

Minutes of the Fifteenth Meeting of the
WORKING GROUP ON YOUNG IRRIGATION PROFESSIONALS FORUM (WG-YPF)
 New Delhi, India
 07 December 2009: 09.30-13.15 hours

Year of Establishment: 1993

Mandate:

- To provide an international platform for young irrigation and drainage professionals and to encourage and promote amongst the young professionals a high standard of professional development in the subjects of irrigation, drainage and environment.
- To facilitate the development, acquisition and wider dissemination of knowledge and information about irrigation, drainage, flood control and environment amongst the young professionals.
- To maintain and enhance links with national and international youth having interests in the related subjects or the activities relevant to ICID objectives.
- To educate young professional about ICID's role, objectives, activities, structure, constitution and Bylaws.

Members Present : (1) Mr. Ali Reza Salamat, Chairman, 2003 (Iran, 2000) represented by Mr. Hومان Khaledi; (2) Dr. Sanjay Belsare, Vice Chairman, 2005 (India, 2003); (3) Dr. Bennie Grové (South Africa, 2003) represented by VPH Felix Reinders; (4) Engr. Qazi Tallat Mahmood Siddiqui (Pakistan, 2006) represented by Mr. Husnain Ahmad; and (5) Mr. Velayudan, SV. Kalaiselvam (Malaysia, 2006) represented by Dr. Nor Azazi Zakaria.

Observers: (1) Dr. Takanori Nagano (Japan); (2) Dr. C. Venkata Reddy (India); (3) Dr. C. H. Sreenivas (India); (4) Dr. Mohammad Che Husain (Malaysia); (5) Mr. Piyush Ranjan (India); (6) Mr. S. Vishnu Vardhan (India); (7) Mr. Tetsuya Oishi (Japan); (8) Mr. Shinsuki Hara (Japan); (9) Dr. Muhammad Arshad (Pakistan); (10) Dr. Rai Niaz Ahmed (Pakistan); (11) Mr. Rambhau Shirode (India); (12) Mr. Prashant Gupta (India); (13) Dr. Kiwook Park (Korea); (14) Dr. Mohamad Amin Mohamad Soom (Malaysia); and (15) Dr. Vijay K. Labhsetwar (ICID Central Office).

(In absence of Chairman, Dr. Sanjay Belsare, Vice Chairman conducted the meeting.)

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

Item 1 : Confirmation of the minutes of the 14th meeting of the WG-YPF

The minutes of the 14th meeting of the Working Group held on 13 October 2008 at Lahore (Pakistan) were confirmed.

Item 2 : Review of the membership of the Working Group

2.1 Membership of the Group

(a) Past nominations

The nomination of Ms. Kartabayeva Irina Anatolyevna (Kazakhstan) was deferred till next meeting in 2010 since she was neither present nor represented in the meeting.

(b) New nominations

The Indian National Committee (INCID) has nominated Mr. Piyush Ranjan (India) in place of Dr. Sanjay Belsare for the membership of the Working Group.

The Iranian National Committee (IRNCID) has nominated Mr. Houman Khaledi (Iran) in place of Mr. Ali Reza Salamat for the membership of the Working Group.

The Japanese National Committee (JNC-ICID) has nominated Dr. Takanori Nagano (Japan) in place of Mr. Hidekazu Tagashira for the membership of the Working Group.

Chairman welcomed new nominees to the Working Group meeting. Nominees then briefly introduced themselves to the Working Group. Their nominations were accepted.

The nominees from RUCID and PANCID were not present and hence their nominations were deferred till the next meeting in 2010.

(c) Non-attendance/ contribution

From the attendance and contribution record of Central Office, it was observed that Ms. Jianxin Mu (China) and Ms. Nepveu de Villemarceau Audrey (France) have neither attended the meetings of the Working Group nor contributed to the activities of the WG through correspondence for the last two consecutive years (2007 and 2008). Fresh nominations may be invited from the concerned National Committees with an assurance that the new nominees would contribute to the activities of the WG. Contribution through correspondence is considered as active participation, in case nominees are unable to attend meetings for want of funds.

It was also proposed by some attendees to raise the age from 40 to 45 years for being considered as young professionals.

It was also decided that follow up actions be taken up by the Chairman in cooperation with Central Office.

2.2 Election of Chair and Vice Chair

As Mr. Ali Reza Salamat (Iran), Chair and Dr. S.M. Belsare (India), Vice Chair have completed 40 years of their age and therefore they will not be able to continue as members of WG-YPF. They expressed their thanks to the WG members as well as ICID for their support and cooperation. They desire to continue to support the activities of the WG as observers.

The issue of election of new Chair and Vice Chair was differed in view of scarce attendance of members. Mr. Ali Reza Salamat may continue as Interim Chairman of the WG till the next meeting in October 2010 or a consensus choice is made via virtual discussion, whichever is earlier.

A. CONTINUING ITEMS

Item 3 : Review of the progress made by the National Committees in establishing Young Professionals Forum (YPF)

The Chair stated that 23 National Committees have established their Young Professional Fora. The Central Office already pursued the matter with other NCs to establish a Young Professionals Forum (YPF) in their respective NCs. In response, NETHCID has informed the Central Office that they will continue to encourage the involvement and participation of young professionals in ICID activities but were not inclined to establish an YPF.

