

MINUTES OF FIRST VIRTUAL MEETING OF COMMITTEE ON CONGRESSES / CONFERENCES (C-CONGR)

Date: 06 July 2021; Time: 12:30 Hours (Indian Standard Time)

Members/representatives Present: (1) Mr. Bryan Ward (Australia), Chairman; (2) Pr. El Houssine Bartali (Morocco); (3) Mr. Mohamed Bouaam (Morocco); (4) Mr. Momir Vranes (Australia); (5) Ms. Chris Delphin (Australia); (6) VPH Dr Ding Kulun (China); (7) Er. Li Ruoxi (China); (8) Er. Gao Lihui (China); (9) VPH Dr. K. Yella Reddy (India); (10) Mr. Rishi Srivastava, Director, CWC, INCID; (11) Mr. Amrendra Kumar Singh, Chief Engineer & Member Secretary of INCID and (12) Er B.A. Chivate, Director (Technical), ICID Central Office, New Delhi, India.

C-CONGR Minutes Item 1: Introduction by the Chair

The Chair of C-CONGR provided the following report:

In this COVID-19 affected world ICID events have been significantly impacted and we have now become used to postponements due to COVID restrictions. This has been a major disappointment for ICID, National Committees and event organisers and our hopes for having a joyous celebration in Sydney for the 70th anniversary of ICID in 2020 were dashed because of COVID. Fortunately, ICID were able to arrange a virtual celebration, but I am sure you agree that virtual meetings are no substitute for the fellowship and camaraderie of getting together physically and reuniting with old friends and colleagues. We look forward a resumption of physical meetings in Marrakech, Morocco in the last week of November this year for the 5th African Regional Conference and we wish Pr El Houssine Bartali and ANAFIDE our very best wishes for a successful and safe event.

The 24th Congress and 73rd IEC meeting has once again been delayed until October 2022 due to uncertainty over the ability of international delegates from all ICID member countries to attend and we will provide an update on our plans at C-CONGR today. This is the third delay for this event and whilst disappointing, we are determined to hold a successful event in Adelaide, South Australia. The domino effect of postponements can have an impact on other events including China and we thank our friends at CNCID for their forbearance and patience as we navigate through this pandemic. We are sure that the 4th World Irrigation Forum in Beijing in April 2023 will be a great success and we look forward to attending.

As you will note on the agenda for C-CONGR there are six events planned in the 30 months from November 2021 to May 2024 so this will hopefully be a very busy period for ICID and National Committees. This brings into sharp focus the important role that C-CONGR can have to assist member countries to learn from other experiences and these initiatives and lessons learnt can be valuable for national committees planning events.

Unfortunately, C-CONGR has not been as effective as it should and my view on the reasons for this are:

- A reluctance of National Committees to provide detailed reports on past events, for example we did not receive a report from Mexico on the 23rd Congress and we are yet to receive a report from INACID on the 3rd World Irrigation Forum in Bali.
- With some exceptions it has been difficult to secure attendance of National Committees proposing future events at meetings of C-CONGR and in my opinion C-CONGR should make a formal recommendation to PCSO on whether these events should be approved or not. If this was the process, then proponents of future events would take these presentations to C-CONGR very seriously and would need to seek the support of the committee to obtain approval.
- Membership is very ad-hoc and rather than having a designation of six members representation should be made up of past and future event representatives plus a Young Professional and I have made a recommendation below.

As a result of these concerns, I seek your support to make a recommendation to PCSO that the following changes be made to the membership composition, mandate of C-CONGR and LoA for future events as follows:

1.1 Membership Composition of C-CONGR

- A Chair who is a representative from the organising Committee of the next Congress
- Two further members from the National Committee for the next Congress and a YP representative if available
- A representative from each of the confirmed future ICID events (Congress/WIF/Regional Conferences)
- A representative from the previous Congress
- A representative from ICID CO who will also provide secretarial services

Recommendation: C-CONGR agreed that this proposal should be put forward to PCSO for consideration

C-CONGR Minutes Item 2: Mandate of C-CONGR

- Representatives from previous events are required to present a summary report to the first meeting of C-CONGR following their event that includes attendance, financial performance and recommendations for future events. This requirement should be a condition of the LoA.
- National Committees wishing to hold a future Congress/WIF/Regional Conference must make a report to C-CONGR outlining their plans including location, dates, expected attendance, financial budget, registration fees etc. C-CONGR will consider these reports and make a recommendation to PCSO whether to grant the event to the NC.

