

Minutes of the First Meeting of the
TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH ON IRRIGATION AND DRAINAGE (TRID)
 Tehran, Iran
 17 October 2011: 11.30-12.30 hours

(New Group Proposed for Implementation)

Mandate: To be developed.

Attendance: (1) Dr. Saeed Nairizi (Iran), (2) Mr. Ian Atkinson (Australia), (3) Mr. Ian M. Makin (ADB), (4) Mr. Ray-Shyan Wu (Chinese Taipei), (5) Mr. Chang-Chi Cheng (Chinese Taipei), (6) Mr. Ming-Young Tan (Chinese Taipei), (7) Dr. Gao Zhanyi (China), (8) Dr. M.H. Amer (Egypt), (9) Prof. Dr. Rai Niaz Ahmad (Pakistan), (10) Dr. Ragab Ragab (UK), (11) Mr. Husnain Ahmad (Pakistan), (12) Mr. Pei-chun Ni (Chinese Taipei), (13) Mr. Yingduo Yu (China), (14) Prof. Peter Kovalenko (Ukraine), (15) Mr. Ahmed M. Aziz (Iraq), (16) Mr. Moussa Amadou (Nigeria), (17) Mr. Muhammad Arshad (Pakistan) and (18) Er. M. Gopalakrishnan, Secretary General, ICID.

Dr. Saeed Nairizi opened the session with a brief history of IPTRID and the desire of ICID to reinvigorate its efforts. He felt that there were at least two important jobs to be done. First, there is much research into irrigation and related issues being undertaken by member countries. He felt that this research would deliver better outcome if it were more coordinated so as to prevent unnecessary duplication and possibly some specialization. Second, much research is published in a limited range of languages which limits access to others. He gave the example that Iranian researchers are publishing in Persian and it would be great if at least, the abstracts were translated into one or more other languages.

Dr. Nairizi then asked Mr. Ian Atkinson of Australia to chair the session. Mr. Atkinson asked all of those in attendance to identify key points or views on the focus for the proposed WG. The following list of points (in no particular order) is the outcome;

- a. Should not limit this to researchers, should be aiming to assist reach out to all stakeholders
- b. Greater communication between regions and groups
- c. Greater cooperation on use of new technology to deal with drought
- d. Greater cooperation with agronomists rather than just water resources specialists
- e. Cooperation prior to new research action and publication can reduce unnecessary duplication and offer opportunities for research collaboration
- f. Encourage greater cooperation on research agendas / topics between ICID member countries
- g. Support translation of research abstracts into other languages, for e.g. Farsi to Chinese
- h. Provide network from local to country to international for researchers and research funders
- i. Mandate suggestion from WG-TRUE – facilitate exchange of knowledge
- j. Intensification does not mean reinvent but extend knowledge out to more people, greater spread of what has been found to work
- k. Greater sharing of knowledge
- l. Look to use electronic platforms to make this easier to do
- m. Greater input from stakeholders (end users) on what is researched
- n. Try to influence research agenda to be more collaborative and international
- o. New centers form nodes for concerted action, aim to have more concentrated action in groups
- p. Need to be careful with words 'innovative vs. research', indigenous component necessary

At the end of the discussion, Mr. Atkinson asked about how this new group could / should interact with the existing WG-TRUE. Mr. Ian Makin spoke about TRUE and said whilst its current mandate was coming to an end, TRUE members felt it should be reinvigorated with an amended mandate and new members. The group in attendance agreed that we should look to combining with WG-TRUE to develop a new mandate and start afresh.