



The 7th World Water Forum

12-17 April 2015, Daegu-Gyeongbuk, KOREA

Thematic Process Session

Session T 4.3.4 - Building trust: Facilitating data and Information exchange between the riparian countries in transboundary basins

Thursday 16 April, 14h40-16h40 - Daegu EXCO, room DEC_304

Round table 1: Developing Innovative monitoring

Informations about the HYCOS programme

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In early 90's, the World Meteorological Organization set up the WHYCOS (World Hydrological Cycle Observing System). WHYCOS is a framework program for basic observation activities and exchange of data in the field of hydrology. HYCOS projects include implementation of hydrological networks in large river basins and satellite data transmission. The network is supposed to be managed by national hydrological services and central management at transboundary river organization level.

AFD has been involved for many years with HYCOS projects in several basins (Niger, Mekong, Congo). However, data collection, utilization and sharing continue to decline. Main reasons identified as far as data collection is concerned:

- Financial difficulties: funds allocated to maintenance of networks are not sufficient;
- Large range of technical issues: insufficient gauging campaigns, complexity and remoteness of equipment, etc.
- But main obstacles are human, organizational and institutional: lack of staff, lack or unadapted training, etc.

The main challenge is to produce harmonized, summarized and compiled information for decision making and sharing. Same difficulties are faced in data processing and information production as for data collection.

Two levels of improvement are identified:

- Improvement of local measurement and data transmission systems, like HYCOS : small and less costly hydrological probes for instance;
- When appropriate, spatial information for altimetry water course as a complementary approach.

The relation between the traditional approach and new spatial technologies is worth to explore.

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