

New Zealand Country Report

Key points

26th IHP Steering Committee for Asia and the Pacific
Shanghai 4 November 2018

Dennis Jamieson

Key points

1. Change in NZ Central Government is favourable for improved engagement with multi-lateral initiatives (e.g. UN, UNESCO, IHP), NGO's and links with Pacific nations.
2. Links between Korea Water Resource Association (KWRA) and NZ Hydrological Society a valued example.
3. New Zealand priorities and IHP (esp. IHP-VIII)
 1. Ecohydrology and infrastructure (IWRM).
 2. Update of flood design methods
 3. Application of IHP-VIII to urban water issues
4. Looking ahead..... Government looking for a balanced approach to 4 “well beings”: Social, Economic, Environmental and Cultural. Focus on participation of indigenous people.

**Family: UN identity card for
'New Zealand First Baby'.**



**(125th anniversary
of women gaining
voting rights in NZ
in 2018)**

Addendum: example of challenge in moving from from moving from 'International' to 'Intergovernmental'.

Group to represent indigenous youth at UN climate conference

10:54 am today (4 November 2018)

<https://www.radionz.co.nz/news/national/370171/group-to-represent-indigenous-youth-at-un-climate-conference>

A group of Māori and Pasifika will be the only indigenous youth delegation at the UN climate conference next month. The group is focused on ensuring there is an official indigenous voice entrenched in the Paris Agreement.

"It's hard because inherently the UN **wasn't built to uplift indigenous voices** and so it's.....

"**Governments take over huge teams sometimes, up to 400 members** in a negotiating team...(5000 fewer spots for civil society this year)and then the rest of us in civil society have to figure out how we're going to get there on our own with no governmental support."

**26th IHP REGIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING FOR
ASIA AND THE PACIFIC
Shanghai, China
(November 2018)**

NATIONAL REPORT OF NEW ZEALAND

1. Activities undertaken in the period October 2017– October 2018

1.1 Meetings of the IHP National Committee

1.1.1 Composition of the IHP National Committee

Mr. Dennis D Jamieson and MS Srinivasan have continued to maintain a watching brief of developments and act in the role of Chairman and Secretary respectively as per their previous formal roles in the IHP National Committee during the reporting period.

1.1.2 Status of IHP activities

The following projects continue to be funded:

- Information on New Zealand’s Freshwaters: Water Resources Archive;
- Land Use Intensification: Sustainable Management of Water Quality and Quantity;
- Reducing the Impacts of Weather Related Hazards;
- Information on New Zealand’s Freshwaters: Climate and Water Resources Archives is a national programme of climate and hydrometric data collection. The data produced from this programme are of increasing importance to guide decision-making on development (especially proposed hydropower and expanded irrigation) and to contribute to the assessment of effects of human related activities on rivers and lakes. In addition, there is wide interest in the effects of climate change on water resources and consequent effects on hydropower and agriculture.
- Land and Water Aotearoa (LAWA). (<https://www.lawa.org.nz/>). This is an initiative set up with a view to helping local communities find the balance between using natural resources and maintaining their quality and availability. It was initially set up by all local government that has evolved to have credibility with central government and university and philanthropic support.
- As reported in previous years, the implementing agency (National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research - NIWA) continues a policy of “free” data access for most users

although budget pressures resulting from reviews of government science make this approach difficult to sustain

1.1.3 Decisions regarding contribution to participation in IHP-VIII

Components of the New Zealand hydrological research programme have increasingly good alignment with IHP-VIII themes in eco-hydrology and IWRM. This is fostered by collaborative processes that integrate social science and cultural perspectives into resource management with biophysical sciences. These approaches have been prominent in some regional council regions in New Zealand (particularly Canterbury and Waikato), but are of increasing relevance to Central Government work.

1.2 Activities at national level in the framework of the IHP

1.2.1 National/local scientific and technical meetings

Core principles of IHP-VIII align with priorities for New Zealand. Central Government is responding to strong public and political pressure to improve water quality and flow regimes in rivers. A change in central government in 2017 has resulted in a government with greater empathy towards NGO's and multilateral agencies such as UNESCO.

Scientific and technical meetings are generally held within the context of professional societies (particularly the New Zealand Hydrological Society) and resource management affairs (e.g. workshops to brief groups established to guide government decisions on future land and water use).

1.2.2 Participation in IHP Steering Committees Working Groups

New Zealand attended the 2017 RSC meeting enabled by support from UNESCO – Jakarta.

1.2.3 Research/applied projects supported or sponsored

None directly sponsored by IHP.

1.2.4 Collaboration with other national and international organizations and/or programmes

Republic of Korea Water Resources Association (KWRA) – collaborative research strategy with NZ Hydrological Society (NZHS)

The KWRA and NZHS have had a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in place since 2007. Regular exchanges between the organisations continue.

Links with other International and Regional organisations

Regular contact is maintained with Charles Pearson, the Regional Hydrological Advisor to the President of the WMO Region V (Asia Pacific). Contact is also maintained with the Pacific Community (SPC) through its role of representing the SW Pacific Island states on water related issues.

