

**MINUTES OF THE 31ST MEETING OF THE
COMMITTEE ON CONGRESSES/CONFERENCES (C-CONGR)**

19 October 2020, 12:30 Hours IST

Presented by the Chairman

Year of Establishment: 1990

Mandate: The mandate of the Committee is:

- (i) To recommend general improvement in conduct of WIFs, Congresses, Conferences and other ICID events;
- (ii) Representatives/Organizers of the ICID events to present a summary report on preparations made for the said events;
- (iii) Share the lessons learned / difficulties faced in organizing the events; and
- (iv) Make proposals for the smooth conduct of the ICID events.

Members Present: (1) Mr. Bryan Ward, Chairman (Australia, 2017); (2) VPH Ding Kunlun, CNCID representative; (3) Pr El Houssine Bartali, ANAFIDE representative; (4) Ms. Chris Delphin, IACID representative; (5) Mr. Momir Vranes, IACID representative; (6) Vice President Dr. K. Yella Reddy, INCID representative; and (7) Er. B.A. Chivate, Director (Technical).

Observers: (i) Er A. B. Pandya, Secretary General, ICID Central Office; (ii) Er. Harish K Varma, Executive Director, ICID Central Office; (iii) Mr Amrendra Kumar Singh, Chief Engineer (EMO) and Member Secretary, INCID; and (iv) Mr. Rishi Srivastava, Director, Remote Sensing Directorate (CWC)/(INCID).

Website: http://icid-ciid.org/inner_page/107

C-CONGR Minutes Item 1: Action taken by the Chairman

1. Mr. Bryan Ward (Australia), Chairman of the C-CONGR presented a report on actions taken on the decisions made since the last meeting of the Committee at Bali on 04 September 2019. No interim meetings were held since the Bali meeting.
2. The Chairman reported that he presented a summary of the C-CONGR meeting to the PCSO meeting on 05 September 2019 and there was a discussion on:
 - (i) It was agreed that where possible, a Young Professional should be represented in the Local Organising Committee.
 - (ii) A recommendation from C-CONGR that PCSO further consider the 35% rebate to ICID for Congresses and Forums.

C-CONGR Minutes Item 2: Membership of the Committee

3. The Chairman observed that it had been difficult to secure the attendance of representatives who had held previous events and therefore reports, including a financial event report had not been provided for events such as Mexico, Nepal & Bali and this makes it difficult for C-CONGR to deliver on its mandate.
4. The Chairman recommended that in future all countries holding events should be requested to complete a report within an agreed number of days from the end of the event and this report will be tabled at future meetings of C-CONGR. Members would still be encouraged to attend and speak to these reports.
5. The Committee was in agreement with this proposal and the Chairman will work with ICID CO on the development of a template document. Membership status is given in **Annex 3 (page 43)**.

C-CONGR Minutes Item 3: Overview of the 71st IEC & 5th AFRC 2-8 December 2020 at Marrakech (Rescheduled)

6. Pr El Houssine Bartali (Morocco) provided an update on the difficulties faced by the Morocco National Committee (ANAFIDE) arranging the 5th African Regional Committee meeting and the Local Committee had decided to postpone the event due to COVID-19. Pr Bartali recommended to the Committee that the 5th AfRC now be held in September 2021 in Morocco and combine with the 72nd IEC meeting to replace the postponed Australian IEC meeting. The Committee endorsed this recommendation.

C-CONGR Minutes Item 4: Feedback from organisers of the past events**C-CONGR Minutes Item 4.1: Feedback from 3rd WIF & 70th IEC Meeting in September 2019 at Bali, Indonesia**

7. No representative from INACID was present to report on the event. The Chairman noted that the event went smoothly and INACID should be congratulated for successful event, however, the Committee would be interested to know the financial outcome from the event.

C-CONGR Minutes Item 5: Preparations for the future events for the next 3 years**C-CONGR Minutes Item 5.1: 24th ICID Congress & 72nd IEC Meeting, 6-12 July 2021, Sydney, Australia**

8. The Chairman reported that due to COVID-19 situation, the schedule of the 24th International Congress on Irrigation and Drainage & 72nd International Executive Council (IEC) was not going to be possible in July 2021 as previously agreed. The Irrigation Australia Board had agreed that this presented an unacceptable risk and after discussions with the ICID CO had agreed to look for dates/locations in late 2021.

