

**AGENDA FOR THE FIFTEENTH MEETING OF THE
ASIAN REGIONAL WORKING GROUP (ASRWG)
Lahore, Pakistan
13 October 2008 : 13:30-17:00 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) Mr. A.S. Manohardas (Sri Lanka, 1997); (6) Dr. Siripong Hungspreug (Thailand, 1998); (7) Mr. B. M. Yusupov (Uzbekistan, 1998); (8) Mr. T. Anwar Khan (Bangladesh, 1998); (9) Mr. Waseem Nazir (Pakistan, 1999); (10) Mr. Sneng-Feng, Kuo (Chinese Taipei, 2001); (11) Mr. S. Siswoko (Indonesia, 2002); (12) Dr. Daixin Li (China, 2003); (13) Mr. C.D. Khoche (India, 2006); (14) Mr. Taner Kimencem (Turkey, 2006); (15) Mr. Shinsuke Ota (Japan, 2006); (16) Mr. Mohd. Abdul Nassir bin Bidin (Malaysia, 2007); and (17) Er. M. Gopalakrishnan, Secretary General, ICID.

Permanent Observers : (i) FAO Representative (Dr. Klaus Siegert); (ii) ICARDA Representative (Dr. Theib Oweis); (iii) Dr. W.F. Vlotman (The Netherlands); (iv) INPIM Representative (Mr. David J. Groenfeldt or Mr. Peter P.C. Sun, alternate); (v) IRRRI Representative (Dr. Tu Phuc Tuong); (vi) IWMI Representative (Mr. Nanda Abeywickrema); (vii) IPTRID Representative (Mr. H.W. Denecke); (viii) World Bank Representative (Mr. Geoffrey Spenser); and (ix) Mekong River Basin Representative.

Item 1 : Confirmation of the minutes of the 14th meeting of ASRWG held on 10 September 2007 in Sacramento, USA

No comments received. Minutes may be considered for confirmation.

Item 2 : Membership of the Working Group

Members who were nominated by various National Committees (Nepal, Thailand and Uzbekistan) but have not attended ASRWG meeting or contributed during the last two years were request to come up with their confirmation regarding membership. Response from them is awaited.

Nominations of Mr. Hanan Itzkovitch (Israel) and Engr. H.M. Jayatillake (Sri Lanka) were deferred during the 14th meeting of ASRWG due to their absence in the meeting. The Central Office (CO) has contacted the National Committees (NCs) of Sri Lanka and Israel to confirm their nomination or nominate an alternate member with an assurance that the new nominee would attend the meeting and contribute actively for the ASRWG.

Attendance of the members at the meetings of the ASRWG in 2006 and 2007 will be presented at Lahore.

A. CONTINUING ITEMS

Item 3 : To discuss future Work Plan

As per the three year rolling plan as adopted at Beijing in 2005, the ASRWG has to consider the following three points :

- 3.1 Membership of new countries in the region
- 3.2 Discuss the theme and topics of 5th Asian Regional Conference in 2009 in New Delhi, India and
- 3.3 Revise the work plan of ASRWG at 58th IEC.

For Item 3.2 and Item 3.3, refer under Agenda Items 15 and 17.

3.1 New Membership in ICID

During the 14th meeting, Vice President Karim Shiati outlined the efforts carried out for making contact with his neighbouring countries for ICID membership. While deliberating the matter in the 58th IEC meeting, a decision was taken to allocate various active, deemed inactive and admitted (but not yet paid the initial subscription fee) NCs along with New Countries that are to be liaised for ICID Membership under Vice Presidents for further efforts to enhance ICID's objectives.

The countries pertaining to Asian and Oceania regions as allocated amongst ICID Vice Presidents are seen in the Table below:

ALLOCATION OF ASIAN AND OCEANIA COUNTRIES AMONGST VICE PRESIDENTS, ICID

Vice President	Name of countries allocated during the period 2007-2008				Total
	Active	Deemed inactive	Admitted but not paid subscription	New ones to be liaised	
Dr. Gao Zhanyi (China)	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, Armenia, Georgia	15
Mr. Moh. Mohd Azhari bin Ghazalli (Malaysia)	Philippines Thailand Malaysia	Vietnam	-	-	4
Prof. Peter Kovalenko (Ukraine)	Israel Kazakhstan Uzbekistan	-	Azerbaijan Turkmenistan		5
Dr. Hafied A. Gany (Indonesia)	Australia Indonesia	New Zealand	-	Cambodia Fiji Papua New Guinea	6
Dr. Illahi B. Shaikh (Pakistan)	Bangladesh India, Myanmar Nepal, Sri Lanka, Pakistan	-	-	Afghanistan Bhutan	8
Total	24	5	4	12	45

