

Minutes of the Sixteenth Meeting of the
ASIAN REGIONAL WORKING GROUP (ASRWG)
 New Delhi, India
 06 December 2009: 09.30–13.15 hours

Year of Establishment: 1996

Mandate: The general objective of the Asian Regional Working Group is to focus on common topics and issues and to enhance the transfer of appropriate technology in irrigation and drainage to and from the Asian Region. The mission of ARWG is to encourage membership and to coordinate activities in the region.

Members Present: (1) Vice President Karim Shiati, Chairman, 2006 (Iran, 1997); (2) Mr. Tai-Cheol Kim, Vice Chairman, 2007 (Korea, 2006); (3) Mr. Waseem Nazir (Pakistan, 1999) represented by Mr. Bashir Ahmad Sial; (4) Mr. Sheng-Feng, Kuo (Chinese Taipei, 2001) represented by Mr. Kao Ruey-chy (Chinese Taipei); (5) Mr. S. Siswoko (Indonesia, 2002) represented by Vice President Dr. Hafied Gany; (6) Mr. C.D. Khoche (India, 2006) represented by Mr. Ravinder Singh (India); (7) Mr. Taner Kimence (Turkey, 2006) represented by Mr. Ahmet Seren; (8) Vice President Shinsuke Ota (Japan, 2006); (9) Mr. Mohd. Abdul Nassir bin Bidin (Malaysia, 2007) represented by Dr. Mohammad Che Husain; (10) Mr. Wang Xiaodong (China, 2008); and (11) Er. M. Gopalakrishnan, Secretary General, ICID.

Permanent Observer: Dr. W.F. Vlotman (Australia).

Member Hon.: Vice President Hon. Dr. Gao Zhanyi (China).

Observers: (1) Dr. Chen, Shen-Hsien (Chinese Taipei); (2) Dr. Hsiao-wen Wang (Chinese Taipei); (3) Mr. Kyi Htut Win (Myanmar); (4) Mr. Myint Aung (Myanmar); (5) Dr. Park, Kwangsoo (Korea); (6) Dr. Park Chang Youn (Korea); (7) Dr. Nor Azazi Zakaria (Malaysia); (8) Mr. Ian Moorhouse (Australia); (9) Dr. Kim, Il Hwan (Korea); (10) Dr. Naito Kunihiro (Japan); (11) Dr. Masumoto Takao (Japan); (12) Dr. Alghamdi A. (Saudi Arabia); (13) Mr. Liu, Chien-Pang (Chinese Taipei); (14) Dr. N. Krishnamurthy (India); (15) Dr. G.N. Dhanapal (India); (16) Dr. K. Murali (India); (17) Dr. Park, Kzwook (Korea); (18) Dr. Syaiful Mahdi (Indonesia); (19) Dr. Kim, Jin-Taek (Korea); (20) Mr. Yeh, Shu-Shr (Chinese Taipei); (21) Mr. Kuo, Pin-Han (Chinese Taipei); (22) Mr. N.K. Manglik (India); (23) Prof. Mohd. Amin Mohd. Soom (Malaysia); (24) Mr. Tan, Yih-Chi (Chinese Taipei); (25) Mr. Koichi Kuwabara (Japan); (26) Dr. Tsugihiko Watanabe (Japan); (27) Mr. Shinsuke Hara (Japan); (28) Mr. Tetsuya Oishi (Japan); (29) Mr. Chen Cheng-Tsung (Chinese Taipei); and (30) Mr. Gao Lihui (China); (31) Mr. Husnain Ahmad (Pakistan).

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

Item 1 : Confirmation of the minutes of the 15th meeting of ASRWG

The minutes of the 15th meeting of the Working Group held at Lahore in October 2008 were confirmed.

Item 2 : Membership of the Working Group

The following nominees were neither present during the last meeting at Lahore (2008) nor at New Delhi (2009) and hence their nominations were deferred till the next meeting in 2010:

- Mr. Hanan Itzkovitch (Israel)
- Engr. H.M. Jayatillake (Sri Lanka)

Mr. Ravinder Singh (India), however, was present and his nomination was accepted.

The nominees from Nepal, Thailand and Uzbekistan have not been contributing to the activities for more than three years. The Central Office may seek fresh nominations from these National Committees.

