

**Minutes of the 3rd Meeting of
WORKING GROUP ON INSTITUTIONAL ASPECTS OF IRRIGATION/ DRAINAGE
SYSTEM MANAGEMENT (WG-IOA)**

12 October 2017, 13.30-15.00 hours (Session I)
12 October 2017, 15.30-17.00 hours (Session II)
Mexico City, Mexico

Strategy Theme: Schemes

Presented by the Chair

Year of Establishment: 2015

Completion of the Mandate: 2021

Scope: The WG will investigate, analyse and disseminate information and knowledge on following issues: (1) Legal Framework and Organizational Structures of Water User Association for Water Supply Services including- (a) institutional and organisational requirements for sustainable operation and maintenance of irrigation/drainage systems, (b) improvement of organisational arrangements for management, operation and maintenance of irrigation/drainage systems, (c) financing of operation and maintenance of irrigation/drainage schemes, (d) approaches and requirements for water regulatory authorities, land property questions, water rights, and (e) roles, responsibilities and requirements for sustainable Water Users Associations (WUA); (2) Participatory Irrigation Management and Irrigation Management Transfer covering (a) approaches and conditions for successful Participatory Irrigation/Drainage Management (PIDM), and (b) approaches and conditions for successful irrigation/drainage management transfers (IDMT), including legislation and institutional requirements for transfer of responsibilities and/or ownership of irrigation and drainage systems to water users associations; and (3) Public Private Partnership, and Mechanism for Cost Recovery covering (a) possibilities of and requirements for successful Public Private Partnerships (PPP) in irrigation/drainage, and (b) methods and mechanisms for charging of irrigation/drainage services and determination of level of cost recovery.

Members Present: (1) VPH Dr. Hafied A. Gany, Chairman (Indonesia); (2) Dr. Kazumi Yamaoka, Vice Chairman (Japan); (3) VP Madhav Belbase, Secretary (Nepal); (4) VP Ding Kunlun (China); (5) Mr. Hasan Basri Yuksel (Turkey); (6) Dr. Yu-Chuan Chang (Chinese Taipei); (7) Er. Harish K. Varma represented Secretary General Avinash Tyagi.

Observers: (i) Wang Haili (China); (ii) Narges Zohrabi (Iran); (iii) Dr. Sanjay Belsare (India); (iv) Yoji Imayoshi (Japan); (v) Hidefumi Murashita (Japan); (vi) Mamoru Watanabe (Japan); (vii) VPH Shinsuke Ota (Japan); (viii) Omer Faruk Akbulut (Turkey); (ix) S. Aydin Aytay (Turkey); (x) Pang Chung, Liu (Chinese Taipei).

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

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

1. Chair VPH Dr. Hafied Gany welcomed the members and provided a brief update on the actions taken on the decisions and proposals of the working group at its last meeting held at Chiang Mai in November 2016. Chair also provided a brief information about the organization of the International Symposium viz. summary of papers, submission of country papers and the proceeding of the Symposium in electronic format (see item 6 for more information).

2. The group reviewed the nomination of Dr. Qazi Tallat Mahmood Siddiqui proposed by Pakistan National Committee (PANCID) for the membership of the group and was provisionally accepted since he was not present during the Mexico meeting. Membership status is given in **Annex 7 (page 55)**.

WG-IOA Minutes Item 2: Road Map to ICID Vision 2030 - Activities on institutional and organizational aspects of irrigation

3. The WG discussed and reviewed the Action Plan for WG-IOA (**Annex 2 of Agenda – page 198 of 68th IEC**) and broadly agreed with it. However, members agreed for continued consultation among themselves to develop activities and milestones for strategy A8 and discuss further steps to be taken to achieve the intended outcomes as per action plan. Members also agreed to consult with other working groups so as to avoid duplication of the activities and getting their support to achieve intended outcome/outputs of the WG. According to the scheduled activities, the WG organized an International Symposium in the year 2017 and proposed to bring proceeding of the Symposium as electronic version (*activity C 1.7 “Organize workshop, seminar and symposium”*).

WG-IOA Minutes Item 3: Presentation by the working group members

4. At the Mexico meeting, the Chair discussed and encouraged members to make presentation in the upcoming meeting of WG-IOA, or else they may send information through the Dropbox for sharing with others.

WG-IOA Minutes Item 4: Dissemination of activities of WG

5. The Chair encouraged members to post and disseminate their activities through Dropbox or website in consultation with the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary.

WG-IOA Minutes Item 4.1: Website of the group

6. WG chair requested members for their active participation in the activities of the WG and facilitate exchange of information, knowledge and experience, as well as networking on the topic in order to be up to date with new developments, methods and approaches. Chair also encouraged members to provide interesting articles/ papers/ presentations/ documents related to the mandate of the WG from their respective countries and National Committees for uploading it on the ICID website http://www.icid.org/wg_ioa.html.

WG-IOA Minutes Item 4.2: Webinar/ Web based seminar

7. The group discussed about organization of webinar to share vast expertise available with ICID fraternity among members of the NCs with the support of WG experts. Chair encouraged members to participate in the Webinar/ Web based seminar and also requested them to suggest topics along with name of experts to ICID CO and him who can be consulted to deliver webinar.

