng Liu, Deputy Chief of Department of Research and Training, IRTCES and member of ISI SC

The meeting sessions were chaired by Prof. Zhao-Yin Wang and Prof. Manfred Spreafico respectively. At first, Prof. Chunhong Hu warmly welcomed the coming of UNESCO officers and ISI SC members, and he believed that this meeting would be crucial significance to promote IRTCES activities and ISI development. Dr. Cheng Liu introduced the achievements of IRTCES under supports from the Government of P.R. China and UNESCO, presented advances of ISI projects and training courses IRTCES had carried out, and described preparation and work plan of IRTCES acting as ISI Secretariat and preparation for the ISI Information System.

The participants had a wide-ranging and fruitful discussion on ISI Secretariat, ISI Information System, future events and other issues in one day's intense meeting. The meeting is a symbol that IRTCES is formally acting as ISI Secretariat, and will be significant important for IRTCES to carried out relevant activities smoothly. (by Cheng LIU)



Meeting



Group photo



Dr Khin Ni Ni Thein, Chief, Sustainable Water Management  
Section Division of Water Sciences, UNESCO



Prof. Manfred Spreafico, Chairperson of ISI SC



From left: Prof. Zhao-Yin Wang, Prof. Chunhong Hu and Prof.  
Ying Tan of IRTCES

### Tasks for the ISI Technical Secretariat

The major tasks of the ISI Technical Secretariat include:

1. Establishing the ISI website, which will include an ISI introduction, news, announcement, information on case studies and related web links. The website and other documents related to ISI shall be in English.
2. Maintaining and updating the ISI website. The update information shall be supplied by the members of the ISI-SC and UNESCO-IHP, and will be collected by the Technical Secretariat.
3. Compiling an electronic quarterly newsletter on sediment issues and circulating it to the ISI-SC members and a wide range of experts. The material for these newsletters shall be supplied by the members of the ISI-SC, UNESCO-IHP, and collected by the ISI Technical Secretariat.
4. Providing overall information and organizational services for ISI SC, including recording, editing, distributing and archiving of the minutes of SC meetings..
5. Uploading reports of case studies and sample sediment databases in the ISI website.
6. Responsible for construction and maintenance of ISI Information System

### UNESCO IHP ISI Workshop on Sediment Management in South and Southeast Asia Held in Bangkok (April 2006)



UNESCO International Hydrological Program (IHP) International Sediment Initiative (ISI) Workshop on Sediment Management in South and Southeast Asia was held in the Conference Centre of the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) from April 24 through 25, 2006. This workshop is one of the activities of the UNESCO IHP ISI.

Totally 32 participants from UNESCO, UNEP GEF Liaison Office, and 17 countries including Philippines, Pakistan, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, USA,

Finland, Vietnam, China, Germany, India, Myanmar, UK, Sri Lanka and Nepal attended the workshop.

Dr. Khim Ni Ni Thein, Division of Water, UNESCO, Dr. S. Puri, UNEPD GEF Liaison Office in Paris, Dr. Liu Hongbeng, UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and Dr. R. Jayakumar, UNESCO Beijing Office presented at the workshop.

Prof. Des Walling, President of the WASER, Prof. P. Y. Julien, Chairman of IAC, ISI-SC and Dr. S. Puri, UNEPD GEF Liaison Office in Paris were invited for the workshop and delivered their keynote presentations entitled "Changing Sediment Loads in a Changing Environment"; "Issues and Challenges in Sediment Management"; and "GEF Role in Sustainable Sediment Management". Other 17 experts from the region subsequently presented their papers.

A subgroup discussion session on institutional, technical and socio-economic and environmental aspects of key sediment issues and problems was also held at the Workshop. Suggestions and project ideas were generated through the session. The meeting recommended that the countries in the region should apply for research projects based on the suggested proposals and request financial support from GEF. (by Xiaoying Liu)

### Chairman of ISI SC Visited IRTCES (April 2006)

On April 7, 2006, Prof. Manfred Spreafico, Chairman of UNESCO-IHP-ISI Steering Committee, and Dr. Michael F. Baumgartner, Director of MFB-GeoConsulting GmbH (Switzerland) visited IRTCES and had a friendly talk and discussion on preparations of ISI Secretariat and ISI Information System of ISI with Prof. Zhaoyin Wang, Mrs. Yuling Tong, Dr. Yangui Wang and Dr. Cheng Liu of IRTCES. Prof. Manfred Spreafico expressed his satisfactory with the work of ISI undertaken by the IRTCES and appreciated support of IRTCES to ISI (by Cheng Liu).



