

**Minutes of the 2nd Meeting of the
ICID YOUNG PROFESSIONAL'S e-FORUM (IYPeF)**
11 October 2017, 09.00-10.30 hours (Session I)
11 October 2017, 11.00-12.30 hours (Session II)
Mexico City, Mexico

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) Ms. Kathleen Heuvel, Coordinator (Australia); (2) Ms. Eman Ragab Nofal (Egypt); (3) Ms. Adey N. Mersha (Ethiopia); (4) Mr. Mika Turunen (Finland).

Observers: (1) Najumuddin Anjum (Afghanistan); (2) Evan Derald (Canada); (3) Willemijn Appels (Canada/Netherlands); (4) Heidi Salo (Finland); (5) Ephraim Sekyi-Annan (Ghana); (6) Mr. G. Paavan Kumar Reddy (India); (7) Er. Harish K. Varma, ICID Central Office (India); (8) Sahar Norouzi (Iran); (9) Mortaza Yazdekhesti (Iran); (10) Shinji Fukuda (Japan); (11) Toshihiko Kuno (Japan); (12) Mr. Yuta Takeno (Japan); (13) Jisun Kim (Republic of Korea); (14) Won-Ho Nam (Republic of Korea); (15) Jeong Min Ryu (Republic of Korea); (16) Mohd Adnan Ahmad Fauzi (Malaysia); (17) Zairizal Zainon (Malaysia); (18) Ms. Maria Liliana Terrazas-Onofre (Mexico); (19) Amahroq Othmane (Morocco); (20) Amali A. Amali (Nigeria); (21) Dr. Ado K. Abdullahi (Nigeria); (22) Michael van der Laan (South Africa).

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

IYPeF Minutes Item 1: Action taken report by Coordinator

1. After the first IYPeF meeting in November 2016, IYPeF Coordinators organized a virtual meeting in January 2017. At this meeting, the coordinators finalised the e-discussion and webinar topics and assigned the role of lead coordinator for an e-discussion topic. The activities undertaken by the group in 2017 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 2017-18:(i) Ms. Eman Ragab (Egypt); and (ii) Mr. M. Shoaib Saboory (Afghanistan). Membership status is given in **Annex 7 (page 55)**.
3. The group acknowledged and thanked the outgoing Co-ordinators, namely, Mr. Abdullahi Hassan Hussein (Somalia), and Ms. Jakia Akter (Bangladesh) for their valuable contributions which were much appreciated.

Accordingly, the updated IYPeF Coordinators were:

- (i) Ms. Kathleen Heuvel (Australia), Coordinator (2016)
- (ii) Ms. Adey N. Mersha (Ethiopia), Joint Co-ordinator (2016)
- (iii) Mr. Rafat Nael Al-Intaki (Iraq), Joint Co-ordinator (2016)
- (iv) Mr. Mika Turunen (Finland), Joint Co-ordinator (2016)
- (v) Ms. Eman Ragab (Egypt), Joint Co-ordinator (2017)
- (vi) Mr. M. Shoaib Saboory (Afghanistan), Joint Co-ordinator (2017)

IYPeF Minutes Item 2: Report of the 1st virtual meeting of IYPeF, 16 January 2017

4. A brief report on the first virtual meeting organized on 16 January 2017 was presented by the Coordinator. The Coordinator informed that the possibility of linking IYPeF with social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter etc. is being explored by Dr. Mika Turunen (Finland) after considering pros and cons of such linking. (See Item 3 also).

5. The coordinator further reported that as per the suggestion of Secretary General Avinash C. Tyagi four e-discussions on identified topics were held in 2017 and a 2-page summary of the outcomes of the e-discussion was produced by the lead coordinator.

