



ASFPM
INTERNATIONAL
COMMITTEE

NEWSLETTER

SHARING IDEAS FOR A WISE USE OF FLOODPLAINS

Welcome!



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ASFPM Int. Com.
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Welcome to the ASFPM International Committee, and welcome to our first newsletter. Through this we will keep you informed of relevant new developments in flood risk management globally, work of the committee and upcoming events that you might find of interest. We want to thank our seven regional coordinators for their time and involvement and all the ASFPM members that have brought fresh ideas to make the committee more active and engaging. We wish you all a relaxing and happy holiday and we look forward to a productive 2021.

Flood Risk Management: Insights without borders

Exchanges of experiences and research between the US and its international partners can provide insights to improve flood risk management worldwide.

The comments of the communication researcher Lera Boroditsky, made in another context, also apply to the mission of ASFPM's International Committee: *"The opportunity to work with others around the world who come from other perspectives gives us a chance to enrich our own understanding, to build a more sophisticated and complex representation of the problem. The richer our understanding, the closer we can get to a good set of solutions. So, it's important to remember that good communication is not just about getting others to understand your perspective, but also allowing yourself to listen and learn and enrich your own understanding in the process."* The NFIP provides the framework for Flood Risk Management (FRM) in the US. While the

NFIP has provided much needed assistance to communities and individuals impacted by disasters, we are all familiar with its shortcomings. Over the last 20 years there has been a great deal of discussion about how to "reform" the NFIP and more generally, FRM in the US. The International Committee believes that by connecting our members with colleagues in other countries, we can shape the conversation in the US by exposing our members to solutions from other contexts. At the same time, we can expose other countries to what has worked well in the US. We encourage you to engage in our discussions, webcasts, and conferences, and let us know how we can more effectively create a productive trans-national dialogue.

In a nutshell

What is the ASFPM International Committee?

A platform to exchange knowledge at a global level, and to discuss the best practices on the wise use of floodplains in order to reduce flood losses, manage water resources, and promote sustainability in the built and natural environment.

Who are we?

The International Committee is led by the two co-chairs, Anna Serra-Llobet and David Powers, working with the 7 regional coordinators (see below), and other ASFPM members who share a passion for understanding flood risk management across the globe.

What do we do?

- 1 PLAN We identify emerging topics in our web meetings
- 2 LEARN We share experiences through ASFPM webinars, newsletters, and conferences
- 3 CONNECT We connect across countries at the ASFPM conference

REGIONAL COORDINATORS



CANADA

David Swan

Hydra International



LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN
Alejandro Riano

AECOM



EUROPE

Jessica Ludy

USACE



AFRICA

Sherry Crouch

CDM Smith



MIDDLE EAST

Mounir Boudjemaa

CDM Smith



ASIA & PACIFIC

Yanan Ma

AECOM



AUSTRALIA

Mark Forest

HDR

Activities 2019-2020

Building on the work of prior co-chairs Bo Juza and Shana Udvardy, we have expanded our activities. The committee now works with the seven regional coordinators with expertise in different regions of the world. Our main three activities are participating actively at the ASFPM Annual Conference, creating webinars of topics of interest for our members and organizing workshops with academia, policy-makers and practitioners.



Photo. International Committee during the 43rd ASFPM Conference in Cleveland, Ohio, May 2019.

ASFPM Conference

Our annual cycle starts with the ASFPM Conference. This is our opportunity to connect in person with all the members of the International Committee. After welcoming the international participants in Cleveland, we organized two sessions to share ideas and learn about flood risk management in other countries.

ASFPM's 43rd Annual Conference in Cleveland, Ohio
May 19-23, 2019

International Policy Discussion Session

In this session, different members of the International Committee gave quick overviews on regions: **Canada:** Anna Serra-Llobet, UC Berkeley, **Europe:** Jonathan Simm, HR Wallingford, and Anna Serra-Llobet, UC Berkeley, **Asia & Pacific:** Yanan Ma, AECOM, **Australia:** Alan Gear, Floodplain Management Australia, **Latin America and Caribbean:** Alejandro Riano, AECOM, and Juan Gonzalez-Moscoso, ReImagina Puerto Rico, **Africa and Middle East** (brief comments): Jonathan Simm, HR Wallingford, and David Powers, CDM Smith.

Concurrent Session "International Perspective on Flood Risk Management"

We organized this session focused on advances in Europe: "Learning from Europe: review of first cycle of implementation of Floods Directive" Jonathan Simm, HR Wallingford

"Flood Risk Management in Germany: The Impact of the EU Flood Directive and Lessons Learned from the 2002 and 2013 floods" Klaus Piroth, CDM Smith

"Taking Levees into Account in Flood Maps: Comparing US and France" Anna Serra-Llobet, University of California, Berkeley.

