

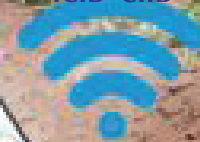
News Update

A Water Secure World Free of Poverty and Hunger through Sustainable Rural Development

June 2020



ICID-CHD



From Secretary General's Desk...

Dear Colleagues,

June 2020 has seen a number of webinar activities in ICID as well as by its collaborators.



ICID organized an International Webinar on 24 June as part of 71st Foundation Day celebrations, on the topic "Agricultural Water Management Strategies In Changing Situation". The webinar lasted over three hours and covered relevant water sector issues, ranging from regulatory interventions, irrigation development strategies, integrated water management to the future of Micro-Irrigation Systems. ICID President, Eng. Felix Reinders delivered the welcome speech and gave a brief overview of ICID's evolution since its auspicious beginning 71 years ago in 1950. Secretary of Indian Ministry of Water Resources presented the keynote address covering the new strategies of demand side management for water resources. The former chairman of Water Resources Regulatory Authority of the Indian State of Maharashtra presented "Regulatory Interventions in Water Sector" and their impact on agricultural water management. FAO Representative, Ms. Sasha Koo-Oshima, after congratulating ICID network, presented FAO's response to the global food and water challenges using WASAG, a global water scarcity management network of like-minded international partners and countries. Towards the later part of the webinar session, presentations were made by the National Committees of China, India,

Italy and Morocco. The webinar was well attended by over two-hundred participants from across the world.

WASAG, hosted by the FAO Land and Water Division at the headquarter, is organizing a series of webinars in collaboration with its Partners. The working group on "Saline Agriculture", under the framework of WASAG, organized a webinar entitled "Soil and Water Management in salt affected areas: practical solutions and tools". President Felix Reinders opened the Soil and Water Management webinar. Dr. R. Ragab, (Vice President Hon.), Dr. Marco Arcieri (Vice President), Dr Lyra from International Center for Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA) shared their insights into irrigation management under the saline conditions. From the Central Office, the webinar was attended by myself and the other officers. Participants, largely from African countries discussed country specific problems.

ICID President co-authored a special June 2020 edition for Agriculture Today with ICID Vice President and Dean, Acharya N. G. Ranga Agricultural University (ANGRAU), India, Dr. K. Yella Reddy.

Representing ICID, I took part in the international webinar "Marking 60 Years of Indus Waters Treaty". One of the most liberal international water distribution agreements, Indus Waters Treaty was signed on September 19, 1960 between India and Pakistan and was brokered by the World Bank. The treaty fixed and delimited the rights and obligations of both countries concerning the use of the waters of the Indus River system.

The Global Water Partnership (GWP) and The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) had established

the Integrated Drought Management Programme (IDMP) in 2013 to promote effective drought preparedness measures for use by countries and communities. IDMP organised a virtual meeting on Regional Drought Management Activities with global stakeholders such as FAO-WASAG, UNCCD Drought Initiative, UNCCD Intergovernmental Working Group on Drought, and the World Bank – Water Scarce Cities Initiative among others. While representing ICID, the meeting was attended by myself and Er. Harish Varma.

As an international steering committee member, ICID attended WASAG's 7th Steering Committee Meeting. Vice President Dr. Marco Arcieri represented ICID in the meeting. The World Bank, ICID, and the 2030 Water Resources Group jointly organized a global webinar on 'The Impact and Recovery from COVID-19 in the irrigation and drainage sectors and the webinar witnessed over two-hundred irrigation practitioners.

Nominations from National Committees are being invited by 07 August 2020, following the relevant Articles of the Constitution and By-Laws of ICID for the positions of one President and three Vice Presidents.

Colleagues, Best Wishes and Congratulations to all ICID Members, Collaborators and Stakeholders for continuous 71 years of operation,

Sincerely,

Ashwin B. Pandya
Secretary General, ICID

ICID 71st Foundation Day Celebrations

International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage, established on 24th June 1950, strives to promote policies and programs to enhance sustainable development of irrigated agriculture through a comprehensive water management framework. During 71 years of its operation, ICID constantly moved forward from its focus on mainly engineering aspects in 1951 to include social, environmental, economic and sustainable agricultural development issues. Keeping in view the impact of climate change and other development parameters on water security and with the adoption of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by UN in 2015, ICID developed its new Vision 2030 - Water secure world free of poverty and hunger through sustainable rural development. During last 71 years of its operation ICID has undertaken number of initiatives and programmes such as World Irrigation Forum (WIF), recognition of World Heritage Irrigation Structures (WHIS), Water System Heritage (WSH) programme, World Irrigation and Drainage (WID) award, Technical Support Programme (TSP) for its members and Capacity Development Programme for Young Professionals, to name a few.

