

**MINUTES OF THE 3RD MEETING OF THE
ICID YOUNG PROFESSIONAL'S e-FORUM (IYPeF)**

14 August 2018, 9:00-10:30 hours (Session-I)
14 August 2018, 11:00-12:30 hours (Session-II)
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada

Year of Establishment: 2015

Mandate: (a) Encourage and promote a high standard of professional development amongst the young professionals in the field of irrigation, drainage, and flood management; (b) Provide an international platform for young irrigation and drainage professionals; (c) Expose young professional to ICID's purpose, objectives, role and activities; (d) Facilitate the wider dissemination of knowledge and information amongst the young professionals; and (e) Maintain and enhance links with national and international youth having interests in water related subjects or the activities, relevant to ICID objectives.

Members Present: (1) Mrs. Kathleen Murray, Coordinator (Australia); (2) Ms. Eman Ragab Nofal (Egypt); (3) Ms. Adey N. Mersha (Ethiopia); (4) Mr. Amali Abraham Amali (Nigeria); (5) Ms. Sahar Norouzi (Iran); and (6) Mr. Hasan Farahani (Iran).

Observers: (1) President Felix Reinders (South Africa); (2) Dr. Sahdev Singh, Dir-KM, ICID Central Office (India); (3) Keigo Noda (Japan); (4) Michael Vaan Der Laan (South Africa); (5) Ms. Alysaa Deuna (Philippines); (6) Mortaza Yazdkhasti (Iran); (7) Tuta Takeno (Japan); (8) Mortaza Yazdekhasti (Iran); (9) Abdullahi Hassan (Somalia); (10) Mukhlis Bin Abidin (Malaysia); (11) Eunmi Hong (Korea); (12) Olle Maggblom (Finland); (13) Heidi Salo (Finland); (14) Wonho Nam (Korea); (15) Sanghee Park (Korea); (16) VP Irene Bondarik (Russia).

LinkedIn Group: <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/6990321>

IYPeF Minutes Item 1: Action taken report by Coordinator

1. After the second IYPeF meeting held in Mexico in October 2017, the IYPeF Coordinators organized three virtual meetings in 2017-18. In the meetings, the coordinators finalised the e-Discussion and webinar topics and simultaneously assigned the role of lead coordinator for each e-Discussion topic. The activities undertaken by the group during the year were discussed and highlighted.

2. Based on the online election of IYPeF Joint Coordinators, the following two IYPeF members were elected as new Joint Coordinators for the year 2018-19: (i) Ms. Sahar Norouzi (Iran); and (ii) Mr. Amali Abraham Amali (Nigeria). Membership status is given in **Annex 3 (page 51)**.

3. The group acknowledged and thanked the outgoing Co-ordinators, namely Rafat Nael Al-Intaki (Iraq) and Dr. Mika Turunen (Finland) for their valuable contributions which were much appreciated.

Accordingly, the updated IYPeF Coordinators are:

- (a) Mrs. Kathleen Murray (Australia), Coordinator (2016)
- (b) Ms. Adey N. Mersha (Ethiopia), Joint Co-ordinator (2016)
- (c) Ms. Eman Ragab (Egypt), Joint Co-ordinator (2017)
- (d) Mr. M. Shoaib Saboory (Afghanistan), Joint Co-ordinator (2017)
- (e) Ms. Sahar Norouzi (Iran), Joint Co-ordinator (2018)
- (f) Mr. Amali Abraham Amali (Nigeria), Joint Co-ordinator (2018)

IYPeF Minutes Item 2: Report of the Virtual meetings of IYPeF

4. A brief report on the three virtual meetings organized during 2017-18 was presented by the Coordinator. The Coordinator informed that IYPeF coordinators and ICID Central Office worked collaboratively to identify topics, potential speakers and mentors for the E-Discussions and webinars. Besides, the activities undertaken by the group in 2017-18 were also discussed.

5. The Coordinator further reported that as customary five E-Discussions on identified topics were held during the period Jan-May 2018 and a 2-page summary of the outcome of the E-Discussions were produced by the lead coordinators.

IYPeF Minutes Item 3: Report of the E-Discussions

6. Chair informed that in 2018, IYPeF organized five planned E-Discussions to enable the YPs to contribute their views on various topics with a specific focus on the theme “Innovative and Sustainable Agri-water Management: Adapting to a Variable and Changing Climate” for the International Conference and 69th IEC Meetings held from 12–17 August 2018 in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada. Based on active participation and rich contribution to the discussions, Young Professionals were selected for scholarships to join the International Conference and 69th IEC meetings. The following YPs received the scholarships:

- (a) Mrs. Kathleen Murray (Australia)
- (b) Ms. Adey N. Mersha (Ethiopia)
- (c) Ms. Eman Ragab (Egypt)
- (d) Ms. Sahar Norouzi (Iran)
- (e) Mr. Amali Abraham Amali (Nigeria)
- (f) Mr. Hassan Farahani (Iran)

7. The following Young Professionals viz. Mr. M. Shoaib Saboory (Afghanistan); Mr. Girmachew Addisu (Ethiopia); Ms. Sneha Reddy (India) and Mr. Sekyi-Annan Ephraim (Ghana) did receive the scholarships but unfortunately could not attend the meeting.

