

Preface

It is our great pleasure that we present the fifth volume of the Catalogue of Rivers for Southeast Asia and the Pacific. This volume contains 20 rivers from 11 countries and brings the total number of rivers catalogued in the region, including those in volumes I to IV, to 114. Besides the printed book, a CD-ROM version is also included with the volume. The electronic versions of the catalogues including some previous volumes are available through the web page of Asian Pacific Water Archive (APWA) at <http://htc.moa.my/apfriend/wa/> maintained by the Humid Tropics Centre (HTC), Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

The objectives of the publication of the Catalogue are:

- To promote mutual understanding of hydrology and water resources of the region and of the neighboring countries. This is essential for better regional co-operation in hydrological sciences as well as for water resources development and management.
- To promote information exchange among different organizations in each country. This is essential for the development of hydrological sciences and for better development and management of the water resources within each country.
- To promote the establishment of an international data exchange and collaborative research network in the region. This is expected to assist the Asian FRIEND (Flow Regime from International Experimental and Network Data) Projects in IHP VI (2002-2007) to meet their goals.

It is heartening to note that all these objectives are being realized. With the dissemination of more information it is hoped that there will be better understanding and co-operation on matters related to water resources within each country as well as regionally. Of particular importance are the establishment of the Asian Pacific FRIEND, a UNESCO-IHP regional collaborative project, and the Asian Pacific Water Archive (APWA) that archives and makes available hydrometeorological and related data for Asian Pacific FRIEND projects and other IHP related activities in the region.

In connection with the APWA that is held at the HTC Kuala Lumpur, the contents of the Catalogue of Rivers acts as a source of “meta-data” for some of the data in the APWA. Owing to differences in national data-release policies not all basins covered in the Catalogue of Rivers have matching data in the APWA. It is hoped that over time these differences can be resolved and that a complete set of matching data will become available.

We would like to express our sincere appreciation and due respect to all the individual contributors of all the countries who have consolidated the data and information from various and often diverse sources, prepared the text, maps and tables, and co-operated with us by responding to revision requests. We also express our sincere gratitude to the many institutes, agencies and other organizations that provided the data, facilities, and above all, the funds and the personnel to carry out the work. In particular, we would like to thank the following organizations for providing the necessary financial support:

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The editors hope that this volume can serve in various ways to further fulfill the national and regional objectives that were originally aimed for. Finally, we ask the readers to provide critical comments and ideas to improve future volumes of the Catalogue.

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