

**Minutes of the 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of the  
ASIAN REGIONAL WORKING GROUP (ASRWG)  
13 October 2008 : 13:30-17:00 hours  
Lahore, Pakistan**

**Year of Establishment: 1996**

**Members present:** (1) Vice President Karim Shiati, Chairman, 2006 (Iran, 1997); (2) Mr. Sneng-Feng, Kuo (Chinese Taipei, 2001) represented by Dr. Kao Ruey-Chy; (3) Dr. Daixin Li (China, 2003) represented by Wang Xiaodong; and (4) Mr. Shinsuke Ota (Japan, 2006) represented by Hiroyuki-Arai

**Observers:** (i) Ming-Hua Tsai (Chinese Taipei); (ii) Ray-Shyan Wu (Chinese Taipei); (iii) Yang, Feng-Rong (Chinese Taipei); (iv) Ahmet Seren (Turkey); and (v) Hasan B. Yuksel (Turkey)

**Website:** <http://www.asrwg.icidonline.org/>

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

No comments or suggestions to the minutes of the 14<sup>th</sup> meeting of ASRWG were received. The minutes were confirmed in the 15<sup>th</sup> meeting.

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

Nominations received in respect of Mr. Hanan Itzkovitch (Israel), Engr. H.M. Jayatillake (Sri Lanka) and Mr. Ravinder Singh (India) in place of Mr. C.D. Khoche were deferred during the 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of ASRWG due to their absence in the meeting.

The nomination of Mr. Wang Xiaodong (China) in place of Dr. Li Daixin was considered and accepted in the meeting as he was present in the meeting.

It was also noted that the nominated member of Uzbekistan National Committee (UzNCID) was absent and had not contributed during the last three consecutive years (2006, 2007 and 2008). It was decided that follow up action with UzNCID regarding review of its membership in ASRWG will be initiated.

**A. CONTINUING ITEMS**

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

The group noted the three year rolling plan as adopted at Beijing in 2005:

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

For Item 3.2 and Item 3.3, refer items 12 and 14.

**3.1 New Membership in ICID**

The 15<sup>th</sup> meeting observed that Secretary General, ICID along with Chairman ASRWG and Vice Presidents of ICID has taken follow-up actions with each country in line with the allocations as shown below for enhancing the ICID objectives:

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. 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
<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>45</b>

Chairman, ASRWG reported the following activities:

- 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)

- Participation of the members of the Saudi Arabian National Committee in the following ICID activities:
  - 10<sup>th</sup> International Drainage Workshop held from 6-11 July 2008 in Helsinki (Finland) and Tallinn (Estonia) under the aegis of Finnish NC.
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on Sustainable Irrigation Management Technologies and Policies organized during 11-13 June 2008 at Alicante, Spain by the Spanish NC.

The WG members requested that Chairman, ASRWG; ICID Vice Presidents and C.O. to take further follow up actions on the agenda item seriously and bring more Asian Countries into the ICID fold.

**Item 4: To review and implement the recommendations of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Asian Regional Conference, 3<sup>rd</sup> Asian Regional Conference and 4<sup>th</sup> Asian Regional Conference**

As the task has been completed successfully, it was decided to drop the item.

**Item 5: 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), Thailand (THAICID) and India (INCID) with the ASRWG website.

The Chairman in the 15<sup>th</sup> meeting encouraged all the members to strengthen the network linkages and act in coordination.

**Item 6: Work on the Basin-sharing Model for Mekong River Formation**

As Dr. Siripong Hungspreug (Thailand) was absent in the meeting to report on the continuing work on Mekong Basin Sharing Model, the matter could not be discussed and it was deferred until the next meeting of the ASRWG.

**Item 7: Asian Drainage Programme for the Humid Tropics (ADPHT) and eradication of information gap**

While deliberating the matter, Chairman ASRWG intimated the group that Dr. Carlos formally informed him about the restructuring of IPTRID and incapability of participating in the ASRWG activities. The members suggested to have a main Drainage Center and different branches of Asian Drainage Centre (ADC) under ADPHT for Semi-Arid Asian as well as African Region.