As a part of 71st Foundation Day celebrations, an international Webinar on the topic "Agricultural Water Management Strategies in Changing Situations" was organized on 24th June 2020. The webinar, attended by 200+ professionals from around the world, lasted over three hours and covered pertinent water sector issues ranging from Regulatory Interventions, Irrigation Development Strategies, Integrated Water Management to the future of Micro-Irrigation Techniques. Presentations from National Committees (India, Italy, Morocco and China) were also made during the webinar.

ICID President, Eng. Felix Reinders delivered the welcome speech and gave a brief overview of ICID's evolution since its humble beginning 71 years ago in 1950. After explaining the ICID mission, objectives, activities, and expansion over the years, the President also reminded that the present-day challenges of feeding a growing population amidst climate change and its impact on the global water resources.

The Secretary of Indian Ministry of Water Resources, Mr. U.P. Singh presented the keynote address and also congratulated ICID for its steadfast growth over the 7 decades. He shared his experiences of Indian scenario and identified national



food security or self-sufficiency as key driver for agricultural water management (AWM). The Secretary pointed out that in India the water use efficiency and agricultural productivity as well as groundwater level are low compared to the similar sized population and area of neighboring country China. The focus of the present government's demand-side management includes smart irrigation using approaches such as micro-irrigation systems (MIS), deficit irrigation and wastewater application in agriculture.

The first presentation was by Mr. K.P. Bakshi, the former chairman of an Indian state water resources regulatory authority on "Regulatory Interventions in Water Sector". He talked about the role of such agencies in the water sector in India based on his experiences of heading the Maharashtra State's regulatory body. The primary roles played by the regulator include water tariff rationalization based on volumetric water use efficiency, water entitlements of various sectors/stakeholders and water management by water user associations (WUA), designing state level water policy, institutional reforms and proactive administrative mechanisms. He shared that regulatory bodies like do improve the water availability for various sectoral activities.

FAO Representative, Ms. Sasha Koo-Oshima, after congratulating ICID network, presented FAO's response to the global food and water challenges using WASAG, a global water scarcity management network of like-minded international partners and countries. She talked about the various aspects of WASAG of which ICID is a very active member in thematic working groups of ICID's interest. She identified the challenges ahead in AWM and the urgent need of partnering for effective response

to address demographic, nutritional and climatic changes. She expressed her satisfaction with her involvement in ICID working groups and major events which FAO has steadfastly supported for many decades.

Towards the later part of the session, presentations were made by various National Committees

Dr. Ding Kunlun, Vice President Honorary from Chinese National Committee of ICID (CNCID) gave an overview of Chinese assessment of changes in the situation (demographic and climatic), current status of irrigation in China and the response strategies for the Chinese water sector. The demand for water is increasing in all sectors of the Chinese economy and water allocation has gained significant importance in the strategy development. Agriculture uses almost 62% of the available freshwater. He also showed the visuals of Hetao Irrigation System in China that has been included in the ICID Register of World Heritage Irrigation Structures. He concluded his presentation with an invitation to all participants for the 4th World Irrigation Forum of ICID to be held in the Chinese capital Beijing in the year 2022.

The second presentation was from the Indian National Committee of ICID (INCID). Mr. R. K. Jain, Chairman of INCID and Central Water Commission (CWC) spoke about its long-term cooperation with ICID and joint conduct of several events. CWC, an apex organization has contributed several manuals and guidelines for design and operation of irrigation infrastructure that are available to ICID member countries and partners. He explained the role of CWC and its evolution in India's water sector, and in improving irrigation potential and water utilization efficiency through

modernization of irrigation infrastructure such as piped distribution network, MIS and canal network improvement. More recently, National Water Academy of CWC and ICID have planned to organize several distance learning courses for water resources engineers, planners and managers with the first course on MIS.

Dr. Marco Arcieri, ICID Vice President and Secretary General of Italian National Committee of ICID (ITAL-ICID) briefly shared EU-wide framework for international cooperation on water issues as agriculture still plays a significant role in the rural economy of many EU countries and regions, including Italy. He identified that new out-of-the-box smart solutions are needed for future post-COVID19 work in the area of AWM. IRRIFRAME tool, as a case study, was described, which is an IT-based solution

to facilitate information sharing with farmers in a transparent manner for efficient water use at the farm level in the agriculture sector. He identified the important role that professional network of water resources experts such as ICID play in promoting efficiency in the global water sector.

The last presenter of the session, Dr. El Houssine Bartali, Vice President, Morocco National Committee of ICID (ANAFIED), demonstrated the state of irrigation in the country, its role in increasing food production that allows agricultural exports to foreign markets and the on-going projects of the government addressing AWM. While the country has 36 M people living on 700,000 sqkm area have access to only 1.8 Billion sqm surface water, indicating a serious water scarcity problem. The country is able

to irrigate only 1.6 Mha of its 8.7 Mha arable land. ANAFIED will be hosting an international conference, 5th African Regional Conference, 71st IEC Meeting of ICID and a young professionals training program in December 2020; and he extended an invitation to the webinar participants for these events.

