The Fourth International Symposium on Flash Floods in Wadi Systems

Urban Flood Risk Management: Mitigation and Adaptation Measures in the MENA Region

Why you should attend

In the last two decades, many Arab cities such as Riyadh (2016), Casablanca (2016), Doha (2015) and Guelmim (2014) have experienced flash floods despite their highly arid and semi-arid climate. These events have caused live losses and important damages. Such causalities are usually due to the combination of many factors such as extreme precipitations, weak or insufficient urban stormwater infrastructure and drainage system, urban stream bursting their banks, uncontrolled urban sprawl, groundwater table high rise or tides generated backwater effects on drainage systems outlets in coastal cities. These phenomena are still not well studied. Besides, mitigation and adaptation measures are very rare in such countries and regions because of the prevailing arid or semi-arid climate and growing urbanization.

Tackling these problems requires a good analysis of climate change and meteorological data, particularly precipitation, and good knowledge of the city vulnerability to floods in such territories. Finding solutions to these challenging problems requires close collaboration between scientists, practitioners, and stakeholders from local, regional, national and international organizations whether they are public or private. So we encourage you to contribute to the development of future solutions for urban floods in the MENA countries.

This event is the fourth in a new series of annual international symposia on flash floods in wadi systems. Furthermore, this symposium is supported by the Water Resources Research Center (WRRC) and the Global Alliance of Disaster Research Institutes (GARDI) of the Disaster Prevention Research Institute (DPRI), Kyoto University, Japan. The first International Symposium on Flash Floods in Wadi Systems held in October 2015 in Kyoto, Japan, was attended by about one hundred scientists, practitioners, and stakeholders from 11 countries (Japan, Arab Region, Europe; see http://ecohyd.dpri.kyotou.ac.jp/en/index/1.html). The second Symposium was held at Technische Universität Berlin, Campus El Gouna, Egypt (http://www.campus-elgouna.tu-berlin.de/home/international_symposium_on_flash_floods/). The third International Symposium on Flash Floods in Wadi Systems was held in Oman (http://isff2017.gutech.edu.om/) and the fourth edition of this international symposium will be held in Casablanca, Morocco (http://isff2018.fstm.ac.ma/).
Symposium themes
- River/Wadi basin management and flood protection
- Storm water infrastructures and urban drainage systems
- Urban planning, green infrastructure and flood mitigation
- Climate change impacts, weather forecasting and flood warning systems
- Rainfall-runoff data monitoring and analysis
- Hydrology and hydraulic modeling of urban floods
- Groundwater flooding and impacts on urbanized plains
- Sediment management, water harvesting and flood control
- Flood vulnerability and risk assessment
- Flood damage assessment: environmental, social and economical tools
- Flood adaptation: structural and non-structural measures

Important deadlines
Abstract submission: June 30th, 2018
Acceptance of abstract: July 15th, 2018

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Location: Casablanca, Morocco
- Casablanca is the economic capital city of Morocco with usually warm to cold weather during November; approximately 27°C in the day and 15°C at night.
- Moroccan Dirhams and credit cards are acceptable in Casablanca. The exchange rate is approximately 1 MDH to 0.1 USD or 0.09 Euro as of November 2017.
- For more information on Morocco, visit the website http://www.maroc.ma/en, or http://www.visitmorocco.com/en
- For more information on Casablanca city visit http://www.casablancacity.ma/

Registration
- Regular participants: 1500 MDH ~ 150 USD (including lunch, coffee breaks, digital symposium material)
- IAHR members: 1200 MDH ~ 120 USD
- Students off campus: 500 MDH ~ 50 USD (including coffee breaks, digital symposium material)
- A planned excursion is included.

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Roadmap for future Wadi flash floods’ activities
- Planning for the future Wadi flash floods’ activities
- Development of research projects
- Collaboration with international organizations
- Integration of flood warning systems
- Capacity building for local communities