Recommendation: C-CONGR agreed that this proposal should be put forward to PCSO for consideration

C-CONGR Minutes Item 3: Overview of the 72nd IEC & 5th ARC, 24-30 November 2021 at Marrakesh, Morocco

Pr. El Houssine Bartali provided a report on the 5th African Regional Conference and assured the committee that, despite the difficulties and constantly changing environment created by COVID, they were confident that the event could proceed on a hybrid basis (physical and online participation) as planned in November 2021. Pr. Bartali explained that entry into Morocco is now more easily accessible to citizens such as those from European countries, US, Canada, Australia, Japan, South Korea and others, however participants from other countries such as Africa, Arab & Asian countries may face quarantine requirements.

The Chair on behalf of C-CONGR expressed his best wishes to Pr. Bartali for a successful event with hope for limited disruption by COVID with the plans.

C-CONGR Minutes Item 4: Feedback from 3rd WIF & 70th IEC meeting held in September 2019 at Bali, Indonesia

No representative was present from INACID to provide a report on the 3rd World Forum and 70th IEC Meeting however Director Chivate confirmed that INACID had met their obligations in accordance with the Letter of Agreement.

C-CONGR Minutes Item 5: 24th ICID Congress & 73rd IEC Meeting, 03-10 October 2022 at Adelaide, South Australia

Bryan Ward provided an update on the 24th Congress and 73rd IEC Meeting to be held in Adelaide from 3 to 10 October 2022. He noted that this was the third and hopefully final change for this event and the organising committee were hopeful that COVID would be under control by October 2022 and Australia looked forward to welcoming ICID delegates to this event. Technical tours were being developed and a social and Young Professionals program would also be developed. The abstract portal was now open, and authors were invited to resubmit previously submitted papers.

C-CONGR Minutes Item 6: 10th International Micro Irrigation Conference in September 2022 Agadir, Morocco

Pr. El Houssine Bartali indicated that ANAFIDE were agreeable to change the date of the 10th Micro Irrigation Conference from September 2022 to March/April 2022 to avoid a clash with the 24th Congress in Adelaide. The Chair passed on the appreciation of C-CONGR to ANAFIDE for their cooperation in these difficult times.

C-CONGR Minutes Item 7: 74th IEC & 4th WIF, 16-22 April 2023 at Beijing, China

VPH Dr. Ding Kulun made a PowerPoint presentation on the arrangements for the 4th WIF and 74th IEC meeting, key points from the presentation were:

- The hosts would be:
 - Ministry of Water Resources
 - CNCID
 - ICID
- The organizer would be the China Institute of Water Resources and Hydropower Research
- The event will be held from 16 to 22 April 2023
- The theme will be “Modernization of Irrigation Schemes”
- The venue will be the Guoce International Convention & Exhibition Center in Beijing
- Three technical tours will be arranged:
 - Dujiangyan Irrigation System, near Chengdu City - *An ingenious ancient irrigation project*
 - ZhengGuo Canal Irrigation District, near Xi’an City - *A typical irrigation system in dry areas of North China*
 - Three Gorges Project, near Yichang City - *The largest water project on the Yangtze River*

C-CONGR Minutes Item 8: 75th IEC & 25th Congress, 1-7 November 2023 at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, India

VPH Dr. K. Yella Reddy provided a PowerPoint presentation on the 25th Congress and 75th IEC Meeting to be held at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, India from 1-7 November 2023. C-CONGR also passed along their congratulations to Dr Reddy on his appointment as Organizing Secretary for 25th ICID Congress and 75th International Executive Council (IEC) Meeting.

C-CONGR Minutes Item 9: 76th IEC & 9th ARC, 27 April to 02 May 2024 at Sydney, Australia

Mr. Bryan Ward reported that the date for the 9th Asian Regional Conference and 76th IEC had now changed to 1 to 8 September 2024 and would be held in Sydney. He indicated that IACID had arranged a meeting with ASRWG on 23 July to collaborate on a suitable theme and sub-themes for the event. The Chair of ASRWG had been very supportive of this collaborative approach.

C-CONGR Minutes Item 10: Website of the C-CONGR

It was noted that ICID CO have provided a new website for C-CONGR, and the Chair confirmed that he had provided the Chair’s message. Members of C-CONGR were encouraged to inspect the new website at https://icid-ciid.org/inner_page/107 and provide content if appropriate.

C-CONGR Minutes Item 11: Any other business

There was no other business.

