

MINUTES OF THE FOURTEENTH MEETING OF THE  
ASIAN REGIONAL WORKING GROUP (ASRWG)  
Sacramento, USA  
30 September 2007 : 14.00-17.00 hours

Year of Establishment: 1996

**Members Present :** (1) Vice President Dr. Karim Shiati, Chairman (Iran); (2) Vice President Mohd. Azhari Ghazali, Secretary (Malaysia) represented by Mr. Mohd Abdul Nassir bin Bidin; (3) Mr. Anthony J. Horton (Australia); (4) Mr. Waseem Nazir (Pakistan); (5) Mr. Kuo, Sheng-Feng (Chinese Taipei); (6) Mr. Sastrodihardjo Siswoko (Indonesia) represented by Dr. A. Hafied A. Gany; (7) Dr. Kim, Tai-Cheol (Korea); (8) Mr. Shinsuke Ota (Japan) and (9) Er. M. Gopalakrishnan, Secretary General, ICID.

**Member Honoraire:** (i) Datuk Ir. Hj. Keizrul bin Abdullah, President Hon., ICID (Malaysia); (ii) Dr. S. Taniyama, Vice President Hon., ICID (Japan); and (iii) Dr. Huh YooMan, Vice President Hon., ICID (Korea)

**Observers:** (i) Mr. S.V. Kalaiselvam Velayuden (Malaysia); (ii) Mr. Daixin Li (China); (iii) Dr. Chuang, Kuang-Ming (Chinese Taipei); (iv) Prof. Dr. N. Hatcho (Japan); (v) Mr. Yowg-Jig Lee (Korea); (vi) Dr. Na, Jeong-Woo (Korea); (vii) Mr. Bong-Hoon, Lee (Korea); and (viii) Mr. Jong-Wan, Lim (Korea).

Vice President Dr. Karim Shiati, Chairman, ASRWG opened the meeting with thanks to the former Chair, VPH Dr. S. Taniyama and outgoing Secretary, Vice President Mohd. Azhari bin Ghazali for their contributions to the Working Group. He sought nominations for Vice Chairman and Dr. Kim Tai-Cheol (Korea) was duly elected. VP Shiati requested Mr. Anthony J. Horton (Australia) to take over the role of Secretary, ASRWG from VP Mohd. Azhari bin Ghazali. This was duly supported and accepted by the Group Members.

**Item 1 : Confirmation of the minutes of the 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of ASRWG held on 10 September 2006 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**

Minutes of the 13<sup>th</sup> meeting held at Kuala Lumpur were circulated. As no comments were received, the minutes were confirmed as it was during the 14<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Item 2 : Membership of the Working Group**

Members who were neither present nor contributed through correspondence for the last three consecutive years (2005, 2006 and 2007) are:

- Mr. Khem Raj Sharma (Nepal)
- Dr. Siripong Hungspreug (Thailand) and
- Mr. Bakhodyr M. Yusupov (Uzbekistan)

It was decided to take up the matter with the corresponding National Committees (NCs).

The following three nominations received were considered:

- Mr. Hanen Itzkovitch (Israel)
- Engr. H.M. Jayatillake (Sri Lanka)
- Mr. Mohd. Abdul Nassir bin Bidin (Malaysia) in place of VP Mohd. Azhari bin Ghazali

As Mr. Itzkovitch and Engr. Jayatillake were absent in the meeting, their nominations were not accepted and deferred.

The nomination of Mr. Mohd Abdul Nassir bin Bidin (Malaysia) who was present and introduced, was accepted. The ASRWG welcomed the new member Mr. Nassir bin Bidin.

## **A. CONTINUING ITEMS**

### **Item 3 : To discuss future Work Plan**

The ASRWG has the following 3 tasks in its 3-year rolling plan:

1. Encourage Neighbouring Countries to join ICID
2. Finalize theme and topics of 5<sup>th</sup> Regional Conference in 2009
3. Revise the work plan of ASRWG at 58<sup>th</sup> IEC.

#### **1. Encourage Neighbouring Countries to join in ICID**

VP Shiati outlined his efforts in making contact with a number of neighbouring countries. He intimated that the materials supplied by the Central Office, ICID were useful but found it difficult to contact the appropriate agency in the targeted neighbouring countries.

Suggestions were sought on how to make best efforts to contact with neighbouring countries. It was mentioned that there is a need to continue with further follow-up actions and sending an invitation to join in ICID especially to North Korea in accordance with the previous indications of their desire to join in ICID. The representative of the Pakistan National Committee has agreed to take follow up actions in the matter provided the Central Office should send an invitation to North Korea to join in ICID activities.

For Task 2 and Task 3 refer under Agenda Items 15 and 18 respectively.

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

Mr. Tony Horton tabled 10 hard copies of the Abstracts of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Asian Regional Conference and 30 copies of the full Proceeding on CDs for dissemination amongst ICID members.