8. The Coordinator informed that at present there are more than 350+ members in the IYPeF LinkedIn group. In addition, there was active participation from members on a wide range of topics and views were exchanged during the E-Discussions. The discussion topics and their lead coordinators were as follows:

- (a) The use of Groundwater for Sustainable Agriculture (Ms. Eman Ragab)
- (b) On-farm efficiency for small scale farming (Mr. Rafat Nael)
- (c) Policy Options for Enhancing Food Security (Ms. Adey Mersha)
- (d) Climate Change Impacts on Irrigation & Drainage (Mr. M. Shoaib Saboory)
- (e) Farmer led Innovations for water efficiency, shared global success stories (Mrs. Kathleen Murray)

9. A two-page summary on each e-Discussion topic was prepared and shared by the lead coordinator. The group reiterated that the discussions and webinars will continue to be on the LinkedIn platform.

IYPeF Minutes Item 3.1: The use of Groundwater for Sustainable Agriculture (Ms. Eman Ragab)

10. Chair informed that Ms. Eman coordinated the first e-Discussion on “The use of Groundwater for Sustainable Agriculture” from 15-31 January 2018. During the e-Discussion, Prof. Ahmed Khater (Egypt) acted as Mentor. It was informed that groundwater currently supplies water to approximately 41% of the world’s irrigated area and contributes to about 44% of irrigated food production worldwide. The growing importance of groundwater for agriculture can largely be explained by the convenience of groundwater to act as a reliable source for irrigation, providing water on demand, while being largely unaffected by seasonal surface hydrological variation. A brief report was presented.

IYPeF Minutes Item 3.2: IYPeF Agenda Item 3.2: On-farm efficiency for small scale farming (Mr. Rafat Nael)

11. The second e-Discussion on “On-farm efficiency for small scale farming” was coordinated by Mr. Rafat Nael from 15 Feb-2 March 2018. During the e-discussion, President Felix B. Reinders (South Africa) acted as Mentor. It was informed that concerns about scarcity of water have focused attention on irrigation, the largest water user sector worldwide, which is widely seen as a low-value, wasteful and “inefficient” user of water and in times of scarcity we all have a responsibility to use water wisely, efficiently and productively. A brief report was presented.

IYPeF Minutes Item 3.3: Policy Options for Enhancing Food Security (Ms. Adey Mersha)

12. The third e-Discussion on “Policy Options for Enhancing Food Security” was coordinated by ICID Central Office on behalf of Ms. Adey Mersha from 15-31 March 2018. During the e-discussion, VPH Hafied Gany, Chair, (WG-IOA) Indonesia acted as Mentor. It was informed that food security can be understood very differently in different settings or contexts. It is about being guaranteed the right to feed oneself, which requires not only that food is available – that the ratio of production to the population is sufficient – but also that it is accessible – i.e., that each household either has the means to produce or buy its own food. A brief report was presented.

IYPeF Minutes Item 3.4: Climate Change Impacts on Irrigation & Drainage (Mr. M. Shoaib Saboory)

13. The fourth e-Discussion on “Climate Change Impacts on Irrigation & Drainage” was coordinated by Mr. M. Shoaib Saboory from 15-30 April 2018. During the e-discussion, Dr. Thomas Mosier (USA) acted as Mentor. The e-Discussion discussed that there is a strong evidence that climate is already changing around the globe. These changes could impact agriculture and other systems—such as hydropower—and could have broad economic effects. In light of these possible consequences, projecting the impacts of climate change is a growing research topic. The main discussion surrounding climate change was based precisely on how much it will change and what can be done to adapt to impacts—or better, mitigate the causes. A brief report was presented.

IYPeF Minutes Item 3.5: Farmer led Innovations for water efficiency, shared global success stories (Mrs. Kathleen)

14. The fifth and last in the series, Mrs. Kathleen Murray coordinated the e-Discussion on “Farmer led Innovations for water efficiency, shared global success stories” from 15-31 May 2018. Mr. Carl Walters, Vice-Chair, WG-ON-FARM (Australia) acted as Mento. It was informed that farmer-led innovations in water efficiency have the distinct advantage in using local knowledge to develop locally specific solutions. In the process, farmers exhibit entrepreneurial and risk-taking behavior and interact with a range of other actors. With such innovations taking place all over the world, there is much to be learned from sharing the global success stories of on-farm innovations. A brief report was presented.

IYPeF Minutes Item 4: IYPeF Agenda Item 4: Active participation in IYPeF Webinars 2018

15. The Coordinator provided a brief update on the organization of webinars in 2018:

- (a) Save Irrigation Water Using an Innovative Machine- Soil and Water Management for Rice Crop Cultivation (SWMR) by Dr. Mohamed El Hagarey (Egypt), a Young Professional WatSave Award winner (2016) on 3 April 2018.
- (b) Using System Rice Intensification to increase water productivity, in Nile Delta, Egypt by Dr. Arnulfo Gonzalez and Ms. Sabah Khalifa from Egypt on 3 June 2018.

