



# News Update

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INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON IRRIGATION AND DRAINAGE

Established 1950

January 2006

## From Secretary General's Desk...

Dear Friends,

Greetings from the Central Office for a very productive and peaceful year 2006!

The important event in the offing is 4 World Water Forum in Mexico scheduled between 16-22 March 2006. In its last meeting of IEC, it was resolved that our participation would focus on the two themes; Water Management for Food and Environment and Risk Management. I thank many National Committees which gave their comments on related themes. The Central Office had endeavored to prepare and provide the 'ICID inputs' on the theme on Water for Food, based on earlier positions taken during Fora meetings and subsequent outputs of the Task Forces on related subjects that went deep into the subject. We had IEC's approval of the documents generated by them in the recent meetings held in Beijing and Moscow. I thank our Working Group on Comprehensive Approaches to Flood Management (WG-CAFM) to attempt and provide ICID perceptions on the theme on Risk Management. Pending formal processing of this workbody's report on the paper "The management of Riverine Flood Risks" in the forthcoming IEC at Kuala Lumpur, we have sent it to the beacons (WMO), as our position paper for necessary action.

PH Aly Shady has succeeded to have an exclusive session on "Water Infrastructure" where, he has assured that the inputs of ICID would find their place. The Japanese National Committee (JNC-ICID) is organizing a session on the theme "The sustainable agricultural water use in paddy fields and their multi-functionality", as well. We have indication on Chinese efforts to have a session on Flood Management where outputs generated during Beijing Congress would find a place.



ICID shall also be making a presentation of its work under CPSP on Sabarmati Basin as a presentation on "Local Action for Global Challenge". Our presence would thus be quite rich in WWF 4.

To ensure continuing relationship and association with WWC for our mutual benefits, ICID shall contest to retain its place in the Board of Governors of the World Water Council, elections for which would take place a day ahead of the commencement of Forum meeting. If some of you in ICID family are intending to participate in WWF 4 and could provide advance information, we could liaise with MXCID to plan an activity of common interest, suitably.

We had interesting responses from several National Committees on the proposed ICID External review. We have a lot of tasks ahead in this year, particularly focused in this front. Soon after the finalization of the Terms of Reference which will be looked into by a Steering Committee proposed to be constituted, I shall be circulating the same to all National Committees for their views within a fortnight. I am sure that many of you who are quite keen to provide your valuable inputs would do so in the limited time frame that would be made available.

We are yet to get a positive response on the support for WatSave 2006 Awards. We thank both NCs of Philippines and Australia for keenly pursuing to garner this year's opportunity but had to defer it for a future occasion, due to certain difficulties. The opportunity is wide open for other National Committees.

With best regards,

M. Gopalakrishnan  
Secretary General

## NEWS FROM NATIONAL COMMITTEES

### ENCID

Dr. Mahmoud Abu-Zeid, Vice President Hon., ICID has been re-elected as the Egyptian Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation. On behalf of ICID family, we heartily congratulate Dr. Abu-Zeid for his successive re-election as the Hon'ble Minister of Water Resources of Egypt. We feel proud that a Vice President Hon. of ICID has been elected for the third successive term to serve the people and Government of Egypt and rest of the world water community. We wish that under Dr. Abu-Zeid's leadership, the Egyptian National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (ENCID) will flourish manifolds. Dr. Abu-Zeid can be reached at "Dr. Mahmoud Abu-Zeid – Secretariat" (E-mail : [abu-zeid@mwri.gov.eg](mailto:abu-zeid@mwri.gov.eg)).

### IRNCID

Following events were held by the Iranian National Committee of ICID (IRNCID) during the Fall 2005 :

- **Workshops on (i) Mechanized Surface Irrigation, and (ii) Modelling in Irrigation and Drainage** were held in December 2005 in Tehran and were attended by over 300 experts, professors, and students. The papers presented during the workshops can be accessed at the IRNCID website <<http://www.irncid.org>>



Participants at the Workshop

- **Seminar on Zayandé-Rood River Basin Water Productivity** was held in Isfahan Province in November 2005 and was attended by over 120 professors, experts, professionals and students. The presentations were focused on "Water Productivity Procedures" and "Methods of Productivity Enhancement" experiences. (Source : IRNCID)