Concluding remarks and vote of thanks were presented by Secretary General Eng. Ashwin B. Pandya. He thanked the panelists for sharing their experiences, case studies and expert opinions with all the participants. He informed that the webinar presentations and recordings will be made available through new ICID website (www.icid-ciid.org); and the proceedings of the webinar will soon be shared with the wider ICID fraternity for knowledge dissemination.



President Reinders opens WASAG Soil and Water Management Webinar

The Global Framework on Water Scarcity in Agriculture (WASAG), hosted by the FAO Land and Water Division, is organizing a series of webinars in collaboration with its partners. The working group on "Saline Agriculture", under the framework of WASAG, organized a webinar titled "Soil and water management in salt affected areas: practical solutions and tools" on 2 June 2020 to share knowledge and experience in addressing the multiple challenges related to agriculture of these zones. The aim of the webinar was to establish the understanding of major issues and the role played by tailored soil management and irrigation techniques in ensuring food security in such areas.

President Eng. Felix Reinders, gave the opening remarks for the session while Vice President Dr. Marco Arcieri, shared his insights on Irrigation management under saline conditions. From the Central Office, the webinar was attended by Secretary General, Eng. Ashwin B. Pandya and Executive Director, Mr. Harish K. Varma. President Felix pointed out how water management is fundamentally dependent on efficient irrigation systems. He discussed in detail the strategies required to achieve higher crop-productivity. Some of the prominent factors are Modernization of Irrigation systems, Advancements of Operational and Management techniques and Implementation of Water-saving techniques and technologies. He also talked about participatory water management and waste water treatment and poor-quality water used for irrigation which should be promoted and further enhanced with technological



upgradations. In conclusion, he informed the audience about the incoming challenge of Global Food insecurity and how to fight this challenge, we need to collectively act together to achieve sustainability.

Vice President, Marco Arcieri shared his expertise on Bio-saline agriculture techniques both for soil management and water salinity. He explained how there can be no single approach, instead it should be a combination of many factors and techniques. Depending on the salinity levels, soil texture and climatic conditions, Leaching (requirement, frequency), Multiple water sources and Drainage systems can be effectively used with different depth and spacing for optimum water-utilization and salt reduction. In the end, he briefly discussed Cape Verde's successful Solar-Powered Water Desalination System and how it is possible to manage saline water efficiently to even produce fresh water.

The entire webinar was divided in two major areas of Water and Soil, while

covering respective thematic areas of Water management in land reclamation areas, Saline water management in land reclamation areas, International Network on Salt-Affected Soils (INSAS) and salinity mapping, Potentials of bio-based fertilizers in managing nutrients and soil properties in saline areas augmented with evidence based regional case studies. The webinar witnessed participation from more than hundred irrigation practitioners (researchers, government officials, service providers) as well as academicians from around the world to showcase solutions and tools provided by their experience. The key aspects of the dialogue focused on global innovative approaches and solutions in managing saline soils. Under the COVID-19 pandemic, unprecedented challenging conditions push the attention on how local food production can be enhanced by utilizing low-quality water and land resources, such as in salt-affected soils. For more details and future WASAG Webinars, please visit: <http://www.fao.org/land-water/overview/wasag/en/>

Efficient Water Management: Key for Sustainable Development

Engineer Felix Reinders, President, ICID co-authored a special June 2020 edition for Agriculture Today with Vice President, ICID and Dean, Acharya N. G. Ranga Agricultural University (ANGRAU), India, Dr. Yella Reddy Kaluvai.

This paper highlighted the urgent need of an efficient water management system in India to fight water scarcity. While discussing the huge untapped potential of Wastewater management and tracking Water foot prints, it advocated for understanding the economic value of water. It explained the concept of 'Water Credits' which can be introduced to transfer the benefit of water saving to the farmers and organizations, who contributes to water saving. The paper briefly discussed the role of International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID), within the international Irrigation fraternity. As a professional network of experts from across the world in the



field of irrigation, drainage, and flood management, ICID has contributed towards promotion of 'Sustainable agriculture water management' to achieve 'Water secure world free of poverty and hunger through sustainable rural development'. Watsave Annual Awards are one such initiative, instituted in 1997 and are presented each year to recognize outstanding contributions to water conservation or water saving in agriculture in four different categories of Technology,

Management, Young Professionals and farmers. For more information on these and ICID's activities, please visit: <http://icid-ciid.org/>.

