

**Minutes of the 1st Meeting of the
WORKING GROUP ON ENVIRONMENT (WG-ENV)**

10 November 2016, 09.00-10.30 hours (Session I)
10 November 2016, 11.00-12.30 hours (Session II)
Chiang Mai, Thailand

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) Dr. Sylvain Perret, Chairman (France); (2) Prof. N. Hatcho, Vice Chairman (Japan); (3) Dr. Choi, Joong-Dae (Korea, Rep. of); (4) Dr. Fuqiang Tian (China); (5) Vice President Prof. dr. (Ms.) Charlotte de Fraiture (Netherlands)

Observers: (i) Vice President Hon. Dr. Gerhard Backeberg (South Africa); (ii) Dr. Ismail Widadi (Indonesia); (iii) Ms. M.J. Gabriel (South Africa); (iv) Dr. Tsugihiko Watanabe (Japan); (v) Dr. Naoko Koshiyama (Japan); (vi) Mr. Bernard Vincent (France); (vii) Dr. Andor Szalai (Hungary); (viii) Dr. Natha Hungspreug (Thailand); (ix) Orranuch Kunthiyajai (Thailand); (x) Mr. Chu-Ming, Chang (Chinese Taipei); (xi) Mr. Chuang, Tsung-Lin (Chinese Taipei); (xii) Mr. Yean Yuan, Chen (Chinese Taipei); (xiii) Dr. Dominique Rollin (France); (xiv) Ir. Mohd Azmi Ismail (Malaysia); (xv) Prof. Yurii Mazhaiskii (Russia); (xvi) Dr. Kaluvai Yella Reddy (India).

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

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

1. At the onset, the Chair welcomed all the members and reminded them of the past happenings in WG-ENV i.e. extension of tenure from 2008-2014 to 2015, preparation of a scoping document with a new mandate and work plan, validation of new tenure 2016-2021. Consequently, this meeting was the 1st meeting with the new mandate and fresh tenure.

2. Chair informed the members on the different activities that were carried out in 2016: (i) An online WebEx meeting for WG-ENV was organized on 25 May 2016; (ii) Organization of a Side Event (SE) during WIF2 on "Environmental performances of paddy rice systems in the context of CC" (SE13); Active participation in Side Event on "Climate Change impact and adaptation in agriculture" (SE11); (iii) Preparation of a two-page brief write-up based on workshop in 2015 for ICID News; Preparation of a paper for I&D Journal on "Ecosystem services in irrigation systems" (to be submitted in early 2017); A training session for ICID YPs on "*The environmental impact analysis of irrigation systems: using LCA*", 10 November 2016 at Chiang Mai (Chair as trainer) etc.

3. Chair also mentioned remaining activities due in 2017: (i) Updating WG-ENV website (mandate, work plan) with support from ICID CO Dissemination of recent research papers, possibly through website; (ii) Contributing to ICID vision / action plan 2030 (refer agenda item 2); (iii) Circulation of final workplan / WG scoping document among members; and (iv) A declaration on soil & water salinization, jointly with WG-SDG (now WG-SDRG).

4. Chair finally insisted on key directions for the successful compilation of the new mandate:

- (a) Active participation of all is required
- (a) Invited members to get ownership of the work plan (which is to be taken as a flexible guideline), and contribution thereafter
- (b) The three main topics emerging from the new mandate are - 1) ecosystem services and the multi-functionality of I&D systems, 2) the environmental impacts of I&D systems, and 3) the social and economic impacts of I&D systems.

5. Chair informed that two key issues ought to be addressed during the 1st meeting are: 1) updates in membership and the election of a new bureau (Chair, Co-Chair and Secretary), and 2) WG-ENV contributions to ICID's Action Plan 2030.

WG-ENV Minutes Item 2: ICID Action Plan 2030 – Future activities of the group (2016-2019)

6. Members reviewed the activities of the WG listed in the Action Plan 2030. The six goals were briefly presented with some initial ideas for actions and deliverables by the Chairman. Chair gave examples of possible actions such as webinars, training sessions, workshops, documents, reviews, policy briefs or position papers.

7. Members were requested to help further populate the Action Plan 2030 with relevant innovative ideas, both in line with WG-ENV mandate and ICID goals. Chair would circulate the Action Plan 2030 to all members requesting to comment and to populate the same using some new ideas.