Meeting



Group photo

### Dr. Shangfu Kuang Discussed with Dr. Khin NiNi Thein about the ISI Secretariat(March 2006)

In the afternoon of March 19, 2006 while attending the 4th World Water Forum, Dr. Shangfu Kuang, the Director of the IRTCES and Group Leader of the Chinese Scientific and Technological Delegation for the 4th World Water Forum, was invited to discuss the progress and plan of the ISI Secretariat with Dr. (Mrs.) Khin NiNi Thein, Chief, Sustainable Water Management Section Division of Water Sciences, UNESCO, and others.

Through discussion, a consensus has been reached that the objective of the implementation of the ISI is to establish a global sediment information system, and to provide better service in solving the global key sediment and eco-environmental problems. The work of the Secretariat of the ISI includes how to enrich the global sediment information, establishment of a global sediment database, and construction of a sediment database for China. The key is how to measure sediment data, or how to extract the appropriate sediment data from those existing data. Meanwhile, a summary of the work conducted by the secretariat on the contents and design of the sediment data base from last November to the present was made. (by Xiaoying Liu)



### Report on the IAHS conference on Sediment Dynamics and the Hydromorphology of Fluvial Systems, Dundee, Scotland, July 3-7 2006

This conference represents the latest in a long series of conferences organized by IAHS over the last five decades or so specifically focusing on sediment dynamics in river systems. The theme of the Dundee conference addressed the theme of sediment dynamics and hydromorphology, in part due to the importance of this issue in the European Water Framework Directive. The conference was organized by John Rowan, Rob Duck and Alan Werritty of Dundee University, and was attended by over 90 people representing countries including Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Malaysia, Norway, Poland, Russia, Spain, Switzerland, the Netherlands, the UK and the USA, and comprised 70 oral presentations and many posters. This highlights the importance of understanding sediment dynamics for sediment management. The proceedings of the conference have been published by IAHS as Publication 306 in the IAHS red-book series and can be found at [www.iahs.info](http://www.iahs.info). For further details please contact Phil Owens ([philip.owens@bbsrc.ac.uk](mailto:philip.owens@bbsrc.ac.uk)). (From SedNet)

## DANUBE SEDIMENT WORKSHOP 24-25 March 2006, Budapest, Hungary

On 24 and 25 March 2006 a Danube sediment workshop was jointly organised in Budapest by SedNet and AquaTerra in cooperation with the ICPDR, UNESCO IHP/ISI and VITUKI and sponsored by UNESCO.

The full title and objective of the workshop was "Towards the integrated management of the Danube sediment-soil-water-system as support to the implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) in the Danube river-basin". Participants originated from all 13 major Danube countries and there were key-note lectures of, a.o., the ICPDR (Igor Liska) and of the ICPR (Martin Keller/BfG). A complete list of all presentations and more details about the workshop can be found in the workshop brochure:

<http://www.attempto-projects.de/aquaterra/97.0.html>

The Danube participants committed themselves to come, before the end of 2009, to a (preliminary) sediment balance for the Danube and its main tributaries. Furthermore, they agreed on a road map on preparation of an analysis, which should reflect the current state related to sediments within the Danube River Basin including the sediment quality and their impact on the ecological status. This analysis should advise on the implementation of sediment management in the Danube WFD River Basin Management Plan. This outcome is also supported/endorsed by the representatives of the ICPDR (Igor Liska), UNESCO (Philippe Pypaert) and SedNet/AquaTerra (by Jos Brils).

## COMING EVENTS

### International Sediment Initiative Conference (ISIC)

**From** 2006-11-12 to 2006-11-15

**Venue:** Friendship Hall, Khartoum, Sudan

**Summary:**

The objectives of this conference are follows:

- to review the available techniques and technology in the field of sediment - monitoring, assessment, management, capacity building, research
- to develop guidelines for a code of practice in the sediment field
- to come up with an international setup to deal with sediment issues
- to find source financing mechanisms for research and capacity building on sediment related issues
- to assess the impact of sediment on water resources, environment and socio-economy
- to create an opportunity for experts and scientists and institutes to exchange ideas and experiences.