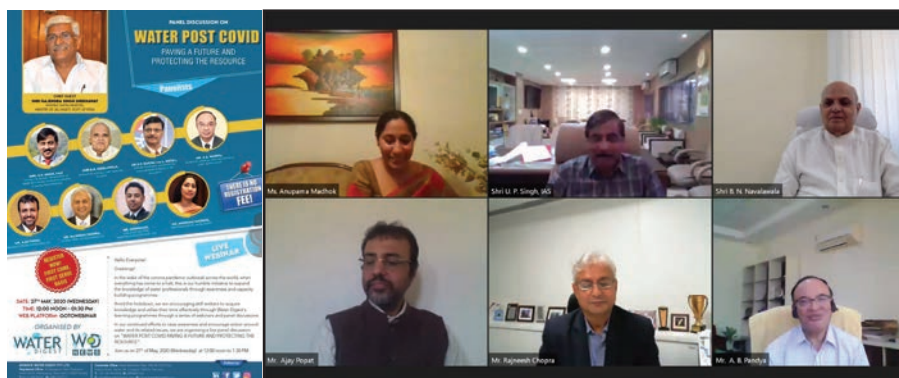
The paper concluded with the following measures that can help in achieving efficient management of limited water resources- a. Promotion of water saving production technologies, advanced methods of irrigation like micro irrigation in large scale to reduce water use for irrigation. Saved water can be transferred to rural areas b. Upgraded irrigation infrastructure through rehabilitation, modernization c. Water foot prints, virtual water approaches, introduction of 'water credits' to realize incentives for improved water use efficiency d. Increasing water awareness through water schools, involving children and youth in water-related activities. To access the full paper, kindly visit: <http://www.agriculturetoday.in/index.php>

Water Post-COVID-Paving a Future and Protecting the Resource

In the wake of the Coronavirus pandemic outbreak across the world, Water Digest started a humble initiative to expand and keep the conversation on water alive through awareness, capacity building programmes and discussion platforms. To raise awareness and encourage action around water and its related issues, a panel discussion was organized on "Water Post Covid- Paving A Future And Protecting The Resource" on 27th May 2020.

The objective was to discuss the current situation of water in the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic, strategies to roll out and also find practical solutions to problems along with possibilities of reviving the economy of the water sector.

As the Chief Guest, Mr. Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Hon'ble Minister of Jal Shakti, Ministry of Water, India, shared his insightful views on the issue. Secretary General, ICID and Editor in Chief of Water Digest, Eng. Aswin B. Pandya was one of the panellists. Other eminent panellists were Mr. U.P. Singh, Hon'ble Secretary, Department Of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry Of Jal Shakti; Mr. B.N. Navalawala, Advisor To Hon'ble Chief Minister, Gujarat and Mr. K.P.



Bakshi, Former Chairman, Maharashtra Water Resources Regulatory Authority.

The panel discussion deliberated on the current economic implications in the agriculture industry and the growing challenges in access to safe drinking water. SG Pandya said, even though India carried Rabi (Winter) season's production successfully in fact with record-breaking yields, the current COVID disrupted crop cycle from March-July period will increase the water utilization from the reservoirs. While giving international references from Italy, South Africa and Netherlands, he professed how marketing and management of crops has been severely affected. He said, Micro-Irrigation techniques and Post-harvesting interventions are crucial for

managing yields in irrigated agriculture and resilience structure could be built if the migrant labourers are used efficiently. He explained that the pandemic will have serious implications on budget allocations and consequent disturbance in these man-made water management structures in the future.

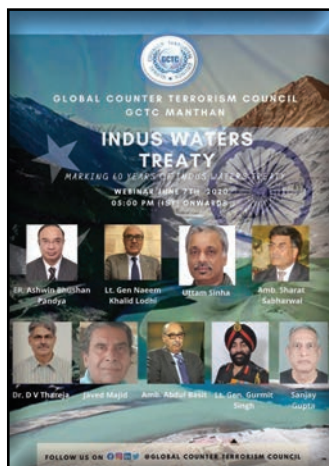
Key policy makers, experts from industries, researchers, students and academicians attended the webinar, which was concluded on the note that a national integrated water management structure is required to tackle this immediate challenge.



Secretary General Presents Webinar on 'Indus Waters Treaty' 1960

Eng. Ashwin B Pandya, Secretary General, ICID, took part in the second webinar held on 7th June 2020, on the topic "Marking 60 Years of Indus Waters Treaty". One of the most liberal water distribution international agreements, Indus Waters Treaty was signed on September 19, 1960, between India and Pakistan and was brokered by the World Bank. The treaty fixed and delimited the rights and obligations of both countries concerning the use of the waters of the Indus River system.

The session's panel consisted of diplomats who were instrumental in the treaty's formation and implementation from both the countries as well as scholars and academicians. Various aspects of the treaty and the overall water-sharing relationship over the years between the neighbouring countries was discussed in detail. As the special guest speaker,



SG Pandya shared his insights on the issue while highlighting the importance of bi-lateral agreements and the versatile nature of the Indus Water Treaty. "With great dispute mechanisms, detailed

engineering techniques and no territorial" claims, Indus Waters treaty is exemplary, he said.