A. CONTINUING ITEMS

Item 3 : To discuss future Work Plan

3.1 New Country Membership in ICID

The WG members noted the information and progress made regarding new country memberships of Bhutan, Fiji and UAE. The Chairman hoped that these countries would join ICID this year.

The representatives from Myanmar and Saudi Arabia (both active members of ICID) attended the ICID events after a long gap. The Chairman and Central Office may follow up with these countries to get nominees for ICID workbodies, especially ASRWG.

3.2 Other activities

The Chairman informed the members about the MoU between IRNCID and TUCID; MoU among IRNCID, GECID and AWHG; and cooperation with SYCID. The other actions to enhance regional cooperation among National Committees in Asia are also being explored by the Chairman.

3.3 Work plan

Three years rolling plan for the activities of the Working Group is adopted.

Item 4 : ASRWG Newsletter and ASRWG Homepage

Members noted the progress made regarding network linkages between the NCs of Australia (ANCID), Chinese Taipei (CTCID), Iran (IRNCID), Malaysia (MANCID), Thailand (THAICID) and India (INCID) with the ASRWG website. All the members are further encouraged to strengthen the network linkages and act in coordination.

To continue the networking further, the Central Office may continue to contact all National Committees (except Australia, Chinese Taipei, Iran, Malaysia, Thailand and India) to establish their own URL and develop network linkages between various NCs pertaining to the Asian region.

The Chairman requested the other National Committees to provide their links (URL) to the Central Office.

Item 5 : Work on the Basin-sharing Model for Mekong River Formation

Dr. Siripong Hungspreug (Thailand) was once again not available to report progress towards the status of work on the Basin-sharing model for Mekong River Formation.

Secretary General Er. M. Gopalakrishnan informed the members regarding the scheduled workshop on Mekong River Basin in India.

Item 6 : Asian Drainage Programme for the Humid Tropics (ADPHT) and eradication of information gap

The Chairman informed the members that the Asian Drainage Programme for the Humid Tropics (ADPHT) has been established for 5 years. No activity has been reported due to the lack of budget; technical and logistic support. The members suggested that the WG may keep this item in the agenda for one more year. In case of no outcome from the ADPHT till next meeting of the WG, this item may be dropped from the agenda.

It was also suggested that the Drainage Centre, which has been established in Cairo, Egypt, covering the Northern Africa, can expand its activities to cover more countries from the arid and semi-arid Middle East. The Chairman will follow up this issue with the Drainage Centre of Egypt.

Item 7 : Linkages with Regional and Transnational Organizations for Cooperation**7.1 International Water Management Institute (IWMI)**

The WG members noted the good collaboration between IWMI and ICID. Secretary General apprised that ICID as co-ordinator of Topic 2.3 dealing with “Water and food for ending poverty and hunger” interacted with a consortium of partners. One of the 4 sessions on this was assigned to IWMI during the Forum in Istanbul (Session 2.3.1) that was handled by Director General Dr. Colin Chartners himself.

He also highlighted ICID-IWMI interactions in the exercises undertaken by the later. One such was their research programme on “Trends in Asian Irrigation”. A special session in 5th ARC has also been organized to introduce this research project findings.

7.2 Global Peat Initiative (GPI)

Since no progress has been made or reported by Dr. Hungspreug (Thailand) for quite some time, this item may be dropped from the agenda.

7.3 Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Dr. Klaus Siegert, Permanent Observer, ASRWG (FAO representative) was neither available at Lahore (2008) nor at New Delhi (2009) meetings for discussion on the subject. However, the ASRWG suggested to develop project programs related to ‘Agriculture and Water’ for obtaining possible support from FAO.

The WG members noted the further developments as explained by Secretary General M. Gopalakrishnan during the meeting. FAO had requested ICID inputs for the World Water Development Report 4, as the lead agency. The report in preparation has identified challenge areas and will attempt to highlight regional perspectives – focusing on ‘Risks and Uncertainties’.

