



## 15 August 2018 Newsletter

Today #ICID2018 featured eight concurrent sessions focusing on the conference subthemes, two sessions hosted by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations including one on Hydroeconomic modelling and one on Data-driven Improvement of Water Use Efficiency in Small-scale Irrigation, a Geo-synthetics Workshop, fourteen poster presentations, an accompanying persons tour of the Saskatchewan Western Development Museum and various International Executive Committee (IEC) Meetings focusing on a variety of strategic themes. We also enjoyed a wonderful evening with colleagues and friends from around the world at the Farewell Dinner. Below are some of the highlights of the conference on 14 August 2018 as well as, the past few days.

### FAO Sessions and ICID Meetings

The FAO Session on *Hydroeconomic modelling for transboundary river basin management – Towards more Integrated Approaches* discussed some of challenges related to competing sectors, in particular hydropower and agriculture, in transboundary regions. Multi-objective modelling and decision-support systems are being used to assist decision-makers with finding solutions to address these challenges. Multi-objective planning is considered to be effective in avoiding conflict and promoting cooperative efforts in transboundary basins.

*Data-driven Improvement of water use efficiency in Small-scale Irrigation* was the focus of the other FAO Session. Experiences and lessons learned from case studies on agricultural water management in West and East Africa along with strengths and weaknesses of the various approaches and methodologies being applied to improve water-use efficiencies were discussed.

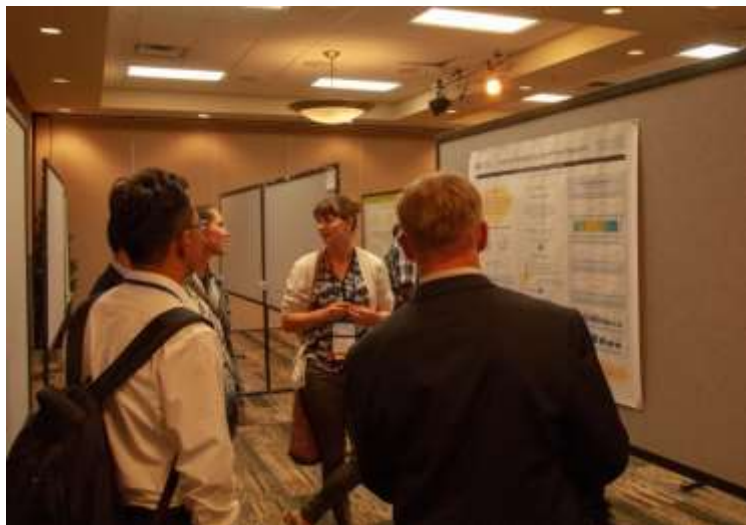
The various working groups of ICID also met today to discuss the strategic sub-themes of On-Farm, Basins, Knowledge, Schemes. A meeting of the *Permanent Committee on Strategy and Organization (PCSO)* was also held. The PCSO is responsible for increasing the number of member countries and assisting the National Committees to become more active in their own countries to achieve the goals set for them from time to time by the Council.



Participants and Presenters at today's FAO Sessions and ICID Meetings.

### Poster Sessions

Different poster presentations were displayed on each day of the conference. Today, there were fourteen poster presentations which were on display in Gallery A. Over the past few days, poster presentations submitted by students were also evaluated for the International Conference Student Poster Award. The runner-up and the recipient of this year's ICID International Conference Student Poster Award were announced at the farewell banquet. Megan Ludwig, Master of Science Student at the University of British Columbia (Okanagan) was recognized as the runner up for her research on *Using Colored Dissolved Organic Matter in End Member Mixing Analysis* and Jennifer Attema of the University of Saskatchewan was awarded the Student Poster Award for her Master of Science research on *Using Direct Measurements to improve Estimation Methods for Evaporation in Prairie Reservoirs*.



Conference delegates engaging with Poster Presenters throughout the conference.



Megan Ludwig is the runner-up of the Student Poster Award. Pictured here with Abdel-Zaher Kamal Abdel-Razek (left) and Roger Hohm (right).



Jennifer Attema is the recipient of the Student Poster Award. Pictured here with Abdel-Zaher Kamal Abdel-Razek (left) and Roger Hohm (right).

### International Conference Concurrent Sessions

There were eight concurrent sessions held today including one session on drainage and flood control strategies, two sessions on irrigation, drainage and flood control for resilient agriculture, one session on irrigation infrastructure development and four sessions on climate smart agriculture and innovative technologies for enhancing water use efficiencies. One of the presentations in the session on drainage and flood control strategies discussed the deep connection that Dutch culture has with water management with a focus of keeping lowlands dry for agricultural production. However, with a changing climate, there is concern on how this can be sustained in the long-term as increased effort will be required to maintain water infrastructure. There were also a



John Hornbuckle of Deakin University in Australia presented on innovative technology used for enhancing water use efficiencies.



*Dale Tomaszewicz of the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada presented on micro-nutrient requirements of irrigated crops.*

number of presentations on irrigation in Saskatchewan. The sessions on climate smart agriculture and innovative technologies for enhancing water use efficiency focused on how tools and technologies play a significant role in increasing irrigation efficiencies and in assisting with precision agricultural practices which is important in adapting to climate change and ensuring greater resiliency of the agricultural sector. Variable rate technology, decision-support systems, geospatial and satellite-derived information were highlighted. However, it was generally recognized that ground truthing and field sampling are still important in verifying data and tools.

### Accompanying Persons Program

Several tours have been organized for accompanying persons over the past few days. Today, nine individuals visited the Saskatchewan Western Development Museum.



*Participants in the Accompanying Persons Program had fun today at the Western Development Museum.*



### Conference Delegates

The ICID International Conference and Executive Council Meeting has provided an opportunity for conference delegates to network, build relationships and share knowledge and information. ICID enables representatives from over 80 countries that come together to not only discuss issues of relevance to irrigation, drainage and sustainable agriculture but to also form and maintain friendships that last a lifetime. Over the past few days, delegates have had the opportunity to engage with one another during breaks, events and activities throughout the conference. We have included highlights of the dialogues and interactions of the past few days in the following pages.

International Conference and 69th International Executive Council Meeting of the  
International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage



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