In the light of World Bank's role and similar international third-party interventions in trans-boundary issues, the webinar addressed the future of hydroelectric power generation and water-storage governance. The discussion ended on an affirmative note on how, both multi-lateral and bi-lateral cooperation, is the only pathway to a sustainable and peaceful future. In conclusion SG Pandya said, " This looks to be an alarmist and propogandist perspective, it is not true, there can be no water war, no wars can only be fought on or for water. Water can only be controlled through cooperation, there's no possibility to win water, definitely land is a reason for War, but not water"



ICID attends Integrated Drought Management Programme (IDMP) Virtual Exchange Meeting

The Global Water Partnership (GWP) and The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) established the Integrated Drought Management Programme (IDMP) in 2013 to promote effective drought preparedness measures for use by countries and communities using: 1) drought monitoring and early warning systems; 2) drought vulnerability and impact assessments, and 3) mitigation, preparedness and response strategies. As a partner organization with the shared vision of water management for a water secure world, ICID has been regularly supporting IDMP's activities and events.

On 11th June IDMP organised a virtual exchange meeting on Regional



Drought Management Activities with global stakeholders like FAO - Global Framework on Water Scarcity in Agriculture in a Changing Climate (WASAG), UNCCD Drought Initiative, UNCCD Intergovernmental Working Group on Drought, MEDA Water and MEDROPLAN and World Bank – Water Scarce Cities Initiative among others.

While representing ICID, the meeting was attended by Secretary General Eng. Ashwin B Pandya and Executive Director, Mr. Harish K Varma.

The virtual exchange was aimed at discussing IDMP's goals, activities and initiatives as well as understanding regional drought management issues and possible resolutions. Detailed case studies were presented from Africa, Central and Eastern Europe and other areas where IDMP is actively working. The exchange concluded with a consensus on the need of a Global Drought Indicator, which can act as an alert mechanism and a monitoring tool.



ICID attends 7th WASAG Steering Committee Meeting

ICID is a partner in FAO's initiative on Global Framework on Water Scarcity in Agriculture (WASAG) and an elected International Steering Committee member. The objective of the framework is to benefit farmers and rural communities by making them resilient to increasing water scarcity while simultaneously creating climate benefits. The initiative plans to build partnerships between water stakeholders at the national level, among countries and among key international bodies involved in agricultural water management.

As an international steering committee member, ICID attended WASAG's 7th Steering Committee Meeting held on 28th May 2020. Vice President Dr. Marco Arcieri



represented ICID in the meeting. The overall progress of the Working Groups (WG), including the planned activities such as webinars and the outputs,

was discussed. Some members of the Steering Committee agreed to work together to create a 'WASAG task force' on COVID-19 (constituted by interested members and WASAG Partners) to collaborate on the response and actions expected from WASAG on COVID-19. Other administrative matters were also discussed among the members.

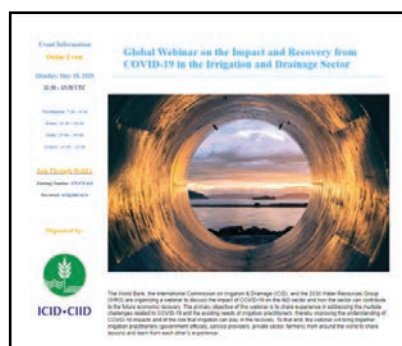


Global Webinar on the 'Impact and Recovery from COVID-19 in the Irrigation

The World Bank, ICID, and the 2030 Water Resources Group (WRG) jointly organized a global webinar on 'The Impact and Recovery from COVID-19 in the irrigation and drainage sectors' on 18th May 2020. The webinar witnessed over two-hundred irrigation practitioners from across the globe, including farmers, private sector, government officials, irrigation managers and academia. Presenters shared their experience in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic by leveraging investments in irrigation and drainage. Overall, the webinar helped clarified the difficult conditions in which irrigation managers currently operate to secure irrigation services; the challenges that farmers are facing in accessing markets; the financial constraints that are slowing down the private sector; relevant reforms that government officials are pursuing; and the way in which the World Bank can help address the longer-term challenges of COVID-19-related economic recovery, employment, and food security concerns.

Some highlights of the discussion:

- While confirming that global food stocks do not yet represent an imminent concern, there are serious challenges for maintaining profitable agricultural production and distribution systems in terms of inputs and



services. The main issues going forward will be on food security, employment, GDP, and foreign exchange receipts that irrigated agriculture helps bring in.

