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The WMO HydroHub : Innovation is the new tradition

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Data and information are essential for effective and sustainable management of water resources. This is especially crucial for flood and drought events, but also for maximizing benefits to society and for preventing potential conflicts over different uses of water, such as between agriculture, ecosystems, energy, domestic water supply or industry. This data needs to be shared with the relevant partners and transformed into fit-for-purpose products that support decision-making processes. The challenge is to acquire, maintain, and share hydrological data on a regular and sustainable basis and across economic sectors and national borders.

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) has established the Global Hydrometry Support Facility (HydroHub) to address these needs by:
• Building and improving operational systems and capacity in water monitoring including innovative technologies or approaches
• Translating hydrological data into knowledge
• Facilitating free and open data sharing

The HydroHub draws from WMO's long years of experience in capacity development projects which focus on strengthening the technical, human and institutional capabilities of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services. With the HydroHub's Global Innovation Hub, WMO strives to go beyond traditional methods and foster the development of new innovative approaches to hydrometry through technology scouting, co-design, piloting, proofing and compliance with quality management practices.
Key to the HydroHub approach is the insight that good solutions to current challenges can only be developed in collaboration with a diverse group of players from different backgrounds, sectors, countries, from both public and private sectors. The HydroHub is set up to bring all these stakeholders together to find more suitable solutions, to modernize technologies and procedures along the whole value chain from observation to decision-making.
Innovative technologies can be tailored to meet future challenges and existing gaps that are identified jointly by solution providers and consumers.
Embedded in WMO's Climate and Water Department, and financed by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation's Global Program Water, the HydroHub is driven by users' needs and requirements. The focus of the HydroHub lies on the sustainability of solutions and promotes free and open data exchange, to converge towards the long-term objective of an innovative, efficient, cost-effective, and sustainable framework for operational hydrology that meets the users' needs.

The HydroHub is designed to become fully functional in 2018 after a two year transition phase that is being used to set up procedures, test new approaches, create the first building-blocks of a consistent enterprise infrastructure, and most importantly, weave the network of partners.
This new approach should help build sustainable and efficient data collection for the XXI Century water challenges, for the benefit of society.