

THE WORLD HYDROLOGICAL CYCLE OBSERVING SYSTEM (WHYCOS)

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Adequate information is essential for wise management of water resources. Sadly, at the global scale our ability to provide information about the status and trend of water resources is declining. Many developing countries are unable to maintain their systems for acquiring water-related data, and for disseminating them to decision makers, engineers, resource managers, and the public. To counter these trends, an essential goal of WMO is to assist its Members in maintaining and improving their information systems. The Organization uses such means as technology transfer and training, collaboration among meteorological and hydrological services, and international exchange of data and information.

The World Hydrological Cycle Observing System (WHYCOS) has been developed to contribute to this goal. Composed of regional systems (HYCOSs) implemented by cooperating nations, WHYCOS will complement national efforts to provide the information required for wise water resource management. Modeled on WMO's World Weather Watch (WWW), and using the same information and telecommunications technology, WHYCOS will provide a vehicle not only for disseminating high quality information, but also for promoting international collaboration. It will build the capacity of national Hydrological Services (NHSs), so that they are ready to face the demands of the 21st century. It will provide a means for the international community to monitor more accurately water resources at the global level, and to understand the global hydrological cycle.

The objectives of WHYCOS are:

- Strengthen the technical and institutional capacities of hydrological services to capture and process hydrological data, and meet the needs of their end users for information on the status and trend of water resources;
- Establish a global network of national hydrological observatories which provide information of a consistent quality, transmitted in real time to national and regional databases, via the Global Telecommunication System (GTS) of WMO; and

- Promote and facilitate the dissemination and use of water-related information, using modern information technology such as the World Wide Web and CD-ROMs.

CONFERENCE
ON WATER OBSERVATION AND INFORMATION SYSTEM
FOR DECISION SUPPORT

BALWOIS

ABSTRACTS

25-29 May 2004
Ohrid, Republic of Macedonia



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