Pakistan National Committee (PANCID) is making efforts to establish the young professional forum of ICID. They have so far drafted the by-laws of the YPF-Pakistan and have circulated it among different universities for comments. So far five Universities have provided their comments on the by-laws. YPF-Pakistan is waiting for more comments. PANCID was requested to submit approved by-laws to Central Office in due course.

Chair/Central Office will continue to pursue the matter of establishing YPF in more NCs.

Item 4 : Review of the progress on preparation of a directory of Young Professionals

So far, France, India, Japan and South Africa have prepared their own country directory of Young Professionals. Actions from other NCs such as Russia, China, Pakistan and Malaysia are awaited.

The Central Office has already forwarded a sample format of the questionnaire to those NCs who have not yet prepared their directories of Young Professionals. The Chair invited the above mentioned NCs to frame their own YPF directories to be sent to the Central office with a copy to Chair.

The Malaysian representative mentioned that they will submit their directory in due course. Indian, Iranian and Japanese representatives agreed to update and expand their directories soon.

Item 5 : Establishment of a Network of Young Professionals through development of a web-based platform

During last meeting, the updated WG website www.wg-y pf.icidonline.org was demonstrated. To move further, the Central Offices already requested all members to review the WG's updated webpage and send their suggestions/ comments. It was further requested to send their contact details (*those who have not yet provided*) to Chair for inclusion in the webpage.

During last meeting, Dr. Maurits Ertzen (The Netherlands) demonstrated the online web-based platform and agreed to send invitation letters to those who are interested in sharing the knowledge and information via this facility. This facility will provide an opportunity to gather the information on the latest events to be held for the young professionals and also exchange information with other members. This platform operates under the supervision of the Dutch Organization of Higher Education. Members were requested to get in touch with Dr. Ertzen <m.w.ertsen@tudelft.nl> in this regard.

Chairman requested to actively use this platform for exchange and sharing information which will result into strengthening WG-YPF. It was decided to follow up this issue with members and NCs.

Item 6 : How to activate Young Professionals

The chair discussed various initiatives, as given below, taken so far to activate young professionals in ICID activities.

- Nomination of a young professional from each National Committee as an additional member in each Working Group of ICID;
- Contribution of papers by young professionals for publication in ICID Journal; and
- Participation/nomination of young professionals in WatSave Awards.

It was appreciated that the above initiatives were taken by ICID to activate YPF, but these were apparently not sufficient to enthuse the young professionals to join YPF. It is high time that some concrete measures are taken to rejuvenate this group, as today's young professionals will be tomorrow's ICID's pillars. The following measures could be considered:

- Making obligatory to NCs to nominate an additional young member in each Working Group of ICID.
- NCs shall ensure the participation of young professional member in their delegation to ICID events.
- Full waiver of registration fee to WG-YPF member as well as other young professionals participating in the ICID events.
- Providing sponsorship and inexpensive accommodation to WG-YPF members when possible.

It was decided to take up the matter with PCSPOA and follow up with Central Office and NCs to encourage young professional's participation in ICID events.

Item 7 : Future activities of the WG

It was decided to focus on consolidating present activities of WG-YPF. It was also decided to provide some time slot for YPF presentations during regular annual meetings of WG-YPF at the time of IECs and perhaps a full day for YPF activities during ICID triennial Congresses.

Item 8 : Current activities of YPF members

All YPF members were asked to send a copy of their new publications to the Central Office for keeping them in its archive. The members were also asked to send a brief of their current activities to the Chair for its coverage in the yearly Newsletter of the WG-YPF with a copy to Central Office.

Item 9 : Papers for Publication in the ICID Journal and Newsletter

ICID Newsletter is published every three months. The CO may consider one page summary of those papers of the young professionals which are approved by the Scientific Committee for Newsletter. The ICID Journal on Irrigation and Drainage publishes five issues per year besides special (sponsored) issues from time to time. The procedure for preparing papers for the ICID Journal is well explained in the Journal website <<http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/cgi-bin/home>>. Members are requested to prepare and send their papers for publication in the ICID Journal (published by M/s Wiley Blackwell, UK).

Item 10 : YPF Newsletter

The YPF Newsletter was disseminated among the members of the WG as well as observers. The electronic version of the Newsletter was posted on the WG-YPF website for its easy access. All members of the Working Group were invited to provide information related to the activities of their YPF, so as to incorporate the same in the forthcoming issue of the YPF Newsletter. All National Committees were requested to send relevant news to Chair.

It was also decided to share the YPF Newsletter through e-mail besides making it available on the WG webpage.

Item 11 : Encouragement for participation of Young Professionals in WatSave Awards

The Chairman, WG-YPF stated that WatSave awards are being presented in 3 categories since 1998. One of the awards is allocated to the best work carried out by the young professionals in the field of water saving techniques. Chairman requested all members to compete in WatSave awards 2010 by sending their best works or performance in water savings through their National NCs to ICID Central Office.

Item 12 : Any other business

As there were no other issues for consideration, the meeting ended with vote of thanks to the chair.
