



**Conference Newsletter**  
**August 13, 2018**

A pre-conference tour of South Saskatchewan River Irrigation District was held on Day 1 of the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage International Conference (ICID) and 69<sup>th</sup> International Executive Council (IEC) Meeting. Approximately forty conference delegates participated in this tour which included an overview of the various crops such as field peas, canola and lentils grown within this irrigation district in south-central Saskatchewan. Irrigation research, agronomy advancements, tools and technologies, as well as the many partnerships of the Canada-Saskatchewan Irrigation Diversification Centre (CSIDC) in Outlook, Saskatchewan were also highlighted.



*CSIDC tour stop in Outlook, Saskatchewan*



*Saskatchewan farmer demonstrating large-scale farm equipment being used for harvesting.*

The Little Seed Potato Company's research farm showcased the use of subsurface drainage in seed potato production. A stop at one of the rehabilitated irrigation channels within the irrigation district provided an opportunity to discuss improvements such as using membranes to reduce seepage and improve flow. Tour participants also had the opportunity to see large-scale farm equipment being used in Canada for crop production and a cattle farm that uses irrigation in order to increase herd size and productivity.

Over 510 delegates and approximately 50 accompanying persons representing forty-one countries have traveled to Saskatoon to participate in this year's ICID International Conference and IEC Meeting. Canada and the City of Saskatoon is honoured to host these delegates and we look forward to the many presentations and discussions in support of the conference theme of *Innovative and Sustainable Water Management: Adapting to a Variable and Changing Climate*.



*Delegates from forty-one countries at Opening Remarks this morning.*



*Dr. Chandra Madramootoo chairing the Opening Remarks this morning.*

Dr. Chandra A. Madramootoo of McGill University and ICID President Honoraire chaired the Opening Ceremonies with the Honourable Ralph Goodale, Minister of Public Safety bringing remarks on behalf of the Government of Canada, the Honourable Dustin Duncan, Minister of Environment and Minister responsible for the Saskatchewan Water Security Agency representing the Government of Saskatchewan and his Worship Charlie Clarke, Mayor of Saskatoon welcoming conference delegates to Saskatoon.

Dr. John Pomeroy, Director of the Global Water Futures Program of the University of Saskatchewan, kicked off the International Conference Plenary Session and provided an overview of some of the key challenges related to climate change including extremes floods and droughts. He suggested that a Canada water security strategy may be beneficial in being more prepared and achieve greater resiliency in addressing these challenges. Dr. Peter McCornick, Executive Director of the Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute at the University of Nebraska talked about challenges related to increasing food production for a growing world population and reflected on how effective water management is needed in order to ensure a more productive and resilient agricultural sector. Maurice Molony, Executive Director and CEO of the Global Institute for Food Security discussed crop growth technology and productivity.

Six concurrent sessions were held on socio-economic value of irrigation, water-food-energy nexus, climate change and its impact on agriculture, irrigation and drainage, and water reuse and water quality management. Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) also hosted a workshop on the Agricultural Greenhouse Gas Program being administered by AAFC. This workshop featured seven presenters who provided an overview of the various research efforts and studies being carried out under this program.

Numerous WatSave Awards were presented at the International Executive Council Meeting Plenary Session. The award recipients are as follows:

- Technology Award was presented to Dr. John Hornbuckel, Jannel Montgomery and Jamie Fleeshouwer of Australia
- Innovative Water Management Award was presented to Richard Phillips of the Alberta Irrigation Management Model in Canada
- The Young Professional Award was awarded to Fatemeh Mortazavi and Amirali Fatahi of Iran

There were two Best Paper Awards as follows:

- Diagnosing Drainage Problems in Coastal Areas Using Machine-Learning and Geostatistical Models by Abdullah Darzi-Naftchali, Fatemeh Karandish and Ahmad Asgari
- The Benefit to Using Drainage Water of Fish Farms for Irrigation: Field and Modellig Study Using SALTMED Model by Ramadan E. Abdelraouf and Ragab Ragab.



*From left to right: Dr. Pomeroy, Dr. McCornick and Maurice Molony during Panel Discussion*



Front row from left to right: Dr. John Hornbuckel, Fatemeh Mortazavi, ICID President Felix Reinders, Richard Phillips and CANSID President Roger Hohm



ICID President Felix Reinders presenting Best Paper Award to



ICID President Felix Reinders presenting Best Paper Award to Fatemeh Karandish

Recognition of the World Heritage Irrigation Structures were presented by VPH Mr. Bong Hoon Lee with the following recognitions:

- China – Changpu (Bai Qi) Canal, Dujiangyan Irrigation System, Jiangziyan Irrigation System and Lingqu Canal
- India – Large Tank (Pedda Cheru) and Sadarmatt Anicut
- Italy – the Aqua Augusta Cistern: Piscina Mirabilis
- Japan – Kitadate Irrigation System, Gorobe Irrigation System, Shirakawa Irrigation System and Tsukidome Irrigation System



*Recipients representing China, India, Italy and Japan being recognized for World Heritage Irrigation Structures.*

Indonesia, who will be hosting ICID on 1-7 September, 2019, held a very lively and entertaining reception tonight. Participants learned how to play the Angklung and were entertained by singing and dancing. Fun was had by all. Thank-you to the Indonesian delegation for your hospitality and we look forward to joining you in Bali next year. Tomorrow night Australia will be hosting its reception.



*Conference delegates participating in tonight's Indonesian reception.*