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

8. The Chair informed the members that during the Chiang Mai meeting, the group nominated Dr Yu-Chuang Chang (Chinese Taipei) as a nodal person on behalf of WG to undertake the task of updation of MTD. Dr. Yu-Chuang Chang represented the WG-IOA in the meeting of TF-MTD at Mexico and informed that updation of MTD will be gradually conducted and evaluated in accordance with the terms used in each working group. WG Chair requested members to undertake updation of MTD terms related to mandate of the WG.

WG-IOA Minutes Item 6: Report on International Symposium on “Global review of institutional reform in irrigation sector for sustainable agriculture water management, including WUA”, 8 October 2017

9. Chair provided a brief updates about successful organization of the International Symposium on “Global review of institutional reform in irrigation sector for sustainable agriculture water management, including WUA” at Mexico attended by about 150 participants. During symposium in addition to presentation of 9 country papers by the NCs, two key note addresses were also delivered by experts from the World Bank viz. (1) Mr. Remi Tiers on the topic “Assessing and supporting irrigation service improvement, past and future”; and (2) Mr. Steven Hotsgon on the topic “Legal framework for sustainable and effective water users organization”. Based on the presentations, the general conclusion are as follows:

- (i) Each country has a variety of institutional arrangement for irrigation development and management and hence no generalization of the institutional arrangements can be made;
- (ii) It is necessary to adopt a sound legal framework to consolidate management transfer to water users;
- (iii) Providing food supply for 9 billion inhabitants globally in the future will be a biggest challenge so there is need to take action to increase the productivity of water use for irrigation;
- (iv) It is necessary to consider physical limit, and hence to seek new participation schemes for public, private partnership (PPP).

10. Group discussions on three topics (i) Legal Framework and organizational structure including WUA for Water Supply Services, (ii) Participatory Irrigation Management and Management Transfer - Approaches and condition for successful PIDM, and (iii) Public–Private–Partnership (PPPs) in Irrigation and drainage operation and maintenance toward sustainable Irrigated agricultural water management were also organised as part of the symposium. Conclusions and recommendation emerging from three group discussions are as follows:

11. **Group 1 on Legal Frameworks:** (i) The roles, duties and responsibilities of the parties that are involved in IOA of Irrigation and drainage should be clarified to avoid complication in coordination; (ii) Participation of small farming in terms of capacity to make a living from their farming condition should be unified to avoid complication on the working condition; (iii) Payment for O&M Costs should only be focussed on operation and maintenance costs,

and not for others; (iv) All of the environment costs related to O&M should be recovered for environmentally friendly application; and (v) All the legal aspects of I&D for O&M need clarification in terms roles and responsibilities.

12. **Group-2 on Participatory Irrigation Management (PIM):** (i) The decision making aspects related with Participatory Irrigation Management should cover the planning, design and Operation and Maintenance aspects; (ii) The process of PIM should be conducted in line with the overall process of irrigation development participation of WUA, without isolating one process with other process (such as development); (iii) The required time for WUA participation should not be limited to a short time period before the WUA could conduct their participation independently (The Japanese case is 5 years on the average); (iv) The implementation of PIM should not be influenced by political problems (many cases of PIM in the past were not successful because of political involvement in construction process); and (v) Problems of small land ownership must be specially considered for PIM in line with the capacity of the farmer to make a living and hence participation.

13. **Group-3 on Public Private Partnership – PPP:** (i) The definitions of PPP are very complex and varies from one institution to another – so these definitions must be clarified with clear examples to avoid differentiations; (ii) Promotion of high value crop varieties among farmers is necessary and should be done with care and clear example of the prospective and additional income by the farmer so that they can pay for water service fee; (iii) Implementation of PPP needs to be demonstrated with concrete examples to convince and attract the younger generation in farming activities so as to replace the older and aging farmers (this is particularly related with expertise to conduct continuous training and education for practical farming practices); (iv) There is need to clearly demarcate risks, role and responsibilities of private and public sectors for implementation of PPP to gain profitable incentive for the participation of the private sector– for example clear and concrete example of government and private sectors in PPP; including the more clarity on tax regulations and performance indicators for the private sector involvement in PPP.

14. The proceedings of the Symposium including combined summary of country papers/ case studies as well as full papers will be published in soft version and perhaps in the ICID Journal.

WG-IOA Minutes Item 7: Any other business

15. WG Chair Dr. Hafied Gany informally discussed the organization of International Workshop on the theme “Institutional and Organizational Setup of Irrigation and Drainage Management System based on the Size of Land Holding, Level of Agricultural Income and Technology Practices toward Sustainable Agriculture Water Management” during 69th International Executive Council (IEC) in August 2018 in Saskatchewan, Canada who agreed to the proposal. WG Chair will submit the proposal for organization of an international workshop to ICID Central Office for consideration by the Organizing Committee of 69th IEC.

16. The Chairman presented the overall information about the activities and conclusion of the WG-IOA symposium. The meeting ended with vote of thanks.



