

**Minutes of the 2nd Meeting of the
WORKING GROUP ON ENVIRONMENT (WG-ENV)**

11 October 2017, 13.30-15.00 hours (Session I)

11 October 2017, 15.30-17.00 hours (Session II)

Mexico City, Mexico

Strategy Theme: Basin

Presented by the Chairman

Year of Establishment: 2015

Extended the completion of the Mandate: 2021

Mandate: (a) To provide guidance to policy makers, planners, designers, and managers in the irrigation and drainage sector on the following environmental aspects of irrigation and drainage systems: (i) physical, (ii) chemical, (iii) ecological, (iv) socio-economic, and (v) cultural; (b) To address concerns to the effects on local, regional and global common goods, such as climate, biodiversity and human health; (c) To work towards the management of a sustainable environment, through adapted practices, adequate policies and institutions, maximizing positive and minimizing adverse effects of irrigation and drainage systems.

Members Present: (1) VP Prof. (Ms) Charlotte de Fraiture, Chair (Netherlands); (2) Prof. N. Hatcho, Vice Chair (Japan); (3) Mr. V.C. Ballard (Australia); (4) Dr. (Ms) Seija Virtanen (Finland); (5) Ir. Mohd Azmi Ismail (Malaysia); (6) Dr. Yury Anatolyevich Mozhaiskii (Russia); (7) Dr. Vijay Labshetwar represented Secretary General Avinash Tyagi.

Observers: (1) Marina Eqtia (Georgia); (2) Givi Gavazelashvili (Georgia); (3) Shinji Fukuda (Japan); (4) Naoko Koshiyama (Japan); (5) Mr. Yuta Takeno (Japan); (6) Mohd. Adnan Ahmad Fanzi (Malaysia); (7) VP Irene Bondarik (Russia); (8) VPH Gerhard Backeberg (South Africa); (9) Michael van der Laan (South Africa); (10) Michael Mierzwa (USA).

Website: http://www.icid.org/wg_env_new.html

WG-ENV Minutes Item 1: Action taken report by Chair

1. Chair Prof. Charlotte de Fraiture welcomed the members and presented a report on the actions taken on the decisions and proposals made at its last meeting at Chiang Mai in November 2016 including organization of the on-line WebEx meeting for WG-ENV on 1st June 2017.

2. No new nominations were received from NCs since last meeting. Membership status is given in **Annex 7 (page 55)**. WG reviewed the existing membership and observed that members from China (YP), India, Iran, Iraq and Chinese Taipei have not been participating/ contributing to the working group for two or more years – WG suggested to discontinue their membership (*as per ICID By-laws 3.5*) and invite new nomination from these National Committees / Committee.

3. During the meeting, Vice Chair Prof. Hatcho (Japan) expressed his willingness to step down as Vice Chair. However, the group suggested that since only five members were present at the meeting, the selection of new Vice Chair and Secretary be postponed till next meeting in 2018 at Saskatoon, Canada. Prof. Hatcho, therefore, continues as Vice Chair and Dr. Seija Virtanen (Finland) acted as recording Secretary.

WG-ENV Minutes Item 2: Road Map to ICID Vision 2030 - Future activities of the group (2016-2019)

4. During the meeting, Chair presented the activities and strategy of the group to achieve the Goal A “Enable higher crop productivity with less water and energy” of the Road Map to ICID 2030 which are in line with WG-ENV mandate and the ICID goals.

5. Chair made a presentation on the positive consequences of ecosystem services of irrigation. She proposed that the benefits should be evaluated based on a larger basis than farmer’s scope only. Besides the negative impacts, irrigation also produces positive impacts, as ecosystems services, even in larger perspective, and their monetary value can be evaluated. For example, the flood protection of urban areas or the cooling effect caused by paddy fields in areas surrounding urban areas. A lively discussion arose out of the presentation and the positive impacts were endorsed by the members as well the observers.

6. Chair asked for comments from the members to the strategies as per **Annex** (page 102 of 68th IEC Agenda). After discussion, two amendments for the Strategy 6.2 were proposed. Firstly, to amend the sentence as follows “Improving performance of irrigation and drainage systems” and secondly, to take into account the ecosystem services of aquacultures.

WG-ENV Minutes Item 3: Report of online WebEx meeting of the group, 01 June 2017

7. Chair provided a brief report of the online WebEx meeting organized on 01 June 2017 and the group accepted the report with the supplements. Members noted the updates.

WG-ENV Minutes Item 4: Publications of the Working Group –LCA

8. The group noted that the final document titled “Assessing the environmental impacts and the sustainability of irrigation and drainage systems: the potential contribution of Life Cycle Analysis” had been prepared by Dr. Sylvain Perret (France). Since Dr. Perret was not available in the meeting, there was no discussion on the subject.

WG-ENV Minutes Item 5: Updating Multilingual Technical Dictionary (MTD)

9. Chair informed the group that during the first virtual online WebEx meeting, Prof. Hatcho had volunteered to take up the task of reviewing and updating the environment related terms of the Multilingual Technical Dictionary (MTD). During the meeting, Prof. Hatcho informed that he had searched the terms to be updated and shared the list of the terms with the members of the group for further comments. After discussion, the members were requested to go through the terms and provide their response to Prof Hatcho.

WG-ENV Minutes Item 6: Joint workshop with WG-CLIMATE at Mexico , October 2017

10. Chair informed the group that the joint workshop with WG-CLIMATE was not organized because the WG-CLIMATE had already arranged an internal workshop on the theme “Agricultural water management under the changing climate” during Mexico meeting. The WS was being held in parallel to the second part of the meeting of the WG-ENV and therefore the Chair proposed and all members and observers agreed to wind up the groups’ meeting early and join the WS as above for mutual benefits

WG-ENV Minutes Item 7: Dissemination - Sharing Documents on Website

11. The Chair informed the members about the establishment of the “Dropbox” and the members of the group were satisfied with that. It was suggested that the presentations made at Chiang Mai would be placed in the Dropbox and website.

WG-ENV Minutes Item 8: Any other business

12. The Chair proposed to develop an ICID technical paper on “Ecosystem Services from Irrigation Systems”. She further proposed to collect the best papers for the technical report by organizing a workshop during the 69th IEC in 2018 at Saskatoon, Canada. The proposal was seconded and there were many volunteers willing to make a presentations at the workshop related to “Climate smart irrigation and drainage”. Chair will discuss with the ICID Central Office and the Canadian Organizers for the possibility to organize such a workshop.

13. Prof. Hatcho shared the 1st Announcement of the International Conference on “Promoting sustainable paddy soil farming to achieve the SDG” during 20-22 November 2018 at Nara, Japan. To make use of the platform, it was proposed that a follow up workshop be organized related to paddy soils in Japan during above conference. Prof Hatcho will discuss with the organizers of this conference and evaluate whether it is possible to organize such a workshop during the conference.

14. Dr. Yury Anatolyevich Mozhaiskii from Russia made a presentation on “Internal soil humidity exchange and chemical quality of capillary and groundwater”.

15. Chair thanked all the members and the observers for sparing their valuable time for participating in the meeting as well as Dr. Mozhaiskii for his presentation. The meeting ended with thanks to the Chair.