- Many countries have included irrigation and drainage under essential services, thereby protecting the sector amidst the lockdown. However, provision of essential equipment, engineering services, inputs and maintenance are hampered. Moreover, irrigation agencies currently face significant fiscal stress due to additional cost and lower revenues (due to fee waivers and reduced urban-to-rural financial transfers).
- Moreover, the role of irrigation and drainage (I&D) in economic recovery was articulated in different

ways during the webinar. First and foremost – through continued enabling of 'normal' production and by ensuring livelihoods; secondly, by switching to social support efforts through employment in labor-intensive construction of large and small scale irrigation infrastructure as well as watershed management; and thirdly, through financial stimulus packages such as grants, equity injections, relaxing credit requirements and tax burdens for SMEs and farming enterprises, risk guarantees, and, finally, by accelerating critical I&D works.

Lastly, the crisis exposed many weaknesses in the fragile sector. However, it also served to enhance the perceived value of irrigation services due to public concern for food security and economic impact, and made visible the grit and resolve by clients, private sector and farmers to bounce back stronger with new and improved focus on service provision post-COVID. Such efforts encompass building of more resilient institutions and thriving farms, increased innovation in management (automation), and in engaging clients in service provision.



Important Announcements

1. Date for Nomination of Office Bearers Extended

Nominations from National Committees are invited following the relevant Articles of the Constitution and By-laws of International Commission for Irrigation and Drainage (ICID) for the positions of one President and three Vice Presidents in ICID Central Office. The last date for receipt of nominations has been extended up to 07 August 2020. Nominations from your National Committee, if any, must be received by or before the due date of 07 August 2020. Nominations not following the relevant Articles of the Constitution and By-laws, or received after the due date are liable to be ignored. Please refer to ICID Constitution Articles 7.2 and ICID By-laws 2.2 to 2.6, related to the Election of President and Vice-Presidents. The National Committees intending to submit a nomination may please ensure that the arrears of their subscription are cleared before filing

their nominations. Please use the following link to access the ICID Constitution and By-laws: https://www.icid.org/icid_bylaws.html

2. ICID Annual Report 2019-20: Call for Updated Information from NCs and DMs

The ICID Central Office is in the process of compiling the ICID Annual Report for 2019-20. The ICID Central Office has sent out emails to National Committees and Direct Members requesting for information for inclusion in the Annual Report.

The Chairs of National Committees are requested to kindly provide detailed information about the events, meetings held and any other material relevant to the national committee for the year 2019-2020 which could be included in the Annual Report. Suitable pictures and/or audio-video media may also be included with the submission.

National Committees are requested to update the data relating to the agricultural scenario of their country with the latest and accurate information on the total

arable area, total irrigated and drained area and areas under sprinkler and micro-irrigation.

We request you to kindly review the existing data from 2018-2019 Annual Report from the link https://www.icid.org/ar_2018.pdf in case the information needs to be updated. The latest information may be mailed to ICID Central Office for updating the same.

Similarly, the Direct Members are requested to provide detailed information about the events conducted, meetings held and any other relevant material related to their professional activities during the year 2019-2020.

3. 71st International Executive Council (IEC)

The 71st International Executive Council (IEC) will be held along with the 5th African Regional Conference (ARC) and the Young Professional's Training Program (YP-TP) in 2020. As per consultation with the Moroccan National Committee (ANAFIDE), it will be held tentatively in December 2020.

Confirmed dates will be released as and when finalized. The Young Professional's Training Program (YP-TP) will also be organized during the 5th African Regional Conference.

4. 10th International Micro Irrigation Conference: Dates will be announced later

10th International Micro Irrigation Conference (10IMIC) to be held in Agadir, Morocco, will be a standalone event in 2021. Dates will be announced later. Micro-irrigation (drip/ trickle or localized irrigation) was introduced on a commercial scale in the world sometime in the 1970s. Micro-irrigation is the most efficient method of water application to crops. However, owing to the technicalities involved in its design, operation, and maintenance, the pace of its adoption was rather slow. To promote the use of micro-irrigation on a large-scale, the irrigation community worldwide, especially in developed countries, launched the International Micro Irrigation Congress in the year 1971. Subsequently, ICID volunteered to organize the event beginning with the 5th International Micro Irrigation Congress held in South Africa in 2000 to create awareness among its members about the latest developments in micro-irrigation technology to enhance crop production.

5. International Workshops by ICID Working Groups Rescheduled

The international workshops by the four working groups of ICID viz., the Working Group on Modernization and Revitalization of Irrigation Schemes (WG-M&R); the Working Group on Institutional and Organizational Aspects of Irrigation/ Drainage System Management (WG-IOA); the Working Group on Managing Water Scarcity under Conflicting Demands (WG-MWSCD); and, the Working Group on Water and Crops (WG-W&C) initially planned for Sydney, Australia in September 2020, will now be organized during the 5th African Regional Council meeting in Morocco. The final dates will be announced in consultation with Association Nationale des Améliorations Foncières de l'Irrigation, du Drainage et de l'Environnement, better known as the Moroccan National Committee (ANAFIDE) once COVID-19 situation is under control. The dates for these events will provide sufficient time difference (about six months) between the 24th Congress at Sydney and the 10th IMIC at Agadir to ensure better participation.