IYPeF Minutes Item 3: Report of the e-discussions

6. Chair informed that in 2017, IYPeF organized four of the five planned e-discussions to enable the YPs to contribute their views on various topics related to the two Questions of the Congress as well as the Symposium and Seminar organized during 23rd ICID Congress. Based on active participation and rich contribution to the discussions, Young Professionals were selected for Scholarships to join 23rd Congress and 68th IEC meetings. The following Young Professionals received scholarships:

- (1) Ms. Adey N. Mersha (Ethiopia)
- (2) Mr. Mika Turunen (Finland)
- (3) Ms. Eman Ragab (Egypt)
- (4) Ms. Sahar Norouzi (Iran)
- (5) Mr. Paavan Kumar Reddy (India)
- (6) Mr. Amali Abraham Amali (Nigeria)
- (7) Mr. Sanchez Altamirano, Carlos Andres (Ecuador)

7. The following Young Professionals viz. Mr. Rafat Nael Al-Intaki (Iraq) and Mr. M. Shoaib Saboory (Afghanistan) did receive the scholarships but unfortunately could not attend the meetings.

8. The Coordinator informed that there were over 260 members in the IYPeF LinkedIn group. There was active participation from members and a wide range of views shared in the e-discussions. The discussion topics and their lead coordinators were as follows:

- (1) Water-Food-Energy Nexus in a Changing World (Ms. Adey N. Mersha)
- (2) Gendered Impacts of Climate Change on Agriculture (Ms. Jakia Akter)
- (3) Opportunities and Challenges of Drainage Development (Mr. Mika Turunen)
- (4) Role of Irrigation in Food Security (Ms. Kathleen Heuvel)

9. A 2-page summary of each discussion was prepared and shared by the lead coordinator. The 5th e-discussion on 'On Farm Efficiency for Small Scale Farming' (Mr. Rafat Nael) could not be held in 2017 due to conflicting dates and will now be held in 2018.

10. The Coordinator stressed that there is a growing interest in engaging with the other social media platforms and therefore a small group will explore the suitability of Facebook, Instagram and Twitter to share information in a more informal manner and to promote the discussions and webinars taking place on the LinkedIn forum. This would be of benefit to YPs located in countries that do not have access to LinkedIn e.g. Russia. VP Irena Bondarik (Russia) conveyed the interest of Russian YPs to connect with the IYPeF for exchange of knowledge and information. Mika Turunen and Amali Abraham will explore the suitability of Facebook, Instagram and Twitter to share information in a more informal manner and to promote the discussions in the regions having no access to LinkedIn. Once the most suitable online platform is decided upon, a proposal on the same will be submitted to Central Office. The group reiterated that the discussions and webinars will continue to be on the LinkedIn platform.

IYPeF Minutes Item 3.1: Water-Food-Energy Nexus in a Changing World (Ms. Adey Mersha)

11. Chair informed that Ms. Adey Mersha coordinated the first e-discussion on "Water-Food-Energy Nexus in a Changing World" from 6-27 April 2017. During the e-discussion, Vice President Prof. (Ms.) Charlotte de Fraiture (The Netherlands) acted as a Mentor. It was informed that the link between water, energy and food is inextricable in the sense that water is an input for producing agricultural crops and along the entire agro-food industry and supply chain. The global community is well aware of food-energy-water challenges, but has often addressed them in isolation, within their sectoral margins. A brief report was presented.

IYPeF Minutes Item 3.2: Gendered Impacts of Climate Change on Agriculture (Ms. Jakia Akter)

12. The second e-discussion on "Gendered impacts of climate change on agriculture" was coordinated by Ms. Jakia Akter from 16 May to 3 June 2017. It was informed that Climate change is an important factor in agriculture since it can affect every step of the crop's growth. In rural areas, women spend more time for food

production, collecting and storing food, fuel for cooking and heating, feeding their families, as well as water for all domestic uses, which means less time is spent on education, development work, health etc. A brief report was presented.

IYPeF Minutes Item 3.3: Opportunities and Challenges of Drainage Development (Dr. Mika Turunen)

13. The third e-discussion on “Opportunities and challenges of drainage development” was coordinated by Dr. Mika Turunen from 9-30 June 2017. It was informed that although drainage can play a potential role in food production, there are also challenges in the wider adoption of the drainage procedures. Therefore, it may be argued that institutional mechanisms for drainage implementation have not fully developed. It is also open for debate whether it would be more efficient to consider drainage infrastructure as a public good which should be publicly funded or as a private investment of a farmer. A brief report was presented.

