

**AGENDA FOR THE FIRST MEETING OF THE  
WORKING GROUP ON ENVIRONMENT (WG-ENV)**

**New Delhi, India**

**06 December 2009: 09.30-13.15 hours**

**Strategy Theme : Basin**

**Year of Establishment: 2008**

**Completion of the Mandate: 2014**

As per the minutes of the 23rd meeting of the Working Group on Environmental Impacts of Irrigation, Drainage and Flood Control Projects (WG-ENV), a new name has been proposed for the WG as "Working Group on Environment" (with the same acronym as WG-ENV). A new mandate has also been proposed. The new WG-ENV will hold its first meeting in December 2009 at New Delhi. This WG was earlier known as Working Group on Environmental Impacts of Irrigation, Drainage and Flood Control Projects (WG-ENV) from 1986 to 2008. The current membership of the WG is emerging from the erstwhile WG-ENV.

**Members:** (1) Dr. Hu Heping, Chairman, 2005 (China, 2000); (2) Prof. Yih-Chi Tan, Vice Chairman, 2005 (Chinese Taipei, 1995); (3) Dr. Ge van den Eertwegh, Secretary, 2006 (The Netherlands, 2005); (4) Mr. Barkat Hadid (Syria, 1991); (5) Dr. Smiljan Juvan (Slovenia, 1995); (6) Dr. (Mrs.) Shaden Abdel-Gawad (Egypt, 1996); (7) Vice President Ing. Eiko. Lubbe (Germany, 1997); (8) Prof. Almeida Fernandes (Portugal, 1997); (9) Mr. Mohammad Kazem Siah (Iran, 2000); (10) Mr. Osmo Antero Purhonen (Finland, 2002); (11) Mr. Stefano Salbitani (Italy, 2003); (12) Dr. Choi, Joong-Dae (Korea, 2003); (13) Mr. Belguenani Hassane (Morocco, 2003); (14) Prof. Dr. Natha Hungspreug (Thailand, 2003); (15) Vice President Hon. Jose A. Ortiz Fdz.-Urrutia (Spain, 2005); (16) Dr. Dennis Wichelns (USA, 2005); (17) Vice President Illahi B. Shaikh (Pakistan, 2006); (18) Prof. Dr. N. Hatcho (Japan, 2006); (19) Dr. Serge Marlet (France, 2006); (20) Mr. Taner Kimence (Turkey, 2006); and (21) Secretary General, ICID.

**Observers/Permanent Observers:** (i) FAO representative; (ii) ICOLD representative; (iii) World Bank representative; (iv) Dr. D. Zimmer (France); (v) Mr. Primoz Banovec (Slovenia); (vi) Vice President Hon. H. El-Atfy (Egypt); and (vii) Vice President Hon. H. Malano (Australia).

#### **A. FINAL SITTING OF ERSTWHILE WG-ENV**

##### **Item 1 : Confirmation of the minutes of 23rd meeting of the WG-ENV**

The minutes of the 23rd meeting of the Working Group held at Lahore in October 2008 will be confirmed.

##### **Item 2 : Unfinished issues emerging from erstwhile WG-ENV**

###### **2.1 Impacts of water projects on human health**

At Lahore meeting (2008), the Working Group discussed the need to focus on effects of water quality on human health and its linkage with irrigation and drainage. Water-related diseases are issues for consideration. The WG suggested to remove the words '*in rural areas*' from the title and keep only '*Impacts of water projects on human health*'. The WG needs to prepare a list of agenda items suiting the new mandate for further consideration.

###### **2.2 The environmental cost and benefits of irrigation schemes involving large dams and solutions for mitigating negative impacts**

At the Lahore meeting (2008), the Working Group agreed that it is useful to highlight all positive and negative environmental impacts of irrigation, drainage, and flood control projects rather than pointing out only the negative impacts. It was suggested that the possibility of incorporating mitigation / adaptation measures so as to reduce any negative environmental consequences/ impacts from projects as far as possible should be kept in view in impact analysis.

Eight papers on related issues were presented during Sacramento Workshop (2007). While concluding the workshop the chair mentioned that the views generated during the workshop could form the base line while preparing the draft version of the position paper. Papers presented are listed in **Annex** for reference.

The chair will apprise the WG members.

### **2.3 The improvement of agricultural return flow and requirement of environmental flow**

As Mr. Mills (Australia) was not available during past two meetings (2007 and 2008) for presentation on the subject, the matter could not be considered. This item was deferred till the New Delhi meeting of the WG-ENV.

Mr. Mills/ ANCID (IAL) representative / Chairman may like to apprise the WG during the meeting.

#### **Item 3 : Suggestions to the new WG-ENV**

The WG suggested to focus on irrigation and drainage and enlarge its scope covering project planning; policy development; implementation; and management practices. It was also suggested that the new name should be short and contain at least the word "*Environment*".

