

Minutes of the Twenty-Seventh Meeting of the
WORKING GROUP ON DRAINAGE (WG-DRG)
 8 December 2009: 14.15-18.00 hours
 New Delhi, India
Strategy Theme: Systems

Date of Establishment: 1983

Completion of the Mandate: 2013

Mandate:

- To promote drainage as part of integrated water resources management; and
- To promote sustainable approaches for drainage and related projects through a balanced integration of (1) environmental, (2) economic, and (3) social and cultural aspects.

Members present: (1) Dr. W.F. Vlotman, Chairman, 2001 (Australia, 2000); (2) Mr. Bernard Vincent, Secretary (France, 2007); (3) Vice President Hon. Prof. B. Maticic (Slovenia, 1987) represented by Dr. Marina Pintar; (4) President Hon. Ir. Keizrul bin Abdullah (Malaysia, 1994) represented by Dr. Nor Azazi Zakaria; (5) Dr. Mohammad Bybordi (Iran, 2000) represented by Mr. Azim Ashayeri; (6) Mr. Rauno Peltomaa (Finland, 2002) represented by Ms. Helena Äijö; (7) Vice President Dr. Shinsuke Ota (Japan, 2006); and (8) Dr. Yurii Yanko (Russia, 2006).

Permanent Observer: President Hon. Bart Schultz (The Netherlands).

Observers: (i) Dr. Irena Bondarik (Russia); (ii) Dr. Mati Tonismae (Estonia); (iii) Mr. M.S. Thakur (India); (iv) Mr. Navneet Kalia (India); (v) Mr. Tetsuya Oishi (Japan); (vi) Mr. Piyush Ranjan (India); (vii) Mr. Jabbar Aziz Beigi (Iran); (viii) Mr. Kunihiko Naito (Japan); (ix) Mr. Akira Nakazawa (Japan); and (x) Mr. Francois Chretien (Canada).

Webpage: <http://www.wg-drg.icidonline.org/>

A. GENERAL BUSINESS

Item 1 : Confirmation of the minutes of the 26th meeting of the Working Group held at Lahore

The minutes of the 26th meeting of the Working Group on Drainage in Lahore were confirmed, with one amendment that Mr. Bernard Vincent (France) had conveyed his apology for not able to attend the Lahore meeting.

Item 2 : To review membership of the Working Group

National Committees of Iraq (IRAQCID) and Kazakhstan (KAZCID) had nominated Mr. Ahmed Mohammad Aziz and Dr. Anzeim Carl Albertovitch, respectively for the membership of the WG. Though the National of Iraq (IRAQCID) and Kazakhstan (KAZCID) were advised of the non-attendance of their respective delegates since the last two meetings and considering these delegates were not present this year too, their nominations for the membership of the WG was terminated.

B. WORK PLAN

Item 3 : Future activities of the Working Group

To fulfil the new mandate, the WG had proposed to reorganize its activities in 6 subtopics. A brief on these activities is as follows:

- 3.1 Disposal of salts and silts:** Following the suggestion of the Iranian National Committee (IRNCID), the title of this subtopic has changed to "Technologies for reducing polluted drainage water and quality improvement".

Member in Charge (MIC) - Dr. J. Ayars (Chairman to contact Dr. Ayars and Mr. Azim Ashayeri (ashayeri@mahabghodss.com) and invite their contributions).

- 3.2 Impact of climate change on drainage:** Based on their recent experiences in Maghreb and Australia a presentation will be prepared for the next annual workshop/ meeting of the group to be held in Indonesia in 2010. *MIC:* Mr. B. Vincent and the Chairman.
- 3.3 Societal perception of drainage:** Based on their recent advance in France a presentation will be prepared for the next annual workshop/ meeting of the group to be held in Indonesia. *MIC:* B. Vincent
- 3.4 Role of drainage in food security.**
- 3.5 Changes in land use, production and landscapes due to drainage.**
- 3.6 Financial and socio-economic aspects of land drainage projects.**

The Group proposed to cancel Items 3.4, 3.5, 3.6 due to lack of human resources to work on these subtopics.

The document issued by President Hon. Bart Schultz on the 'Drainage and Irrigation Database' was presented and discussed at the meeting. The intention was to have a table on 'Drained area in the world' in the ICID Annual Report by updating the prevailing/ original data. For this purpose, the WG proposed to identify regional correspondents who will be charged to retrieve information. Data will be centralised and former ICID database will be updated. *MIC:* B. Vincent.

Item 4 : Workshops/ Special Sessions sponsored by the Working Group

4.1 11th International Drainage Workshop

The series of International Drainage Workshops (IDWs) organized by the Group are events of global significance. The Group would like to continue organizing the IDW on regular basis. The 10th IDW held at Helsinki/ Tallin in July 2008 was a great success.

At the 59th IEC meeting held at Lahore, the Egyptian National Committee (ENCID) offered to host the 11th International Drainage Workshop along with the 53rd IEC in 2012, if approved by the IEC at its New Delhi meeting. At the time of the 60th IEC meeting, the Russian National Committee (RUCID) has also proposed to organize 11th IDW in St Petersburg in September 2012 with the focus on 'Climate and Drainage'.