**Organizers:** UNESCO Chair in Water Resources, Khartoum, Sudan

**Contact Name:** Prof. Abdallah Abdelsalam Ahmed

**E-mail:** [isic\\_2006@yahoo.com](mailto:isic_2006@yahoo.com)

**URL:**

[http://www.unesco.org/water/ihp/events/sudan\\_isic/broc\\_hure.pdf](http://www.unesco.org/water/ihp/events/sudan_isic/broc_hure.pdf)

### 2nd International Conference on Estuaries and Coasts (ICEC-2006)

**From** 2006-11-28 to 2006-11-30

**Venue:** Guangzhou, China

**Summary:**

The central topic of this conference will be to 'Advance Estuarine and Coastal Engineering Research to Enhance the Ecological Environment'.

Other topics to be breached include:

- Estuarine and Coastal Processes
- Estuarine Eco-Environment and Its Protection
- Maintenance and Management of Waterways in Estuaries and Harbors, and
- Research Technologies for Estuarine Engineering.

**Organizers:**

International Research and Training Center on Erosion and Sedimentation (IRTCES)

Pearl River Water Resources Commission, Ministry of Water Resources, P. R. China

**Sponsor:**

Pearl River Hydraulic Research Institute, Ministry of Water Resources, P. R. China

**Co-Sponsors:**

Twenty six international institutes and organizations including United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), International Association of Hydraulic Engineering and Research (IAHR), World Association for Sedimentation and Erosion Research (WASER), International Association of Hydrological Sciences (IAHS), IAHR Asian and Pacific Division (IAHR-APD) and National Center for Computational Hydroscience and Engineering, the University of Mississippi.

**Contact Name:**

ICEC-2006 Secretariat

**E-mail:** [icec2006@prwri.com.cn](mailto:icec2006@prwri.com.cn)

**URL:** <http://www.irtces.org/conference/icec2006/icec.htm>

### Tenth International Symposium on River Sedimentation (10<sup>th</sup> ISRS)

**From** 2007-08-01 to 2007-08-04

**Venue:**

MOSCOW STATE UNIVERSITY, Moscow, Russia

**Summary:**

The central theme of Symposium is "Effects of River Sediment and Channel Processes on social, economical and environmental safety".

The main topics to present are as follows:

1. Processes within drainage basins as sources of river sediment: study, modeling, and forecasting in natural and anthropogenic condition
2. An estimation of natural and technogenic factors contribution to the change of river sediment yield
3. River sediment estimation at studying and modeling of channel processes
4. Sediment yield in river mouths
5. River sediment in the environment
6. Management of river sediment formation and transport processes

**Organizers:**

Moscow State University

**Contact Name:**

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### **SedNet Symposium "Sediment key-issues between the river and the sea"**

**From** 2006-11-24 to 2006-11-24

**Venue:** Venice, Italy

**Summary:**

SedNet is organizing a one day symposium on Friday November 24th, 2006 in Venice, Italy entitled: "Sediment key-issues between the river and the sea". This symposium is aimed at discussing and defining the SCIENTIFIC sediment key-issues at stake in the transition area between the river basin and the marine system. The outcome will be used to draft a SedNet position paper on this issue.

**Organizers:** SedNet

**Contact Name:** SedNet Secretariat

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**URL:** <http://www.sednet.org>

### **The 23rd Conference of Danube Countries: Hydrological Forecasting and Hydrological Bases of Water Management**

**From** 2006-8-28 to 2006-8-30

**Venue:** Belgrade, Serbia

**Summary:**

The 23rd Conference of Danube Countries entitled "Hydrological Forecasting and Hydrological Bases of Water Management" will take place in Belgrade, Serbia, from 28 to 30 August 2006. About 200 papers will be presented orally or by posters, on the following themes:

1. Hydrological forecasting
2. Meteorological inputs for hydrological forecast
3. Hydrological processes
4. Erosion, sediment transport and sedimentation
5. Water quality and ecohydrological processes
6. Water resources management

The Conference will be preceded by the 20th Working Meeting of the Regional Hydrological Co-operation of the Danube Countries in the framework of IHP/UNESCO (Belgrade, 27 August 2006). It is expected that all Danube countries take part on that meeting. On the agenda of this meeting is the commencement of the ISI Case Study on sediment transport in the Danube Basin and consideration of the priority tasks of initiating the study.

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