

HYDROLOGIC RESEARCH CENTER

A Nonprofit Research Corporation

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CENTER ANNOUNCES SIGNING OF INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT TO HELP WARN FOR FLASH FLOODS AROUND THE WORLD *San Diego non-profit helping forecasters save lives and property*

San Diego CA, March 10, 2009 5:00PM – As part of its ongoing global public-benefit initiative to reduce deaths, disease, and other negative social and economic impacts caused by flash flooding, the Hydrologic Research Center (HRC) has recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the U.S. Agency for International Development/Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance, the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the United Nations World Meteorological Organization to collaborate in the design, development, and implementation of the Flash Flood Guidance System with Global Coverage (GFFG).

This GFFG project will provide appropriate data and information that can be used to develop warnings for flash floods in real-time for at risk locations throughout the world. The goal of the GFFG is to disseminate technologies that provide early warnings for flash floods for every country in the world, especially in developing countries where no such flash flood early warning capacity currently exists. This GFFG is a public benefit effort on the part of HRC and the other Parties.

The HRC has developed and will implement the computational components of the GFFG and will work with the other Parties that will provide additional technical, administrative, and political expertise, and access to required in-situ and remote-sensed global data for system implementation and operation.

“What makes flash floods prodigious killers around the world is the lack of timely public warning information and the lack of public awareness of the flash flood danger” said Dr. Konstantine Georgakakos, HRC’s Director. He goes on to say “the signing of this MOU is especially important to enable us to move forward in helping developing countries who are particularly vulnerable to these events due to the absence of warning information and guidelines for effective response action”.

Located on High Bluff Drive in Del Mar, the HRC implemented the first regional flash flood guidance system in the world for the seven countries of Central America in 2004. HRC is now implementing the system for the countries of Thailand, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Vietnam, Republic of South Africa, and Romania. HRC anticipates GFFG programs for the countries of Southern Africa as well as for the Middle East in the near future.

Recognizing that floods annually affect an average of 500 million people worldwide, HRC is spearheading a global effort to reduce deaths, disease, and other negative social and economic impacts caused by flash flooding. The highly successful regional program in Central America is serving as a model for an international flash flood guidance system with worldwide coverage. The system comes none too soon as climate change is expected to increase average temperatures, intensify precipitation, and cause more flooding throughout the world.

For more information on HRC and the GFFG Program, contact Robert Jubach, 858-794-2726, rjubach@hrc-lab.org Additional information can be found on HRC's website: <http://www.hrc-lab.org>