

Minutes of the Fourteenth Meeting of the  
**WORKING GROUP ON USE OF POOR QUALITY WATER FOR IRRIGATION (WG-PQW)**  
**8 December 2009: 14.15-18.00 hours**  
**New Delhi, India**  
*Strategy Theme: On-Farm*

**Year of Establishment: 1995**

**Completion of the Mandate: 2013**

**Mandate:** To promote a safe and good management of poor quality water for irrigation, to minimize the negative impact on human health and the environment, to promote the multiple use of poor quality water, and to give consideration to the Institutional and legislation aspects with regard to the use of poor quality waters.

**Members present:** (1) Dr. Ragab Ragab, Chairman (UK, 1997); (2) Dr. Frans Huibers, Secretary (The Netherlands, 1999); (3) Dr. Heinrich M du Plessis (South Africa, 1998) represented by Dr. Sue Walkers; (4) Dr. N.K. Tyagi (India, 1998); (5) Vice President Hon. Gao Zhanyi (China, 1998); and (6) Dr. S. Seyama (Japan, 2001) represented by Dr. M. Yokozawa (Japan, 2009);

**Permanent Observer:** None.

**Observers:** (i) Mr. V.D. Roy (India); (ii) C.H. Sreenivas (India); (iii) Mr. Francois Chrétien (Canada); (iv) Mr. Chellasamy Murugaboopathi (Japan); and (v) Mr. Maurice Roos (USA).

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

**Item 1 : Confirmation of the minutes of the 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Working Group held at Lahore**

The minutes of the 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Working Group held at Lahore in October 2008 were approved.

**Item 2 : Tenure and mandate of the Working Group**

Tenure of the Working Group has been extended until 2013.

Mandate of the Group is kept as approved at the Lahore meetings (2008). The sentence “*to promote the multiple use of poor quality waters*” was explained, meaning that the water can be used simultaneously or subsequently for different uses, like aquaculture and irrigation.

**Item 3 : Review of the membership of the Working Group**

The CV of Mr. M. Yokozawa (Japan) was tabled and his nomination to replace Dr. S. Seyama was accepted by the Group.

The following nominations were deferred to the meeting in 2010 as candidates were not present at the meeting:

- Dr. Jinzhong Yang to replace Dr. Gao Zhanyi (China)
- Mr. Bekbayev Ussen (Kazakhstan)
- Dr. Paramjit Singh Minhas to replace Dr. N.K. Tyagi (India)
- Mr. M. Sidhu to replace Mr. Maghmoom Muhammad Iqbal/ Mr. Ramzan Chaudhry (Pakistan)

The South African National Committee (SANCID) would propose a candidate to replace Dr. Heinrich M. du Plessis in 2010.

## A. CONTINUING ITEMS

### Item 4 : Database on water salinity/irrigation with highly saline water for salt tolerant halophytes and crops and use of wastewater related to agriculture

Dr. Frans Huibers gave information on the IWA publication *Water Reuse: An International Survey of Current Practice, Issues and Needs*. B. Jimenez and T. Asano (Eds.) 2008. IWA Publishing, London, U.K. Scientific and Technical Report No. 20. The first Chapter of the book gives an extensive overview of wastewater use worldwide, based on a literature study. The book is not downloadable.

### Item 5 : Cooperation with other Workbodies and International Organizations

#### 5.1 Cooperation with ICID workbodies

Chairman Dr. Ragab has actively been liaising with other ICID workbodies and participating in their meetings. This is to stimulate collaboration and to avoid overlapping of activities. Recently he contributed with a Chapter in a book compiled by the WG-DROUGHT.

Dr. Ragab also participated in the meeting of WG-CLIMATE. On the thematic issue 'Food security and water', where he reported his work on non-conventional water sources.

#### 5.2 Cooperation with International Organizations

- A session on 'Safe water reuse' convened by the World Water Institute (Pune, India) during the World Water Forum held in Istanbul (17 March, 2009) was attended by Dr. Huibers, representing ICID in the panel. Key questions were defined as follows:
  - How can we regulate the use of unsafe water for food production?
  - How can standards for safe re-use of water be implemented, monitored and institutionalized?
  - What supporting policy instruments will be required for ensuring safe re-use of water?

Presentations by the World Water Institute, IUCN, Sussex University and Suez Environment were followed by a panel discussion with representatives from WECF, ICID and Hebrew University.

- ISO (International Organization for Standardization) starts reviewing standards for safe wastewater use. The WG is available to contribute to this process.
- The WG is having positions of permanent observer from FAO and ICBA (Dubai). However, recently they have not participated to the WG-meetings. Dr. Ragab will contact the respective observers.

### Item 6 : Work Plan of the Group

In line with the activities proposed in the WG work plan, the following presentations (in written and as presentation) are foreseen for the next year meeting:

- 'Multiple use of poor quality water' by Dr. Gao Zhanyi
- 'Agrochemicals' by Dr. M. Yokozawa and Mr. Francois Chrétien
- 'Use of drainage water in India'

### Item 7 : Presentations by members

Dr. Huibers gave a Power Point Presentation on the '*Use of wastewater in irrigation*'. This updated the work done since the Special Session organised in Moscow (2004) and the evolving Special Issue of Irrigation and Drainage (2005). As a token of interest in the general subject of wastewater use in the irrigation community, he mentioned the fact that 6 articles from the Special Issue show up in the top-10 most accessed articles of Irrigation and Drainage over the period 2005-2007. Over this same period 7 articles from this Special Issue are in the top-10 most cited.

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Dr. Ragab gave a presentation on SALTMED and a demo. The programme is continuously improved and can be used with different inputs. A free copy can be downloaded through the WG webpage, [www.safir4eu.org](http://www.safir4eu.org)

**Item 8 : Webpage for the workbody**

Members were asked to contribute to further improve and update the contents of the Group's page. Presentation by Dr. Huibers and some of his recent publications will be uploaded soon.

**Item 9 : Workshop on Desalination Technologies for Irrigation Purposes**

As questions were posed on issues like cost-recovery in using desalinated water, the group decided to postpone this workshop until further notice.

**Item 10 : Nomination of the Group for the Best Workbody Award**

Chairman will consider nomination, given earlier successes by the WG.

**Item 11 : Any other business**

Several members were in favour of organizing a Special Session during the Teheran meetings in 2011. Proposed subject would be 'Water Quality and Irrigation'. Remark has been made that an approach of solicited presenters on well defined subjects would increase the quality and coherence of the session, also to be combined with the preparation of a Special Issue of Irrigation and Drainage or other journal. Following ICID procedure, room should also be given to other country representatives to present orally or through poster.

The Central Office had requested the WG to contribute to the UN Water decade programme, probably on the subject of Water and Sewage treatment. The WG is open for further information.

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