

**AGENDA FOR THE SIXTEENTH MEETING OF THE
ASIAN REGIONAL WORKING GROUP (ASRWG)
New Delhi, India
06 December 2009: 09.30–13.15 hours**

Year of Establishment: 1996

Members: (1) Vice President Karim Shiati, Chairman, 2006 (Iran, 1997); (2) Mr. Tai-Cheol Kim, Vice Chairman, 2007 (Korea, 2006); (3) Mr. Anthony J. Horton, Secretary, 2007 (Australia, 1997); (4) Mr. Khem Raj Sharma (Nepal, 1997); (5) Dr. Siripong Hungspreug (Thailand, 1998); (6) Mr. B. M. Yusupov (Uzbekistan, 1998); (7) Mr. T. Anwar Khan (Bangladesh, 1998); (8) Mr. Waseem Nazir (Pakistan, 1999); (9) Mr. Sheng-Feng, Kuo (Chinese Taipei, 2001); (10) Mr. S. Siswoko (Indonesia, 2002); (11) Mr. C.D. Khoche (India, 2006); (12) Mr. Taner Kimence (Turkey, 2006); (13) Vice President Shinsuke Ota (Japan, 2006); (14) Mr. Mohd. Abdul Nassir bin Bidin (Malaysia, 2007); (15) Mr. Wang Xiaodong (China, 2008); and (16) Secretary General, ICID.

Permanent Observers : (1) FAO Representative (Dr. Klaus Siegert); (2) ICARDA Representative (Dr. Theib Oweis); (3) Dr. W.F. Vlotman (Australia); (4) INPIM Representative (Mr. David J. Groenfeldt or Mr. Peter P.C. Sun); (5) IRRI Representative (Dr. Tu Phuc Tuong) ; (6) IWMI Representative (Mr. Nanda Abeywickrema); (7) IPTRID Representative (Mr. H.W. Denecke); (8) World Bank Representative (Mr. Geoffrey Spenser); and (9) Mekong River Basin Representative.

Item 1 : Confirmation of the minutes of the 15th meeting of ASRWG

The minutes of the 15th meeting of the Working Group held at Lahore in October 2008 will be confirmed.

Item 2 : Membership of the Working Group

The following nominations were deferred at Lahore meeting (2008) due to non-attendance of the nominees:

- Mr. Hanan Itzkovitch (Israel)
- Engr. H.M. Jayatillake (Sri Lanka)
- Mr. Ravinder Singh (India) in place of Mr. C.D. Khoche

The WG may like to consider these past nominations for the membership of the WG. The Central Office informed (29 January and 21 July 2009) the WG's decision to the respective National Committees with a request to confirm the nomination or nominate a fresh member with an assurance that the nominee would either be present during the meeting or represented by the concerned NC. In response, the Indian National Committee (INCID) informed (21 July 2009) that they will confirm their nomination, shortly. Responses from others are awaited.

Attendance sheet of the members at the meetings of the ASRWG held in 2007 and 2008 will be tabled during the New Delhi meeting. It may be noted that representation of a member of the working group by any other representative of the concerned national committee is not deemed to be a contribution by a member. Refer to Annex 1 of PCSPOA of Agenda (page A-9) and ICID By-law 3.1.7 which stipulates that members not contributing to the activities by attendance or correspondence for two consecutive years shall be replaced in consultation with their National Committees.

The WG noted that Mr. B.M. Yusupov (Uzbekistan) has not contributed for the last three consecutive years (2006, 2007 and 2008) in its last meeting. The Central Office (CO) vide its e-mail of 29 January 2009 has requested UzNCID to ensure Mr. Yusupov's participation in the New Delhi meeting or alternately, nominate a new member in his place with an assurance that he/she would contribute to the activities of the WG. Response is awaited.

A. CONTINUING ITEMS

Item 3 : To discuss future Work Plan

3.1 New Membership in ICID

The countries in Asia region have been allocated to Vice Presidents for follow-up actions to enhance the ICID membership as shown in **Annex 1**.

