

Minutes of the Twelfth Meeting of the  
**WORKING GROUP ON HISTORY OF IRRIGATION, DRAINAGE AND FLOOD CONTROL (WG-HIST)**  
 New Delhi, India  
 06 December 2009: 09.30-13.15 hours

**Year of Establishment: 1998**

**Completion of the Mandate: 2014**

**Mandate:** To motivate ICID National Committees in various countries to set up their National Working Groups and provide them guidance to compile, publish, update and/or translate documents on history of irrigation, drainage, flood control, and river engineering, incorporating relevant agricultural, political, socio-economic, climatological and geographical aspects for proper understanding of the technological developments in the subject, if possible chronologically. Furthermore, to organise seminars at ICID Congresses in order to show to experts the importance of historical studies when planning new projects.

**Members Present:** (1) Prof. Dr. N. Hatcho, Chairman, 2002 (Japan, 1998); (2) Dr. Hubert Toussaint, Secretary (The Netherlands, 2005); (3) Vice President Hon. Ricardo S. Graino (Spain, 1998); (4) Mrs. Xuming Tan (China, 1998); (5) Dr. Laszlo Hayde (Hungary, 2001); (6) Mr. B.D. Pateria (India, 2003) represented by Mr. Yogesh Paithankar; (7) Vice President Dr. A. Hafied A. Gany (Indonesia, 2005); (8) Dr. Ing. Klaus Röttcher (Germany, 2006); and (9) Prof. Wen-Pin Shu (Chinese Taipei) represented by Mr. Gwo-Hsing Yu.

**Observers:** (1) Dr. Kamran Emami (Iran); (2) Prof. Ray-Shyan Wu (Chinese Taipei); (3) Mr. J.B. Mohapatra (India); (4) Mr. Suresh C. Chaurey (India); (5) Mr. Hemantra Kumar Patra (India); (6) Dr. Deepak Kumar Das (India); (7) Mr. Suresh Ch. Dala (India); (8) Mr. V.B. Nath (India); (9) Mr. B.S. Rawat (India); (10) Mr. A. Assadollahi (Iran); (11) Mr. Ashis Banerjee (India); (12) Mr. Syed Mansoob Ali Zaidi (Pakistan); (13) Mr. Mehrzad Ehsani (Iran); (14) Mrs. Zhaleh Vaziri (Iran); (15) Mr. Kai Wegerich (The Netherlands); (16) Mr. Gholamreza Khajeh Sahouti (Iran); (17) Mr. T.M. Dholakia (India); (18) Mr. M.S. Zaman (India); (19) Mr. N.B. Patel (India); (20) Mr. G.V. Surendra (India); (21) Mr. H.V. Shivakumar (India); (22) Mr. D. Kalpana (India); (23) Dr. Radha Y (India); (24) Dr. Ch. Sreenivas (India); (25) H. Rahman (India); (26) B.N. Bilgundi (India); (27) Dr. S. Vishnu Vardhan (India); (28) Dr. G. Kishore Babu (India); (29) Dr. K.Y. Reddy (India); (30) Dr. T.V. Satyanarayana (India); (31) Mr. Mohammad Kiafar (Iran); (32) B.S. Patil (India); (33) Dr. C. Venkata Reddy (India); and (34) S.D. Kabbur (India).

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

**Item 1 : Confirmation of minutes of the 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of WG-HIST**

As no comments on the minutes of the 11<sup>th</sup> meeting were received, the minutes of the 11<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 13 October 2008 at Lahore, Pakistan were confirmed.

**Item 2 : Review of membership of the Working Group**

Mr. Charles L. Abernethy (UK) vide his e-mail of 1 December 2009 has informed the Central Office that he will not be able to attend the WG-HIST meeting scheduled on 6 December 2009 at New Delhi.

Members who were neither present at the meetings nor contributed through correspondence for the last two consecutive years were:

- 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)
- Mr. B.D. Pateria (India)

The Central Office (CO) requested fresh nominations from the concerned National Committees.

