



International Workshop on Flash Flood Forecasting

March 13 - 17, 2006 ♦ San Jose, Costa Rica



Flash floods have a major impact on the global economy and loss of human lives. Flooding and flash floods are the single most destructive type of natural disasters that strike humans and their livelihoods around the world. Recently, catastrophic flooding has been experienced in Guyana, China, India, Bangladesh and the Dominican Republic/Haiti. In Central America, Hurricane MITCH in 1998 caused massive destruction and loss of life mainly from flash floods and mudslides. Over 10,000 people lost their lives.

The International Workshop on Flash Flood Forecasting, coordinated by the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Weather Service and the World Meteorological Organization, will provide information on the types of flash flood prediction capabilities available for application in flash flood prone regions in developing countries. A range of solutions will be covered; from simple inexpensive tools and applications to more sophisticated centralized forecasting systems. Participants will determine the "weak links" in establishing end-to-end operational flash flood warning systems and how to fill these gaps. Additionally, the Workshop will identify steps that can be taken to promote proven science and technology to developing countries.

The Workshop will consist of presentations by leading experts in operational meteorology, hydrometeorology, hydrology, satellite and radar precipitation estimation, geographic information systems (GIS) and the emergency management profession. They will focus on how to deliver adequate lead-time and accuracy in forecasts to produce life and property saving actions to mitigate flash flood losses.

The Workshop will showcase case studies of successful end-to-end warning and response systems and effective flash flood forecasting operations. Small workgroups will determine the weak links in establishing flash flood warning systems and propose solutions. Project briefs for establishing or improving flash flood forecasting services will also be presented. Finally, the Workshop will include a dialogue with potential donor organizations. Vendor exhibitions will complement the expert presentations.



Participation will be by invitation only, and will include:

- Hydrologic experts in flash flood modeling, forecast systems, and Remote sensing
- Meteorological experts in QPF models
- Proactive Disaster management officials
- Managers and operational meteorologists, hydrologists and Emergency Managers from Developing countries who are candidates for Flash Flood modernization projects
- Representatives of Donor and Finance organization

To request an invitation or additional information contact:

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Workshop sponsors include NOAA-NWS, WMO, Environment Canada, and USAID OFDA.