It was decided in the meeting that further follow up actions needed would be taken by the ASRWG, Chairman.

**Item 8: Linkages with Regional and Transnational Organizations for Cooperation**

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

The meeting noted the view point of Prof. Dr. N. Hatcho that he outlined in the 14<sup>th</sup> meeting and need for strengthening collaborations between IWMI and ICID at practical as well as local levels.

**8.2 Global Peat Initiative (GPI)**

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

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

As the FAO representatives were unable to present during the meeting, the item could not be taken up for discussion. However, the ASRWG suggested for developing project programs related to 'Agriculture and Water' for obtaining possible support from FAO.

**Item 9: 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 in the 14<sup>th</sup> meeting that the CNCID representative and Chairman, ASRWG will follow up and if feasible, participate in the BOAO Forum meeting scheduled in April 2008.

During the 15<sup>th</sup> meeting the CNCID representative and Chairman, ASRWG deliberated the matter on BOAO Forum with other members and decided to drop the item from the ASRWG Agenda.

**Item 10: Possibilities of developing cooperative arrangements with International Society of Paddy and Water Environment Engineering (PAWEES) and International Network of Water Environment and Paddy Fields (INWEPF)**

As Dr. Kim Tai-Cheol was unable to attend the 15<sup>th</sup> meeting, his response on INWEPF activities is awaited in the 16<sup>th</sup> meeting of the ASRWG.

**Item 11: Task Force on Asian LDCs**

The printed version of the TF-LDCsAS Report was distributed amongst the participants of ASRWG and IEC meetings.

The chairman and the WG members appreciated the members and Dr. Taniyama, chairman of TF-LDCsAS for their excellent job and Japan, Chinese Taipei, Australia and Iran National Committees of ICID for their financial support in bringing out the report.

### Item 12: 5<sup>th</sup> Asian Regional Conference

The Indian National Committee of ICID (INCID) is to host the 5<sup>th</sup> 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 decided 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.

Unfortunately, INCID representative was not available during the meeting to update on the event.

### Item 13: 6<sup>th</sup> Asian Regional Conference

As decided, the 6<sup>th</sup> ARC would be hosted by Indonesia NC (INACID) from 10-16 October 2010 in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. The theme for the 6<sup>th</sup> ARC will be concentrated on "Improvement of irrigation and drainage efficiency under the small land holding condition".

INACID representative was not available in the meeting to provide updated details on the event. The WG members

suggested to include "Rural land readjustment for infrastructures" as a sub-theme of the conference.

### Item 14: Future work plan of ASRWG

The group noted on the work initiated by Dr. Ota regarding preparation of a questionnaire on "A strategy for irrigation and drainage adapted to climate change in Asia" and its circulation to all Asian and Oceania Countries. Seven countries out of the ten countries have filled up the questionnaire and submitted to Dr. Ota, chairman TF.

During the meeting the draft report of the task force had been distributed to the WG members for their comments and making further improvement.

The report has been planned to be submitted and orally presented in the Session 3 of the 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 scheduled in March 2009 in Istanbul, Turkey.

### Item 15: 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). VP Dr. Mark Svendsen and VP Dr. Karim Shiati are the members of the Task Force. The first TF meeting was held in Stockholm on 15 August 2008, where the work plan of the TF had been finalized.

VP Dr. Karim Shiati apprised the group on the review of Terms of Reference (ToR) and work plan of the TF. The ToR is presented as **Annex**.

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**ASIAN REGIONAL WORKING GROUP (ASRWG)  
UN-WATER TASK FORCE ON WATER AND CLIMATE  
TERMS OF REFERENCE**

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**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-ordinate 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 adopting 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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

**Long-term**

1. To investigate opportunities to support the Conference of Parties (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 in 2009)
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 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.

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