The WG members requested that Chairman, ASRWG; ICID Vice Presidents and CO to take further follow up actions and bring more Asian Countries into the ICID fold. Accordingly, the Central Office in April 2009 has taken follow-up actions with all those National Committees (new countries to be liaised/ deemed inactive/ admitted but not paid subscription) and requested for appropriate actions. Bhutan, Fiji and UAE have responded as below:

- **Bhutan:** Secretary General had utilized his personal visit to Bhutan on to follow up the membership of this country. He met Dr. Chencho Norbu, Director (Agriculture) in the Ministry of Agriculture beside Ir. Minjur Dorji and also extended an invitation for the forthcoming 60th IEC/ 5th ARC.
- **Fiji:** Fiji has submitted (4 September 2009) the ICID membership application to Central Office for consideration during 60th IEC at New Delhi. Central Office has requested Fiji representative to introduce their country when the membership comes up for consideration in the IEC.
- **UAE:** Eng. Abdullah Rashid Almoalla (UAE) informed (1 July 2009) the Central Office that they have forwarded the application for further follow-up to Dr. Mohammed Mustafa Almulla, Acting Deputy Minister of Water, Ministry of Water and Environment (UAE). The follow up actions are being taken up by Dr. Shiati and CO.

3.2 Other activities

- An MoU between Iranian National Committee (IRNCID) and Turkish National Committee (TUCID) to strengthen regional cooperation
- An MoU to enhance regional cooperation and undertake research studies on water related projects between IRNCID, German National Committee (GECID) and German Water History Association (AWHG)
- VP Dr. Karim Shiati, Chairman, ASRWG is in contact (9 September 2009) with Syrian National Committee (SYCID) to explore opportunities for mutual cooperation.

The Chairman will furnish a copy of the MoUs on behalf of IRNCID for records.

3.3 Work plan

The WG needs to develop a three year rolling plan for its activities.

Chairman will apprise the WG on above issues.

Item 4 : ASRWG Newsletter and ASRWG Homepage

The Chairman during the last meeting requested all NCs to link their Universal Resource Locator (URL) to the CO and informed that the arrangement of establishing network linkages would be coordinated by the CO. Accordingly, the CO has established network linkages between the NCs of Australia (ANCID), Chinese Taipei (CTCID), Iran (IRNCID), Malaysia (MANCID), Thailand (THAICID) and India (INCID) with the ASRWG website. All the members are further encouraged to strengthen the network linkages and act in coordination.

To continue the networking further, the Central Office requested (31 March 2009) all National Committees (except Australia, Chinese Taipei, Iran, Malaysia, Thailand and India) to establish their own URL and develop network linkages between various NCs pertaining to the Asian region. NCs are requested to launch their websites and provide the web link to the Central Office. From European Regional Working Group, NETHCID has assured action.

Chairman will apprise the WG about further progress during the meeting.

Item 5 : Work on the Basin-sharing Model for Mekong River Formation

The issue was not discussed in the meeting as Dr. Siripong Hungspreug (Thailand) was unable to attend the last two meetings held at Sacramento (2007) and Lahore (2008). The Central Office has requested (11 May and 21 July 2009) to provide further progress towards the status of work on the Basin-sharing model for Mekong River Formation. Response is awaited.

Dr. Hungspreug/ THAICID representative may like to apprise the WG about further developments during the meeting.

Item 6 : Asian Drainage Programme for the Humid Tropics (ADPHT) and eradication of information gap

While deliberating the matter, the members suggested (October 2008) to have the main Asian Drainage Center (ADC) and its branches under ADPHT for Semi-Arid Asian as well as African Region.

The Chairman has already presented a concrete proposal for ADC during Sacramento meeting in 2007 with support envisaged from Australia and the Netherlands. Dr. Carlos Garces (IPTRID) was requested to review the proposal. Dr. Carlos however has already informed (8 October 2008) that he will be unable to participate in the activities of ASRWG due to restructuring of IPTRID. The CO is in contact (March 2009) with Chair for feedback on follow-up actions.

Chair will apprise the WG about further progress during the meeting.

Item 7 : Linkages with Regional and Transnational Organizations for Cooperation

7.1 International Water Management Institute (IWMI)

There is a good collaboration between IWMI and ICID as seen in recent times.

ICID continue to extend cooperation in the research programmes of IWMI as and when required. They were also invited to join as Consortium Partners when ICID handled the topic on “*Water and Food for ending poverty and hunger*” for the 5th World Water Forum in Istanbul. Director General, IWMI chaired the Session I as Consortium Partner and their participation was available virtually in all the sessions under the topic handled by ICID.

One of the key topics of interest to ASRWG could be IWMI research programme on “Trends in Asian Irrigation”. IWMI, FAO, and ADB held a joint review session of the research findings in Bangkok in January 2009. ICID responded to their invitation and Secretary General Gopalakrishnan, VPH Gao Zhanyi (China), Dr. Vadim (Uzbekistan) and a few other National Committee members of ICID fold in Asian Region (Pakistan, Thailand, Indonesia etc.) participated.

