

Minutes of the Fifth Meeting of the
TASK FORCE ON FINANCING WATER FOR AGRICULTURE (TF-FIN)
 Tehran, Iran
 17 October 2011: 09:00-12:30 hours

Year of Establishment: 2007

Mandate: The focus of the TF will be to get a better understanding and insight (assessment) of: (i) the required investments and beneficiaries of those investments in agricultural water, (ii) the presently available financing mechanisms and constraints for maintaining or improving physical irrigation capacity; and (iii) the expected changes and innovations for more appropriate financing mechanisms to enable sustainable water use for food production.

Members Present: (1) Dr. Gerhard R. Backeberg, Chairman (South Africa 2009); (2) Dr. Sylvain-Roger Perret, Secretary (France, 2010); (3) Mr. E. Farhadi (Iran, 2009); and (4) Dr. K. Yamaoka (Japan 2009).

Observers: (i) Dr. Mohd. Y. Abdullah (Malaysia); (ii) Ir. N. Asokaraja (India); (iii) Ir. Sung Hee Lee (Korea); (iv) Ir. Mukhlis Z. Abidin (Malaysia); (v) Mohammad Salman Sabami (Iran); (vi) Mr. Uttam Raj Timilsina (Nepal); (vii) Ir. Hamej Ebrahimien (Iran); (viii) Ir. Mohammad Sadegh Jafari (Iran); (ix) Dr. Suhas Wani (India); (x) Ir. Bassam Alhusein (Syria); (xi) Ir. Sushima Matsushima (Japan); (xii) Ir. Ian. W. Makin (ADB); (xiii) VPH Prof. Victor A. Dukhovny (Uzbekistan); and (xiv) Ir. Karimov Akmal (IWMI).

Item 1 : Confirmation of minutes of the 4th meeting of TF-FIN

The minutes of the 4th meeting held in October 2010 at Yogyakarta (Indonesia) were confirmed and approved.

Item 2 : Membership of the Task Force

The Pakistan (PANCID) and Indian (INCID) National Committees nominated Mr. Bashir Ahmad Sial and Mrs. Ananya Ray, respectively, for the TF-FIN membership and CVs were made available. These two proposed members were not present at the two last TF-FIN meetings either. Membership could not be confirmed. In view of the TF-FIN schedule, there is no point requesting confirmation from these national committees. Mrs. Ray and Mr. Sial are still invited to contribute if interested to final activities of TF-FIN.

Mr. Eric Viala (USA, TF-FIN Vice-Chairman) had not been active for the last 4 years. ICID Central Office has requested USCID for nomination of another member. No response received. In view of the TF-FIN schedule, there is no point requesting another nomination from USCID.

During TF-FIN meeting held in Tehran, Dr. K. Yamaoka (Japan) was elected as Vice-Chairman of TF-FIN.

Dr. B. Davidson (Australia) sent apologies and will contribute until the conclusion of TF-FIN activities.

Item 3 : Activity report of TF-FIN as per accepted Work Plan

Work plan had been agreed upon during 4th meeting of TF-FIN (2010). It had been circulated to all members.

The Chairman referred the members to the activities as specified in the Work Plan, emphasizing the active participation of all TF-FIN members. During the Yogyakarta meeting in 2010, it was decided that 3 of the 4 members not being active at that stage (India, Iran, Pakistan and USA) should be given a final opportunity to submit papers on Policy and Strategies. Unfortunately, only Pakistan and India responded, with only Pakistan adhering to the prescribed guidelines. Under these circumstances, it was decided to adhere to initial decisions and to conclude the activities of TF-FIN in 2012.

Item 4 : Planned Workshop on ‘Water Use Charging Systems and Available Financing of Irrigation: Case Studies for Cross-Country Comparisons’ during TF-FIN meeting in Tehran, 2011; and Proposed full-day workshop of TF-FIN in Australia, 2012

Since the required conditions relating to active participation of all TF-FIN members were not met, it was decided not to proceed with the planned workshop on 17 October, 2011 in Tehran, Iran. The organization of a full day workshop in Adelaide, Australia in June 2012 was considered and will proceed. Details are provided under item 6 of these minutes.

Item 5 : Selected option for publication of workshop papers by TF-FIN members

Three options for publications were considered during the last meeting (2010). During the TF-FIN meeting, it was decided to compile a report on Task Force activities, with possibility to publish papers from the report (option #3 as given in agenda) either individually or collectively.

TF-FIN final report will be on “*Water Use Charging Systems and Available Financing of Irrigation; Case-Studies and Cross-Country Comparison*”. A draft report will be delivered to TF-FIN members at the time of next meeting in Adelaide, Australia in June 2012. Final editing and completion will follow in the course of 2012. The proposed contents of the TF-FIN final report has been discussed, and includes:

- Introduction / background;
- Conceptual / principle framework;
- 5 to 7 country-papers with elements of irrigation water policy and finance strategy, and related case studies (according to guidelines previously circulated);
- Conclusion, cross-country comparison, way-forward.

Item 6 : Conclusion of activities of the Task Force

After discussion, it was agreed that the report of the TF-FIN will include the workshop papers presented so far, plus additional country case studies on water use charging systems and available financing systems.

Existing papers on Policies and Strategies are available from Australia, Japan, Pakistan, South Africa and Thailand. TF-FIN members from these countries will add on case studies as required. In addition, TF-FIN member from Iran has committed to submit a full paper on Policies, Strategies and Country Case Studies. The representative from India has to be requested to submit a revised paper on Policies, Strategies and Country Case Studies, adhering to the guidelines distributed in 2010.

ICID Central Office is requested to contact both TF-FIN representatives from Pakistan and India, and send a reminder to TF-FIN member from Iran to submit the requested papers.

The target dates for these tasks are as follows:

- Revised and extended papers on Policies, Strategies and Country Case Studies: End of February 2012
- Draft report on TF-FIN activities, according to framework given under item 5: End of April 2012; Dr. G.R. Backeberg, Dr. S.R. Perret and Dr. K. Yamaoka have accepted responsibility to compile the draft report, with inputs from TF-FIN members.

The full-day workshop has been scheduled for June 2012 (Adelaide, Australia). It will provide an opportunity for TF-FIN members to present the country case studies on “*Water Use Charges and Financing Systems in Irrigation*”. The contents of the workshop will be finalized by end of March 2012. The core presentations will be the ones related to papers by TF-FIN members (Australia, India, Iran, Japan, Pakistan, South Africa and Thailand). ICID Central Office is requested to send invitations to all ICID member countries to present additional short case studies during the planned workshop. The guidelines for the presentations will be provided with the contents of the workshop by March 2012.

Item 7 : Any other business

In conclusion, all TF-FIN members who have been active were thanked for their contributions; all were encouraged to make final inputs in order to conclude the activities of TF-FIN. It was confirmed that the final meeting of the TF-FIN will take place in June 2012 in Adelaide. It is understood that the final writing of the report on TF-FIN activities will be completed in the course of 2012.
