



19 December 2012

## INVITATION: 3<sup>RD</sup> INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP OF THE GLOBAL FLOOD WORKING GROUP

Dear Colleague,

After two years of coordinated efforts towards integrating global flood monitoring and modelling systems, we would like to invite you or a representative of your organisation to participate in the 3<sup>rd</sup> workshop of the Global Flood Working Group, which will be held from **4 to 6 March 2013** at the University of Maryland, in College Park, Maryland (outside Washington, DC), USA.

Floods impact over 500 million people every year worldwide, a number that might increase to two billion by 2050. In general, one third of humanitarian aid goes to flood related disasters. Insured losses have risen from 1.5 billion US\$ to 15 billion US\$ in 40 years. In recent years, much progress has been made in monitoring floods using satellite remote sensing and meteorological and hydrological modelling. Yet, an **integrated global flood monitoring & modelling system** able to forecast, measure, map and monitor floods for **rapid estimation or forecasting of the potential humanitarian impact** does not yet exist. Also **methodologies for comprehensive risk assessments** are lacking.

Organized jointly by the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission, the Dartmouth Flood Observatory, and the University of Maryland, the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Workshop on Global Flood Monitoring & Modelling will gather scientists of different disciplines (the **remote sensing community** and the **hydro-meteorological/flood modelling community**, as well as the **international emergency response community**) that can benefit from such global flood information. In previous workshops, we made progress towards understanding and integrating existing systems and a **common data infrastructure for global flood monitoring & modelling**. This year's theme will address particular challenges:

- Recording floods and related losses (historical flood record)
- Using flood data for risk and/or impact assessments

Your participation to this workshop will help us gather expert views on the topic of global flood forecasting, monitoring, mapping and impact assessment and will hopefully lead to more progress towards global flood information systems that are tailored towards the needs of the international emergency response community.

Sincerely Yours,

**Robert F. Adler**  
Earth System Science Interdisciplinary  
Center (ESSIC)  
University of Maryland, USA

[radler@umd.edu](mailto:radler@umd.edu)

**Tom De Groeve**  
Global Security and Crisis  
Management Unit  
Joint Research Centre of the European  
Commission

[tom.de-groev@jrc.ec.europa.eu](mailto:tom.de-groev@jrc.ec.europa.eu)

**Robert Brakenridge**  
Dartmouth Flood Observatory  
CSDMS/INSTAAR  
University of Colorado, USA

[Robert.Brakenridge@Colorado.edu](mailto:Robert.Brakenridge@Colorado.edu)

### *3<sup>rd</sup> Workshop of the Global Flood Working Group*

*4-6 March 2012  
University of Maryland  
Washington DC, USA  
(limited to 60 places)*

#### *Topics:*

*Flood remote sensing  
Global hydro-met forecasting  
Humanitarian response  
Historical flood record  
Risk assessment*

#### *Deadlines:*

*Registration: 31/01/2013  
Abstracts: 28/02/2013*

## OBJECTIVES

The principle objective of the workshop is to gather scientists working on global flood monitoring & modelling as well as the response community together and continue a coordinated effort to **bridge the gap between science and operational emergency management**. New results and case studies will be discussed not only from the scientific point of view, but also from the application point of view in order to focus research on operational gaps. Better flood information ultimately should lead to saving lives and better mitigation strategies.

The following themes will be addressed:

- **Global flood forecasting**: scientific advances and novel integrative approaches of (pre-) operational systems
- **Global flood monitoring and mapping**: scientific advances and novel integrative approaches of (pre-) operational systems
- **Historical flood record**: recording floods and related losses for scientific validation and flood risk assessment
- Global flood **risk assessment** and quantitative flood **impact assessments**

The workshop format is based around short presentations and moderated discussions grouped by theme. The outcome will be a short report summarizing the status of development in this area and unmet requirements of the user community, and plans for future research. The report will be sent to interested national and international organizations and submitted as a meeting report to a relevant journal

## PREPARATION

### GUIDELINES FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

All participants, but in particular researchers, may submit an extended abstract or short paper describing their contribution. This will be published in workshop proceedings. Workshop participants are encouraged but not required to focus their paper and presentations on the major floods of 2012 (see <http://www.gdacs.org/alerts/default.aspx?profile=archive&eventtype=FL>). The suggested floods are: **Nigeria** (July-November), **India** (Assam, September-October), and **Pakistan** (September-October).

In addition, participants are encouraged to share links to real-time data feeds (RSS or KML), OGC services (WMS) or other formats with JRC. Similarly to last year, these will be used to create an integrated visualization system before the workshop. Some systems can already be accessed here: <http://dma.jrc.it/map/?application=FLOOD>

Participating humanitarian and civil protection practitioners and other beneficiaries of flood monitoring and modelling information are encouraged to focus their presentations on perceived information gaps, specific requirements, and difficulties regarding their response to flood events. In particular the need for quantitative impact assessments may be highlighted.

### FURTHER INFORMATION

The meeting will be held at the University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland USA (just outside of Washington, DC) and will be hosted by the Earth System Sciences Interdisciplinary Centre (ESSIC) (<http://essic.umd.edu>) located in the university's M-Square Research Park. Logistic details, a detailed agenda and updates about the workshop will be communicated in further messages and posted on the following website:

- <http://portal.gdacs.org/Expertworkinggroups/GlobalFloodInitiative/tabid/65/Default.aspx>
- <https://groups.google.com/forum/?fromgroups#!forum/global-flood-working-group>