IWMI has proposed to have an exclusive one-day session to introduce their research in the 5th Asian Regional Conference in New Delhi.

7.2 Global Peat Initiative (GPI)

There is a need to strengthen bonds with GPI. As Dr. Siripong Hungspreug (Thailand) was not available in the Lahore meeting (2008), the matter could not be discussed. The Central Office is in contact (31 March and 21 July 2009) with him for an update. Response is awaited.

Thailand representative/ Chairman may apprise the WG about further progress during the meeting.

(This agenda has been lingering for a long period and the WG may decide to drop it, if there is no progress reported, even in the current meeting).

7.3 Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

As the FAO representative was unable to be present during the Lahore meeting (2008), the issue could not be discussed. However, the ASRWG suggested to develop project programs related to ‘Agriculture and Water’ for obtaining possible support from FAO.

The Central Office is in contact (11 May 2009 and 21 July 2009) with Dr. Klaus Siegert, Permanent Observer, ASRWG (FAO representative) on the subject. Response is awaited.

FAO representative/ Chairman may like to apprise the WG about further developments during the meeting.

7.4 UN – WATER

ICID is a UN-Water partner and has been actively participating in their recent meetings.

UN-Water undertook the task of Coordinating Theme 2 on “Advancing Human Development and the Millennium Development Goals (MDG)” during 5th World Water Forum. Presently, the Chair of UN-Water is in FAO and at the instance of FAO Chair, Dr. Pasquale Steduto, ICID Coordinated Topic 2.3 “*Water and Food for ending poverty and hunger*”. ICID also contributed by responding to the questionnaire on UN-Water Task Forces, UN-Water programs etc. These were handled by Secretary General Gopalakrishnan himself in view of the necessity to respond within a time frame by a few days as and when the request emanated from their side to ICID.

ICID has joined the UN-Water Task Force on Water & Climate through WG – Climate, and Task Force on “Climate Change and Irrigation (ARTF-CC)” of ASRWG. Where, the focus is on studying the impacts and Strategies for addressing/adopting the challenges of climate change in irrigation and water management for sustainable agriculture. The details will be addressed in Item 9 and 12.

More on this item is covered in the Secretary General's report to IEC.

7.5 ICID / UNW-DPC Cooperation on capacity development in agricultural water management

The capacity development in agriculture water management has been one of the important activities of the ICID. The ICID Working Group on Capacity Building, Training and Education (WG-CBTE) has published its activities as a special issue on capacity building in the ICID Journal, 2008.

Dr. Reza Ardakanian, Director of UNW-DPC and Dr. Ir. Karim Shiati, Vice President of ICID and Chairman of Asian Regional Working Group have drafted a memorandum of understanding (MoU) during the International Workshop on “Capacity Development for Farm Management Strategies to Improve Crop-water Productivity Using AquaCrop” in August 2009 in Tehran, Iran. The MoU commences the beginning of a close cooperation between the two organizations to fulfill their important role of water related capacity development activities among the members countries, particularly in developing countries and economies in transition.

The Chairman will apprise the members.

Item 8 : Possibilities of developing cooperative arrangements with International Society of Paddy and Water Environment Engineering (PAWEES) and International Network of Water Environment and Paddy Fields (INWEPF)

At the Sacramento meeting (2007), Dr. Hatcho (Japan) informed the WG members that PAWEES Journal is being published four times in a year and urged members to publish their papers in the PAWEES Journal. During the meeting, Dr. Kim Tai-Cheol provided details of the activities of INWEPF and also the outcome of 5th INWEPF International Conference held in October 2007 in Korea. As Dr. Kim Tai-Cheol was not available in Lahore meeting, the item could not be discussed further.

The Central Office contacted (31 March 2009) Dr. Kim Tai-Cheol to make a brief note/ presentation on the activities of INWEPF and PAWEES and the possibilities of developing cooperative arrangements between them so as to present it in the forthcoming 16th meeting of ASRWG. In response, Dr. Kim informed (3 August 2009) that PAWEES has been studying multi-functionality of paddy academically and publish the research in quarterly journal of PWE and also host annual conferences. INWEPF has been studying the food security and poverty alleviation, sustainable water use and shared partnership. Its activities affect the decision makers of national policy to allot a proper amount of budget for agriculture and reflect the facts to the trade of agricultural products.