### **Item 5 : 3<sup>rd</sup> Asian Regional Conference**

VP Azhari Ghazali reported on the outcomes of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Asian Regional Conference. The outcomes have also been given in the 58<sup>th</sup> IEC Agenda and are also reported in the book on "*History of Irrigation in Malaysia*". Two copies of the book were presented to ASRWG for information.

### **Item 6 : 4<sup>th</sup> Asian Regional Conference**

VP Shiati presented a detailed report on the 4<sup>th</sup> ARC held from 2–5 May 2007 in Tehran. 205 Abstracts were received, out of which 110 full papers were presented. Over 900 delegates (*a record for ICID*) from more than 40 countries participated in a Regional Conference. More than 30 companies and agencies represented at the Exhibition organized as an allied event of 4<sup>th</sup> ARC. Other associated activities included a number of Field-trips, 2<sup>nd</sup> Special Session and Meeting of the Task Force for Least Developed Countries in Asia (TF-LDCsAS), and an International Seminar on the History of Irrigation and Drainage by Working Group on History of Irrigation, Drainage and Flood Control (WG-HIST).

All participants/exhibitors appreciated about the well organized nature of the conference/exhibition and the efforts put forth by the Organizing Committee, IRNCID for making the event to a highly successful one.

The conference was reported in the ICID Newsletter No. 2 (April-June 2007). The Proceedings and Conference Declaration can also be accessed at [www.pim2007.org](http://www.pim2007.org)

### **Item 7 : ASRWG Newsletter and ASRWG Homepage**

VP Shiati reported that the Indian National Committee (INCID) was in the process of developing its own website, and they intend to include a link to the ASRWG website.

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

Dr. Siripong Hungspreug (Thailand) was not present to report on the continuing work on the Mekong Basin Sharing Model.

VP Shiati reported that ICID President Peter Lee had presented a keynote paper at the conference on “Water Resources and Renewable Energy Development in Asia” in Bangkok in November 2006. President Lee raised the interesting issue of “Virtual Shortage”. The views of President Lee can be viewed in the *Dams and Hydro Power Journal 1/2007*.

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

VP Shiati outlined progress towards the establishment of an Asian Drainage Centre for Semi and Arid Regions. A concept note for such a program/ centre has been prepared by VP Shiati and submitted to Central Office and IPTRID. It is proposed to base the centre in Iran, and this proposal has the support of the Iranian Ministers for Jihad Agriculture and for Energy. Their government departments will provide in-kind assistance to the Centre. There are a large number of potential member countries. The concept note is to be further refined by the IPTRID representative (Mr. Carlos Garces).

Mr. Nassir bin Bidin (Malaysia) informed the ASRWG about the difficulties in attaining sufficient fund for the ADPHT to make it active and suggested that a meeting to discuss the future of the ADPHT could be held at the International Drainage Conference in Finland in July 2008.

**Item 10 : Linkages with Regional and Transnational Organizations for Cooperation**

**(i) International Water Management Institute (IWMI)**

Dr. Hatcho outlined the Memorandum of Understanding with IWMI that has been established by ICID. It was communicated to WG members for their views regarding development of better collaborations with IWMI and ICID at practical as well as local levels. Responses from both the National Committees of Australia and India were received and projected in the agenda and supplementary notes respectively.

No further developments had been reported during the time of the meeting.

**(ii) Global Peat Initiative (GPI)**

As the Thailand representative was absent in the meeting, no report on progress was available and not able to discuss further.

**(iii) Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)**

As the FAO representative was not present, this item was deferred. A project to be established came up to obtain possible supports from FAO for the programs related to agriculture and water. A report prepared in this connection will be tabled at the next ASRWG meeting in 2008 scheduled at Lahore, Pakistan.

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

CNCID representative informed in the meeting that BOAO has agreed to include ICID issues in the Agenda of their next BOAO Forum. CNCID representative and VP Shiati will take follow up actions in the matter and try to participate in the BOAO Forum scheduled in April 2008.

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

Dr. Hatcho informed in the meeting that PAWEES Journal is being published 4 times/year; and a Scientific Index is being prepared. ASRWG members are encouraged to publish their papers in the PAWEES Journal and to cite other papers published in the Journal.

Dr. Hatcho urged the ASRWG to build a cooperative relationship with PAWEES.

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**Item 13 : Asian Paddy Field Initiative: Framework of International Network of Water, Environment and Paddy Fields (INWEPF) with ASRWG activities and collaboration with PAWEES**

Dr. Kim Tai-Cheol provided details of the 5<sup>th</sup> INWEPF International Conference to be held in Korea on 18-20 October 2007 and mentioned that 16 papers from 7 countries are identified for presentation and the Proceedings will be published in the *Paddy and Water Environment Journal*.

