

**MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL 27TH MEETING OF
ASIAN REGIONAL WORKING GROUP (ASRWG)**
20 October 2020, 12:30 to 13:30 hours (IST)

Presented by the Chairman

Year of Establishment: 1996

Mandate: The general objective of the Asian Regional Working Group is to focus on common topics and issues and to enhance the transfer of appropriate technology in irrigation and drainage to and from the Asian Region. The mission of ASRWG is to encourage membership and to coordinate activities in the region.

Members Present: (1) VPH Karim Shiati, Chair (Iran); (2) Dr. Vijay K. Labhsetwar (India); (3) Dr. Mochammad Amron (Indonesia); (4) VP Naoki Hayashida (Japan); (5) Dr. Tsugihiko Watanabe (Japan); (6) Dr. (Ms.) Aynur Fayrap (Turkey); (7) Dr. Ray-Shyan Wu (Chinese Taipei); (8) Dr. Wen-Pin Shu (Chinese Taipei); (9) Er. B.A. Chivate, Director, ICID Central Office (India).

Observers: (1) Ms. Atsuko Akita (Japan); (2) Dr. Sang Hee Park (Korea, Republic of); (3) Mr. Hyeukaan Son (Korea, Republic of); (4) Ather Hameed (Pakistan).

Website: http://icid-ciid.org/inner_page/104

ASRWG Minutes Item 1: Action taken report by Chair

1. Chair VPH Dr. Karim Shiati welcomed all the members and briefly presented the action taken report and requested members to confirm the points mentioned in the agenda of the meeting. The members appreciated the efforts of the Central Office in contacting the National Committees and many other countries in the region for strengthening the membership of the group. The group noted that Mongolia had expressed its interest in joining ICID however, filled-in application form is awaited.

2. Chair Dr. Shiati (Iran) desired to step down from the position in the group. The Chair opened the floor for nominations/ proposals. The Chair then proposed Dr. Tsugihiko Watanabe (Japan) as new Chair and Dr. Vijay K. Labhsetwar as new Vice-Chair of the WG. Dr. Vijay K. Labhsetwar then proposed Dr. (Ms) Aynur Fayrap (Turkey) as new Secretary of the group attempting to close the gender gap. The members unanimously accepted and approved the above proposals.

3. Further, Dr. Vijay K. Labhsetwar observed that some of the countries (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Iraq, Kazakhstan and Philippines) have no representatives in the WG besides some other inactive members. The group requested ICID Central Office to follow up and update the membership. Membership status is given in **Annex 3 (page 43)**.

ASRWG Minutes Item 2: Road Map to ICID Vision 2030 – Status of activities in Asian region

4. The Chair Dr. Shiati briefly reiterated the Action Plan on the Road Map to ICID Vision 2030 and informed the members that the WG contributes to 3 goals out of 6 organizational goals of ICID Vision 2030 which include: (a) To promote the technical support program (TSP) among Asian NCs, (b) The international forum in 2019, and (c) Collaboration between PAWEES and ASRWG.

5. Based on the discussion, it was decided that the new Chair Dr. Watanabe in cooperation with the new Vice Chair and Secretary will update the Action Plan up to 2022 which would include a series of internal workshops and other activities, in due course of time.

ASRWG Minutes Item 3: Linkages with Regional and Transnational Organizations for Cooperation

6. Dr. Ray-Shyan Wu (Chinese Taipei) briefed the group members that Chinese Taipei Committee (CTCID) successfully organized the international forum with Philippine National Committee (PNC-ICID) and Thai National Committee (THAICID) in October 2019. Dr. Wu also informed that CTCID invited Malaysian National Committee (MANCID) to Chinese Taipei for the CTCID Annual Conference – 2019, followed by a technical tour. He further informed that due to COVID-19 pandemic, the visit of JNCID to CTCID has been postponed. The WG appreciated the efforts of CTCID in organizing the events as above.

7. The members also appreciated the efforts of MANCID in welcoming Vice President Kamran Emami (Iran) and Dr. Vijay K Labhsetwar (India) at the Smart Control Centre, Department of Irrigation and Drainage at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in early September 2019. Dr. Labhsetwar informed that PH Keizrul bin Abdullah (Malaysia) was the architect of the smart tunnel and was also present on the occasion. A brief news item on the above visit was also published in the ICID News Update (ICID News Update, February 2020).

