

**AGENDA FOR THE FOURTEENTH MEETING OF THE
WORKING GROUP ON USE OF POOR QUALITY WATER FOR IRRIGATION (WG-PQW)
New Delhi, India
08 December 2009: 14.15-18.00 hours
Theme: On-Farm**

Year of Establishment: 1995**Completion of the Mandate: 2013****Mandate:**

To promote a safe and good management of poor quality water for irrigation, to minimize the negative impact on human health and the environment, to promote the multiple use of poor quality water, and to give consideration to the Institutional and legislation aspects with regard to the use of poor quality waters.

Members: (1) Dr. Ragab Ragab, Chairman (UK, 1997); (2) Dr. Frans Huibers, Secretary (The Netherlands, 1999); (3) Dr. Heinrich M du Plessis (South Africa, 1998); (4) Vice President Karim Shiati (Iran, 1997); (5) Dr. Jan Salek (Czech Rep., 1998); (6) Dr. N.K. Tyagi (India, 1998); (7) Mr. Jose Manuel Arango Maldonado (Mexico, 1998); (8) Dr. Wen-Lin Chang (Chinese Taipei, 1998); (9) Vice President Hon. Gao Zhanyi (China, 1998); (10) Vice President (Mrs.) Samia El-Guindy (Egypt, 1999); (11) Dr. Ramzan Choudhry (Pakistan, 2000); (12) Dr. S. Seyama (Japan, 2001); (13) Mr. C.G. Croke (Australia, 2001); (14) Mr. Martin Roche (USA, 2002); (15) Ms. Esther O. Ogunniyi (Nigeria, 2002); (16) Mr. Ghannami Mohamed (Morocco, 2003); (17) Mr. Bernard Vincent (France, 2003); (18) Dr. Jorge Tarchitzky (Israel, 2004); and (19) Secretary General, ICID.

Permanent Observer: (i) FAO representative and (ii) ICBA Representative (UAE).

Item 1 : Confirmation of the minutes of the 13th meeting of the Working Group held at Lahore

The minutes of the 13th meeting of the WG-PQW held at Lahore in October 2008 will be confirmed.

Item 2 : Tenure and mandate of the working group

In view of the WG's significant work over the past years on the use of poor quality waters that is gaining increasing importance world over, the 59th IEC on the recommendation of PCTA approved the extension of its mandate up to 2013. The approved new mandate of the group is as follows:

“To promote a safe and good management of poor quality water for irrigation, to minimize the negative impact on human health and the environment, to promote the multiple use of poor quality water, and to give consideration to the Institutional and legislation aspects with regard to the use of poor quality waters.”

Item 3 : Review of the membership of the Working Group

At the Lahore meeting, the following nominations were deferred due to their non-attendance:

- Dr. Makoto Yokozawa in place of Dr. S. Seyama (Japan)
- Dr. Jinzhong Yang in place of Dr. Gao Zhanyi (China)
- Mr. Bekbayev Ussen (Kazakhstan)
- Dr. Paramjit Singh Minhas in place of Dr. R.K. Singhanian/ N.K. Tyagi (India)
- Mr. Maghmoom Muhammad Iqbal in place of Mr. Ramzan Chaudhry (Pakistan)

The Central Office had informed the WG's decision to the respective National Committees (copied to nominees) to advise their nominees to attend the 14th meeting of the WG scheduled to be held at New Delhi for consideration for

the membership. In response, Prof. Jinzhong Yang (China) has confirmed his participation at the meeting. The Pakistan National Committee (PANCID) has sent a fresh nomination of Mr. M. Sidhu (in place of Mr. M. Iqbal).

CVs of the above nominees will be tabled at the meeting.

Attendance of members at the meetings held in 2007 and 2008 will be circulated at the meeting.

A. CONTINUING ITEMS

Item 4 : Database on water salinity/irrigation with highly saline water for salt tolerant halophytes and crops and use of wastewater related to agriculture

At Lahore, Dr. Frans Huibers was requested to follow up the publication of IWMI and provide an electronic version of the document with a view to develop a linkage to its wastewater flows database.