8. Dr. M. J. Monem from Iran commented that such initiative may also be linked to the on-going program such as 'IRPID' (International Research Program for Irrigation and Drainage). Chair informed that IRPID is a sort of follow-up to erstwhile IPTRID, mostly led by National Committees of Iran and China. It aspires to develop sub-regional I&D nodes and to coordinate and link them up with research and capacity building activities with the aim of bridging the gap between researchers and practitioners. Chair indicated that he participated in the first e-meeting of AC-IRPID on 30 September 2016 and is still exploring as to what is expected from WG-ENV at this stage. The group is seeking guidance and clarifications on the matter from IRPID.

9. Dr. Choi (Korea) opined that it is not an easy task to fill the Action Plan 2030 given wide perspective of Environment as considered by WG-ENV. . Dr. Choi requested the Chair to provide some key words and ideas guiding members to populate the table. Chair acknowledged and informed that he will populate and circulate the table with such keywords and examples.

10. Chair proposed that a WebEx meeting may be organized once this table is ready, to facilitate discussion and inputs from members. This should happen in early 2017 such that it fosters ICID's plans efficiently.

WG-ENV Minutes Item 3: Report on WebEx meeting of the group, 25 May 2016

11. A WebEx meeting was organized on 25 May 2016 with the following issues:

- (a) Proposed the idea of organizing a Side Event (SE) during WIF2. The SE on "The environmental performances of paddy rice systems in the context of climate change" co-organized by WG-ENV, WG-CLIMATE, and French National Committee (AFEID) taking stock of on-going activities (LCA document etc.)
- (b) Reminded members to contribute to the Multilingual Technical Dictionary (MTD) of ICID - environment-related terms requires updating, definitions, translations etc.
- (c) Proposed a YP training session on LCA at Chiang Mai
- (d) Informed WG-ENV members that the whole bureau needs to be replaced in 2016; a call for candidates for Chair, Co-Chair, Secretary positions was again made; elections may take place during the Chiang Mai meeting

12. The WebEx meeting went well wherein about 6 WG members and Secretary General Avinash Tyagi participated. WG-ENV will definitely continue to use the WebEx facility and hopefully more members will join the meeting.

WG-ENV Minutes Item 4: Report on Side Event on "Environmental performances of paddy rice systems in the context of climate change", 8 November 2016, Chiang Mai

13. Dr. Sylvain Perret, Chairman; Prof Hatcho, Co-chair and Dr. Choi actively participated and organized the following two Side events;

- (a) Environmental performances of paddy rice systems in the context of climate change (SE-13)
- (b) Climate change impact and adaptation in agriculture (SE-11)

WG-ENV Minutes Item 5: Environmental aspects of irrigation and drainage projects: Management of a sustainable environment (maximizing positive and minimizing adverse effects of irrigation and drainage systems)

14. Dr Bernard Vincent, Chair of WG-SDRG provided some clarifications on the proposed joint declaration on soil and water salinization. This initiative aims at reviving awareness on salinization issues especially in arid irrigated environments. Given the importance of the subject, the WG-ENV proposed to organize a joint workshop with WG-SDRG on 'Soil and water salinization' as a result of irrigation and drainage practices during Mexico Meetings in 2017.

15. Dr De Fraiture (Netherlands) supported the idea of joint workshop and further insisted to strengthen the linkages with WG-CLIMATE, given the new mandate of WG-ENV. She stressed that certain issues are common to both the WGs, such as sequestration and storage of carbon. The point was well taken and agreed by members and the chair would initiate actions to liaise with WG-CLIMATE.

WG-ENV Minutes Item 6: Publications of the working group - LCA

16. The Chair informed that the following WG publications are being prepared - (i) Preparation of a paper on "Ecosystem services in irrigation systems" to be submitted in early 2017 to ICID Journal on Irrigation and Drainage based on workshop proceedings (2015) on ecosystem services; and (ii) Finalization of the LCA methodology and case study document to be published as an e-publication in 2017.

17. Chair will post recent publications of interest on the WG website, including (i) Ullah, A., Perret, S.R., Gheewala, S.H. and Soni, P. (2016) 'Eco-efficiency of cotton-cropping systems in Pakistan: an integrated approach of life cycle assessment and data envelopment analysis'. *Journal of Cleaner Production*, 134(2016; Part B): 623-632; (ii) Payen, S., Basset-Mens, C., Núñez, M., Follain, S., Grünberger, O., Marlet, S., Perret, S.R. and Roux, P. (2016) 'Salinization impacts in life cycle assessment: a review of challenges and options towards their consistent integration', *International Journal of Life Cycle Assessment*, 21(4): 577-594. The Chair further requested members to upload relevant documents for sharing and dissemination.

