JICA Project Team led by the Team Leader Eng. SAWA and JICA Chief Advisor to Project Eng. KONDO, WRMA Headquarters was represented by Advisor to Project Eng. KONDO Professor Maturwe acting Regional Manager. Mr. Maturwe gave opening remarks wherein he described the objectives of IFMC and emphasized the importance of integrated approach in flood and disaster management. He challenged the stakeholders to be generation minded and prepared by pointing out that the Ministry of Environment and Disaster Management in the county was ready to cooperate with other stakeholders in the management of floods and disaster management in the basin. He explained the background of the Lower Gucha Migori River Basin. Mr. Joshua Onyang made a presentation on Lower Gucha Migori Flood Management Vision Japan Experience. He explained the flood history in Gucha Migori. He thereafter explained the Nyando Project and lessons learned. He explained that the Nyando Project implementation was expensive and difficult for the community to implement on their own even under the support of the government. He clarified that the current Project aims at capacity development in flood management for WRMA and WRUA.

He explained that Flood Management was currently the mandate of WRMA and sixteen Flood Management Officers had been dispatched to the sub-regional offices. Mr. Leonard Masa of the Sub-regional Manager Water Resources Management Authority (WRMA) Gucha Migori made a presentation on progress of IFM Plan for Gucha Migori River Basin. Mr. Joshua Ouma made a presentation on Lower Gucha Migori Flood Management Vision Japan Experience. He explained the background of the Lower Gucha Migori. He thereafter gave the flood history in Gucha Migori. Mr. Elly Onyang made a presentation on current activities in LOGUMI SC. Mr. Richard Onsongo CAAC member explained the importance of integrated approach in management of floods.
WRMA STAGE ONE TRAINING

WRMA Stage One Training was held on 14th to 25th October 2013 at KEWI in Nairobi and Sunset Hotel in Kisumu respectively. It is predetermined by the Project Design Matrix that WRMA staffs be trained in effective flood management. The trainings are divided into three stages i.e. stage one trainees are trained in effective flood management, stage two the qualified trainees then train other WRMA staffs and thereafter the training spreads across all the sub-regional offices and WRUAs are also trained. The stage one segment was segmented into two phases: phase one was held in Nairobi while the phase two was held in Kisumu. The training in Nairobi commenced on 14th October 2014 and the training was officially opened by Technical Manager (CEO) and the Financial Manager (GFAS) of IFM.

WRMA STAGE ONE TRAINING IN NAIRI AND KISUMU HELD FROM 14TH TO 25TH OCTOBER 2013

A participant to the training states his expectations

During the Stage One Training the participants agreed to be time conscious and to maintain high level of discipline throughout the training period.

WRMA HQ Eng. Kinyua representing the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and the Financial Manager (GFAS) of IFM welcomed the trainees. The training in Nairobi was theoretical in nature and entailed understanding the concepts in flood management and modalities of achieving effective management of floods. Facilitation during this phase was through a workshop mode of approach which entailed PowerPoint presentations and thereafter questions and comments from the trainees and in some cases there were group discussions and thereafter group presentations. There were also various lecturers engaged during the Stage One Training and they included leading Kenyan Professors, Japanese Experts and Project Supervisor Gucha Migori.

The contents of the training were WRMA staffs mainly from the Flood Management Unit in the Head-quarters and the three Project Areas inclusive of the Regional Offices that the Project Areas fall under.

Some of the topics covered during the training were:

- Flood Early Warning Map
- Flood Damage Mitigation
- Flood Management System
- Structural Measures
- Emergency Public Awareness

The training in Kisumu was held on Sunset Hotel and it involved both theoretical and practical engagement. In the morning the sessions the participants were given lectures on effective flood management and the lecturers used Power-Point Presentation mode. Thereafter a field excursion exercise on community flood hazard mapping was carried out. The Winam WRUA played host to the training wherein the WRUA benefited by being part and parcel of Community Flood Hazard Management.

Disasters mainly earthquake, Tsunami and floods have occurred in Japan over centuries. This disaster occurrence has not led to submission of the people but in the spirit of the nation and her people Japan has exerted resilience that has seen the nation rising up from the horrors of history of disaster to become one of the most developed nations in the world.

Therefore the training in Japan by WRMA staffs on Effective Flood management was timely. The training in Japan entailed 20 staffs from WRMA including 3 members from the Winam WRUA. During the training in Japan the participants were taken to various sites in Japan but during the visits to the sites there were observations that indicated culture shock and the amazement of the melting of cultures in Japan. The following were noted:

- Timelessness which is a strong characteristics of Japan
- The City Shuttle leave on time and the smallest delay by a passenger means missing the Shuttle!
- “let’s put it in a nutshell”, The welcome was very warm and the staff had prepared everything it made us forget the jetlag we were all suffering from. Fast forward and the next day some of us missed breakfast and that was lesson number 1: that in Japan, allocated time for activities is strictly adhered to!

Mrs. Elizabeh Diego.

Other notable issues were work ethics, sea food, hospitality, Humility etc. For more do not miss the next month issue of IFM Newsletter!

WRMA STAGE ONE TRAINING PROCEEDINGS IN KISUMU

Eng. Kinya makes the opening remarks

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WRMA STAGE ONE TRAINING PROCEEDINGS IN NAIRI

A participant to the training states his expectations

During the entire training period in Nairobi, the participants showed highest level of discipline and more importantly they were all keen with their studies with an average of 99% attendance in all the lectures. The lecture room was electrifying and glazed with hunger for knowledge from the participants and passion for sessions by the lecturers. Just like they say “accounting for every drop of water”, the participants were accounting for every minute of the lecture by their attentiveness, raising issues of concern, participating in group works making presentations and answering every question asked. It was awesome!

The modules covered during stage one training included cause and effect of floods; Understanding flood management; Flood disaster management; Rainfall observation; Rainfall Data and Statistical Processing; Integrated River Basin Flood Management (IRBFM); Community Managed Flood Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR); Vulnerability assessment; Developing a Community Flood Hazard Map; Flood Early Warning System; Community Based Flood Early Warning; Introduction to Integrated Flood Analysis System (IFAS) and}

WRMA STAGE ONE TRAINING

Presentation on Progress of Lumii River Basin

Global Flood Alert System (GFAS); Evacuation Planning; Evacuation Centre Management; Capacity for Transmitting and Communicating Skills; Communication on Desired Information to Schools; Effective Public Awareness

Raising on Flood; Planning and design of flood damage mitigation measures; Flood Damage Mitigation Non-Structural Measures including Community Based Measures; Flood damage mitigation structural measures including community based measure; Water Cooperation and Cooperation between Upstream and Downstream; Role of Cooperation and Coordination; Cooperation with Government, WRUA and DDMD; Role of Disaster Management Committee (DDMC).

The training in Japan was characterized with numerous site visits. In the next month Issue of the IFM Newsletter will be visited. Do not miss your copy!

From Tokyo to Osaka we made several site visits to rivers, dams, museums, forests and had a close up view of Mt. Fuji on our way to Osaka. It was a memorable trip, museum and its history is preserved, the rivers are chored in River Law which is adhered to by the citizens and implemented to the letter.

For every river there is a dedicated river museum and its history is preserved, the rivers are continuously maintained, and we observed a multi purpose dam that was first constructed in 616 AD and is in perfect use to date over the centuries they have been building more embankments. In every place we went the welcoming was warm and thanks to....

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