Dr. Kim Tai-Cheol will present the activities of PAWEES on the conferences held during 18-20 October 2007 in Seoul, 27-29 October 2008 in Taipei, and 7-9 October 2009 in Bogor. Dr. Kim will further present the activities of INWEPF during the 1st APWS workshop in December 2007 at Tokyo, Japan, 5th steering meeting and Symposium in November 2008 at Bali, and 5th World Water Forum in March 2009 at Istanbul, Turkey.

Dr. Kim will present and brief the WG on above activities during the meeting.

Item 9 : Asian Regional Task Force on Climate Change and Irrigation (ARTF-CC)

The WG noted the work initiated by VP Mr. Shinsuke Ota (Japan) regarding preparation of a questionnaire on “A strategy for irrigation and drainage adapted to climate change in Asia” and its circulation to all Asian and Oceania Countries. Seven countries out of ten have filled up the questionnaire and submitted to Mr. Ota, Chairman, TF.

During the meeting (2008), the draft report of the task force had been distributed to the WG members for their comments and making further improvement. The report has been submitted and orally presented in the Session 3 of the Topic 1.1 “Adapting to climate change; understanding the impacts of climate change, vulnerability assessments and adoption on measures” under the Main Forum Theme 1 “Global Changes and Risk Management” of WWF5 in March 2009 at Istanbul, Turkey.

Mr. Ota will apprise the WG about further developments during the meeting.

Item 10 : 5th Asian Regional Conference

The Indian National Committee of ICID (INCID) is hosting the 5th Asian Regional Conference (ARC) during 5-11 December 2009 in New Delhi, India. The main theme of the conference is “Improvement in Efficiency of Irrigation Projects through Technology Upgradation and Better Operation and Maintenance”. The sub-themes are:

- Modernization of Public/State Operated Irrigation System and Services
- Public-Private Partnership in Irrigation Development and Management
- Integrated Approach in Agricultural Drainage
- Capacity Development for Modern Irrigation Management
- Impact of Climate Change on Water Resources Availability and Crop Productivity
- Legal Aspects in Sharing of Water Resources

In addition to the above, several special sessions and International Workshops have been planned. Members may access the Conference website <<http://www.incid2009delhi.org/>> for more information.

INCID representative will apprise the WG during the meeting.

Item 11 : 6th Asian Regional Conference

As decided, the 6th ARC would be hosted by Indonesia National Committee (INACID) from 10-16 October 2010 at Yogyakarta, Indonesia. The theme for the 6th ARC will be “Improvement of irrigation and drainage efficiency under the small land holding condition”. The WG members suggested (October 2008) to include “Rural land readjustment for infrastructures” as a sub-theme of the conference. Accordingly, the Central Office has proposed (March and July 2009) to INACID to incorporate the suggestion in one of the conference sessions of 6th ARC. Confirmation is awaited.

Mr. S. Siswoko/ INACID representative may like to apprise the WG about the status of preparation and detailed planning of the event during the meeting.

Item 12 : Any other business

- **World Water Development Report 3**

UNESCO has established a World Water Assessment Programme Secretariat in Perugia, which brings out periodically World Water Development Reports. These reports are released coinciding with the World Water Forum. The World Water Development Report 3 (WWDR3) on “*Water in a Changing World*” was released during the 5th World Water Forum in Istanbul in March 2009 and contains very useful information. The regional Working Group can spread the news to their National Committees as this document will be a very useful referral document. This can be downloaded from the website www.unesco.org/water/wwap or hard copy can be obtained by writing to the WWAP Secretariat. Secretary General Gopalakrishnan was invited to join as one of the members of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) during the preparatory process of this report by expert group. In addition to him, ICID retained the privilege of Prof. Lucio Ubertini as another member of this TAC.

- **UN Water Task Force on ‘Water and Climate’**

UN-Water has, as an independent move, initiated a UN Water Task Force on “Water and Climate” under the overall coordination of World Meteorological Organization (WMO). VPH Dr. Mark Svendsen and VP Dr. Karim Shiati are the members of the Task Force. The first TF meeting was held in Stockholm on 15 August 2008, where the work plan of the TF had been finalized. VP Dr. Karim Shiati apprised the WG on the review of Terms of Reference (ToR) and work plan of the TF during Lahore meeting. The ToR are given at **Annex 2**.

The Chairman will apprise the WG about further progress during the meeting.

