NATIONAL CONFERENCE
23rd & 24th JANUARY 2020

POLICIES AND STRATEGIES FOR
FLOOD MANAGEMENT:
KERALA SCENARIO

WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
Government of Kerala

[Image: Flood scene with people in a boat]
MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER

The State of Kerala in the southern peninsular India, a very popular destination in the world tourism map, had witnessed calamitous floods during the last two years. The extreme rainfall and the very high population density made the deluge affect the State severely. The UN Secretary General had referred to the Kerala floods, among other natural disasters across the world, to highlight the urgency of the climate crisis and the need to step up efforts to reverse course on climate change. Building resilience to the climate induced natural calamities is a pressing challenge for achieving sustainable development. The State of Kerala is now on a massive mobilization drive to rebuild a new Kerala, viz, Rebuild Kerala Initiative (RKI) with focus on sustainability principles suggested in the Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) study conducted by the World Bank and Asian Development Bank.

For an effective flood risk management and maintaining a healthy riverine ecosystem for the benefit of the communities, identifying best practices and state of the art methods embedded in the principle of Integrated Water Resources Management, is the priority of the State now. At the same time, it is important that the operational capabilities of all agencies involved in disaster mitigation are enhanced to effectively utilise these techniques to save lives and livelihoods. Creating awareness among the common citizen to ensure early preparedness to fight against the probable disaster is also a matter of greatest importance.

The National Conference on ‘Policies and Strategies for Flood Management: Kerala Scenario’ under the aegis of National Hydrology Project (NHP) and Dam Rehabilitation & Improvement Project (DRIP) is mooted in this context. I am hopeful that the conference will bring synergy amongst expert scientists, engineers, managers, flood disaster management authorities, decision makers etc on the latest technological developments in the area of flood risk management. I am affirmative that the workshop would be useful to the technical experts, concerned professionals involved in flood management, disaster risk managers and policy makers to develop strategies for an integrated approach for flood management in the State.

I wish the conference a complete success.

Sri. K Krishnakutty
Honourable Minister for Water Resources
Government of Kerala
INVITATION

The devastating Kerala floods of 2018 and 2019, due to the extreme climatic variations have underlined the urgency and significance of developing strategies for flood management in the State through an integrated approach in congruence with Integrated Water Resources Management, which has been identified as one of the recovery strategies for building a flood resilient Kerala. In this context, Water Resources Department of Government of Kerala is organizing this National Conference on 'Policies and Strategies for Flood Management: Kerala Scenario' under the aegis of National Hydrology Project (NHP) and Dam Rehabilitation & Improvement Project (DRIP), Ministry of Jal Shakti, Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, Government of India.

It gives me extreme pleasure to invite all engineers, policy makers, academics, researchers, scientists, and professionals working in flood management and related fields in India to this National Conference being organized by Water Resources Department of Government of Kerala during 23rd and 24th of January 2020 at Trivandrum, Kerala. I sincerely hope that the conference will bring convergence of the brightest minds in the field and provide a stage for sharing path breaking ideas to enhance the capabilities of the State to tackle the fury of floods. I anticipate inspiring and enlightening deliberations on various facets such as impact of climate change, urban floods, riverine and coastal flooding, land use control measures for flood risk management, landslides, disaster preparedness, room for river concept, flood control dams, flood forecasting and early warning system, etc. Furthermore, the conference will also showcase the latest products and services in the field through an Exhibition. I am looking forward to a wider participation and the conference to be a grand success.

Dr. Vishwas Mehta, IAS
Additional Chief Secretary,
Water Resources and Home Department,
Government of Kerala.
SECTIONS

DAY 1
- Inauguration
- Plenary Session
- Technical Session 1: Floods in a changing environment
- Technical Session 2: Flood Risk Management
- Industry Session

DAY 2
- Technical Session 3: Disaster preparedness: Standards and actions
- Technical Session 4: Flood management measures: Structural and Non-structural measures
- Brainstorming Session
- Wrap up session

POSTER PRESENTATION
Participation from Post Graduates/ Research Students are encouraged in the conference in the form of posters related to the four identified themes. A maximum of 20 selected students will be shortlisted and invited to the event, out of which top three will be awarded with prizes and certificates. Abstracts of the posters to be uploaded on or before 10th January 2020 in https://www.idrb-keralafloodcon2020.in/submission-of-poster/

EXHIBITION
Exhibition stalls will be allotted to exhibitors of selected organisations. More details can be found at: https://www.idrb-keralafloodcon2020.in/exhibition/

REGISTRATION
Interested professionals and researchers are invited to register for the event at https://www.idrb-keralafloodcon2020.in/registration. The last date for registration is 10th January 2020. There is no registration fee.
ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

The State of Kerala which boasted steady monsoons and salubrious climate is now facing the combined after effects of climate change, population pressure and unscientific land utilization. The two devastating floods of 2018 and 2019 gives an understanding that climate-change-induced floods are becoming an annual affair in the state. State is now on a massive mobilization drive, Rebuild Kerala Initiative (RKI) by exercising the principles of “Room for river” and “Living with water” in the framework of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), which has been identified as one of the four pillars of recovery strategy. Actions to prevent or reduce the risk of flood damage should include employing best practices to prevent and reduce the risk of loss such as prohibition of development in zones of flood risk and investment in structural/ non-structural flood defence. Advanced science and practice in water and flood management are required to ensure sustainable livelihoods and safeguard ecosystem.

With special focus on water management under extreme climate variations, Water Resources Department of Kerala puts forth this conference on Flood management in Kerala Scenario as a platform for practitioners, policy makers, engineers, natural and social scientists, disaster managers and researchers to come together to exchange ideas and experiences. The deliberations are expected to help formulate integrated plans, policies and strategies towards improved water security and flood management. The conference seeks to bring forward research findings, case studies, recent advances, success stories and examples of managing floods in an integrated manner.

This conference is committed to provide an interactive platform for brainstorming and sharing new concepts or methods for improving flood risk management practice in order to better cope with this kind of uncertainties.

VENUE

Hotel O by Tamara, Akkulam, Trivandrum, Kerala.
CHAIRMAN, ORGANISING COMMITTEE
Dr. Ashok B, IAS
Secretary
Water Resources Department
Government of Kerala

NODAL OFFICER
Sri. Joshy K A
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Kerala FloodCon 2020 follows Green Protocol
We wish to follow Green Protocol and keep the plastic waste produced to the minimum.
Thanks in advance for your understanding and cooperation

GOVERNMENT OF KERALA
WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

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