Secretary General, ICID alongwith Vice Presidents of ICID has taken follow-up actions with each country in line with the allocations as shown above. CO received responses from the following countries :

- **New Zealand:** The Minister of Agriculture has intimated that they are considering the invitation for ICID membership and examining whether the New Zealand Government should itself represent or some industry based organization in the country;
- **Fiji :** The Ministry of Primary Industries will table Fiji's membership of ICID in their Cabinet. Subsequently the membership form will be filled in for processing; and
- **Georgia :** Mr. Paata Brekashvili, Deputy Head of Euro-integration and International Organization Relations Division, Ministry of Agriculture of Georgia informed that the Department of International Organization Relations and Projects Management of the Ministry is working with relevant experts and institutions within the country. They will be informing their final decision in the near future.

Chairman has the following to report:

- 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)
- Members of the Saudi Arabian National Committee have come forward to participate in the following ICID activities:
 - 10th International Drainage Workshop, 6-11 July 2008, Helsinki (Finland) and Tallinn (Estonia) to be organized under the aegis of Finnish NC.
 - 2nd International Conference on Sustainable Irrigation Management Technologies and Policies during 11-13 June 2008 at Alicante, Spain to be conducted by the Spanish NC.

Item 4 : To review and implement the recommendations of the 2nd Asian Regional Conference, Echuca/Moama, Australia, March 2004

As the task has been completed, the item may be considered for being dropped.

Item 5 : 3rd Asian Regional Conference

The task has been completed. This item may also be dropped from Agenda.

Item 6 : 4th Asian Regional Conference

The task has been completed. This item may also be dropped for further consideration.

Item 7 : 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) and Thailand (THAICID) with the ASRWG website <http://www.asrwg.icidonline.org/>.

Recently, the Indian National Committee of ICID (INCID) indicated that they have developed a webpage of their own (<http://www.cwc.gov.in/main/INCID/welcome.html>). The CO established a linkage from the ASRWG website to the INCID webpage as well.

Item 8 : Work on the Basin-sharing Model for Mekong River Formation

As Dr. Siripong Hungspreug (Thailand) was absent in the last meeting to report on the continuing work on the Mekong Basin Sharing Model, the matter could not be discussed.

A request was made to him seeking a report on the progress achieved. Response is awaited.

Item 9 : Asian Drainage Programme for the Humid Tropics (ADPHT) and eradication of information gap

While discussing the matter during the 13th meeting of ASRWG, the IRNCID had shown willingness to prepare a comprehensive procedure to establish an Asian Drainage Centre (ADC) for Semi-Arid Region. Australia and The Netherlands NCs had expressed their support in ADPHT and mentioned that they would like to contribute and get involved.

During the 14th meeting of ASRWG, the Chairman, ASRWG presented a concrete proposal of the ADC prepared by him. In the meeting, Malaysian representative Mr. Nassin bin Bidin informed the ASRWG about the difficulties of attaining sufficient fund for the ADPHT.

The Iranian Ministers for Jihad Agriculture and for Energy supported the proposal and proposed to provide in-kind assistance to the Centre. ASRWG members suggested for further refinement of the proposal from IPTRID representative (Dr. Carlos Garces-Restrepo). As a follow-up action, the CO requested Dr. Garces-Restrepo to review the proposal and make refinement, if necessary. The modified version from Dr. Carlos is awaited.

Item 10 : Linkages with Regional and Transnational Organizations for Cooperation

10.1 International Water Management Institute (IWMI)

During the last meeting, Prof. Dr. N. Hatcho outlined the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with IWMI. There is a need for strengthening collaborations between IWMI and ICID at practical as well as local levels.

10.2 Global Peat Initiative (GPI)

As the Thailand representative was absent in the meeting, the matter could not be discussed.

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

As the FAO representative was unable to present during the last meeting, the item could not be taken up for discussion. However, ASRWG suggested for developing project programs related to agriculture and water for obtaining possible support from FAO. It was decided to prepare a report in this connection for tabling in the next meeting scheduled at Lahore, Pakistan.

ASRWG Chairman may like to apprise the progress achieved.

Item 11 : Possibility of developing cooperative arrangements with BOAO Forum for Asia

CNCID representative informed the ASRWG that BOAO has agreed to include ICID issues in the Agenda of their next BOAO Forum meeting. It was decided that the CNCID representative and Chairman, ASRWG will follow up and if feasible, participate in the BOAO Forum meeting in April 2008.

CNCID representative may like to report.