The aspiring participants may kindly submit their abstract to the workshop coordinator for the above international workshops at Marrakesh, Morocco (sometime later during 2020), with a copy to ICID Central Office (mailto: icid@icid.org)

- Modernizing Irrigation Services - WG-M&R (Chairman). Mail to: ianwmakin@gmail.com
- Public-Private-Partnership (PPPs) in Irrigation and Drainage Operation and Maintenance toward sustainable Irrigated Agricultural water management - WG-IOA (Chairman). Mail to: hafiedgany@yahoo.com
- Managing, on the Regional, State, or Local Level, Water Scarcity Resulting from Conflicting Demands - WG-MWSCD (Chairman). Mail to: frankdimick@gmail.com
- The Water-Energy-Food-Nexus: Implementation and Examples of Application - WG-Water & CROP (Chairman). Mail to: rag@ceh.ac.uk

6. Submission of Abstracts and Full Papers for 24th ICID Congress, Symposium and Special Sessions



IAL/ IACID/ICID much appreciate the time and efforts of the aspiring participants in submitting their abstracts for the ICID Congress and associated events and Irrigation Australia. All abstracts submitted to date stand automatically included for consideration.

We are fortunate to have your wholehearted participation with nearly 300 abstracts. Some abstracts have been approved for the submission of full-length papers. We assure you that the submissions will remain valid throughout the period, and you may continue the preparation of your full-length papers and submit them on the portal for further review and inclusion in the proceedings of the Congress. Since the event is delayed, we have extended the dates for the submission of full-length papers substantially. Please visit the portal for the latest deadlines. However, we request you to not wait until the deadline and continue preparing for the full-length paper and submit the same online.

Some colleagues who registered on the portal have not proposed any abstracts or papers for the Congress. This

postponement offers a golden opportunity to do so now and catch up with others. The window for the submission of the new abstracts stands extended to 30 November 2020. Please note the important deadlines:

- Submission of 'Extended Abstracts' (500-600 words): **30 November 2020**
- Notification of Acceptance of Extended Abstracts: **31 December 2020**
- Submission of Full Papers: 15 February 2021 Notification to Authors (oral/poster/presentation): **15 April 2021**

In the meantime, should you wish to withdraw or edit your submission, you may do so at the portal <https://icidevents.org/techmanagement> for 24th Congress, Symposium and Special Sessions.

Extension of deadline for submitting nominations of ICID Watsave Awards and Recognition of World Heritage Irrigation Structures (WHIS) and Relaxation in Mode of Application

The postponement and rescheduling of the 71st IEC due to the COVID-19 from Sydney to Morocco and change in date of the IEC meeting necessitated the extension in the last date of receipt of nominations for WatSave and WHIS Nominations 2020. The new deadline for receipt of nomination forms for Watsave Awards and WHIS Recognition at the ICID Central Office in New Delhi, India, is 31 July 2020.

It was decided to switch to online submission of nomination forms for WatSave Awards and WHIS Recognition beginning this year. Only online submission of nomination forms were to be accepted from this year. We continue to encourage online submission of nomination forms. However, if there is any difficulty in submitting nominations forms online, the applicant may contact us at icid@icid.org.

The nominations will also be accepted via e-mail (icid@icid.org) for this year keeping in view the technical limitations imposed by COVID-19 situation.

For details, please visit, WatSave Awards: https://www.icid.org/awards_ws.html, WHIS Recognition: http://www.icid.org/awards_icid.html

For queries, please contact Dr. Sahdev Singh, Director (Knowledge Management) at icid@icid.org

National Committee News

Establishment of Regional Committee on Irrigation and Drainage, Ardabil Province, Iran

The Regional Committee on Irrigation and Drainage of Ardabil Province was inaugurated on 6th May 2020 in the digital presence of Mr. M. Ehsani, Secretary General, Iranian National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (IRNCID). The rulings and further notifications were issued to all the attendees and other members.



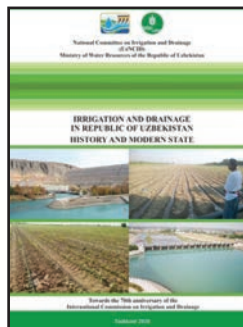
Provincial Regional Committees in Iran are set up with the aim of expanding the participation of local experts and researchers to promote scientific and technical advancements. These developments contribute towards ICID's pre-decided goals and tasks as well as expand and strengthen the coordination of executive bodies. With the establishment of the Ardabil Regional Committee on Irrigation and Drainage, there are currently twelve active regional committees in Iran. Ardabil province is one of the important agricultural centers of Iran with more than ninety thousand hectares of irrigation and drainage area and about hundred thousand hectares of irrigation schemes under implementation. Despite the current covid-19 caused challenges and present social distancing norms, dedicated to its mission, IRNCID is working tirelessly to continue its work with digital meetings and e-conferences.