9. He further advised that after receiving proposals from Adelaide, Brisbane and Sydney the proposal from Adelaide to hold the event from 06 to 14 March 2022 was preferred. The reasons for this included:

- (i) Cost: Adelaide offered the most competitive venue price from all venues.
- (ii) Facility: The Adelaide Convention Centre has recently been rebuilt and is now one of the most modern conference & exhibition centres in Australia. It was recently voted the top convention centre.
- (iii) Location: Adelaide city is a short distance from the international & domestic airport and has an abundant selection of irrigation sites in the agricultural, horticultural and viticultural sectors in reasonable proximity to the city.
- (iv) Convenience: Adelaide is an international airport, with multiple connections from Asia/Europe/Mid-East and by early 2022 we expect that it will be possible to arrive straight to Adelaide from more overseas destinations. Alternative options include transiting through Sydney, Melbourne or Brisbane and then on to Adelaide.
- (v) Adelaide offers many interesting features for visitors including the new Adelaide cricket ground (10 min walk from the convention centre), botanic gardens, art galleries, Sir Donald Bradman museum, markets, zoo, wildlife park and beaches.
- (vi) The Barossa Valley is about an hour's drive from Adelaide airport and is one of Australia's oldest grape-growing regions with many award winning wineries and a plethora of fresh produce and fabulous restaurants.
- (vii) Adelaide offers a great range of accommodation options from budget to 6 star hotels and is famous for its world renowned restaurants.

10. Adelaide was supported by the South Australian irrigation industry and several letters of support had been provided to ICID CO. The state government were also supporting this proposal. Irrigation Australia had requested the approval of the ICID Management Board for this change before the end of October 2020 to avoid a further scheduled payment for the Sydney venue. The MB was scheduled to meet on 22 October to discuss.

11. Mr Momir Vranes (IACID) advised the Committee that March in South Australia offered very favourable climatic conditions.

12. VPH Dr Ding Kunlun (China) had earlier expressed by mail that they are playing to have WIF4 in June 2022. Earlier, it was expected that the WIF4 will be held in September 2022 but the non-availability of suitable venues have prompted this arrangement. A concern was felt about proximity of two major events (Congress and WIF4) in the same year affecting attendance at both. Linkages of IEC with the major events of Congress and WIF4 was also discussed. It was felt that the issue may be considered threadbare by MB meeting being convened soon after. Secretary General informed issue can be discussed in the coming MB meeting for further guidance and decisions. Dr. Kunlun indicated that he would discuss the matter with the Local Organizing Committee for the 4th World Irrigation Forum to be held in Beijing.

C-CONGR Minutes Item 5.2: 10th International Micro Irrigation Conference in 2021 at Agadir, Morocco

13. Pr El Houssine Bartali advised that ANAFIDE had decided not to proceed with the 10th International Micro Irrigation Conference and this matter would be referred back to ICID for further consideration.

C-CONGR Minutes Item 5.3: 4th WIF & 73rd IEC Meeting in September 2022 at Beijing, China

14. VPH Dr Ding Kunlun advised the Committee that CNCID were progressing with planning for the 4th World Irrigation Forum and as a result of the proposed change to the 24th Congress to 2022 he would discuss this further with the Committee.

C-CONGR Minutes Item 6: Proposal for future ICID Conference**C-CONGR Minutes Item 6.1: 25th ICID Congress & 74th IEC Meeting in 2023, Andhra Pradesh, India (Proposed)**

15. The Indian National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (INCID) has offered to host the 25th International Congress on Irrigation and Drainage & 74th International Executive Council (IEC) Meetings in 2023 at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, India. VP Dr K Yella Reddy (India) provided a PowerPoint presentation and video detailing information on the proposed location and took questions from the Committee.

16. There were no objections to this proposal, however, the postponement of the 24th Congress to 2022 may require INCID to reconsider the date or ICID CO will need to consider if they would have two Congresses in consecutive years.

C-CONGR Minutes Item 7: Any other business

17. There was no other general business and the Chairman thanks all members for attending & participating and declared the meeting closed at 1.20 IST

