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**Minutes of the 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of the  
WORKING GROUP ON HISTORY OF IRRIGATION, DRAINAGE AND FLOOD CONTROL (WG-HIST)  
13 October 2008 : 13:30-17:00 hours  
Lahore, Pakistan  
Strategy Theme : Knowledge**

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**Year of Establishment : 1998**

**Members present:** (1) Dr. Hubert Toussaint, Secretary (The Netherlands, 2005); (2) Mrs. Xuming Tan (China, 1997) represented by Dr. Ma Jianming; (3) Vice President Dr. Illahi B. Shaikh (Pakistan, 2000); (4) Dr. Laszlo Hayde (Hungary, 2001); (5) Dr. Ing. Klaus Roettcher (Germany, 2006); and (6) Prof. Wen-Pin Shu (Chinese Taipei, 2006) represented by Dr. Fang-Chung Lee

**Permanent Observer:** Dr. Ir. Maurits Ertsen (The Netherlands) represented by IWHA

**Observers:** (i) Alamgir Khan (Pakistan); (ii) Hazrat Mir (Pakistan); (iii) Ahmed Kamal (Pakistan); (iv) M. Akram (Pakistan); and (v) Abraham Mehari Haile (The Netherlands)

**Website:** <http://www.wg-hist.icidonline.org/>

**Note:** The eleventh meeting of the WG-HIST was held under the Chairmanship of Dr. Hubert Toussaint, Secretary, WG-HIST in the absence of the Chairperson Prof. Dr. N. Hachō (Japan)

**Item 1: Confirmation of minutes of the 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of WG-HIST held at Sacramento, USA on 30 September 2007**

As no comments on the minutes of the 10<sup>th</sup> meeting circulated amongst its members were received, the minutes were confirmed as it was in the 11<sup>th</sup> meeting held at Lahore, Pakistan.

**Item 2: Membership review of the Working Group**

The nomination of Dr. Ir. Maurits Ertsen (The Netherlands) as Permanent Observer of IWHA in the group was accepted, as he was present during the time of the meeting. The WG welcomed Dr. Ertsen.

The group observed the presence of its members and those members who were neither present nor contributed for the last two consecutive years (2006 and 2007). In the later category, the following names appear:

- Mrs. F. Sinati (Italy)
- Dr. Naser Shayan (Iran)
- Prof. Zorko Kos (Croatia)
- Mr. Aliyu Jada (Nigeria)
- Mr. Satit Maneepai (Thailand)
- Dr. Alexis Vogel (Austria)
- Mr. Jean Verdier (France)

As Mr. Ram Chandra Jha (India) was absent during the time

of the meeting, his nomination was deferred until the next meeting of the group.

In the meeting, it was decided that follow up actions will be initiated with the National Committees (NCs) of Italy, Iran, Croatia, Nigeria, Thailand, Austria, France and India about their membership in the WG-HIST.

**Item 3: Tenure of the Working Group**

The WG-HIST in its 10<sup>th</sup> meeting decided to change and enlarge its set of objectives and sum up its work plan. The item had been deliberated in detail in the meeting (please refer Agenda Item 9 and Item 10 for details).

**Item 4: Report by the Chairman on progress made by the National Working Groups (NWG) on their assignments**

In the 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of the WG-HIST, it was noted that no response was received from the NCs of Sri Lanka and USA regarding preparation of History Chapters. During the 10<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Chairman indicated that he had contacted both the NCs but without any results and decided that Mr. Charles L. Abernethy and the Chairman would take up the matter again with the NCs.

The views of Mr. Abernethy were communicated. Subsequently Prof. Hachō informed him to include the newly compiled History of Sri Lanka as a part of the publication of Eastern Asian History of Irrigation, if the NC of Sri Lanka is ready to do so. Regarding USA, the Chairman opined that he will wait until identifying a right person to coordinate the task.

The group agreed to the views of the Chairman.

**Item 5: Progress on publishing History of Irrigation in Eastern Asia**

In the 10<sup>th</sup> meeting a decision was taken to send the draft synthesis on History of Irrigation in Eastern Asia to Dutch National Committee (NETHCID) with a request to review and offer their comments. Chairman also asked the Chinese National Committee (CNCID) to see the possibility of inserting a new version of the History of Irrigation in China.

In response, CNCID had responded that they don't have any new version.

While reviewing the present status, the Chairman Prof. Hatcho indicated that the draft synthesis requires further brushing up and refinement. The paper contributed to the History Seminar by him was a refinement. The Chairman agreed to continue with his work on the synthesis and mentioned that several other countries, including Myanmar and Sri Lanka can be included in the Eastern Asian publication, renaming it as a "Monsoon Asia History".

In the meeting NETHCID agreed to formulate their contribution within a short period.

**Item 6: Progress on publishing History of Irrigation, Drainage and Flood Control in Southern Europe and the Mediterranean**

The draft version received from Prof. Dr. Ricardo Segura, Vice President Hon., ICID was circulated to the members of the WG-HIST for comments. The NCs of France, Italy and Portugal are particularly requested to provide their views and participate in the joint History of Irrigation, Drainage and Flood Control in Southern Europe and the Mediterranean.

