

WAS*IS AUSTRALIA Workshop (29/01/07 to 02/02/07)

Interest Statement

I am a hydrologist working in the field of flood prediction and warning over the past three years. In carrying out my job, I have learnt that providing a reliable and effective flood prediction and warning service requires not only relevant hydrological knowledge but also effective co-ordination and communication with related agencies as well as good understanding of some related science. In particular, the following should be taken into account:

- An updated knowledge of the most recent and efficient developments in rainfall forecasts and flood forecasting / flood prediction techniques in order to improve reliability of forecasts of rainfall and prediction of resulting floods;
- A good understanding of “hot spots” areas (location, characteristics, etc) and the community likely to be at risk in order to construct an effective flood warning;
- Communication and cooperation between hydrologists and meteorologists in order to improve flood monitoring and prediction;
- Public education in order to increase flood awareness and preparedness; and
- Relevant understanding of social science (for example, economic evaluation, uncertainty communication, decision analysis and decision making processes, etc) for the design, evaluation, and selection of appropriate flood mitigation options, or development of effective flood warning messages.

The consideration of the above factors in the design, development and implementation of a flood warning system highlights the importance and necessity of a better integration of social science and weather forecasts in both research and practice. This is also reflected in WAS*IS mission, which is *“to empower practitioners, researchers and stakeholders to forge new relationships and to use new tools and concepts for more effective socio-economic applications and evaluations of weather information and products”*.

I think WAS*IS is a great venture where people with the same objectives and interests can meet, discuss, learn and make recommendations towards achieving the above mission. The ultimate goal is to minimize the impacts of natural hazards to the community, and to make this world a safer (from natural disasters) place for every one to live.

I look forward to an opportunity to meet with Professor Eve Grunfest and others at the WAS*IS Australia Workshop in January 2007.