



News Update

ICID•CIID

INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON IRRIGATION AND DRAINAGE

Established 1950

November 2004

From Secretary General's Desk

Dear Friends,

Case Studies on Large dams from Turkey, India and Egypt besides a few others in Europe figured in an exclusive debate of top-level experts assembled together in a workshop held in Istanbul, Turkey in October 2004. This was sponsored by Third World Centre for Water Management, Mexico; International Hydropower Association and NIPPON Foundation, Japan. Many other organizations like ICOLD including IWRA, ICID etc. also supported. I attended the event and presented ICID's position paper with regard to dams; recent works of Task Force 5 and 2 were also elucidated. Hon'ble President of Turkey, Dr. Süleyman Demirel, himself a renowned Water Resources Development Expert with a nearly six decades of rich experience in the field, graced the occasion. He delivered a talk as to how Turkey launched its focused action on water resources development and built a large number of dams during the past 40 years, which enabled the regional development. He brought out the case of South Eastern Anatolia Project (GAP) in particular and indicated that the relatively backward region could emerge as a strong and effective partner in their nation building. The occasion enabled me to interact with leading water personalities like Prof. Asit K. Biswas, Prof. Dr. Dogan Altinbilek, Mr. Andre Bergeret, Prof. Raymond Lafitte, Mr. Benedito Braga and a few others from international organizations. Inter-alia, perceptions of the organizations for the next World Water Forum, Mexico were discussed. ICOLD, in particular, proposed to work together with ICID on issues of common interest: our full



cooperation was assured.

I have an invitation from IUCN to participate in the World Conservation Congress scheduled during November 2004 in Bangkok with a special request to contribute on the theme "**Balancing the need of Water Users in River Basins**". In the recent past, we had a good interaction with organizations like IUCN, WWF, IWMI and others in Stockholm and Moscow. During the Stockholm Water Week, IWMI planned a review of Dialogue Phase-I and also facilitated GWP's Comprehensive Assessment on Water for Food and Environment. We exchanged our ideas based on the recently undertaken CPSP studies in respect of India and China and brought home as to how a holistic basinwide approach could help to address the issues better, objectively. A better mutual understanding was possible. The present invitation of IUCN is taking further this interactive exchange process to see as to how one could dovetail the interest of food security and environmental sustainability. In our recent IEC Moscow session, President Keizrul brought out the desirability to address environmental concerns, by us. We shall see as to how best we could do so. I shall be participating in that IUCN World Conservation Congress and in the exclusive session scheduled to discuss river basin management. The environmental community is getting closer to acknowledging the need for bridging sustainability and productivity.

With warmest regards,

Yours sincerely,

(M. Gopalakrishnan)
Secretary General

International Conference on IPSSLWM

An International Conference on "Innovative Practices for Sustainable Sloping Lands and Watershed Management" was held at Chiang Mai Hill Hotel, Chiang Mai, Thailand during 5-9 September 2004 which was hosted by Department of Agricultural Extension (DOAE) under the name of "Innovative Practices for Sustainable Sloping Lands and Watershed Management" with close cooperation and supports of many organizations such as Asian Development Bank (ADB), International Water Management Institute (IWMI), Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), Department of Land Development, Association of Soil and Fertilizer of Thailand and Association of Soil and Water Resource Conservation of Thailand. The main theme of the conference was "Sustainable smallholder land and water management in sloping upland area for food, livelihoods and nature. The overall goals were to share research and extension experiences at farms and communities including catchments to enhance operational linkage system/network for sustainable and acceptable sloping land management. The main objectives of the conference were: (i) Present and share knowledge and experiences on concepts, principles, methodologies and results of sloping upland management at the farm, community and watershed scales; (ii) Present and discuss the challenges of achieving effective adoption of these innovations by smallholders through various approaches; and (iii) Develop functional research-extension-farmer-linkages systems/network for sustainable and acceptable sloping land and watershed management. Papers were

presented into a series of 6 sessions. In conclusion, all participants were satisfied with the conference program both technical session and field trip program. During the panel discussion, most participants from different countries agreed that the sound innovative practices for sustainable land and watershed management depend on country perceptions. (Source : *Thai National Committee of ICID*)

African Team Visits Central Office

Engr. Mbogo Futakamba (Tanzania), Prof. Paul Mafuka Mbe-Mpie (Congo), Mr. Gasore Elie Rene, Mr. Nabahungu N. Leon from (Rwanda) and Prof. Nitu Hatibu (Nairobi) visited ICID Central Office on 5 November 2004. Eng. Futakamba is also Secretary of Tanzania National Committee for Irrigation and Drainage (TANCID). They



were pleased to be in Central Office and had lively discussion with Secretary General Mr. M. Gopalakrishnan and other professionals. The Secretary General briefed them on ICID and its

New Additions to ICID's TDS Database (October 2004)

