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**MINUTES OF THE FIRST VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE  
WORKING GROUP ON CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT, TRAINING AND  
EDUCATION (WG-CDTE)**

Date: 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021, Time:13:30 Hours (Indian Standard Time)

**Members present:** (1) VPH Dr. Mohamed Wahba (Egypt), Chairman; (2) Dr. Vijay K. Labhsetwar (India), Vice-Chairman; (3) Dr. Rajendra S. Poddar (India), Secretary; (4) Dr. Shinji Fukuda (Japan); (5) Dr. Wen-Pin Shu (Chinese Taipei Committee) represented by Prof. Yih-Tan; (6) Er. Ashok K. Kharya (India); (7) Mr. Gaforzoda Bahkrom (Tajikistan); and (8) Secretary General represented by Er. Harish K. Varma, Executive Director, ICID Central Office.

**Observers:** (i) Eng. (Ms.) Rasha Sarmad (Iraq); (ii) Mr. Jeff Camkin (Australia); (iii) Vice President Arcieri Marco (Italy); and (iv) KCID Secretariat.

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At the onset, the Chairman VPH Dr. Mohamed Wahba (Egypt) welcomed the members and was happy to note a good number of members in attendance for this very first virtual meeting.

**WG-CDTE Minutes Item 1:            Reviewing the mandate**

The Chairman reviewed the mandate at Annex 2 of the Agenda. It was proposed to merge mandate (i) and (ii), since activities under them may be overlapping. However, it was decided to relabeling them as sub-activities under (i), as (a) and (b), instead of merging.

Members agreed to identify themselves with particular topic/s in the mandate to take up the related activities, once the 'Action Plan 'Road Map to ICID Vision 2030', at Annex-3 of the agenda, is finalized by the Chair.

**WG-CDTE Minutes Item 2:            Reviewing the membership of the Working Group**

The membership of the working group at Annex 1 of the agenda was reviewed. The Chairman thanked the ICID Central Office (CO) for welcoming and confirming the new membership as per the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting (27 October 2020) of the WG-CDTE. Further, Iraq has since nominated Eng. (Ms.) Rasha Sarmad for the membership and Mr. Hasan Basri Yuksel (Turkey) has requested to continue his membership.

The Chairman welcomed Dr. Jeff Camkin (Australia) and thanked the Australian NC for the newly nominated him for the membership. Mr Camkin was present and did introduce himself to the members. The Chairman also welcomed Eng Rasha (from Iraq) and expressed that he is looking forward for their fruitful contributions in the group activities.

The CO is requested to get fresh nominations for the WG from countries that have been discontinued in the past, namely Pakistan and Iran.

Members were also requested to enrich the membership of the WG by proposing new names from their countries.

**WG-CDTE Minutes Item 3:            Road Map to ICID Vision 2030 – Status of WG Activities**

The Chairman reviewed the Action Plan 'Road Map to ICID Vision 2030' at Annex-3 of the Agenda. He informed the members that webinars, e-discussions, YP training and organizing workshops on pre-decided topics/sub-topics remains the focus of the WG. The Vice-Chairman Dr. Vijay K. Labhsetwar (India) further explained the goals and strategies of the WG, emerging from Annex 3 of the Agenda, towards completing the mandate of the WG. He emphasized that topics/sub-topics for various activities of the WG are yet to be finalised and requested members to take initiative and identify themselves with particular activity of the WG. In meantime, the Chairman will populate the action plan/Road Map and update it with input from members, at least, up to 2023. The members were requested, in mean time, to compiling the list of training institutes and educational programs being offered in irrigation and drainage in their countries.

While discussing the Annex 3, the Technical Support Unit (TSU) was referred to by the Chair and Vice Chair. The Vice Chair explained, in brief, the formation and the role of TSU in ICID. However, Er. Ashok Kumar Kharya (India) was wondering, if a detailed document on the TSU could be made available for better understanding and working closely with it. The CO is requested to provide such a document on TSU to all the members for their information and use as appropriate.

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**WG-CDTE Minutes Item 4: Promoting capacity development, training and education**

The Chairman confirmed that the training program for young professionals (YPs) has been planned to precede the 5th African Regional Conference (AfRC) to be held during September 2021 at Marrakech, Morocco and the 5<sup>th</sup> AfRC has been rescheduled to be held during 24-30 November 2021. The Moroccan National Committee may be requested to provide updates on the same. Further, it is also proposed to organize a training program (3-5 days) for young professionals preceding the annual IEC every year.

Dr. Rajendra S. Poddar (India), being Director of WALMI (water management training institute) in India, made an elaborate presentation on the programs organized at his institute. He offered the excellent facilities available at WALMI for use by the WG and organizing seminar/workshop/training courses as appropriate, if so desired. The Chairman expressed his great proud of the capabilities of the WALMI as a good institutional model for capacity development, training and education.

Eng. Abu Obieda Babiker Ahmed Hassan (Sudan), not present in this meeting, had expressed his interest in the area of 'Role of ICT in Capacity Development' during the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting (27 October 2020) of the WG-CDTE. Eng Hassan may submit a two-page brief on his ideas on the subject for the information of the members or better may present a webinar on the subject in coming months.

**WG-CDTE Minutes Item 5: E-learning programmes as a capacity development tool**

ICID e-Learning platform is one of the initiatives to strengthen the capacity building activities. The members noted the two on-line programs offered:

- (a) Online Certificate Course on Dam and Network Safety Assurance
- (b) Online Certificate Course on Micro-Irrigation Systems (MIS)

Er. Ashok Kumar Kharya (India) from the National Water Academy was invited to provide updates on course (b), besides informing the members on other programs at the National Water Academy, NWA (India). He informed the members about the evolution of NWA and the national and international programs available at NWA. He emphasized on strong e-learning (distance education) facilities available at NWA and the WG is welcome to use those facilities as appropriate.

Dr. Poddar (India), further, presented a brief note on organizing a short course (may be 3 weeks) on topic such as 'Reclamation of salt affected soils' or 'Improving drainage of irrigated lands.'

Dr. Shinji Fukuda (Japan) also briefly informed about the research and training facilities available at his place in Japan.

Other members are also requested to chip in and express their interest in organizing such short courses (1-4 weeks) of their choice and expertise. At this time, due to pandemic, such short courses may be online only.

**WG-CDTE Minutes Item 6: Any other business**

Given that not much has been done in the past, the other issues flagged were:

- (a) Facilitating MoUs between CDTE-WG and/or academic institutions
- (b) Facilitating MoUs between National Committees and/or academic institutions
- (c) Organizing study tours / technical tours
- (d) Organizing tailor made training (upon request from NC's)
- (e) Promote Technical Support Unit (TSU) of ICID
- (f) Possibility of awarding certificates for short courses may be explored
- (g) Possibility of establishing an Association of WALMIs in India may be explored
- (h) Members may provide their short CVs (150-200 words) for uploading on webpage of the WG
- (i) Updating the WG webpage on ICID website

The meeting ended with thanks to the Chairman.