In this regard, the Chairman, WG-HIST communicated that Dr. Segura contacted and informed him that the version is in the final stage of completion.

**Item 7: Cooperation with International Water Organizations (IWHA & UNU)**

During the 10<sup>th</sup> meeting, Dr. Klaus Roettcher, Member, WG-HIST presented a research project on sustainable water management in arid and semi-arid regions, using traditional processes and construction methods and explored the possibilities of developing appropriate methods which could be deployed in modern water management systems in collaboration with WG-HIST and German Water Historic Association (DWhG).

Based on the request received from Dr. Roettcher, ICID Secretary General has extended ICID's support to this venture.

In the 11<sup>th</sup> meeting Dr. Roettcher informed the group that the phase 1 of the Project is that of writing a compendium with a focus on Mediterranean area and the Middle East and requested all the members' for their comments.

In the 11<sup>th</sup> meeting, the following points were emphasized:

- Writing of a compendium has to be initiated and approved.
- Dr Roettcher informed that
  - A study tour to Iran was organized in May 2008 by him together with Dr. Hayde
  - Iranian students are invited for a study tour in Germany in 2009
  - In collaboration with the German Water Historic Association(DWhG) a short water course of a week duration was offered to the students from the Middle East and
  - Decided to repeat the course in 2010/ 2011 too.
- Dr. Hayde informed the WG that
  - The Institute of Hydraulic Engineering at Delft has developed a short course on the world history of water management in cooperation with IWHA and support of UNESCO and
  - A second course will also be developed in collaboration with the (DWhG).

**Item 8: Website of WG-HIST**

Members were requested to provide data/views for updating the website. In the meeting it was suggested to ask NC's support in loading fresh information related to WG-HIST activities/ mandated tasks on their NC's website and link with the WG-HIST website.

It was decided to take up the matter with NC's and request them to give attention.

**Item 9: Time-targeted plan for WG's activities**

- (1) Seminar - during the 59<sup>th</sup> IEC meeting and 20<sup>th</sup> ICID Congress in Lahore, Pakistan in 2008.

It was indicated in the 11<sup>th</sup> meeting that the seminar would focus on the identified theme and topics.

- (2) The Chairman WG-HIST in its 10<sup>th</sup> meeting proposed to organize a History Workshop in coordination with the IWHA during the occasion of the 5<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum in 2009 in Turkey.

In the 11<sup>th</sup> meeting, Dr. Ir. Maurits Ertsen was asked to give information about the progress made by the IWHA on this workshop. He agreed to provide the status.

- (3) Dr. Hafied A. Gany proposed to organize a History Seminar based on the volumes on History of Irrigation in Eastern Asia, focusing especially on the use of modern water technology in 2010 during the occasion of the 61<sup>st</sup> IEC meeting in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. The group agreed to the proposal. This will be discussed in detail in the next meeting.

HIST and Dr. Abernethy, Member, WG-HIST. The focus on management and governance issue of irrigation and drainage system in a historical perspective will be aimed at enlarging WG's mandate. The WG-HIST decided to come up with the core work plan covering items such as publication on projects, organization of seminars/ workshops/courses and other relevant activities in the coming years.

**Item 10: Any other business**

- (i) Nomination/election of a new Chairman

In the 10<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Chairman WG-HIST Prof. Dr. N. Hatcho informed that a candidate as his successor might be nominated at the 59<sup>th</sup> IEC and 20<sup>th</sup> Congress at Lahore, Pakistan.

As Prof. Hatcho Chairman, WG-HIST was not able to present in the WG-meeting, the Chairman communicated that he would function as a "person-in-charge", if no agreement in the meeting is arrived upon. The meeting agreed to the view of the Chairman and decided that the nomination and election of a new Chairman be postponed until the 12<sup>th</sup> meeting scheduled during the 60<sup>th</sup> IEC meeting of ICID.

- (ii) Finalization of a new name and mandate for the successor Group.

WG-HIST had decided in its 10<sup>th</sup> meeting to change and enlarge its set of objectives and sum up its work plan. The name for the new Working Group was proposed to be Working Group on "History of Agriculture Water Management".

While deliberating the matter, the group supported the views received from Prof. Hatcho, Chairman, WG-

- (iii) History Seminar during the 62<sup>nd</sup> IEC and 21<sup>st</sup> Congress at Tehran (2011)

At the 58<sup>th</sup> IEC meeting held at Sacramento in USA in September 2007, the Council accepted the offer of the Iranian National Committee (IRNCID) to hold the 21<sup>st</sup> Congress on Irrigation and Drainage in 2011 at Tehran, Iran. Customarily, the Working Group on History used to organize a History Seminar during ICID Congresses.

The WG deliberated on this issue. As the Iranian member was absent in the 11<sup>th</sup> meeting, it was decided to take up the matter with the NC in order to firm up the possible theme/sub-topics.

- (iv) The IWHA representative informed the plan for launching a Journal of Water History during the summer months of 2009. The members were invited to prepare and submit papers for the new journal.

- (v) Dr. Hayde indicated that the Delft University will organize a water history conference during the period from 16-19 June 2010. Members were invited to attend the event.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the Chair.