Dr. Kim also outlined about the 4<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee meeting and Symposium held in Bangkok during the period from 5-7 July 2007.

**Item 14 : Task Force on Asian LDCs**

Chairman, TF-LDCsAS VPH S. Taniyama reported on the final Report of the Task Force including the outcomes of the meeting of 30 September 2007. His report outlined the membership of the Task Force, processes it employed from March 2003 to date, priority issues identified, and recommended actions framed for consideration of ICID so as to facilitate the participation of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in ICID activities.

The Priority Issues identified under participatory management of irrigation and drainage facilities are :

- Development of small and simple irrigation and drainage facilities
- Establishment of legal systems and financial support by governments and donors
- Transfer of O&M skills to farmers' organizations
- Basin-wise conservation and allocation of water resources for development.

VPH S. Taniyama also mentioned about the future actions taken for the Task Force Report which include:

- The National Committees of Iran, Australia, Japan and Chinese Taipei will contribute equally to the printing costs of the Task Force Report
- Ms Ellen Pyatt (USA) and Mr. Jolyon Burnett (Australia) will edit the Task Force Report
- The Report will be presented to the ASRWG and to PCSPOA for further action
- ASRWG will implement the recommendations of the Report.

Dr. Taniyama concluded his report by saying that the activities of the Task Force have been completed and the Task Force has decided to wind up itself.

On behalf of ASRWG members, VPH Huh YooMan (Korea) thanked VPH S. Taniyama for the outstanding efforts carried out by the TF-LDCsAS.

**Item 15 : 5<sup>th</sup> Asian Regional Conference**

Information on 5<sup>th</sup> ARC from INCID has been received and mentioned that in addition to the main theme/sub-themes reported in the agenda note, a sub-theme on "MASSCOTE (Mapping System and Services for Canal Operation Techniques)" is also under consideration for the 5<sup>th</sup> ARC. During the meeting, members were also given opportunity to comment on the theme/sub-themes of the 5<sup>th</sup> ARC. No comments on the theme /sub-themes were made.

**Item 16 : 6<sup>th</sup> Asian Regional Conference**

Dr. A. Hafied A. Gany (Indonesia) informed in the meeting:

- The theme of the 6<sup>th</sup> ARC had been approved by the Permanent Committee.
- The date of the Conference has been moved from July to 5-11 September 2010 and
- The first bulletin has been published.

The Theme and other arrangements made for the 6<sup>th</sup> ARC were endorsed by the ASRWG meeting.

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**Item 17 : ASRWG’s contribution to the 5 World Water Forum**

ICID representatives attended the kick-off meeting of the 5 WWF in Istanbul. VP Shiati presented the following two points from the report of ICID Secretary General:

- The theme for the Forum is “*Bridging Divides : Water for a Sustainable 21<sup>st</sup> Century*”
- ICID has representatives on the Coordinating Committee assisting the Core Group of the Programme Committee.

While deliberating the matter, it was agreed that VP Shiati would discuss the issue with President Peter Lee and present a proposal to have an ASRWG sub-session at the 5 WWF.

**Item 18 : Any other business**

The Agenda Item to be focused on the future work plan of the ASRWG was discussed.

In this connection, Dr. Shinsuke Ota (Japan) tabled a paper and made a power point presentation and proposed that the future work plan of the Working Group be concentrated on the issue of “Sustainable irrigation in the face of the effects of climate change”.

While supporting his proposal, ASRWG recognized the need to identify how the ASRWG could link to the activities of the Working Group on Global Climate Change and Irrigation (WG-CLIMATE) with their own initiative.

During the deliberations, it was also proposed that the future work plan of ASRWG would address not only technical aspects but also policy aspects of the issue. It was proposed to establish a sub-Task Force to initiate the work of the ASRWG. During the meeting, the following decisions were taken:

- Recommend to the Permanent Committee regarding proposal for constitution of a Regional Task Force on Climate Change and Irrigation;
- Include representatives from Japan, Australia, Korea, Taiwan and possibly Turkey, and India or Pakistan while constituting the Regional Task Force;
- Constitute the proposed Regional Task Force under the Chairmanship of Dr. Ota (Japan);
- Frame its first report so as to highlight it at the 5 WWF.

Based on the above-mentioned deliberations and decisions arrived thereon, following action points were agreed upon :

- Secretary to include a separate agenda item on “Future work plan of the ASRWG” for the next ASRWG meeting and beyond;
- VP Shiati to discuss with Dr. Mark Svendsen, Chairman, WG-CLIMATE regarding establishment of linkages between ASRWG and WG-CLIMATE;
- VP Shiati to submit a proposal for constitution of the Regional Task Force to the PCSPOA for approval;
- VP Shiati to seek nominations for the Task Force from Turkey and India or Pakistan.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the Chair.

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