

**MINUTES OF THE 1st VIRTUAL MEETING OF
ASIAN REGIONAL WORKING GROUP (ASRWG)**
08 April 2021, 13:30 to 15:00 hours (IST)

Presented by the Chairman

Members Present: (1) Dr. Tsugihiko Watanabe, Chair (Japan); (2) Dr. Vijay K. Labhsetwar, Vice-Chair (India); (3) Dr. (Ms.) Aynur Fayrap, Secretary (Turkey); (4) VP Dr. Mochammad Amron (Indonesia); (5) VPH Mr. Naoki Hayashida (Japan); (6) Dr.(Ms) Kyung Sook Choi (Korea, Republic of); (7) Dr. Ray-Shyan Wu (Chinese Taipei); (8) Dr. Wen-Pin Shu (Chinese Taipei); (9) Mr. Arthon Suttigarn (Thailand).

Observer: Er. B.A. Chivate, Director (Technical), ICID Central Office (India).

Minutes Item 1: To follow up on regular membership strengthening

1. The Chair Dr. Tsugihiko Watanabe (Japan) in consultation with Vice Chair Dr. Vijay K. Labhsetwar (India), Secretary Dr. (Ms.) Aynur Fayrap (Turkey) of the WG and the Central Office updated the membership list of the WG. Afghanistan National Committee (AFGCID) has nominated Mr. Naseer Fayeze as their representative. The membership of the Working Group was reconfirmed by the Central Office (CO). The CO may follow up the case of Mongolia and others, where representatives are missing.

2. The Chair requested the Vice Chair to use his contacts in ICID to get representatives from the countries where they are missing in the WG. To strengthen the interactions among the membership, Dr. Choi (Korea, Republic of) suggested to establish a 'WhatsApp' group.

Minutes Item 2.: Propose the activities to update the Road Map to ICID Vision 2030

3. The Chair initiated discussion on strategies and activities to be taken up by the WG and updation of the action plan toward the ICID Vision 2030 for the next 3 years.

4. The WG members discussed possible activities such as organizing or participating in international conferences, workshops and/or seminars. VP Dr. Amron (Indonesia) suggested to initiate new activities following the past pattern such as side events, internal workshop etc. However, Dr. Wu (Chinese Taipei) and other members felt that there will be restrictions on such activities in near future due to the emerging COVID-19 pandemic.

5. The Chair, in consultation with the Vice-Chair, will propose and update the Action Plan before the next WG meeting. It will be shared with the members, in advance, for their input and concurrence. The members are welcome and encouraged to send their ideas, proposals, topics/subtopic to the Chair for consideration and inclusion in the action Plan.

Minutes Item 3: Strengthening linkages among NCs

6. The Chair emphasized that the linkages among NCs of the member countries need to be strengthened and close and smooth communication among the WG members also needs to be established. Communication using mobile phones (WhatsApp Group) could be one of the attractive ways to follow. However, the Admin would be required to follow strict information management and privacy aspects.

7. VP Dr. Amron (Indonesia) suggested that a NC may organize a workshop on a particular topic and sharing the proceedings with the member countries could be a way to strengthen linkages among NCs. Dr. Arthon Suttigarn (Thailand) informed that they are planning to visit Indian National Committee (INCID) as well as the ICID Central Office in India after the pandemic. Such visits could certainly improve the linkage development among the NCs. Other NCs were invited to follow suit.

Minutes Item 4: Cooperation with PAWEES and INWEPF

8. The Chair informed about the activities of PAWEES and INWEPF which have been negatively affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The PAWEES and INWEPF Conferences have been postponed and are now planned to be held in Taiwan and in Sri Lanka, respectively, both in 2021. The INWEPF Conference in 2022 is likely to be held in Cairo, Egypt. The WG might co-organize some sessions in both conferences.

9. To keep the members abreast with the activities, the ASRWG webpage may provide links to PAWEES and the INWEPF website. The CO may assist in designing these linkages.

Minutes Item 5: Develop the topics/subtopics for the Working Group Events

10. The general thematic topics such as irrigation and drainage practices of each member country were suggested for the WG events. The Vice Chair Dr. Vijay Labsetwar suggested some possible topics, such as: (a) Appropriate technology in irrigation and drainage in Asia, (b) Issues related with food security in Asia, and (c) Rice and wheat production in Asia. Chair suggested 'Impact of COVID-19 on irrigation and drainage in Asia' as a topic.

11. The Chair, in consultation with the Vice-Chair, will propose the WG events with possible topics while updating the Action Plan. The Action Plan may include internal workshops and e-discussions as well as webinars.

Minutes Item 6: WG Webpage update

12. Secretary Dr. Aynur Fayrap (Turkey), in charge of designing and updating the WG webpage, shared her ideas to improve the current webpage of WG. The members were requested to provide materials for uploading on the webpage, such as relevant powerpoint presentations, journal papers, reports, etc. The members were also requested to share their brief CVs for uploading on the webpage. For uniformity in CVs, a sample format will be prepared by the Secretary. While the CVs will be in public domain, VPH Mr. Hayashida (Japan) expressed his concern on the privacy of the personal information. In such cases, personnel information can be hidden upon request of the members.

Minutes Item 7: Any other business

13. At the end of the virtual meeting, the Chair Dr. Tsugihiko Watanabe (Japan) reiterated his request for contributions/proposals/ideas from the members to re-tailor the WG Action Plan and other activities. The new ideas are most welcome for updating the Action Plan. Finally, the Chair informed that the next meeting of ASRWG is likely to be held in the first week of July 2021. The meeting ended with vote of thanks.

