

**MINUTES OF THE 29TH MEETING OF THE
COMMITTEE ON CONGRESSES/CONFERENCES (C-CONGR)**

14 August 2018, 09:00-10:30 hours (Session-I)

14 August 2018, 11:00-12:30 hours (Session-II)

Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada

Presented by the Chairman

Year of Establishment: 1990

Mandate: The mandate of the Committee is:

- (i) To recommend general improvement in conduct of WIFs, Congresses, Conferences and other ICID events;
- (ii) Representatives/Organizers of the ICID events to present a summary report on preparations made for the said events;
- (iii) Share the lessons learned / difficulties faced in organizing the events; and
- (iv) Make proposals for the smooth conduct of the ICID events.

Members Present: (1) Mr. Bryan Ward, Chairman (Australia, 2017); (2) Dr. Warren Helgason, CANCID representative (3) VP Mr. Madhav Belbase, NENCID representative; (4) Mr. Anuj Kanwal, INCSW representative; (5) Mr. M.Z. Fatah, INACID representative; and (6) Dr. Vijay K. Labhsetwar, ICID Central Office.

Observers: (i) Ir. Momir Vranes (Australia); (ii) Ir. Adams SA (Indonesia); (iii) VPH Chaiwat Prechawit (Thailand); (iv) Ir. Surat Thanusin (Thailand); (v) Ir. Apirnks Grikoolwong (Thailand); (vi) Ir. Edward Dean (Canada); (vii) Ir. Abdul Msi (Indonesia); (viii) Mr. Muhammad Arsyad (Indonesia); (ix) Ir. Arthon Suttigarn (Thailand); and (x) Ms. Christine Delphin (Australia).

Website: <http://c-congr.icidonline.org/>

C-CONGR Minutes Item 1: Action taken report by Chairman

1. Mr. Bryan Ward (Australia), Chairman of the C-CONGR presented a report on actions taken on the decisions made since the last meeting of the Committee at Mexico City (2017), Mexico. No interim meetings were held since Mexico meeting.

C-CONGR Minutes Item 2: Membership of the Committee

2. During the meeting, the Chairman observed that there was no representative from the Mexican National Committee of ICID (MXCID) in the meeting. Mr Madhav Belbase (Nepal) represented Mr Bashu Dev Lohanee from NENCID. Mr M. Z. Fatah (Indonesia) and Mr. Anuj Kanwal (India) represented INACID and INCSW, respectively.

C-CONGR Minutes Item 3: Overview of International Conference and 69th IEC meeting, 12-17 August 2018 at Saskatoon, Canada

3. Dr. Warren Helgason, the representative from Canadian Committee for Irrigation and Drainage (CANCID) reported on the International Conference and 69th IEC Meeting and commented that overall the event had met expectations and made the following recommendations for other committees:

- (a). He stressed the importance of engaging an 'Event Manager' for the event as early as possible Canada appointed their 'Event Manager' in 2016.
- (b). He informed that about 150 registrations had been received but they neither attended nor paid the fee. Therefore, assuming that registrations will all result in attendance may not happen.
- (c). There were a number of visa issues for some countries, e.g. Iran. Iran were to send a larger delegation but were unable to secure their visas.
- (d). A graph of time vs registrations was shown indicating that most registrations were made close to the actual date of the event/conference.
- (e). CANCID had introduced student awards to be presented at the farewell dinner.
- (f). He stressed that fundraising was critical as CANCID would not have been able to cover the organizing costs without sponsorships.

C-CONGR Agenda Item 3.1: Feedback from 23rd ICID Congress and 68th IEC, Mexico City, Mexico in October 2017

4. As no representative from Mexico attended the event, the Committee was unable to receive a report on the 23rd Congress. The Chairman indicated that feedback provided at the last meeting of C-CONGR in Mexico City from the Mexican National Committee was that the event had not been financially successful due to lower than expected registrations and also perhaps due to the 2017 earthquake.

C-CONGR Agenda Item 3.2: Feedback from 8th Asian Regional Conference, Kathmandu, Nepal in May 2018

5. VP Er. Madhav Belbase (Nepal) provided a verbal report on the 8th Asian Regional Conference. The event had been very successful with positive feedback. He informed that the Nepal Committee of ICID could successfully organize the 8th ARC exclusively due to funds made available by national and international sponsors. He indicated that the total income was about US\$ 205,000 and total cost was about US\$ 180,000. Sponsorship was nearly half of the total income.

