

## **INVITATION TO JOIN FORCES**

### **TOWARDS AN INTERNATIONAL HANDBOOK FOR EMERGENCY RESPONSE FOR LEVEES TO ADDRESS FLOOD RISK**

### **VERS UN MANUEL INTERNATIONAL POUR LES INTERVENTIONS D'URGENCE POUR LES DIGUES EN CAS DE RISQUE D'INONDATION**

Flood risk can be managed following various strategies, like protection (flood defenses), spatial planning and flood emergency response. The Associated Program on Flood Management (APFM), a joint initiative of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the Global Water Partnership (GWP), provides guidance, promotes the concept of Integrated Flood Management (IFM, Source: WMO, 2009). It goes without saying that full protection is not possible. Therefore, additional reliance on emergency response is inevitable. Worldwide, there are different emergency response approaches to minimize flood risk. Experiences with actually implementing this response vary widely. This variety of experience provides an excellent opportunity to learn from each other.

International relationships on flood emergency response for levees have developed recently. Experience shows that this provides benefits to all organizations involved. In line with this development, Dutch parties are keen to progress an initiative to write an International Handbook on Emergency Response Measures for Flood Risk and hope that other parties will join this initiative. This handbook could become an appendix on the International Levee Handbook. This document is a first invitation to join forces to do so and presents the initial thoughts. It goes without saying that many aspects are open for discussion.

To provide an indication of the potential contents of the handbook, please see the textbox below.

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