Item 12 : Possibilities of developing cooperative arrangements with International Society of Paddy and Water Environment Engineering (PAWEES)

Dr. Hatcho informed the WG members that PAWEES Journal is being published four times in a year and a Scientific Index is being prepared. While urging the ASRWG to build a cooperative relationship with PAWEES, Dr. Hatcho encouraged the members to publish their papers in the PAWEES Journal.

Item 13 : Asian Paddy Field Initiative: ASRWG activities and collaboration with INWEPF

During the 14th meeting of ASRWG, Dr. Kim Tai-Cheol provided details of the activities of International Network of Water Environment and Paddy Fields (INWEPF). The outcome of the 5th INWEPF International Conference and the 4th Steering Committee meeting held respectively at Korea and Thailand during 18-20 October 2007 and 5-7 July 2007 were highlighted.

Dr. Kim Tai-Cheol may like to inform on the INWEPF activities, particularly the workshops held in Beppu, Japan, coinciding with 1st Asia – Pacific Water Summit.

Item 14 : Task Force on Asian LDCs

During the last meeting while declaring the closure of TF-LDCsAS, VPH S. Taniyama provided a report on conclusion of the activities of the TF and envisaged action for bringing out the report on TF-LDCsAS with the financial support of Australia, Chinese Taipei, Iran and Japan.

The printed version of the report will be tabled during the time of the meeting.

Item 15 : 5th Asian Regional Conference

The Indian National Committee of ICID (INCID) is to host the 5th Asian Regional Conference in New Delhi, India in December 2009. The main theme for the conference is “Improvement in Efficiency of Irrigation Projects through Technology Upgradation and Better O&M”. The sub-themes are :

- Supply Management including Pipe Distribution System
- Organization Management
- Demand Management
- Irrigated Area Drainage
- Command Area Improvement, Water Conservation, Technology Improvement, and
- Legal Aspects and Gender Issues.

In addition to the above-mentioned sub-themes, another sub-theme namely MASSCOTE (Mapping System and Services for Canal Operation Techniques) will also be dealt with by associating FAO.

INCID representative may like to provide an update.

Item 16 : 6th Asian Regional Conference

As decided, the 6th ARC would be hosted by Indonesia NC (INACID) from 5-12 September 2010 in Jogjakarta, Indonesia. The theme for the 6th ARC will be concentrated on “Improvement of irrigation and Drainage efficiency under the small land holding condition”.

ASRWG will deliberate in detail on the theme/sub-themes identified for the 6th ARC in the Lahore meeting. INACID representative may like to come up with the updated details on 6th ARC to the members.

C. NEW ITEM**Item 17 : Future work plan of ASRWG**

While reviewing the work plan during the 14th meeting of ASRWG and subsequently at the 58th IEC meeting, ASRWG mentioned that the future plan of ASRWG would address not only the technical aspects but also the policy aspects of various issues related to Climate Change and decided to link to the activities of the Working Group on Climate Change and Agricultural Water Management (WG-CLIMATE). It was proposed to establish a Sub Task Force to initiate the future work of ASRWG under the Chairmanship of Dr. Shinsuke Ota (Japan) inducting members from Asian and Oceania regions, namely from Japan, Australia, Korea, Taiwan, Turkey, India, Pakistan, Iran, Indonesia etc and provide possible contribution to the 5th World Water Forum (WWF5).

Members may discuss.

17.1 Contribution of ASRWG to WWF5

In line with above, ASRWG has to now establish a Task Force: “Asian Regional Task Force on Climate Change and Irrigation (ARTF-CC)”. The chairmanship support will be from Dr. Shinsuke Ota. The process of inducting members from Asian and Oceania Countries is to be considered.

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 fall in line with the identified objective.

To initiate actions required for the identified task of ASRWG, Dr. Ota has prepared a questionnaire on “A strategy for irrigation and drainage adapted to climate change in Asia” and circulated it to all Asian and Oceania countries. Besides, the members of ASRWG were supplied with a copy. Based on the comments received on the questionnaire, a report will be prepared by Dr. Ota for consideration in the meeting.

Item 18 : Any other business

UN-Water has, in an independent move, initiated a UN Water Task Force on “Water and Climate” under the overall coordination of World Meteorological Organization (WMO). The draft TOR under discussion is attached in **Annex 1**. VP Dr. Mark Svendsen and VP Dr. Karim Shiati have been suggested by Secretary General as the nominees from ICID for the TF. VP Dr. Karim Shiati may wish to apprise the Committee on the review of TOR (by electronic discussions) and in a meeting scheduled to be held in Stockholm in August 2008 (in the sidelines of World Water Week).

ASIAN REGIONAL WORKING GROUP (ASRWG)
UN-WATER
TASK FORCE ON WATER AND CLIMATE

DRAFT 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-ordinated 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 meeting 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 4th 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 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?)
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 one-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