16. Mr. Paavan Kumar Reddy Gollapalli (India) and Mr. Najum Anjum (Afghanistan) had prepared webinar presentations on the topic ‘Open Source Geo-Spatial Tools and Mobile Device for Canal Network Digitization’ and ‘Water use efficiency and water productivity, Experience from Afghanistan’ respectively. However, this would be taken up in the next IYPeF webinar series post Canada Meetings.

IYPeF Minutes Item 5: Capacity development program for Asian Young Professionals in 2018, China

17. The group discussed that ICID in association with the Chinese National Committee (CNCID) and support from the Korean National Committee (KCID) organized a five-day YP training program for the young professionals on the theme “Performance Assessment of Irrigation Systems” from 9-13 April 2018 at China Hall of Science and Technology in Beijing, China. NCs were invited to nominate Young Professionals (YPs) from institutions involved in agriculture water management within Asian countries to attend the program. CNCID also organized a 2-day workshop entitled “Innovations of Irrigation Technology” on 14-15 April 2018 for the young professionals. It was apprised that these capacity development programs capacitate the young engineers in the area of irrigation and drainage sector and motivate them to work to share innovative ideas pertaining to irrigation and drainage, recent technologies and others from different parts of the world and also provides opportunity to network with the international delegates.

18. In addition, the Korean National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (KCID) announced that in April 2019 it will host the International Young Professionals Training Program (YP-TP) in collaboration with CNCID, JNCID and ICID. The training program is focused on the theme “Climate Change-Resilient Irrigation Technology” aimed at finding ways to apply available advanced technologies for an improved irrigation system and various opportunities to have a wider adoption of these in different regions. The training will be followed by an expert consultation workshop.

IYPeF Minutes Item 6: Training workshop for Young Professionals (YPs) in August 2018, Canada

19. CANSID in collaboration with ICID Central Office will organize a full-day training workshop on 16 August 2018 for the young professionals on the topic “Irrigation in Western Canada - from the Mountains to the Plains.” The young professionals from around the world would get an opportunity to travel to the Canada Saskatchewan Irrigation Diversification Centre (CSIDC) to discuss lessons learned in Western Canada and their potential application in other regions in the world and to share insights from their region that could be applied to water management. All Young

Professionals are encouraged to attend this training and refer to the training materials that have been distributed for a background understanding of the training topics.

IYPeF Minutes Item 7: Proposed e-Discussion and webinar topics for 2018-19

20. During the meeting, IYPeF discussed the suggested topics for the E-Discussions and webinars for 2018. It was proposed that the list of suggested topics will be reviewed and shortlisted by the IYPeF Coordinators during the next virtual meeting probably in October 2018. The IYPeF Coordinators will finalize the topics for e-Discussion and webinar to be held in 2018-19 together with the name of the “facilitating” coordinator in consultation with ICID Central Office.

21. The members discussed and proposed the following topics for e-Discussion:

- (a) Poor quality water use/re-use in irrigation.
- (b) Food security- Food Energy Nexus. A revisit of the discussion held in 2016 with more refined purpose.
- (c) Solar power in irrigation, an opportunity to link in with floating solar power project in South Africa being shared through live feed.
- (d) Flood management in agriculture.
- (e) Soil conditions (wellbeing) to ensure sustainable agriculture and coping with climate change.
- (f) Opportunities and challenges in Smart Farming. How we can benefit from open data resources and farm-collected data?
- (g) Cost effectiveness of field drainage (subsurface drainage or open channel drainage)

22. Some suggestions for Webinars were as follows:

- (a) Drainage- controlled drainage & sub surface irrigation
- (b) Open Source Geo-Spatial Tools and Mobile Device for Canal Network Digitization by Mr. Paavan Kumar Reddy Gollapalli (India)
- (c) Water use efficiency and water productivity, Experience from Afghanistan by Mr. Najum Anjum (Afghanistan)

23. It was further informed that this is not a full finalized list and the Coordinators will liaise with the Central Office via virtual meeting to finalize and shortlist from the extensive list of topics suggested.

IYPeF Minutes Item 8: Social media platform

24. The possibility of linking IYPeF with various social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, Twitter etc. was collaboratively explored by Dr. Mika Turunen (Finland) and Mr. Amali Abraham Amali (Nigeria). A comprehensive presentation regarding the same was given by Mr. Amali during the meeting for better promotion of the LinkedIn E-Discussions, increased involvement for YP's in countries without access to LinkedIn and for an informal social and photo sharing opportunity via Instagram. The use of IYPeF Twitter handle for announcement of various ICID events, trainings and activities were explored that would provide round the clock updates and happenings of the latest IYPeF activities. A WhatsApp group has been created for regional and subgroup discussions and interaction among the YPs.

IYPeF Minutes Item 9: Any other Business

25. President Felix Reinders appreciated the contributions of YPs in various ICID activities and e-platforms. The YPs requested that they should have a greater say in the membership application in the e-group. Dr. Singh (Dir-KM) proposed that ICID should have a premium LinkedIn account as it provides a better feedback and visitors' information as well as their organization information and job titles. The meeting ended with thanks to the Chair.