FAO Water Development and Management Unit has developed a wastewater database. The database contains information on wastewater production, treatment, re-use as well as economic information provided by different countries. The database information is sorted by region and country. A glossary containing the definition of each data parameter is also given. All members are encouraged to visit the website http://www.fao.org/nr/water/infores_databases_wastewater.html and to identify other relevant databases, their links and inform the Chairman/ Central Office.

Dr. Huibers may like to apprise further developments at the meeting.

Item 5 : Cooperation with other Workbodies and International Organizations

5.1 Cooperation with ICID workbodies

The Group is collaborating with WG-CROP and WG-DROUGHT. The Group will also seek close collaboration with WG-CLIMATE and WG-ENV.

5.2 Cooperation with International Organisations

The Group has already established links with FAO and ICBA and will seek collaboration with IWMI.

The Central Office had received a request from the World Water Institute, India to participate in the 5th World Water Forum's session 4.2.4 on "Safe water reuse" on 17 March 2009 at Istanbul. The purpose of the session was to highlight the risks of food safety, food security, bio-diversity and the environment arising from the use of wastewater or unsafe water in food production. The Central Office in consultation with the Chairman Dr. Ragab had nominated Dr. Frans Huibers to participate in the session. Accordingly, Dr. Huibers had attended and acted as a panellist for the session.

Dr. Huibers may like to provide feedback of the forum session at the meeting.

The Central Secretariat of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) has proposed a new work item concerning 'treated wastewater reuse implementation'. The proposal was submitted by the Standards Institution of Israel (SII) to the ISO. The proposed standard will deal with the requirements and processes involved in the healthy, environmentally viable and sustainable reuse of treated wastewater in agriculture, landscape and industry, according to the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), which is the U.S. member body to ISO. It will also deal with irrigation system design, operation and maintenance requirements, wastewater quality, suitability to soils and crops, among others. The contents of the proposed guidelines can be accessed at <http://publicaa.ansi.org/sites/apdl/Documents>

The WG may like to liaise and contribute in the preparation of the guidelines.

Item 6 : Work plan of the Group

At the Sacramento meeting, the Group had proposed the following activities as a part of the new work plan (2007-2009):

- Multiple use of poor quality water,
- Monitoring and management of agro-chemicals in agricultural water,
- Low cost desalination technologies for saline and brackish water, and
- Treated wastewater management.

Due to low attendance at the Lahore meeting, the Group decided to keep the on-going plan of activities unchanged and will review those at the upcoming meeting.

The Group may like to discuss and revise the work plan and prepare a framework (time schedule and activities) in view of the extension of the group's tenure and emerging new issues.

Item 7 : Presentations by members

It was agreed to discuss issues relating to economical assessment of using poor quality waters. The Chairman had requested all members to bring along some data/ information to present at the meeting. The Group intends to bring out a position paper based upon these presentations. The Group also intends to discuss issues like saline water and desalination for irrigation.

Item 8 : Webpage for the workbody

The webpage of the Group <http://www.wg.pqw.icidonline.org> is functional and has been updated.

Members are requested to provide additional items (presentations, documents, etc.) related to the Group's activities for uploading on the webpage.

An article "Use of brackish groundwater in aquaculture and agriculture" as provided by VP Dr. Samia El-Guindy, has been published in the 3rd issue of ICID Newsletter (2009/3). The issue can be viewed at http://www.icid.org/nl2009_3.pdf

Item 9 : Workshop on Desalination Technologies for Irrigation Purposes

In the past, due to low level of interest and contribution, the workshop on 'desalination technologies for irrigation purposes' could not be held. However, it was agreed to discuss the topic as an issue among the group in the following years. If the group sees a possibility of a successful workshop, it will then be organized at an opportune time.

The WG may like to discuss further and decide about the workshop.

Item 10 : Nomination of the Group for the Best Workbody Award

At the Lahore meeting, members discussed about the possibility of submitting the WG's candidature for the 'Best Performing Workbody Award' at the time of 21st ICID Congress to be held in Tehran, Iran in 2011.

The Group will deliberate further at the meeting.

Item 11 : Any other business
