



ASFPM International Committee Annual Status Report 2019

Association of State Floodplain Managers

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INTRODUCTION AND COMMITTEE OVERVIEW

ASFPM is a valued and effective resource for advising and interfacing with national counterparts and policy leaders in other nations regarding identification and reduction of flood risk, including adaptation to the flood-related impacts of a changing climate. This engagement provides valuable context and helps inform adjustments to U.S.-based policies and practices while providing ASFPM members with risk reduction techniques that are successful and applicable in the U.S.

The primary mission of the [International Committee](#) (IC) is to provide a platform to exchange knowledge and 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.

In addition to **Bo Juza** (Aquatrend), **David Powers** (CDM Smith) and **Shana Udvardy** (Union of Concerned Scientists), who served as the co-chairs for 2018 – 2019, **Jessica Ludy** (ESA) served as the IC liaison.

The IC established the following goals for the 2018 – 2019 year:

Goal 1:

Continue to build relationships and facilitate the exchange of knowledge with floodplain managers in other countries. Based on ASFPM conferences in Grand Rapids (2016), Kansas City (2017) and Phoenix (2018), the following focus areas and their leading contacts were selected. Focus areas are not limited to the following, but the International Committee and all members present at meeting believe there is a need to have a leading contact:

- UK – **Jonathan Simm**
- Canada – **Flair Feltmate**.
- France and Spain – **Anna Serra-Llobet**
- The Netherlands – **Jessica Ludy**
- Australia – **Allan Gear**
- Poland – **Janusz Zaleski**
- Czech Republic – **Bo Juza**

Results: This year was exciting for the IC in that several new members have stepped up, which has led to the creation of Regional Subcommittees. These regional subcommittees do not change the goal of looking at flood risk management strategies in the countries listed above, but enhance the IC's ability to do so by a) enabling the IC to expand this goal from an EU-centric approach to a truly global approach, and b) provides a point-of-contact to coordinate regional efforts. The Regional Subcommittees and their chairs are:

- Africa – Vacant
- Asia – **Yanan Ma** (AECOM, Kansas City)
- Australia – **Joe Chapman** (AECOM, Charlotte)
- Canada – **Anna Serra-Llobet** (UC-Berkeley)
- Europe – **Jessica Ludy** (ESA, San Francisco)
- Latin America and the Caribbean – **Alejandro Riano** (AECOM, Phoenix)
- Middle East – Vacant

Goal 2:

Develop country-specific, flood-risk management summaries using the points-of-contact above. Each summary should stand on its own, but a combined set of summaries could provide the basis

for a discussion paper on International Best Practices for Flood Risk Management. Each summary will be provided to ASFPM for inclusion in the newsletter to help promote the committee and encourage discussion on floodplain management from a global perspective.

Results: For a variety of reasons, we did not make as much progress as we would have liked to on this initiative. The IC did publish two articles in the ASFPM newsletter in February. The first serves as the introduction to this initiative, [EU Floods Directive](#) by David Powers (CDM Smith), and the second was a review of the current state of flood risk management in Germany, as presented at the [Flood Risk Conference in Magdeburg](#) in November 2018 by **Klaus Piroth** (CDM Smith). The IC will continue to work toward this discussion paper in 2019 – 2020.

Goal 3:

Investigate the development of an international, or non-NFIP specific, CFM certification that could be implemented for ASFPM members not working in the U.S. There has been interest in this concept, and there is an example in Canada where the CFM is being required of provincial floodplain managers, in lieu of anything better. ASFPM is interested in advancing this cause and the International Committee could help inform this through other work objectives, such as country-specific flood-risk management summary sheets.

Results: The IC has investigated this concept through discussions with overseas members of the committee, and there is a definite interest in the further development of the idea. This program, if it is developed, will take a considerable amount of time and energy to make a reality. The IC will plan on working with other committees in our Pod to plan for this (e.g. Higher Education, Professional Development) along with ASFPM and the Flood Science Center. A discussion paper on global flood-risk management best practices should be core to this effort.

Goal 4:

Collaborate with the Risk Communications Committee (RCC) regarding a discussion paper they are leading that discusses the appropriateness of the “100-year” storm standard. Point person for the paper is Jessica Ludy and **Jen Marcy**.

Results: The IC participated in discussions with the RCC on the development of this discussion paper. It is still being developed and the IC is eager to assist as it moves forward.

Goal 5:

Collaborate with the Higher Education Committee to bring awareness to academic papers associated with international flood risk management topics. This could be through posting them on a website, social media, or other.

Results: The IC participated coordinated with the HEC in the pursuit of a credible, peer-reviewed journal that ASFPM could participate in. As this is an on-going topic of discussion, there is little that can be said at this time.

Ongoing Tasks:

1. The IC held bi-monthly membership meetings in November, January and March, and instituted bi-monthly leadership calls on the months in between. The leadership calls were held for the purpose of coordination and planning between the co-chairs and the regional subcommittees.
2. The IC participated in ASFPM leadership opportunities including: the co-chairs retreat in Madison (September 2018), multiple Pod calls through our Pod Facilitator **Jeff Sparrow** (Moffatt and Nichol), committee calls facilitated by ASFPM, etc.
3. All meeting minutes, the IC Work Plan and other relevant documents, and international

flood-risk management links of interest have been posted to the IC [website](#).

4. Monthly email updates were sent to the committee membership distribution list.

2018 – 2019 presented a lot of changes and a lot of opportunities for the International Committee. These changes are expected provide the foundation for the IC's growth and reach in the next year and beyond.