Both committees will be invited to forward formal proposals for consideration at the next meeting of the WG to be held in Indonesia. The final decision will be taken by the IEC upon recommendation of the WG-DRG. Since there was no Egyptian representative present at the meeting, the Chairman will contact ENCID to inform the WG's decision.

4.2 Annual Internal Workshop of the Group

Since the recent past, the Group has been organizing internal workshops on the sidelines of its annual meetings. In these workshops, members voluntarily make presentations on the topic of their countries' interests.

For this meeting, the Indian National Committee (INCID) in consultation with Dr. W.F. Vlotman, Chairman has scheduled a half-day (09.30-13.15 hours) Special Session on Drainage on 8 December 2009. The special session was chaired by Dr. Vlotman and coordinated by Dr. Gurbachan Singh (India).

All members attended massively to the special session and Chairman made a presentation. There were several papers related to bio-drainage which induced some debate. President Schultz reminded the group that the bio-drainage technique is not without danger. It was suggested to invite observations/ comments on the topic of bio-drainage from amongst the group members. Considering the experience of Iran in the domain of bio-saline agriculture it was observed that both techniques (bio-drainage and bio-saline agriculture) are similar. The Iranian National Committee (IRNCID) will be approached if a common action (question, workshop) can be undertaken on the theme bioprocesses in irrigation and drainage that might also open the door to other domains like mitigation techniques. *MIC:* B. Vincent

Item 5 : Publications sponsored / related to the working group

At Sacramento, Dr. Martinez-Beltran, FAO representative had informed that the FAO was in the process of bringing out a publication on "Evaluation of the performance of subsurface drainage systems". As Dr. Beltran or FAO representative was not available at the Lahore meeting, there was no report on its development.

Central Office had contacted Dr. Beltran to know the updates. In response, Dr. Beltran has informed that the publication would be ready by the end of September 2009. However, recently as Dr. Beltran/ FAO informed the Group of his retirement from FAO and return to Spain, the group proposed to cancel this item from its agenda.

Item 6 : Contribution to the website DRAINLINE

Chairman expressed that due to his new occupation/ engagement will not be able to allocate time in contributing to the website and proposed that in future, the website will be maintained and operated by the Central Office.

Item 7 : Preparation towards submission for the ICID's 'Best Performing Award'

In spite of Chairman's efforts to motivate the Group, no interest was shown and the item was therefore cancelled

Item 8 : Other business**8.1 9th International Drainage Symposium, 13-16 June 2010, Quebec City, Canada**

The 9th International Drainage Symposium will be held from 13-16 June 2010 in conjunction with the 17th World Congress of the International Commission of Agricultural Engineering (CIGR) at Quebec City, Canada. The symposium will be organized by the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers (ASABE).

Dr. Ali Madani, Chairperson of the Conference Organizing Committee has requested President Dr. Chandra Madramooto to disseminate the information among ICID fraternity. President vide his e-mail of 1 July 2009, sent the "call for papers" to Central Office for posting on ICID website as well as widely publicizing through News Update and Newsletter. Subsequently, Dr. Vlotman, Chairman circulated the "call for papers" among WG members. The "call for papers" and other details about the symposium are available at www.cigr2010.ca

The French National Committee (AFEID) had submitted 3 papers which were already accepted.

8.2 Research Briefings on "Salinity and waterlogging in the Indus Basin of Pakistan"

A write-up on "Salinity and waterlogging in the Indus basin of Pakistan: Economic loss to agricultural economy" authored by Zaman, S.B. and S. Ahmed and published in the 'Research Briefing' in volume (1), no. 4 of the Natural Resources Division, Pakistan Agricultural Research Council, Islamabad was received by the Central Office. Since the research note is of interest to WG activities, it was circulated among all members.

Since there were no observations/ comments on this activity, the group proposed to cancel this item from the agenda.

C. LIAISON AND LINKAGE WITH OTHER WORKBODIES**Item 9 : Liaison with workbodies**

The Group had nominated its member to act as a permanent correspondent for the ICID WGs as follows:

- WG-ENV (Theme: Basin) – Dr. Chandra Madramootoo
 - WG-SDTA (Theme: Basin) – Dr. Park Sang Hyun
 - WG-PQW (Theme: On-farm) – Dr. Evan Christen
 - WG-ON-FARM (Theme: On-farm) – Dr. James Ayars
 - ASRWG (Regional Working Group) – Dr. Shinsuke Ota
 - ERWG (Regional Working Groups) – Dr. (Mrs.) Irena Bondarik
-

Due to lack of feedback on this activity, the group proposed to discard this item from the agenda.

D. PRESENTATIONS/WORKSHOP/SUMMARY

Item 10 : Presentations from members/ member countries

As there would be a separate session on “Integrated Approach in Agricultural Drainage” of the 5th Asian Regional Conference, and also a ‘Special Session on Drainage’ organized by Indian National Committee (INCID), the Chairman suggested to defer this item for this meeting.

The Russian delegate Eng Yurii Yanko made a presentation on “Subsurface drainage status in Leningrad region” at the meeting.

Item 11 : General discussion and summary of the meeting

The Chairman concluded the meeting by recapitulating key decisions/ outcome.