Turkish National Committee of International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (TUCID)

New President: Following the retirement of former President, Mr. Mevlut Aydin, Turkish National Committee of International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (TUCID) welcomes the new President, Mrs. Sadiye Yalcin, Deputy Director General of DSI (State Hydraulic Works). Her coordinates are sadiye@dsi.gov.tr.

Uzbekistan National Committee, ICID (UzNCID)

To mark ICID's Foundation Day celebrations, UzNCID released a book entitled "Irrigation and Drainage in Republic of Uzbekistan: History and Modern State" in Tashkent in June 2020.



As the name suggests, the book traces the history of irrigation and the recent developments in Uzbekistan with a brief introduction to Uzbekistan. It presents a comprehensive account of Uzbekistan's water resources, irrigation facilities, drainage structures, land reclamation issues, concurrent challenges in the water sector and the Aral sea crisis. It is a must read for anyone working in the water-sector for a greater depth and holistic understanding of Uzbekistan water issues.

Forthcoming ICID Events

71st IEC Meeting & 5th African Regional Conference on Irrigation and Drainage. Marrakech, Morocco. Tentatively in first week of December 2020. Website: <http://5arcid.ma>

24th ICID Congress and 72nd IEC Meeting. Rescheduled to 6-12 July 2021, Sydney, Australia. Website: <http://www.icid2021.com.au/>

73rd International Executive Council (IEC) and 4th World Irrigation Forum (WIF4), September 2022, Beijing, China. Contact: Executive Secretary, Chinese National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (CNCID), Email : gaoh@iwhr.com, cncid_office@sina.com, lihui.gao@qq.com, Website : <http://www.cncid.org/cncid/index.htm>

Other Events

ICASI 2020 - 2nd International and 15th National Congress on Agricultural Structures and Irrigation 29 September – 2 October 2020, Diyarbakir, Turkey. Contact: Prof. Dr. Öner ÇETİN, Head of Organizing Committee, Dicle University, Faculty of Agriculture, Department of Agricultural Structures and Irrigation, Diyarbakir/Turkey, E-mail: oner_cetin@yahoo.com, and oner_cetin@dicle.edu.tr Website: <http://www.icasi2020.org/>



Obituary

Alexander Gibb & Partners.

We are extremely saddened to share the sad news of the passing away of President Hon. John Hennessy, whose memorable association with the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage began four decades ago, when he was a partner of Sir Alexander Gibb & Partners. President Hon. John Hennessy was a highly respected member of the entire ICID family. His services were immense not only to the British National Committee but also to ICID, at large. His advice and guidance in various affairs of ICID were extremely helpful in pursuing ICID's vision, mission and goals. The Commission cherishes his great contributions as member and Chairman of Permanent Finance Committee (1981-87) and member and Chairman of Permanent Committee for Technical Activities (1984-90), Vice President of ICID (1986-89) and finally as President of the Commission for the term 1990-1993. The Central Office still reminisces his visit to ICID Central Office in New Delhi from 2-4 July 1990, following his election as its 15th President at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 1990, which expedited several of the important issues concerning the work of the Commission, including its status and relationship with Govt. of India.

PH Hennessy was a true scholar and researcher and a great champion of promoting international education and research in irrigation, drainage and flood control – the core activities of the Commission. Among the many accomplishments in his life, PH Hennessy played a pivotal role being part of the critical committees constituted to improve the functioning of ICID and amendments to its Constitution and By-laws. His unique approach to conceiving and popularizing ICID's Water Saving Programs and internationalizing ICID peer-reviewed journal 'Irrigation and Drainage' is well-known and respected globally. When new research opportunities with international impacts were identified, he ensured that the Commission found ways to maximize resources and expertise with global partners like FAO, IWMI, ICOLD, World Bank, etc. PH Hennessy's outstanding actions and foresight in promoting international research in irrigation and drainage and building global competence of the Commission is widely acknowledged.

An expert in water resources development for irrigation, drainage and power generation, Mr. Hennessy has handled major water resource assignments in more than 20 countries in Africa, the Middle East and Asia. As a fellow of the Institution of Civil Engineers, U.K., and the Institution of Water & Environmental Management, he has served on a number of engineering and scientific committees and advisory boards. A fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and serving as Lieutenant Colonel in the Engineer and Transport Staff Corps, PH Hennessy was an outstanding Engineer and a tireless collaborator and mentor to scores of water resources management scholars around the world. He had a profound influence on his disciplines and on every institution at which he worked. All of us who had the privilege of working with him will miss him.

With deep sympathy and condolences, to the bereaved family, and to the British National Committee. The irrigation and drainage community lost a very distinguished member, who was highly respected. We personally feel the vacuum, as we considered him as a friend and mentor.

May his soul rest in eternal peace!

With our deepest sympathy,

ICID fraternity