

**International Seminar
on
“Historical Water Sustainability: Lessons to learn”
during
ICID 63rd International Executive Council Meeting and
7th Asian Regional Conference**

24 June 2012, Adelaide, Australia: 11.00-17.30 hours

The development of civilizations in arid and semi-arid areas in the last 7,000 years is closely connected with water management problems. These problems and their solutions have shaped the historical social fabric and its structures. In the course of centuries, systems and methods evolved under these conditions have conclusively demonstrated their sustainability. Today, the knowledge and structural remains of these methods are not only interesting archaeologically and historically, but can also help solve current problems.

Water managers today have to cope with three crucial challenges:

- Growing needs;
- Climate change;
- Developing sustainable schemes.

In view of tremendous Data, Information, Knowledge and Intelligence available from the past, the water wisdom achieved during past hundreds of years, can be regarded as a unique and irreplaceable gift from our ancestors to our generation. In this context, it is proposed that a conference should be held on Historical Water Sustainability to accumulate the lessons learned by presentation of various historical and sustainable water schemes from diverse regions and countries.

Even when it was not possible to use traditional methods at one special place, the knowledge can also help at other places where climate is changing. A good knowledge about traditional water management can play an important role in water awareness campaigns, because it helps the people (and pupils) to get a better understanding as to how the generations before us dealt with water scarcity. And this can be closely connected with the region by existing old structures, so it becomes very real for all participants. At least a good understanding of the traditional water management of a region will help the engineers to develop better and more sustainable solutions than only running computer models. Computer models are an excellent tool to prove and optimize solutions but computers don't know anything about water wisdom.

Topics:

- Case studies of sustainable historical water schemes.
- Water Wisdom of the past.
- Using the traditional methods for creative and modern innovations in water engineering
- Re-learning the lost knowledge.
- Synergy and combination of modern and traditional methods.
- Export of ideas and methods to new areas where the climate has changed
- Using of traditional water management as a part of public awareness campaigns
- The study of traditional water management methods of a region will help to get a better understanding of problems and solutions of this region and will help that the engineers find better and more sustainable options for the future.
- Comparison of traditional methods with modern technology in rural areas in the context of:
 - o Means and locally available materials for implementation,
 - o Skills required for construction
 - o Skills required for operation and maintenance
 - o Infrastructure and energy required (e.g. electricity).
 - o Cultural effects and tourist attraction.
 - o Environmental effects,
 - o The use of rainwater in sparsely populated regions

Deadline for submission:

Acceptance of abstracts (600 words) in word file: **5 May 2012**
 Acceptance of full papers in word file: **5 June 2012**

Contact co-ordinates:

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‘Expression of Interest’

Title of paper :

Name (Mr/Ms/Dr/Prof) :

Occupation :

Organization :

Full Postal Address :

Tel :

Fax :

E-mail Address :

Mobile:

Registration Fee

There is no separate registration fee for this Seminar. However, participants have to register for the main event i.e. 63rd IEC Meeting and 7th Asian Regional Conference during 24-29 June 2012, Adelaide, Australia. Please access the conference website at: <http://online.saneevent.com.au/ial2012/> for registration and other events during Adelaide meetings.