**Proposed mandate:** "To provide guidance to policy makers, planners, designers, and managers in the irrigation and drainage sector on the environmental aspects. The environmental aspects are physical, chemical, ecological, socio-economic, as well as concerns to the effects on climate and human health. By looking at environmental aspects, the group will aim for the management of a sustainable environment, maximizing positive and minimizing adverse effects of irrigation and drainage systems".

At the Lahore meeting (2008), Chairman, WG-ENV agreed to prepare a list of agenda items suiting the new mandated tasks of the successor WG-ENV for further consideration. Accordingly, the Central Office requested (15 May 2009) Dr. Hu Heping, Chairman, WG-ENV to finalise the preparation of the draft agenda items for the new WG-ENV for its circulation among the WG members. Response is awaited.

Chairman, WG-ENV will apprise the WG members.

## **B. MAIDEN SITTING OF NEW WG-ENV**

#### **Item 4 : Formalization of the composition of the new WG**

##### **4.1 New nominations**

The Pakistan National Committee (PANCID) has nominated (19 August 2009) Mr. Javeed Iqbal Bokhary in place of Dr. I.B. Shaikh for the membership of the WG. CV of Mr. Bokhary will be made available during the meeting for consideration.

##### **4.2 Membership emerging from erstwhile WG-ENV**

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

- Mr. A.K. Ganju (India)
- Dr. Theresa Volschenk (South Africa)
- Mr. Ahmed Aziz (Iraq)

The WG may like to consider these past nominations for the membership of the WG. The Central Office informed (2 February and 21 July 2009) the WG's decision to the respective National Committees with a request to confirm the nomination or nominate an alternate member with an assurance that the nominee would attend the New Delhi meeting of WG-ENV. Responses from them are awaited.

Attendance of the members at the meetings of the WG-ENV held in 2007 and 2008 will be tabled at 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

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attendance or correspondence for two consecutive years shall be replaced in consultation with their National Committees.

The WG observed that the following members were neither present nor contributed for the last two consecutive years (2007, 2008).

- Mr. Barkat Hadid (Syria)
- Dr. Smiljan Juvan (Slovenia)
- Dr. (Mrs.) Shaden Abdel Gawad (Egypt)
- Prof. Almeida Fernandez (Portugal)
- Mr. Mohammed Kazem Siah (Iran)
- Mr. Belguenani Hassane (Morocco)
- Prof. Dr. Natha Hungspreug (Thailand)
- Dr. Serge Marlet (France)

The Central Office (CO) has contacted (2 February and 21 July 2009) the above NCs and requested to ensure their participation in the New Delhi meeting of WG-ENV or nominate a new member who could contribute to the activities of the WG.

In response, IRNCID and SINCID have confirmed that Mr. Mohammad Kazem Siah (Iran) and Mr. Smiljan Juvan (Slovenia), respectively will attend the New Delhi meeting of WG-ENV in December 2009. Responses from other NCs are awaited.

#### **Item 5 : Election of Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary**

In view of new name, mandate and tenure of the WG, it is proposed to elect a new Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary afresh (*or reaffirm their faith in the continuance of the Chair/Vice Chair/Secretary of the erstwhile WG-ENV*).

The WG may like to deliberate and nominate/ elect a new Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary during the meeting.

#### **Item 6 : Discussion on the new WG mandate (considering the suggestions from erstwhile WG-ENV)**

##### **6.1 Environmental aspects of irrigation and drainage**

Scope needs to be developed.

##### **6.2 Impacts of water projects on human health**

Scope needs to be developed.

##### **6.3 Management of a sustainable environment (maximizing positive and minimizing adverse effects of irrigation and drainage systems)**

Scope needs to be developed.

##### **6.4 Website of WG**

During Lahore meeting (2008), the Chairman indicated that the website development of WG-ENV will be possible by November 2008 and Secretary, WG-ENV agreed to upload the documents that are of relevance on this website. The documents identified were – (i) ICID Environmental Checklist (1993); (ii) World Bank: Strategic Environmental Assessment (2007); and (iii) presentations made during the workshop sessions.

The Chairman/ Secretary will apprise the WG members.

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## **6.5 ICID position paper of WG-ENV**

The Secretary, WG-ENV covered (2008) the draft report of WG-ENV to be served as a draft ICID position paper. Following structure was approved for modifying the draft version:

- Introduction and objective
- Technical and socio-economical impacts
- Good Governance
- Guidelines and Criteria (references and remarks to existing documents)
- Implementation aspects
- Legislation and Enforcement
- Lessons learned
- Conclusions and recommendations

It was also decided that the Secretary will act as an editor and a coordinator. Secretary also agreed to prepare one of the chapters by the end of January 2009. The WG-ENV was to review the position paper and present it during the PCTA/ 60th IEC of ICID in 2009 for consideration.