WG-ENV Minutes Item 7: Dissemination of the activities of the group - Website of working group

18. The Chair informed that the WG-ENV website was lagging far behind expectations, partly due to the resignation of the WG Secretary Dr Van der Laan (South Africa) who was earlier instrumental to the website management.

19. For sharing the documents/reports among the WG members, Dr De Fraiture (the Netherlands) wanted to know if a WG Dropbox could be created and shared. The Chair agreed to set up such Dropbox and inform the members on the access procedure. Other members were invited to be more active in sharing and posting the documents/reports of common interest through such Dropbox. .

WG-ENV Minutes Item 8: Updating Multilingual Technical Dictionary (MTD)

20. The updation of MTD was first initiated in 2014. However, due to week attendance of members in the WG meetings, it has been difficult to identify a dedicated person for the task. The Chair will however continue his efforts in identifying a suitable person. The Chairman proposed to have specific WebEx meeting on the subject and clarify all the doubts in the functionalities and technicalities of the MTD facility in cooperation with Central Office. Such meeting could also help identify 1-2 persons to take up the task for WG-ENV.

WG-ENV Minutes Item 9: Review of membership of the working group

WG-ENV Minutes Item 9.1: Election of Chairperson and Secretary of the WG

21. The current entire bureau (Chair, Co-Chair and Secretary) have been in place since 2010. They all wish to step down in view of the new mandate until 2021. Chair indicated that it is the right time for renewal. As a matter of fact, Secretary Michael Van der Laan (South Africa) has already resigned in October 2016. Co-Chair Prof N Hatcho (Japan) indicated that he was also willing to step down. The Chair Dr S. Perret (France) long indicated (since 2014) his willingness to step down gradually, due to professional pressure.

22. Dr De Fraiture (Netherlands, also ICID Vice President) indicated her willingness to be the Chair on the condition that she receives strong participatory and active support from the WG members and that the WG goes onto practical, meaningful directions, with relevant topics being discussed and addressed. Members accepted and supported her candidacy and conditions.

23. Further, Chair invited Dr Choi (Korea) and Dr Tian (China) to be the Co-chair and Secretary. Both expressed their appreciation for the work done and agreed with the need for renewal of the bureau but were not willing to take charge due to their retirement and/or other commitments. In view of scarce attendance of members (only three WG-ENV members) apart from the Chair and Co-chair, the Chair proposed the following setup:

- Dr Charlotte De Fraiture to be the new Chair of WG-ENV
- Prof Hatcho remains Co-Chair for the time being
- Dr Perret becomes the Secretary

24. Prof Hatcho and Dr Perret would step down during Mexico Meetings in 2017. In the meantime, they will support the newly elected Chair in her new position.

WG-ENV Minutes Item 9.2: Regular membership of the WG

25. The meeting was attended by five members only viz. Dr. Perret (France), Prof Hatcho (Japan), Prof Choi (Korea), Dr. De Fraiture (Netherlands), Dr. Tian (China), besides 17 observers. Ms Seija Virtanen (Finland) and Mr. V. C. Ballard (Australia) sent their apologies and contributed to the activities of the WG by e-mails. Dr. Tedeschi (Italy) and Dr. Van der Laan (South Africa) have since resigned. ICID CO may request respective NCs for new nominations.

26. New nominations viz. Mr. Ahmed Kamil Hassani (Iraq) as Young Professional, Mr. Usamah Hashim Witwit in place of Mr. Ahmed Mohammed Aziz (Iraq), Dr. (Ms.) Bai Jing (China) as Young Professional, H.K. Meena (India) and Eng. (Ms.) P.M. Jayadeera (Sri Lanka) have been received and provisionally accepted for one year. However, Dr Yuri Mazhayskiy (Russia) was present and his membership was accepted. Dr Yuri Mazhayskiy then briefly introduce himself to the group. Membership status is given in **Annex 5 (page 33)**.

27. ICID CO may encourage the provisional members to actively participate in the WebEx meetings and promote attendance.

WG-ENV Minutes Item 10: Young professional training during WIF2, November 2016, Chiang Mai

28. Chair invited members and observers for a 3 hour-training session on “*The environmental impact analysis of irrigation systems: using Life Cycle Analysis*” on 11 November 2016 for better understanding of life cycle approach and methodology, with case illustrations. The training session was since attended by 28 young professionals from around the world.

The meeting closed with thanks to the Chair.