ASIAN REGIONAL WORKING GROUP (ASRWG)**Allocation of Asian and Oceania countries amongst Vice Presidents, ICID**

Vice President	Name of countries allocated during the period 2008-2009				Total
	Active	Deemed inactive	Admitted but not paid subscription	New ones to be liaised	
Mr. Shinsuke Ota (Japan)	Chinese Taipei, Japan, Korea China	-	Mongolia	DPR of Korea Laos Republic	7
Dr. Karim Shiati (Iran)	Iraq, Kyrgyz Rep., Syria, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Iran	Jordan Lebanon Tajikistan	Yemen	Kuwait, Oman United Arab Emirates	13
Mr. Mohd. Azhari bin Ghazalli (Malaysia)	Philippines Thailand Malaysia	Vietnam	-	-	4
Prof. Peter Kovalenko (Ukraine)	Israel Kazakhstan Uzbekistan	-	Azerbaijan Turkmenistan	Armenia Georgia	7
Dr. Hafied A. Gany (Indonesia)	Australia Indonesia	New Zealand	-	Cambodia Fiji Papua New Guinea	6
Dr. Illahi B. Shaikh (Pakistan)	Afghanistan Bangladesh India, Myanmar Nepal, Sri Lanka, Pakistan	-	-	Bhutan	8
Total	25	5	4	11	45

**ASIAN REGIONAL WORKING GROUP (ASRWG)
UN-WATER TASK FORCE ON WATER AND CLIMATE****Terms of Reference****Introduction**

Water is the link between climate, human society and ecosystems. Climate change impacts on economy, human health, hunger and diseases are frequently mediated to human livelihoods by temperature-driven changes on water resources; affecting both the availability of fresh water, the frequency of floods and droughts and changes in seasonality. The consequences are complex, far-reaching and are likely to hit those hardest that are already most vulnerable.

The need to consider the establishment of a structure that incorporates a set of clusters on various topics associated to climate change is increasingly being recognized. Water and climate change is clearly identified as a strategic priority area and it is clear that UN-Water could play an instrumental role in advancing the agenda. A more coordinated UN system could play a proactive role and clearly demonstrate its capacity to support such a process in addition to the more specific support provided to countries facing the challenges of climate change and the impacts on water resources.

The establishment of a UN-Water Task Force on Water and Climate offers an opportunity to further discuss climate change and water linkages in their widest sense and to ensure that the UN-System in general, and UN-Water in particular, is better prepared to meet further challenges and play a potential role in this area. A Task Force could also serve the function of further elaboration on how the UN System, through increased interaction and coherence by strengthening a mechanism such as the UN-Water, could play a more proactive and constructive role in the formulation and implementation of relevant adaptation and mitigation strategies.

There will be a number of stepping stones (international meetings and processes, publications) where coordinated input on water and climate issues would be very important and where the Task Force could play an important role in providing coordinated inputs. The first undertaking of a new Task Force could be to initiate a discussion on how a strategic UN system approach to climate change and water resources issues could be further elaborated on and how UN-Water could be further strengthened and used as an effective mechanism to progress our co-ordinate efforts in this area, in line with the ambitions expressed in the report on the UN System-Wide Co-ordination on Climate Change. A number of short-term and long-term activities can be envisaged and a few proposals are presented below.

Task Force Objective

To work together in order to facilitate the Member countries in assessing the impacts and adopting strategies for adopting the challenges of climate change in the related water sectors and to strengthen UN-System coordination on activities related to water and climate change.

Draft work-plan elements**Short-term**

1. To collaborate in the planning of a joint Task Force session(s) at the 5th World Water Forum in March 2009
 2. To work together and influence the outcomes of the World Climate Conference-3 in August-September 2009.
 3. To conduct a mapping exercise on UN-Water member and partner mandate and capacities related to water and climate issues
 4. To produce a short issues paper (policy oriented), outlining the key challenges and water-related adaptation/mitigation issues.
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Long-term

1. To investigate opportunities to support the Conference of Parties (COP) process (UNFCCC) in relation to water and climate change (increase knowledge of water-related issues – the issues paper can be an important tool, but also a side-event at the next COP meeting in Copenhagen in 2009)
2. To develop a joint program on climate change adaptations in water sector
3. To build awareness on climate change issues in various water related sectors
4. To undertake a joint project in one of the identified countries under the UN
5. To develop relevant joint publications to serve the above purposes.

Partners

Coordinator: World Meteorological Organization

Membership: All UN-Water members that express interest in joining the activities