The Secretary, WG-ENV may apprise the WG members.

**6.6** (New items need to be developed together with its scope. Further the items/ activities need to be assigned in a time bound manner to WG members.)

### **Item 7 : Work plan**

A three-year rolling work plan needs to be developed during the meeting.

### **Item 8 : Any other business**

#### **Seminar on Environmental flows at World Water Week, August 2009**

Ms. Katharine Cross of IUCN had approached ICID Central Office trying to identify a speaker for their seminar on 'Environmental Flows for Sustainable Development, Poverty Alleviation and Biodiversity Conservation' held during World Water Week in August 2009 at Stockholm, Sweden. The speaker was expected to address the benefits and trade-offs for the agriculture sector of ensuring flows for the environment. The ICID WG-ENV, unfortunately, could not join the above seminar but Ms. Katharine Cross sought (2 July 2009) our cooperation with IUCN and Environmental Flows Network in future as they would like the perspective of the agriculture sector in the network. More information on their network is available at [www.eflownet.org](http://www.eflownet.org).

WG members may deliberate.

#### **Human Resource Survey for Disaster and Risk Management**

The ICID Central Office received (28 May 2009) an e-mail from United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) for profiling backgrounds of disaster and risk management practitioners through a survey. The information was circulated among the WG-ENV members.

The purpose of this effort was to better understand the career backgrounds of disaster and risk management practitioners so that more qualified people can be recruited into the field. If interested, the information is available at their survey link <http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/?p=WEB22986VV9L7G>.

#### **The First Drafts of White Papers in Preparation for the First UNCCD/ CST Scientific Conference**

Among many international organisations, ICID has good liaison with the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). The UNCCD issues/ publicizes many documents that are, many times, of interest to ICID. This time, the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) of the UNCCD had called for a Scientific Conference, popularly

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known under the short title “Understanding Desertification and Land Degradation Trends” held during 22-24 September 2009 at Buenos Aires, Argentina.

In preparation for the above conference, WG members were invited (3 June 2009) to review the first drafts of scientific analysis papers contributing to the world’s fight against desertification and land degradation. Please go to the website [www.drylandscience.org](http://www.drylandscience.org) and click the button on the left entitled ‘Online Consultation’ for more information.

Members were encouraged to participate and contribute to this conference and provide feedback to the Chairman of the Working Group with copy to Central Office. Response is awaited.

### **Journal papers**

Dr. Ge van den Eertwegh, Secretary, WG-ENV had circulated (19 May 2009) the following two papers to all WG members for information:

Marzio Galeotti (2007): Economic Growth and the Quality of the Environment: Taking Stock, Environment, Development and Sustainability, pp 427-454

Remigijus Čiegis, Dalia Štreimikiene and Edmundas Kazimieras Zavadskas (2008): The Use of the environmental Kuznets curve: environmental and economic implications, Int. J. Environment and Pollution, Vol.33, Nos.2/3, pp 313-335.

### **International Conference on ‘Environmental Flow Requirements of Himalayan Rivers’, 21-22 July 2009, Lucknow, India**

Organized at the instance of WWF (India) and State Water Resources Agency, an inter-disciplinary conference took place in Lucknow, India. There were several presentations covering different aspects of environmental flows. The organisers’ sent an invitation to Secretary General, ICID to participate as a Panelist.

Conference proceedings in CD-ROM will be available shortly from Mr. Ravindra Kumar (India), e-mail: [ravindra53@yahoo.co.in](mailto:ravindra53@yahoo.co.in).

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**WORKING GROUP ON ENVIRONMENT (WG-ENV)**

**List of papers presented during WG Workshop at Sacramento (2007)**

- An introduction to Three Gorges Project and its Environmental Aspects by Dr. Hu Heping (China)
  - Brief on environmental impact of large dams by Dr. Illahi B. Shaikh (Pakistan)
  - A brief on an Workshop organized by TWCWM, IHA with support from Arab Water Council, Arab Fund for ESD, Ministry of WRI of Egypt, IWRA and ICID in February 2007 at Cairo, Egypt, by Er. M. Gopalakrishnan, Secretary General, ICID.
  - The Impacts of Drainage Projects on the Environment in Egypt, by Ghada G. El-Refaie (Egypt)
  - Non-Point Source Pollution Loads from Selected Agricultural Land Uses in Korea, by J. Choi (South Korea)
  - Multi-functionalities of paddy fields and multiple uses of agricultural water, by N. Hacho (Japan)
  - Pontine land drainage system, by Stefano Salbatini (Italy)
  - SEA/EIA in The Netherlands: an overview, by Gé van den Eertwegh (The Netherlands)
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