1.2.5 Other initiatives

Ecohydrology and NZ government priorities for infrastructure

Significant themes are adapting infrastructure to deliver desired environmental and cultural outcomes rather than just economic opportunities and to incorporate climate change effects.

Update of New Zealand Flood design methods

Slow progress is being made on this. Next step is to secure central government support. Patience is required in building partnerships with central government agencies that have limited capacity and capability. This initiative is aligned with the APFRIEND activities over many years.

Application of IHP-VIII approaches to urban water

Central government is fully engaged with considering how to improve stormwater (including flooding), wastewater and drinking water practices. It is anticipated that enforcement of “: Good Infrastructure Practices” will include adoption of methods developed through IHP activities. This includes engagement with communities to deal with issues “at source” rather than build more structures.

1.3 Educational and training courses

1.3.1 Contribution to IHP courses

None.

1.3.2 Organization of specific courses

Courses and workshops run in New Zealand generally meet national needs. Because of the country’s relative remoteness and distinctive resource management requirements, courses are not always suitable for participation by people from overseas. However, institutions in New Zealand that provide training

often do so in partnership with other organisations in the Pacific and increased NZ central government support is expected to increase opportunities for activities that meet the needs of participants.

National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA) Courses / workshops

Over the course of a year NIWA provides many courses for regional government agencies and their own staff. These cover many topics from general hydrological training to courses on specific topics of wide interest.

1.3.3 Participation in IHP courses

See 1.3.1.

1.4 Publications

Contributions to IHP publications have been principally through the Regional Steering Committee and the Asia-Pacific FRIEND. Other publications related to IHP activities include:

The “Climate Update” monthly bulletin

See <http://www.niwa.co.nz/climate/publications>

The “Island Climate Update” (ICU) monthly bulletin

The ICU, produced by NIWA’s National Climate Centre in collaboration with Pacific agencies, is a multi-national project with important contributions from the meteorological services of countries around the region. The bulletin provides El Nino/Southern Oscillation and seasonal rainfall forecasts, discusses climate developments each month and provides a tropical rainfall outlook for the next three months and tropical cyclone outlooks during the cyclone season. It also includes an editorial on some topical aspect of relevance and interest to end-users.

<http://www.niwa.co.nz/climate/publications>

“Freshwater and estuaries update” bulletin

This is published to cover developments in the freshwater to estuaries zone. Estuaries are increasingly incorporated in joint programme given the direct connection to freshwater issues in NZ.

<http://www.niwa.co.nz/freshwater-and-estuaries/freshwater-and-estuaries-update>

1.5 Participation in international scientific meetings

1.5.1 Meetings hosted by the country

NZ Hydrological Society Annual Symposium

The annual conference of the New Zealand Hydrological Society 2017 was held in Napier. This event has wide participation, particularly noting the attendance of the Korea Water Resources Association

1.5.2 Participation in meetings abroad

A wide range of science conferences and events were attended. Alignment with IHP activities is a common theme of topics, given alignment with IHP-VIII.

1.6 Other activities at regional level

1.6.1 Institutional relations/co-operation

Contact continues between New Zealand and other UNESCO Member Countries in the Asia-Pacific region, especially with the Pacific Island countries. For example, NIWA is working with agencies in many countries on updating hydrological information and database management systems. Many useful contacts have been enabled via the IHP, even though subsequent work has been in the context of bi-lateral arrangements and Pacific HYCOS.

1.6.2 Completed and ongoing scientific projects

Science programs are subject to ongoing change and reorganization. The “Science Challenge” programme in Land and Water sciences is being further rolled out and is providing a framework for coordinated work amongst many institutions on effective work on diffuse pollution and required flow regimes. Work under other science challenges (e.g. “Deep South” is tackling other important related subjects such as improved decision making about water under climate change scenarios.

2. Future Activities

2.1 Activities foreseen until December 2018

An important driver for activities is the evolving priorities for the new (from late 2017) central government. Central government agencies have limited water issue capacity and capability hence patience is requirement. However, a more balanced approach to “four well beings” (social, economic, environmental and cultural) rather than a bias towards economics is expected to provide opportunities to apply advances in international thinking.

The annual conference of the NZ Hydrological Society is to be held at Christchurch NZ in December 2018.

2.2 Activities planned for 2019

Generally scientific activities planned at the national level are within the context of the research programme funded by NZ government. A significant proportion of this activity will be in areas that are included within the IHP but are not explicitly implemented as a component of the IHP.

NIWA Courses

A range of training courses will be offered by NIWA. For a full list of courses refer to the NIWA web site. These courses are also open to overseas participants.

2.3 Activities envisaged in the long term

Continuation of the:

- Greater opportunities for partners in the Pacific, with increased NGO engagement.
- NZAID funded Pacific Hydrological Training Programmes as required;
- NZAID funded monthly “Island Climate Update” publication with stronger links to end users.
- Monthly NZ “Climate Update” and “Climate Outlook” (web) publications.
- Quarterly “Fresh Water and estuaries Update” (web) publication.