C-CONGR Minutes Item 4: Preparations for the future events for the next 3 years**C-CONGR Minutes Item 4.1: 9th International Micro Irrigation Conference, 16-18 January 2019, Aurangabad, Maharashtra State, India**

6. Mr Anuj Kanwal, representative from the Indian National Committee of ICID (INCSW) briefed the Committee on the plans for the 9th International Micro-Irrigation Conference to be held in January 2019 at Aurangabad, Maharashtra, India. He indicated that they were now accepting abstract for the conference. He reiterated the importance of having sponsors to ensure the financial viability of the event. A number of interesting and informative technical/partner tours have been planned to attract more delegates.

C-CONGR Minutes Item 4.2: 70th IEC Meetings and 3rd World Irrigation Forum (WIF3), 1-7 September 2019 at Bali, Indonesia

7. Mr. M. Z. Fatah from INACID provided the Committee with an overview of the 70th IEC Meetings and 3rd World Irrigation Forum (WIF3) to be held in September 2019 at Bali, Indonesia. Planning was well underway and the themes and sub-themes had been agreed and published. INACID indicated that they were awaiting final approval from the PFC regarding the revised registration fees.

C-CONGR Minutes Item 4.3: 5th African Regional Conference on irrigation & Drainage, 16-19 March 2020, Rabat, Morocco

8. Representative from ANAFIDE updated the committee on the upcoming 5th African Regional Conference to be held in Rabat in March 2020. They tabled their First Announcement and have agreed on the themes and topics to be covered at the conference. They indicated that registration fees had been set at such a level that it would attract more delegates to attend the conference. They indicated that currently they are envisaging a budget deficit of approx. US \$ 25,000 but they were hopeful of closing the gap with other incomes such as from advertisements/sponsorships.

C-CONGR Minutes Item 4.4: 71st IEC Meetings and 24th ICID Congress, 22-28 September 2020, Sydney, Australia

9. Mr. Bryan Ward from IACID updated the Committee on the planning for the 2020 ICID Congress to be held in Sydney in September 2020. He informed that the First Announcement of the Sydney Congress has been published and was available at Saskatoon for member countries. He also informed that IACID had agreed to adopt subsidized pricing of 50% of registration fee for delegates from countries listed in the UN Least Developed Countries' List. He offered his support to the recommendation made by the representative from CANCID that an 'Event Manager' be appointed early and informed that IACID had appointed their 'Event Manager' in 2016, some four years ahead of the event.

C-CONGR Minutes Item 5: Letter of Agreement (LoA) for Hosting Congresses / WIFs / Regional Conferences

10. The Chair of C-CONGR provided a background on the Letter of Agreement (LoA) for hosting countries to apply to events from 2021 onwards.

11. He provided the Committee with a summary of the changes that had arisen after the circulation of the first draft of the LoA and noted that final approval was required at PCSO/IEC before adoption. He stressed that this agreement would not apply to events in Bali, Sydney and Rabat.

12. He indicated that it was a very sound practice to have a formal agreement between ICID and hosting countries to ensure that all of the requirements and expectations from all the parties were understood, respected and met.
13. He indicated that it was important that ICID had a very active events program and that member countries should be competing vigorously for future events. However, this was not the case and currently no events are formalized after 2020. After discussing this with several member countries, there was a view that the 35% share of registration fees payable to ICID was a disincentive to host forums and congresses. This view was supported by a number of countries present at the meeting, including Canada, Indonesia and Thailand.
14. The Chair indicated that the first responsibility of any hosting country was to ensure that any event was profitable and unless significant sponsorship was available, it would be difficult for any event to make a profit on registration fees alone after the payment of 35% share to ICID.
15. The Chair agreed to take a recommendation to PCSO that the registration fee for forums and congresses for events after 2020 be set at 25% (or some other amount as determined by the PCSO/PFC).
16. The other matter for discussion was the requirement to agree on registration fees set in US Dollars (USD). Many countries have widely fluctuating exchange rates with the USD and setting fees some years ahead in USD is a significant financial risk. The Chair indicated that for this reason Australia nearly chose not to bid for the 2020 event as the currency risk could be in the region of \$50,000 to \$100,000 on this event.
17. After discussion it was agreed that a proposal would be put to PCSO that fees for events would be determined in the local currency and made available in USD when registrations were to open. This would mitigate the risk for participating nations.
18. The impact of these two measures may make events more attractive for ICID members.

C-CONGR Minutes Item 6: Any other business

19. There was no other business and the meeting closed with vote of thanks to the Chair.

