

**MINUTES OF THE 2nd VIRTUAL MEETING OF
ASIAN REGIONAL WORKING GROUP (ASRWG)**

23 July 2021, 13:30 to 15:30 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) Dr. Ray-Shyan, Wu (Chinese Taipei Committee); (5) Dr. Wen-Pin Shu (Chinese Taipei Committee); (6) VP Dr. Mochammad Amron (Indonesia); (7) VPH Dr. Karim Shiati (Iran); (8) VPH Mr. Naoki Hayashida (Japan); (9) Dr. (Ms) Kyung Sook Choi (Korea, Republic of); (10) Dr. (Ms.) Mu Mu Than (Myanmar) ; (11) Mr. Ahmed Kamal (Pakistan); (12) Mr. Arthon Suttigarn (Thailand); (13) Mr. Ilkhom Juraev (Uzbekistan); (14) Dr. Dao Trong Tu (Vietnam); (15) Er. B.A. Chivate represented Secretary General, ICID Central Office (India).

Office Bearer Present: President Dr. Ragab Ragab (United Kingdom)

Observer: (1) Mr. Momir Vranes (Australia); (2) Ms. Chris Delphin (Australia); (3) Mr. Bryan Ward (Australia); (4) Ms. Jade Riolo (Australia); (5) Ms. Atsuko Akita (Japan).

The Chair Dr. Tsugihiko Watanabe invited President Dr. Ragab for introductory remarks. Dr. Ragab emphasized on the importance of the working group and Asian countries in ICID. He emphasized on small water savings from paddy cultivation to alleviate the water scarcity in Asia and elsewhere in the world as paddy is high water consuming crop.

Minutes Item 1: To follow up on regular membership strengthening

1. The Vice Chair Dr. Vijay K. Labhsetwar reported that five countries had been contacted by him i.e. Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Iraq, Kazakhstan and Philippines, which did not have representatives. Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Iraq responded positively whereas but no response from the other two countries i.e. Kazakhstan and Philippines. As a result, Mr. Md Rahman (Bangladesh) and Mrs. Shaimaa Shihab Ahmed (Iraq) attended the virtual meeting. The Central Office (CO) may invite their formal nominations and continue efforts in contacting Kazakhstan, Philippines and Saudi Arabia, where they are missing in the WG. The CO may also pursue membership issues with new country with assistance from IACID.

2. The Australian National Committee (IACID) informed that they will formally nominate someone shortly.

Minutes Item 2: Collaboration with IACID for the 9th Asian Regional Conference in 2024

3. Mr. Bryan Ward (IACID) made a presentation on 9th Asian Regional Conference (ARC9) and 76th International Executive Council Meeting including their plans for the ARC9 and collaboration with ASRWG. The revised dates are 01-08 September 2024 at Sydney, Australia. IACID requested a meeting with ASRWG to discuss important areas of collaboration to ensure that the event is successful and meets the objectives and challenges of ASRWG. IACID wish to work with ASRWG on the development of theme and sub-themes and for the program of ARC9 through a Task Team (TT) comprising of members from IACID, ASRWG and CO. The TT may look into the issues such as design concept/theme, review papers and promote ARC9. An expected new member from IACID, Dr. Vijay, Dr. Choi and Dr. Shu volunteered to be a part of this TT. Chair Dr. Watanabe may set up the TT in due course of time along with ToRs.

4. To enrich the ARC9, President Dr. Ragab suggested to organize the customary YP training on advances, techniques and modernization of the irrigation systems, taking advantage of ARC9 being held in Australia. And 'the Impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on Asian agriculture and food security' may find place in the sub-themes of the ARC9. Mr. Vranes suggested to organize a workshop on 'Australian experiences on modernization'. Chair Dr. Watanabe suggested to organize series of workshops from now onwards and synthesize the Technical Report "Contribution of Agricultural Water to Rural Development in Asia" to be released at ARC9, which is assigned activity on the Road Map to ICID Vision 2030.

Minutes Item 3: Propose the activities to update the Road Map to ICID Vision 2030

5. To firm up the activities of the WG, the Chair Dr. Watanabe requested members to volunteer themselves for the listed activities in the Road Map to ICID Vision 2030 (refer attached **Annex**) failing which the Chair may assign the activity to the WG member. A lead person and his/her team needs to be identified for each task/activity.

6. It was proposed that one of the Workshops could focus on 'Impacts of COVID-19 pandemic on Agricultural Water Management in Asia'. To facilitate, the Chair may design a concept note and questionnaire containing questions on impact of COVID-19 and circulate among the membership. The outcome of the workshop is likely to guide the ICID Vision 2030 as far the 'Agricultural Water Management in Asia' is concerned.