Article Section – 60 additions, viz. (i) Journal of Hydraulic Research, 2004, Vol. 42, No. 4; (ii) agriculture + rural development 2003, Vol. 10, No. 2; (iii) Water Resources Journal, June 2003, No. ST/ESCAP/SER.C/214; and (iv) ISH Journal of Hydraulic Engineering, 1998, Vol. 4, Nos. 1-2; up-to-date tally 4211; **Book Section** – 23 additions; up-to-day tally 30070. The Text Delivery Service (TDS) database can be accessed by visiting ICID Website : www.icid.org.

current activities specially about the mission of African regional Working Group (AFRWG), upcoming 1st African Regional Conference (2004) in Egypt and ICID Congress in Beijing (2005). Prof. Hatibu informed about the establishment of Soil and Water Management Research Network (SWMNet) comprising 10 African countries with secretariat at Nairobi, Kenya. The team was supportive to the fact that several African countries need large scale irrigation schemes, beside small scale applications, for harnessing untapped water resources and irrigation development so as to achieve food security and poverty alleviation. Advantages of becoming ICID member were discussed and Prof. Mafuka Mbe-Mpie, Mr. Elie Rene and Mr. Leon shown keen interest in joining ICID and assured to take it up with their Governments.

International Network for Water and Ecosystem in Paddy Fields (INWEPF)

The INWEPF held its Inaugural Symposium and First Steering Meeting on the International Network for Water and Ecosystem in Paddy Fields during 1-2 November 2004 at Tokyo, Japan. The INWEPF was established as a follow-up activity of Third World Water Forum (2003) by Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF). The Mission of the INWEPF is to realize three challenges, "Food security and poverty alleviation", "Sustainable water use" and "Partnership" by promoting sustainable water use in paddy fields with due consideration for conservation and sustenance of rice-based ecosystems by cooperating with all stakeholders. Dr. Huh, Yooman, Vice President of ICID chaired the Inaugural Symposium while Dato' Ir. Hj. Keizrul bin Abdullah, President, ICID delivered a Keynote Speech on "Food production and irrigation water in the Asian monsoon region". Mr. Daniel P.

Renault, Senior Officer, Irrigation System Management Land and Water Development Division (AGL), FAO coordinated Session 1 on "Multiple roles and values of agricultural water in paddy fields" and Session 2 on "Participatory Irrigation Management".

Paddy growing ICID member countries are advised to contact Masao Matsumoto and Fumihiko Onodera (E-mail : fumihiko_onodera@nm.maff.go.jp) for becoming a member of INWEPF and share their country experiences.

Geosynthetics in Irrigation and Drainage

Adoption of innovative construction techniques in irrigation and drainage projects with use of geosynthetics is becoming increasingly attractive to reduce seepage losses.

Mr. M. Gopalakrishnan, Secretary General, ICID participated in a seminar on "Geotechnical Engineering Practice with Geosynthetics" during 28-30 October 2004 in New Delhi and delivered the Valedictory Address. He introduced the ICID Publication "Application of Geosynthetics in Irrigation and Drainage Projects", authored by Herve Plusquellec, which, inter alia provides some typical examples of large scale use of geomembrane in irrigation projects globally. While supporting the proposals for the concept of establishing a Centre of Excellence, he advised that it could be even at the regional level. He urged the need for preparation of a Perspective Vision on Geosynthetics in India, especially in the Irrigation and Drainage Sector, where with the specific emphasis on increasing efficiency, the use of this material has a great potential.

The seminar had nine technical sessions, which were : reinforced soil retaining structures; reinforced soil

slopes; embankments on soft soil; pavements; lining systems; geosynthetic characterization and product development; drainage and ground improvement; coastal and waterways protection; natural fibre geotextiles. For more details, please contact : Dr. J.T. Shahu at Shahu@civil.iitd.ernet.in.

First African Regional Conference on Drainage (ARCOD)

The Egyptian National Committee for Irrigation and Drainage (ENCID) under the auspices of the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation of Egypt is organizing the First African Regional Conference on Drainage (ARCOD) during 6-9 December 2004 at 6th October City, Egypt. The theme of the Conference is "Drainage in Africa : Challenges and Opportunities for Enhancing the Quality of Life. The Conference will address other important topics including drainage technologies, lessons learnt from different drainage projects, the relation between drainage and environment, as well as capacity building and training of professionals. Since this is the 1st African Regional Conference, all ICID professionals/experts specially from Africa, are encouraged to participate by attendance and also present papers at the Conference. Full papers are to be submitted to the Conference Secretariat at e-mail arcod@encid.org.eg. Due to limited funds available, the Conference Organizing Committee will consider a partial sponsorship to a limited number of participants who intends to present papers for the conference. Three workshops will be held parallel to the conference, in addition to exhibition showing ENCID activities and publications. For more information with regard to conference activities, accommodation, and tours, please access : www.encid.org.eg/arcod. (Source : ENCID)

Proceedings of Intl. Workshop on Water Harvesting and Sustainable Agriculture

The International Workshop on "Water Harvesting and Sustainable Agriculture" was held in September 2004 during 54th International Executive Council meetings at Moscow, Russia. The objectives were : to exchange experiences gained in different countries and environments on planning and evaluation of water harvesting techniques and to provide a forum for improved design, management and evaluation of water harvesting systems for sustainable crop production under varied water scarcity conditions.