In response, Iranian National Committee (IRNCID) nominated Dr. Kamran Emami (Iran) in place of Dr. Naser Shayan and the Indian National Committee (INCID) nominated Mr. Yogesh Paithankar (India) in place of Mr. B.D. Pateria. Both nominations were accepted.

The Pakistan National Committee (PANCID) nominated Mr. Zarar Aslam in place of Dr. I.B. Shaikh for the membership of the WG. As Mr. Aslam was not present at the meeting, his nomination was deferred till the next meeting of the WG in 2010.

It was decided to continue the membership of Mrs Sinati (Italy), Mr. Maneepai (Thailand) and Mr. Verdier (France), in view of their involvement in the current WG-activities related to these countries.

It was also decided to make one final request to NCs of Croatia, Nigeria and Austria for fresh nominations or else the membership of Croatia, Austria and Nigeria in the WG-HIST may be terminated.

## 2.1 Election of Chairman

Dr. Kamran Emami (Iran) was nominated as the new Chairman of WG-HIST. His nomination was accepted.

The WG members profusely thanked Prof. Dr. N. Hacho (Japan) for Chairing the WG since 2002 and his active contributions in the activities of the WG including history seminars. Prof. Hacho was instrumental in bagging the first *Best Performing Workbody Award* (BPWA) for WG-HIST in 2005.

## A. CONTINUING ITEMS

### Item 3 : Report by the Chairman on progress made by the National Working Groups (NWG) on their assignments

History chapters from member countries are being prepared. Mr. Charles L. Abernethy (UK) communicated that Ms. Bhadra Kamaladasa of Sri Lanka Irrigation Department has recently compiled a book on History of Sri Lanka. Prof. Hacho is in contact with Sri Lanka to get an electronic version of the chapter to include the History of Sri Lanka as a part of publication on Eastern Asian History of Irrigation. Response is still awaited.

Regarding USA, a right person to contribute is yet to be identified. Currently, a comparative history of the US Army Corps of Engineers and the Dutch Rijkswaterstaat is being written, which will be completed at the end of 2010. This book will be presented to the WG-HIST.

At the New Delhi meeting, a *History of Irrigation Development in Orissa, India* was presented by INCID. Other books on regional Indian irrigation history could be made available by INCID representative.

### Item 4 : Progress on publishing History of Irrigation in Eastern Asia

The Chairman apprised the members on the progress on the *Eastern Asian* publication, renaming it as a "*Monsoon Asia History*". He informed that the Dutch comment was e-mailed in November 2009 which focused on the variation in the size of the national contributions to the *Monsoon Asia History*. The Chairman will make a more concise version and a synthesis. The Chinese NC was requested to send an updated electronic version on the *Chinese History of Irrigation* book published in 2005.

### Item 5 : Progress on publishing History of Irrigation, Drainage and Flood Control in Southern Europe and the Mediterranean

At the New Delhi meeting, Prof. Segura presented a print of a bilingual updated draft version on '*Reflections on the History of Irrigation and Drainage in Spain*'. He will integrate the text about Portugal.

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**Item 6 : Cooperation with International Water Organizations**

Information provided by Dr. Klaus Röttcher (Germany) on the phase-I of the Project and that of writing a compendium with a focus on Mediterranean area and the Middle East, was noted. Information on short courses on the world history of water management, provided by Dr. Hayde, was also noted.

WG- members were encouraged to submit papers for the new Journal 'Water History' and also possibly participate in the International Conference on Water History during 16-19 June 2010. The IWHA representative Dr. Maurits Ertsen (e-mail: m.w.ertsen@tudelft.nl; m.ertsen@citg.tudelft.nl) may be contacted for more information.

**Item 7 : Website of WG-HIST**

The Chairman apprised the members on current status. WG members were encouraged to facilitate the access of information related to WG-HIST activities, which are to be provided with links on the NC websites.

**Item 8 : Work plan**

Dr. Hafied A. Gany (Indonesia) proposed to organize a History Seminar of the WG on 'History of Irrigation in Eastern Asia', focusing especially on the use of modern water technology in 2010 during the 61<sup>st</sup> IEC meetings in Yogyakarta, Indonesia.

