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Barriers that Impede Flood Risk Management in Metro Manila, Philippines

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Flooding has become a natural occurrence in the Philippines during frequent rain showers, monsoon rains and, even more so, on typhoon events. Flood perennially devastates the country in the urban areas, such as Metro Manila, and flood prone provinces which severe the country environmentally, economically and socially. In order to alleviate consequent impacts of flooding in the country, a law on typhoon moderation and flood control research and development program has been established since 1970's. However, despite continuous efforts given to support this act, flooding has sustained hazards and even increased risks on the contemporary. Hence, this study aims to identify the risk management constraints and barriers in the national capital region of the Philippines, also known as Metro Manila. Barriers and constraints are presented typologically and the origin of the barriers were also discerned. There are three (3) major type of barriers in flood risk management in Metro Manila: political, social and scientific. Politically, existence of a government entity that is solely responsible for flood management that supports planning, implementation and maintenance is lacking and must be established. The current diverse and separate institutions that manage flood related concerns would require parallel coordination and constant communication which is tedious and has become lethargic process. Meanwhile, anthropogenic movements transformed the once natural hazard to a more complex human-induced phenomena. Such complex flood risk would then require scientific assessment and technologies that is likely to demand massive financial support. Overcoming barriers does not ultimately lead to success in eliminating flood risks but appreciation and cognizance would be helpful in planning more effective and efficient strategies in eliminating flood. This could also lead to a shift towards sustainable flood management strategies.