IYPeF Minutes Item 3.4: Role of Irrigation in Food Security (Ms. Kathleen Heuvel)

14. The fourth e-discussion on “Role of irrigation in food security” was coordinated by Ms. Kathleen Heuvel from 21 August- 8 September 2017. It was informed that the crop productivity has a vital role in achieving both food security and water sustainability which are in ever increasing demand around the world. In order to explore the role of irrigation in food security, we must also consider environmental issues resulting from over exploitation and poor management of water resources as food production depends on the sustainable use of such land and water resources. A brief report was presented.

IYPeF Minutes Item 3.5: On Farm Efficiency for Small Scale Farming (Mr. Rafat Nael)

15. The Coordinator informed that the discussion on the above topic was postponed due to date conflicts and will be completed in the coming year.

IYPeF Minutes Item 4: Active participation in ICID Webinar services

16. The Coordinator provided a brief update on the organization of webinars in 2017:

- (i) Water Use Efficiency: Er. Felix Reinders (South Africa) on 1 March 2017
- (ii) Water Accounting and Audit : Dr. Wim Bastiaanssen (The Netherlands) on 3 April 2017
- (iii) Practical Benchmarking for Improving Performance of Irrigation and Drainage Schemes: Dr. Martin Burton (UK) on 7 June 2017
- (iv) Planning for Irrigation Modernization – The MASSCOTE Approach: Dr. Robina Wahaj (FAO) on 5 July 2017
- (v) National Water Account: Australian Experience: Dr. Amgad Elmahdi (Australia) on 18 July 2017
- (vi) In Spanish: Seminario web sobre El Marco de Contabilidad de Agua WA+ para la Gestión de Recursos Hídricos: Dr. Gonzalo E. Espinoza (UNESCO-IHE) on 25 July 2017
- (vii) In Arabic: Water Accounting: Dr. Yasir A. Mohamed on 5 September 2017

17. During the meeting, members observed that the Webinar on Water Accounting was also presented in Spanish and Arabic. In order to reach a wider audience, the group would like to ensure that there are more webinars offered in languages other than English. Dr Mohamed El Hagarey (Egypt) agreed to present the next Webinar in December 2017 or early 2018.

IYPeF Minutes Item 5: Capacity development programme for Young Professionals from Asian region in 2017, China

18. The group noted that ICID in association with the Chinese National Committee (CNCID) is planning to organize a five-day training programme in November/ December 2017 on the theme “Performance Assessment of Irrigation Systems”. NCs will be invited to nominate Young Professionals (YPs) from institutions involved in agriculture water management within Asian countries to attend the programme.

IYPeF Minutes Item 6: Training workshops for Young Professionals (YPs) in October 2017, Mexico

19. Two half-day training workshops for YPs will organized on 13 October 2017 on the topics viz. (a) Value Engineering: An effective and efficient methodology for enhancing irrigation, drainage and flood management projects: (b) Irrigation Water Management to Adapt to Climate Change. 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

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 virtual meeting in November/December 2017, the IYPeF Coordinators will finalize the topics for e-discussion and webinar to be held in 2018 together with the name of the “facilitating” coordinator.

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

- (i) Groundwater for Sustainable Agriculture
- (ii) On Farm Efficiency for Small Scale Farming
- (iii) Tackling Poor Quality Irrigation Water
- (iv) Policy Options for Enhancing Food Security
- (v) Engaging Young Professionals in Irrigation & Drainage
- (vi) Understanding the Impacts of Poor Drainage Practices

22. Some of the suggestions for Webinars were as follows:

- (i) Re-estimation of common area boundaries for old Irrigation schemes using GPS & GIS as a tool
- (ii) Application of Remote Sensing and GIS
- (iii) Water Productivity, an Afghani Experience
- (iv) Enabling Change. Lessons in communication, extension for practice change

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

IYPeF Minutes Item 8: Any other Business

The meeting ended with thanks to the Chair.

