

**Minutes of the 28th Meeting of the
COMMITTEE ON CONGRESSES/CONFERENCES (C-CONGR)**

11 October 2017, 13:30-15:00 hours (Session-I)
11 October 2017, 15:30-17:00 hours (Session-II)
Mexico City, Mexico

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. Luis Felipe Alcocer (Mexico, 2016), Chairman; (2) VPH Laurie C. Tollefson, CANCID representative; (3) Mr. Bashu Dev Lohanee, NENCID representative; (4) Dr. Sanjay Belsare, INCSW representative; (5) Mr. Saiful Mahdi INACID representative; (6) Mr. Bryan Ward, IACID representatives; and (7) Dr. Vijay K. Labhsetwar, ICID Central Office, representing Secretary General.

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

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

1. Dr. Luis Felipe Alcocer (Mexico), Chairman of C-CONGR presented a report on actions taken on the decisions made since the last meeting of the Committee at Chiang Mai (2016), Thailand.

C-CONGR Minutes Item 2: Overview of the 23rd ICID Congress & 68th Meeting of IEC at Mexico City (8-14 October 2017)

2. The Chairman Dr. Luis Felipe Alcocer gave the floor to Mr. Sean Cazares (Mexico), Head of International Cooperation of the National Water Commission to present an overview of the 23rd ICID Congress and 68th IEC meetings at Mexico City. The main theme of the Congress was '*Modernizing Irrigation and Drainage for a new Green Revolution*'.

3. The mega event was hosted by the Mexican Government through the National Water Commission (CONAGUA) and the Mexican National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (MXCID) and was attended by 787 delegates, out of which 333 were foreign delegates from 47 countries. More than 276 abstracts were received for the Congress, of which 155 full length papers were accepted and published in the Abstract Volume with USB. In all, 48 papers and 66 posters were presented and discussed under two Congress Questions i.e. Q.60: Water Productivity: Revisiting the concepts in light of water, energy and food nexus; and Q.61: State of knowledge of irrigation techniques and practicalities within given socio-economic settings, during the Congress.

4. To further enrich the proceedings of the Congress, the following four sessions were also held: (a) An International Workshop aimed to facilitate activities of mutual interest between the International Geosynthetics Society (IGS) and the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID) was held on the theme '*Applications of Geosynthetics to irrigation, Drainage and Agriculture*' on 8 October 2017 at Mexico. Several topics such as applications of geomembranes for irrigation canals, reservoirs, flood management, water containment, water conveyance, erosion control, and irrigation drainage were discussed. (b) An International Symposium on the theme '*Global Review of Institutional Reform in Irrigation Sector for Sustainable Agriculture Water Management, including WUA*' was organized by ICID Working Group on Institutional and Organizational Aspects (WG-IOA) on 8 October 2017 at Mexico under the chairmanship of VPH Dr. Hafied A. Gany (Indonesia). Nine country papers from the NCs, two keynote addresses were also delivered by experts from the World Bank. (c) FAO took lead in organizing another International Seminar on the theme '*Water Use in Food Value Chains – A Challenge for a New Green Revolution?*' under the Chairmanship of Dr. Oclay Unver (FAO). (d) A Special Session on the theme '*Irrigation Techniques for Reuse of Wastewater in Agriculture and its impact on Health and Environment*' was held on 10 October 2017 under the Chairmanship of Dr. Jamie Collado (Mexico).

5. Mr. Sean Cazares further presented the structure of the congress, starting with the MXCID Board of Directors, The International Technical Advisory Committee (ITAC) and the International Scientific Committee (ISC). He also informed that H.E. Enrique Pena Nieto, the President of Mexico, inaugurated the 23rd ICID Congress and 68th IEC Meeting on 9 October 2017 in Mexico City, Mexico. ICID President Dr. Nairizi presented the Heritage Irrigation Structure (HIS) Citation Plaques (2017) for Mexican Projects “LA BOQUILLA DAM” and “LA CHINAMPA” to H.E. Enrique Pena Nieto, the President of Mexico during the Opening Ceremony.

6. The plenary session of the Congress was welcomed by President of MXCID Er. Marco Antonio Parra Cota from Mexican National Water Commission (MWC). He highlighted the importance of ICID, as an organization for dissemination of knowledge, technology and current policies in the field of irrigation and drainage.

7. Two half-day Young professionals (YPs) training workshops, namely (i) “Value Engineering: An effective and efficient methodology for Enhancing irrigation, drainage and flood management Projects” by Dr. Kamran Emami (Iran) and (ii) “Irrigation Water Management to Adapt to Climate Change” by Dr. Kaluvai Yella Reddy (India) were organized on 13 October 2017. Twenty Young Professionals (YPs) from 15 countries participated.

8. Besides above, two technical tours were also organized by MXCID related to the emblematic agricultural projects i.e. (a) Chinampas in Xochimilco; and (b) Irrigation District 023 San Juan del rio, Queretaro on 12 October and 14-15 October 2017, respectively, for the participants.