Dr. Gany informed that the seminar will focus on historical evolution of an irrigation system and associated governance mechanisms, as well as adaptation measures (innovative mechanism or technology) to cope with rapidly changing economic, social and environmental conditions surrounding irrigated rice farming, in particular under small land holding, high sediment transportation, and high water fluctuation (drought and flood). Specifically the seminar will cover the following aspects:

- technology (efficient water use, water productivity increase, water savings) and infra structural development
- management of organization (water users' association, leadership, organizational setup)
- institutional and legal frameworks (rules, enforcement of rules, fee collection, federation of association, laws and regulations)
- governance system (water governance structure, conflict resolution)
- hydraulic structures and management of irrigation system
- sustainable development
- comparative perspectives

The WG-HIST decided to prepare an outline for a one-day seminar, with a maximum of 15 presentations. A documentary presentation will also be included. The organization of a half-day tour, relating to the irrigation history of Indonesia, will be taken into consideration.

The technical organization committee will be composed of Prof. Hatcho, Dr. Gany, Dr. Emami and Dr. Roettcher/ Prof. Fahlbusch. Contact Dr. Hafied A. Gany (Indonesia) at e-mail: gany@hafied.org for more information

During the 62<sup>nd</sup> IEC Meeting and the 21<sup>st</sup> ICID Congress on Irrigation and Drainage during 16-23 October at Tehran, Iran, a History Seminar will be organized. The theme will be '*Possibilities of Using Traditional Methods in Modern Water Management Systems*'. Dr. Emami distributed the 2<sup>nd</sup> announcement of the Tehran congress. Members were encouraged to submit papers for the History Seminar. Contact: Dr. Kamran Emami (Iran), E-mail: emami@kuritkara.com; kkemami@gmail.com.

**B. NEW ITEMS****Item 9 : New name and mandate of the Working Group**

WG-HIST had decided in its 10<sup>th</sup> meeting (2007) held at Sacramento to change and enlarge its set of objectives and sum up its activities. The name of the new Working Group was proposed to be '*Working Group on History of Agricultural Water Management*' (with the same acronym as WG-HIST).

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However, at the Delhi-meeting the WG decided to maintain the original name of the WG. As far enlarging WG's mandate was concerned, the focus will be on governance, institutions and management issues of irrigation and drainage systems, sustainable development and integrated water management in rural areas.

**Item 10 : Any other business**

- **Indian Water Culture**

An excellent book in English has recently been published under the title of "Indian Water Culture". Members noted the information.

- **The Untiring Indian**

ICID fraternity is well aware of the first Secretary General SG Hon. N.D. Gulhati who served our institution for 7 years (1950-57), Late Gulhati's son, Prof. Dr. Shashi Gulhati who also is the liaison contact for ICID with Gulhati family for obtaining the 'N.D. Gulhati Memorial Lecture' funds, has brought out a historic work "The Untiring Indian". Members noted the information.

- **ICID European Regional Conference, 16-20 May 2011 at Groningen, the Netherlands**

NETHCID elaborated a draft proposal for the 25<sup>th</sup> Regional Conference in 2011 on *Integrated Water Management for Multiple Land Use in Flat Coastal Areas*. The reason for this proposal was that man-induced changes in land use, land subsidence and climate change have created a sense of urgency to coastal managers around the world.

The conference will explore four topics:

- Multiple land use
- Fresh water management and salt intrusion -Flood risk management
- Institutional arrangements and history.

Regarding historical aspects, the focus will be on historical perspectives of developments in flat coastal areas.

In December 2009, a first announcement was presented and published on the ICID-website. It was also distributed at the Delhi WG-meeting. All WG-HIST members were invited to participate and submit papers.

- **Presentation on 'Legendary Qanats'**

Dr. Emami (Iran) made a presentation on historic qanats, which was much appreciated.

- **Discussion on Sustainability through History**

Dr. Emami (Iran) will start a virtual discussion on sustainability through history.

The Chairman thanked the members for the cooperation and support during his term as Chairman of WG-HIST and welcomed Dr. Emami (Iran) as the new Chairman.

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