



Comments from the Japanese National Committee for IHP on the 2nd order draft of the strategic plan of the 9th phase of IHP

Overall comment

The IHP is an intergovernmental cooperation programme aimed at addressing national, regional and global water challenges and building a sustainable and resilient society by deepening the scientific understanding of water, improving technical capabilities, and enhancing education. To promote these aims, it is important to innovatively develop science and technology, generate integrated scientific knowledge based on various data, experience and objective facts, share this knowledge widely, and implement it in society. Furthermore, it is essential to develop human resources who will be responsible for these endeavors. As a result, it has become possible to support governance that makes decisions based on science and technology by building a mechanism enabling all stakeholders to participate independently.

The second draft of the IHP-IX Strategic Plan clearly proposes the ideas stated above as priority areas and is highly evaluated. On the other hand, various water-related issues cannot be solved only in the fields of science, technology and education, and the perspective of how these fields and society cooperate is important. As well as synergistically enhancing effectiveness in collaboration with the activities undertaken within the framework of the United Nations and regional cooperation, it is also necessary to present a framework of cooperation for the planning, implementation, and dissemination of results at the local, national, regional, and global levels.

Specific comments and proposal

1. “Global water challenges and opportunities” and “Global Water Landscape”

Some of the items listed in the “Global Water Challenges” are being addressed within the framework of the United Nations and regional cooperation. Therefore, we recommend not only to list frameworks and global agendas in the “Global Water Landscape”, but also to describe aspects where the fields of science, technology and education are expected to contribute, and then to describe “Opportunities” based on that.

In “Opportunities”, it is recommended that the disaster pointed out in the “Global Water Challenges” should be mentioned. The following is an example to be added in “Opportunities”.

Opportunities

Building a sustainable global society by strengthening disaster resilience

Recent discussions call for strengthening disaster resilience to reduce impacts from disasters, overcome loss and damage, and recover, as prerequisites for achieving sustainable development.

The Report by the Secretary-General of the United Nations at the 2019 UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) refers to the term "disaster" many times, particularly in the section on Goal 1 "End Poverty," and emphasizes that the higher ratio of economic loss caused by disasters in the poorest countries is an obstacle to eradicating poverty. The Report also highlighted that "all risk-management measures must be human-centered and ensure a whole of society approach" in the chapter of responding to gaps and accelerating implementation.

The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) organized the Global Platform for DRR (GPDRR) in 2019 with the theme "Resilience Dividend: Toward Sustainable and Inclusive Societies," whose Co-Chair's Summary concluded that "risk-informed investments are essential for sustainable development and inclusive societies."

Coping with the COVID-19 pandemic, which is regarded as a serious disaster world-wide, can also be an opportunity of IHP-IX. Water is very much related to such a hazardous phenomenon in terms of public health and human welfare: SDGs 3 and 6.

2. "IHP-IX Mission"

IHP missions are divided into three types as follows:

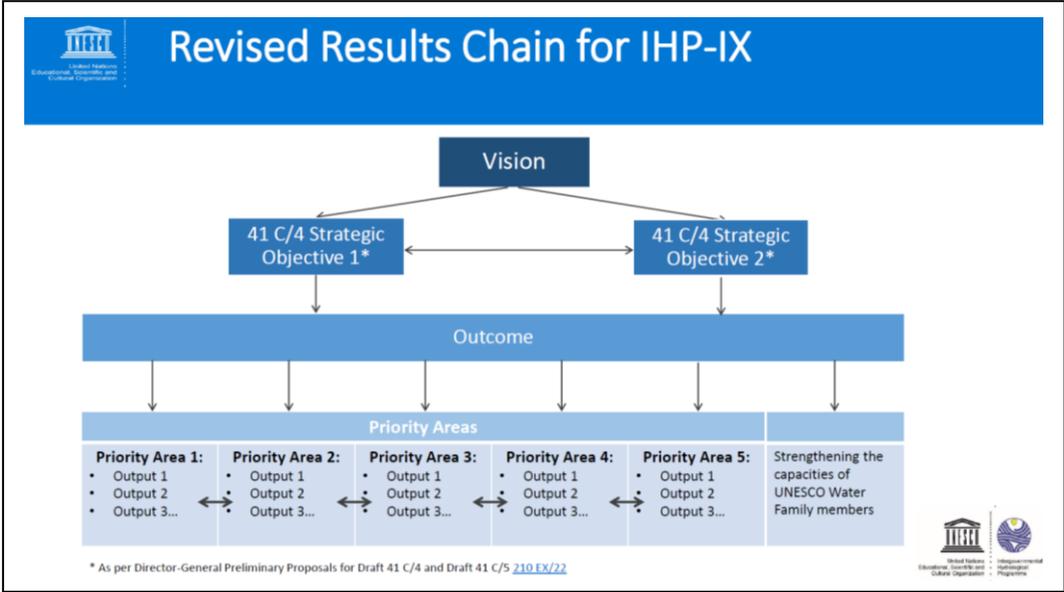
- i) Unique activities centered on IHP,
- ii) Activities that should exert synergistic effects in collaboration with activities that have already begun, and
- iii) Activities that should promote collaboration with other activities, such as the SDG6 Global Accelerator Framework.

Items a., b., and c. are categorized into type i); f. is categorized into type iii), and d. and e. are a mixture of multiple types. We recommend that the types of missions should be more clearly described so that the mission can be promoted effectively.

3. "Strategic Objectives, Outcomes and Priority Areas"

In order to clearly show the relationship among Strategic Objectives, Outcomes, and Priority Areas, the following configuration is proposed: presenting the "Strategic Objectives" and the "Outcomes", followed by the "Theory of Change" describing that "Outcomes" for achieving water security can be achieved by structurally designing five "Priority Areas". To do so, it is recommended that the lines 10 to 17 on page 14 be deleted and the paragraph starting with the lines 18 "Each of these Outcomes" be included in a part of "Theory of Change" followed by a new section "Whole Structure" to explain the entire relationship with a succinct diagram.

It is hoped that the table on page 15 of the 2nd order draft, which shows the overall picture, will be revised to show the mutual relationship between two "Strategic Objectives", three "Outcomes", and five "Priority Areas" with their outputs clearly. It is also recommended that each item from the vision to the expected outputs should be put at the end to show the whole structural scheme based on the figure shown by Mr. Abou Amani in the 2nd Extraordinary Session. In addition, it would be desirable to present a diagram showing the mutual relationship of the five Priority Areas.



4. Priority Areas

It is recommended that the subject of each activity be clarified and that the activities that IHP will carry out and those which IHP will support for the implementation by society be clearly stated. In addition, the current draft is described as a new way of thinking, and it is highly evaluated because it feels dynamic, but IHP's past achievements should be effectively used and the achievements should be developed while making changes. It is recommended that the achievements and new developments of IHP be added while maintaining the tone of the current manuscript.