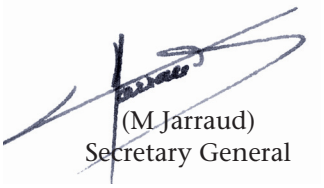
FOREWORD

The probable maximum precipitation (PMP), which is a fundamental parameter in the design of a variety of hydrological structures, also has a key role in floodplain management, where it is made to correspond to the extreme potential risk of flooding at a given time and place.

PMP is therefore very useful for hydrologists, to estimate the probable maximum flooding and thereby, for example, to design the most appropriate spillways to minimize the risk of overtopping a given hydraulic structure, such as a dam. In this way, the risks of loss of lives, damages and community impacts can be minimized and managed.

The present publication covers a wide range of methods which can be used to make PMP estimates and it draws heavily on international experience from many regions of the world. The previous edition was published by WMO in 1986 as an Operational Hydrology Report.

On behalf of WMO, I would therefore like to express my gratitude to all experts involved in its preparation and its publication, in particular to Mr Bruce Stewart, President of the WMO Commission for Hydrology, who led the corresponding review process as requested by the Commission at its twelfth session (Geneva, October 2004).



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