Participants from South Africa, Iran, Ethiopia, Syria, Turkey, Jordan, India and Eritrea present their papers.

Papers were essentially related to the planning, implementation and evaluation aspects of runoff farming systems and groundwater recharge systems. Presentations included lessons learned and profiles of activities from international agencies (FAO, ICRISAT & IWMI) as well as research results from research centres, universities and water authorities.

The Agriculture Research Commission (ARC) from South Africa presented their research results on an in-field rainwater harvesting system based on 7 years of data collection. Paper presented by J.J. Botha, was unique, where all aspects of sustainability were measured simultaneously (*agronomic productivity, crop production risk, conservation of natural resources, economic viability and social acceptability*) by a multidisciplinary team of experts. Paper presented by L.J. van Rensburg offered an innovative way of assessing performance of runoff farming systems and mulching management, based on the principle

that infiltration was dominating the process. These papers indicated that 'Integrated water-soil-crop management systems were more profitable than runoff farming systems only e.g. application of mulching and were clearly demonstrating the sustainability of that crop production technique in the agro-ecological and socio-economic environment prevailing in the rural villages around Thaba Nchu. The presentation made by FAO on 'Coping with Water Scarcity in (Semi) arid Areas' was equally interacting and useful.

The workshop was well attended by experts and professionals. Please contact Dr. S. Nairizi (s.nairizi@toossab.com) for more details.

'Prithvi 2005' Global Eco Meet on the theme "Water Conservation and Management"

'Prithvi 2005' is a Global Meet on eco-friendly products, technology and initiatives, aimed at evolving new partnerships for sustainable development by bringing together the diverse players like academicians, researchers, policy makers, producers, consumers and communicators on a common platform which is being organized by the Swadeshi Science Movement (SSM), the Kerala Chapter of "Vijnanana Bharati", engaged in the development and propagation of science at all levels based on a holistic approach. "Prithvi 2005" will be held in Thiruvananthapuram, the Capital of Kerala State (India) between 20-25 February 2005. There will also be a business meet on eco-friendly products from 21-27 February 2005. Prithvi 2005 would focus mainly on themes related to sustainable eco-friendly options in energy, agriculture, land use, waste management, water conservation, habitat, green pharmacy, transportation, and tourism. For further

information, please contact : Er. R. Ramanujam, Former Managing Director, Kerala Water Authority and Theme Coordinator, Prithvi 2005, Sumeru, Tutors land, TC 26/2044 Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India. Tel: +91-471-3094201; E-mail : info@prithvionline.org; website : www.prithvionline.org

EVENTS

Seminar on the "Role of Ecosystems as Water Suppliers", 13-14 December 2004, Geneva, Switzerland. For information, please access : <http://www.unece.org/env/water/meetings/ecosystem/seminar.htm>.

World Wetland Day, 31 January to 1 February 2005, London, England. Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management (CIWEM) is organizing its annual conference to mark World Wetlands Day, to take place in London, England on 31 January to 1 February 2005. For information, please contact : Justin Taberham; E-mail : Justin@ciwem.com; Website : www.ciwem.com

2005 Source Water Protection Symposium, 23-26 January 2005, Palm Beach, Florida. The symposium will include topics relating to transitioning from assessment to protection, development of effective source water protection strategies, partnership building, inter-jurisdictional issues, southeastern US source water protection issues, emerging issues, international perspectives, and other timely source water protection topics. For information, please contact : Chi Ho Sham, Linda Moody, American Water Works Association (AWWA). E-mail : csham@cadmusgroup.com; lmood@awwa.org; website : www.waterwebster.com/AWWA2005Symposium.htm.



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Impact of Biological Clogging Agents on Filter and Emitter Discharge Characteristics of Microirrigation Systems

S. Merrett
The Potential Role for Economic Instruments in Drought Management

H. Ruiguang and F.X. Suryadi
Flood Control and Land Use Management in Mengwa Retention Area, Huai River Basin

R. Wardlaw and K. Bhaktikul
Application of Genetic Algorithms for Irrigation Water Scheduling

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Irrigation and Fisheries: Irreconcilable Conflicts or Potential Synergies?

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Volume 53.4 of *Irrigation and Drainage* (now available on the website) to be published in December (2004). Click on www.icid.org and the banner on top of the English or French Home page for access to the Wiley site. Click at the Wiley site on Early View for the forthcoming articles :

D. Cohen, U. Shamir and G. Sinai
Water Quality Aspects of Optimal

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