9. At last, the Chairman made a recommendation to the committee regarding liberally issuing the invitation letters as the most effective way to secure the attendance to the events. He also recognized the challenges faced during the registration process, the website and general logistics. He also emphasized on good communication and teamwork for efficient operation and organization of an event.

C-CONGR Minutes Item 3: Preparations for the future events for the next 3 years

C-CONGR Minutes Item 3.1: 8th Asian Regional Conference, 2-4 May 2018, Kathmandu, Nepal

10. Mr. Bashu Dev Lohanee, NENCID representative informed the members about the planning of 8th Asian Regional Conference (ARC) which will be organized by the Government of Nepal through NENCID during 2-4 May 2018 at Kathmandu, Nepal. The theme of the 8th ARC is “*Irrigation in Support of an Evergreen Revolution*”.

11. The NENCID also presented a video showing cultural places, the capacity of their irrigational systems and briefly described the conference sub themes, important dates for paper submission, and the registration fee structure for the conference. Please access the conference website at <http://nencid.org.np/8th-annual-regional-conference> for current updates.

C-CONGR Minutes Item 3.2: 69th IEC Meeting and International Conference, 12-17 August 2018 at Saskatoon, Canada

12. Mr. Warren Halgason, the representative from the Canadian Committee for Irrigation and Drainage (CANCID) presented the planning of the International Conference and 69th IEC meeting to be held from 12-17 at Saskatoon, Canada. The main theme will be ‘*Innovative and Sustainable Agri-Water Management: Adapting to a variable and changing climate*’.

13. Regarding the event, he described the conference sub themes and presented a Program at-a-Glance that included conference technical tours and cultural attractions. He mentioned that the target attendance expected is around 500 delegates.

14. He further gave details on the Saskatoon’s Arts & Convention Centre; the venue of the 68TH IEC Meeting which is located downtown, close to many hotels, attractions and restaurants. Also, he mentioned the Technical Tours which will show the progress in irrigation and their multipurpose water reservoirs and river basins. Please access the conference website at <http://www.icid2018.org> for current updates.

C-CONGR Minutes Item 3.3: 9th International Micro Irrigation Conference, January 2019, Aurangabad, India

15. Dr. Sanjay Belsare, representative from Indian National on Surface Water (INCSW), presented the planning for the 9th International Micro Irrigation Conference to be held at Aurangabad, India in January 2019. The main theme will be “*Micro Irrigation in Modern Agriculture*”.

16. Dr. Belsare further presented the program-at-glance with the conference sub themes, exhibition, cultural and study tours, and accompanying person activities along with fee structure. He pointed out that the registration for the event will open in early 2018.

C-CONGR Minutes Item 3.4: 70th IEC Meeting and 3rd World Irrigation Forum (WIF3), in October 2019, Bali, Indonesia

17. Mr. Saiful Mahdi, the representative of Indonesian National Committee of ICID (INACID) presented the preparations made for the 70th International Executive Council (IEC) Meeting and 3rd World Irrigation Forum (WIF3) to be held from 01-07 September 2019 at Bali, Indonesia with the theme "*Development of water, food and nutrition security in a competitive environment*". Bali International Convention Center (BICC) will be the venue for the meetings which is located at Nusa Dua.

18. Mr Mahdi further described the conference sub themes and presented a program-at-glance, accommodation, technical tours, pre/post conference tours and fee structure. Please access the conference website at <http://www.icid2019.org> for current updates.

C-CONGR Minutes Item 3.5: 71st IEC Meeting and 24th ICID Congress, 22-28 September 2020, Sydney, Australia

19. Mr. Bryan Wards, representative from the Australian National Committee ICID (IACID), presented the preparations made for the 71st International Executive Council (IEC) Meeting and 24th International Congress on Irrigation and Drainage to be held from 22-28 September 2020 at Sydney, Australia.

20. The main theme of the Congress is "*Innovation and research in agricultural water management to achieve sustainable development goals*". The event will be run in conjunction with the Biennial Irrigation Australia Conference and Exhibition at the International Convention Centre in Darling Harbour, Sydney, Australia. Please access the conference website at <http://www.irrigationaustralia.com.au/eventsandnews/icid-24th-international-congress> for current updates.

C-CONGR Minutes Item 4: Any other business Letter of Agreement (LoA) for hosting Congresses / WIFs

21. Dr. Vijay K. Labhsetwar explained the purpose of the Letter of Agreement (LoA). A Task Team (TT) is likely to be formed to look into the details of the 'LoA' before its circulation amongst the concerned parties for further improvement and firming up the same.

New Chairman

22. The meeting ended with congratulations to Mr. Bryan Wards (Australia) for being the new Chairman of the Committee on Congresses/Conferences (C-CONGR) from 2018 to 2020.