Minutes Item 4: Strengthening linkages among NCs

7. The Chair emphasized that the linkages among NCs of the member countries need to be strengthened and close/smooth communication among the WG members also needs to be established. The members were requested to provide updates on the linkages of their NCs and their own activities. Dr. Arthon (Thailand) is expected to provide updates on their visit to Indian National Committee (INCID). Other NCs are invited to follow Dr. Choi's (Korea) suggestion during the previous meeting, could still be considered to establish a 'WhatsApp' group of members. The members may further provide their opinion or suggestion on the subject.

Minutes Item 5: Cooperation with PAWEES and INWEPF

8. The ASRWG has long been cooperating with PAWEES and INWEPF as they have common mutual interests. It is informed that PAWEES 2021 International Conference will be held on 29 October 2021, as a virtual online meeting. Ms. Atsuko Akita (JNCID and INWEPF Secretariat) informed that INWEPF meeting will be held on 02-03 November 2021 in Sri Lanka, as an online meeting. The INWEPF Conference in 2022 is likely to be held in Cairo, Egypt. The Chair may explore ways to participate in these meetings.

Minutes Item 6: Develop the topics/subtopics for the Working Group Events

9. Vice Chair Dr. Labhsetwar expressed his opinion that the topics/subtopics should be detailed after the TT, in charge of ARC9, is set up. Also, President Dr. Ragab suggested a few topics i.e. Improving Water Productivity, Water-Food-Energy Nexus, and Floods in the Asia/World, for consideration.

Minutes Item 7: WG Webpage update

10. Secretary Dr. Aynur Fayrap, 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. Secretary informed that a draft sample CVs was prepared including the items of contact information, education, work experiences, area of expertise, but it was not necessary to fill in all items, given privacy concerns. It has been stated that items such as experiences and areas of expertise in the CVs are important in terms of getting to know and benefiting from each other.

Minutes Item 8: Any other business

11. At the end of the virtual meeting, the Chair Dr. Watanabe informed the members about two events: 9th World Water Forum will be held on 21-26 March, 2022 at Diamniadio (Dakar)-Senegal and 4th Asia-Pacific Water Summit will be held on 23-24 April, 2022 at Kumamoto-Japan. Finally the Chair informed that the next meeting of ASRWG is likely to be held in October 2021 prior to the annual meeting of the ASRWG in the 72nd IEC.

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ROAD MAP TO ICID VISION 2030 – ACTIVITIES OF ASRWG

Goals/ Strategies	Activities	Outcomes/ Outputs	Milestone for Year 2021	Milestone for Year 2022	Milestone for Year 2023	Milestone for Year 2024
C3. Strategy: Promoting Regional Cooperation	3.5 Enhance Linkages between National Committees for International Cooperation	Technical Report	Enhancement of Linkages between NCs for International Cooperation through Knowledge Sharing and Event organization	Enhancement of Linkages between NCs for International Cooperation through Knowledge Sharing and Event organization	Enhancement of Linkages between NCs for International Cooperation through Knowledge Sharing and Event organization	Enhancement of Linkages between NCs for International Cooperation through Knowledge Sharing and Event organization
	3.6 Broaden relationship and mutual understanding and cooperation between NCs from developing countries and developed countries	Collaboration/ MoU	Exchange visits/ training between NCs	Exchange visits/ training between NCs	Exchange visits/ training between NCs	Exchange visits/ training between NCs
MoU between NCs			MoU between NCs	MoU between NCs	MoU between NCs	
	3.7 International conference/ workshop/ seminar	Compilation of proceedings	Review of the Process, Organization and Outcomes of 8th Asian Regional Conference, May 2018, Nepal	MoU between NCs	Collaborated Preparatory Works for 9th Asian Regional Conference with IACID	Workshop and/or Session in 9th Asian Regional Conference, Aug-Sep, 2024, Australia.
				Participation in 9th World Water Forum (WWF9), March 2022, Senegal		
				Participation in 4th Asia-Pacific Water Summit (APWS4), April 2022, Japan		
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 (African-Asian Rural Development Organization)	Special Issue of AARDO Journal			
			WG Workshops on Impacts of COVID-19 on Agricultural Water Management in Asia	Workshops on Impacts of COVID-19 on Agricultural Water Management in Asia	Release of Report on Impacts of COVID-19 on Agricultural Water Management in Asia	
	4.21 Report on "Contribution of Agricultural Water to the Rural Development in Asia"	Technical Report	Draft Table of Contents of the Technical Report to be published	Workshops on Agricultural Water to the Rural Development in Asia, in 24 the ICID Congress, Oct, 2022, Australia	Workshops on Agricultural Water to the Rural Development in Asia, in 4th World irrigation Forum, Apr. 2023, China	Formal release of the Report at 9th ARC, Aug-Sep, 2023, Australia
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	Collaboration between PAWEES and ASRWG	Collaboration between PAWEES and ASRWG
			Organizing multi-sectoral events /workshops	Organizing multi-sectoral events /workshops	Organizing multi-sectoral events /workshops	Organizing multi-sectoral events /workshops