7.4 UN – WATER

The WG members noted the active role played by ICID in recent UN-Water meetings. Secretary General M. Gopalakrishnan informed that ICID Coordinated Topic 2.3 “*Water and Food for ending poverty and hunger*” during 5th World Water Forum in 2009. ICID has joined the UN-Water Task Force on Water & Climate through WG – Climate, and Task Force on “Climate Change and Irrigation (ARTF-CC)” of ASRWG. More information is available in Item 9 and 12 below.

The Chair of UN-Water, that rotates amongst the members in UN System, had been in FAO. ICID, as one of the partners of UN Water, had been playing an active role upon invitation. The close liaison with UN Water has enhanced ICID’s role and visibility in all issues linking agricultural water management, linking future water challenges with external drivers like climate change, global financial crisis and bio-fuel compulsions.

7.5 ICID / UNW-DPC Cooperation on capacity development in agricultural water management

The WG members noted the information on ICID / UNW-DPC Cooperation on capacity development in agricultural water management. The Chairman further explained the cooperation of UNW-DPC and ICID in dissemination of the advance AquaCrop software for calculating the irrigation water requirement of crops. A draft MoU on Capacity Building Development between UNW-DPC and ICID has been prepared and is in processing.

Item 8 : 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)

Vice Chairman Dr. Kim Tai-Cheol and Dr. Cheng, Chairman of PAWEES were present at the WG meeting and briefed the activities of the INWPEF and PAWEES during the years 2007, 2008 and 2009 in the meeting. The WG members were urged to publish their papers in the PAWEES Journal and participate in their annual conferences, when possible. The members noted that INWEPF has been studying the food security and poverty alleviation, sustainable water use and shared partnership.

Item 9 : Asian Regional Task Force on Climate Change and Irrigation (ARTF-CC)

Vice President Dr. Ota (Japan) presented the outcome of the Asian Regional Task Force on Climate Change and Irrigation (ARTF-CC) in the meeting. Dr. Masumoto Takao (Japan), Dr. Kim (Korea) and Dr. Shitati (Iran) also presented their case studies.

The Working Group decided that there should be a close coordination of activities of the ARTF-CC and the Working Group on Global Climate and Agricultural Water Management (WG-CLIMATE), which was headed by VPH Dr. Mark Svendsen (USA), for on-going activities. It was further decided that the workshops, symposia, seminars will be highlighted in the next meeting of the WG during 61st IEC in Indonesia in 2010.

Item 10 : 5th Asian Regional Conference

The WG members noted the information on the 5th Asian Regional Conference (ARC) during 9-11 December 2009 at New Delhi, India. In addition to the above, several special sessions and workshops were held.

The WG members requested the representative from Indonesia to actively participate in the technical sessions of the 5th ARC at New Delhi, India.

Item 11 : 6th Asian Regional Conference

As decided, the 6th ARC would be hosted by Indonesia National Committee (INACID) from 10-16 October 2010 at Yogyakarta, Indonesia. The theme for the 6th ARC will be "Improvement of Irrigation and Drainage Efficiency through Participatory Irrigation Development and Management under the Small Land Holding Conditions". Vice President Dr. Gany from Indonesia briefed the Working Group about the latest developments of the 6th ARC to be held in 2010 and distributed the 2nd Announcement of the event. The announcement contains information on call for papers and submission deadlines. More information is available at the conference website at www.icid2010.org.

Item 12 : Any other business

- **World Water Development Report 3**

The Chairman informed the members that the World Water Development Report 3 (WWDR3) on "*Water in a Changing World*" is available at the website: www.unesco.org/water/wwap for download. The Chairman encouraged members to review the valuable report and recommended to send comments/suggestions for the future reports that will be undertaken by WWAP in consultation with UN Water partner organizations like ICID.

- **UN Water Task Force on 'Water and Climate'**

UN-Water has initiated a UN Water Task Force on "Water and Climate" of which VPH Dr. Mark Svendsen and VP Dr. Karim Shitati were the members.

The Chairman briefed the members on further progress about the UN Water Task Force on "Water and Climate". The UN Water Task Force has already submitted a one-page report entitled "Climate Change adaptation" which was submitted to Copenhagen meeting (December 2009). The UN Water Task Force has also released a 13 pages report entitled "Policy Brief from UN-Water on Climate Change". This was discussed in the WG and it was felt that a part of the report which deals with the effect of climate change on agricultural food production was controversial.