8. The new Chair desired to strengthen the linkages among Regional and Transnational Organizations in the participating NCs i.e., CTCID, INACID, MANCID, PNC-ICID and THACID and others.

ASRWG Minutes Item 4: Developing cooperative arrangements with International Society of Paddy and Water Environment Engineering (PAWEES) and International Network of Water Environment and Paddy Fields (INWEPF)

9. The Chair Dr. Shiati reiterated the cooperation of the ASRWG with PAWEES (International Society of Paddy and Water Environment Engineering) and INWEPF (International Network for Water and Ecosystem in Paddy Fields), which has been the main activity within the ASRWG agenda since 2004. Mr. Hyeukaan Son from KRC of Republic of Korea informed that the INWEPF and PAWEES successfully organized 2019 Seoul INWEPF-PAWEES International Conference with the theme “New, Green and Smart Paradigm of Agricultural Water” in November 2019 at Seoul, Republic of Korea.

10. The WG recognized, once again the importance of the collaboration with PAWEES and INWEPF as well as other relevant organizations in the region. The members were encouraged to develop the opportunity and activities in this context and share the information of any conference or meeting that the WG is to be involved or participate in.

ASRWG Minutes Item 5: Organization of internal workshop

11. The decision of the WG in its Bali meeting was reaffirmed that the WG will organize its internal workshops on every occasion of ASRWG meeting starting from the ICID meeting in 2020. Due to the pandemic of COVID-19, this year's i.e. 2020 internal workshop of the ASRWG is being postponed and will now be held in March 2022 at Adelaide, Australia during 73rd IEC (*tbz*).

12. New Chair Dr. Watanabe and new Vice Chair Dr. Labhsetwar will draft the theme and program of the next internal workshop of the WG in Australia. The process and outcomes are to be designed tightly on the Action Plan of the Road Map to ICID Vision 2030.

ASRWG Minutes Item 6: Any other business

13. The WG members appreciated the leadership and guidance provided by VPH Dr. Karim Shiati (Iran) as Chair since 2006 and VP Mr. Naoki Hayashida (Japan) since 2014 for their countless contributions to the activities of the WG. Dr. Shiati and Mr. Hayashida continue to be the members of the WG and members requested for their continued support to the activities of the WG.

14. The new Chair Dr. Watanabe observed that the website of the ASRWG needs to be revised and updated to provide the base for developing WG activities, sharing information and disseminating the outcomes of the WG. The improvements in WG website will be supported by the Central Office. Chair encouraged members to review the existing website and provide their suggestions for improvement.

15. Dr. Watanabe also proposed to organize quarterly (once in three months) WG on-line meetings during the period between two actual/ physical annual IEC Meetings.



ROAD MAP TO ICID VISION 2030 – ACTIVITIES OF WORK BODIES

Goals/ Strategies	Activities	Outcomes/ Outputs	Milestone for Year 2017	Milestone for Year 2018	Milestone for Year 2019	Milestone for Year 2020	Milestone for Year 2021	Milestone for Year 2022
Goal C: Facilitate exchange of information, knowledge and technology								
C3. Strategy: Promoting Regional Cooperation	3.5 Enhance Linkages between National Committees for International Cooperation	Technical Report						
	3.6 Broaden relationship and mutual understanding and cooperation between NCs from developing countries and developed countries	Collaboration/ MoU	Exchange visits/ training between TUCID and IRNCID					
			MoU between IRNCID and KCID					
	3.7 International conference/ workshop/ seminar	Compilation of proceedings		8 th Asian Regional Conference, May 2018, Nepal	International forum in Oct 2019	Workshop		
C4. Strategy: Compile, Collate and Share Knowledge and Experiences	4.4 Special joint Publication on Agricultural Water Management for Sustainable Rural Development	Side Event with AARDO	Special Issue of AARDO Journal					
	4.21 Report on “Contribution of Agricultural Water to the Rural Development in Asia”	Technical Report	Publish the Technical Report based on workshops/ Side Event	Formal release of the Report at 8 th ARC	Promote the Technical Support Program (TSP) among Asia NC's			
GOAL D: Enable Cross Disciplinary and Inter-Sectoral Engagement								
D3. Strategy: Facilitate Development of Inter-sectoral Platforms Involving NCs	3.1 Developing inter-sectoral engagement			Collaboration between PAWEES and ASRWG	Collaboration between PAWEES and ASRWG			

(Source: Consultative Group (CG) Report: A Water Secure World Free of Poverty & Hunger: A Road Map to ICID Vision 2030)