Webinars

The webinars are among the best ways to learn from other members. We welcome ideas and everyone who has a good story to share is invited to participate in our webinar series. Last year we got examples from China, and Puerto Rico, and we collaborated with the EU Working Group on Floods to start an annual information exchange between the US and the EU.

Webinar 1. Redrawing Grey Cities to Climate Resilient Sponge Cities

Dr. She, Tsinghua University Innovation Center in Zhuhai
June 06, 2019

In this webinar, Dr. She gave examples of the sponge city movement that is incorporating stormwater management practices in different cities across China. This webinar was moderated by Yanan Ma, the Asia and Pacific regional coordinator.

Join us

ASFPM Int. Committee Membership Meetings

Summer Meeting

Aug
2020

Fall Meeting

Oct
2020

Winter Meeting

Jan
2021

Spring Meeting

May
2021

ASFPM Int. Committee Mailing List

Don't miss any event! Are you a member of ASFPM? Join the International Committee mailing list at the ASFPM website.

Next events

ASFPM Int. Committee Webinar Series

Winter Webinar

Dec, 2nd
2020

Flood Risk Management & Mapping in the EU

Spring Webinar

Spring
2021

Flood Risk Management & Mapping in Australia

ASFPM Int. Committee Website

Our webinars will be soon available at the ASFPM website.

Webinar 2. Flood risk management in the US: Local and state government examples

Chad Berginnis, ASFPM Executive Director, Anna Serra-Llobet, University of California Berkeley and ASFPM International Committee co-chair, October 10, 2019

Chad Berginnis and Anna Serra-Llobet were invited to participate in the first webinar exchange with the EU, talking about examples of flood risk management in the US. The webinar was organized by Ioannis Kavvas, from the European Commission's Working Group on Floods, Water Unit of the Directorate-General for Environment, in collaboration with the International Water Office in Paris.

Webinar 3. Puerto Rico's hurricane Maria recovery process through integrated flood risk management

Juan González-MoscOSO, ReImagina Puerto Rico
October 30, 2019

In this webinar, Juan González-MoscOSO explained how Puerto Rico is undergoing the recovery process after hurricane Maria devastated the island in 2017, resulting in the loss of 3000 lives. He made emphasis on integrated flood risk management as a key element for sustainable solutions. This webinar was moderated by Alejandro Riano, the Latin America and Caribbean regional coordinator.

Workshops

This last year we have also collaborated with different universities from Canada and Europe to organize the following workshops:

Workshop 1. Regulatory flood mapping systems in Canada, the US and France: Emerging trends

Institute of International Studies, University of California Berkeley, June 19, 2019

In this workshop we compared the Flood Insurance Rate Maps with the equivalents in Quebec and France. We learned about technical differences in the methods and models used to create them but also about the implica-

tions of these regulatory flood maps on land use planning, insurance and emergency management. This workshop was organized by Anna Serra-Llobet, University of California Berkeley, and Thomas Buffin-Belanger Université du Québec à Rimouski. Invited ASFPM members: Ricardo Pineda (ASFPM Chair), David Powers (co-chair ASFPM International Committee), Jessica Ludy (co-chair ASFPM Risk Communication and Outreach Policy Committee), Jeanne Ruefer (co-chair ASFPM Arid Regions Committee).

Workshop 2. Innovations in river management in Germany and the US: Integrating ecosystem restoration into flood risk management

Institute of International Studies, University of California Berkeley, 17 October 2019

In both North America and Europe some of the best opportunities for river and floodplain ecosystem restoration are tight to projects that holistically manage flood risk. Due to different institutional arrangements and policies, the way we do that in both regions is very different. In this workshop we highlighted elements that can be implemented across borders. Organizers: G. Mathias Kondolf and Anna Serra-Llobet, University of California, Berkeley, and Sonja C. Jähnig, Leibniz Institute for Freshwater Ecology and Inland Fisheries - IGB Berlin. Invited ASFPM members: Eileen Fretz-Shader (co-chair ASFPM Natural and Beneficial Functions).

Workshop 3. From epic wildfires to epic flash floods: Rethinking flood risk management in an era of extremes

Institute of International Studies, University of California Berkeley, February 5, 2020

With the increasing extent of wildfire across North America, the risk of flash flood and debris flows is increasing, posing threats to urban areas. In this workshop we discussed ongoing efforts in the US (mostly California) and the EU (mostly France) to manage flash floods after wildfires and explore opportunities to better understand flood risk and improve its management by looking at the problem from multiple disciplines. Organizers: Anna Serra-Llobet and John Radke (University of California, Berkeley) and Jonny Douvinet (University of Avignon, France).