### SANCID

The South African National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (SANCID) together with the Southern African Regional Irrigation Association (SARIA) is holding a SARIA Workshop from 30 January to 2 February 2006 in Pretoria, South Africa. The theme of the workshop is "Sustainable Agricultural production in SADC". The objectives aimed at SADC countries are to : (i) Inventorise the natural resources in SADC countries including water-related infrastructure; (ii) Deliberate the most beneficial use of resources; (iii) To enhance communication, research, training and development of appropriate science and technologies in water use efficiency and economic development to improve the livelihoods of the inhabitants of the SADC region; and (iv) to establish links to and networking with related regional and international initiatives and programs. The program to be commenced with a technical field excursion on 31 January 2006 followed by the SARIA Workshop on 1 February 2006. Papers from SADC countries, as well as three expert presentations on Soil Productivity; Rainwater harvesting technologies; and Climate will be presented in the workshop. For information, please contact to : Dr. Andrew Sanewe, Committee Convener (Andrews@wrc.org.za); Ms. Mara de Villiers, Secretariate (Mara@arc.agric.za); and Mr. Felix Reinders, Vice President, ICID (ReindersF@arc.agric.za).

### THAICID



Mr. Thanuchai Thammaphirome has become the Secretary General of Thailand National Committee of ICID (THAICID) as Mr. Shartri Kaewplung, former Director of Office of Project Management has retired on 30 September 2005.

Mr. Thammaphirome was born on 8 December 1948 and holds a Bachelor in Irrigation Engineering (1966) and a Masters degree in Civil Engineering (1982) from Kasetsart University. He worked for the Royal Irrigation Department since 1971 in the fields of design, construction and water resources development planning. THAICID is one of the active National Committee of ICID since 1950. We welcome Mr. Thammaphirome to ICID family and hope that he will take THAICID to new standards of development and achievement. Mr. Thammaphirome's contact address is : Director of Office of Project Planning and Secretary General of THAICID, Royal Irrigation Department, Samsen Road, Bangkok 10300, Thailand. Tel : +662-241-0068; Fax : +662-243-7870; E-mail : [thanunchait@mail.rid.go.th](mailto:thanunchait@mail.rid.go.th).

### UKRICID

Mr. Peter Kovalenko, President, Ukrainian National Committee of ICID (UKRICID) has informed their new postal address as below :

Institute of Hydraulic Engineering and Land Reclamation Vasylkivska Str., 37 Kyiv 22, 03022, Ukraine

### *Special Session on Lake Chad*

The Joint Special Session on Lake Chad was organized by Special Work Team on Lake Chad (SWTLC) and African Regional Working Group (AFRWG) on 11 September 2005 during Beijing Congress.

The Lake Chad is an international shallow freshwater lake located within west and central African region. It is estimated that nearly 30 million people live in the basin (in parts of Cameroon, Chad, Central African Republic, Niger, Nigeria, Sudan, Algeria and Libya). Most of the people in the basin are dependent on the natural resources of the basin for their survival. The overuse and abuse of wetlands and their resources are threatening wildlife and livelihoods in this region which is characterized by a mixed situation of poverty and environmental fragility.

The Special Session was designed to sensitize participants with the issues of

## OBITUARY

It is with profound grief that we record the passing away of Dr. Mona El-Kady on 10 December 2005. Dr. El-Kady was a highly respected member of ICID family and her services to the Egyptian National Committee (ENCID) in particular and to ICID at large, were immense. She was acknowledged as a widely known professional with impressive accomplishments and services in various capacities. Her advice and guidance in various affairs of ICID were extremely helpful in pursuing the mission and objectives of the Commission. Dr. El-Kady had been a Member of ICID Working Group on Research and Development (WG-R&D). It is indeed a loss not only to the ENCID and to ICID, but to the whole irrigation and drainage sector at large.

We send Commission's profound sympathy and condolences to the bereaved family, as well as to ENCID.

the basin's land and water resources degradation and their effects on vegetation, livestock, and human resources as well as the current and proposed efforts to resuscitate the natural resources and to utilize them on a sustainable basis. Engr. M.S. Adamu, Executive Secretary of Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC); Mr. Julian Barr – Project Director of Joint Wetland and Livelihood Project (JWL) of DFID-UK; Mr. Boubakari Mana – Director (LCBC); and Mr. Yahaya Kazaure and S. D. Abdulkadir of Hadejia-Jama'are River Basin Development Authority, Nigeria presented papers relevant to the topic.

The resolutions of the Special Session were as below:

- The special and peculiar situation prevailing in Lake Chad basin as well as the rapidly changing paradigm for integrated water resources management stood acknowledged. The situation calls for concerted effort from all stakeholders with support of all well-meaning individuals, organizations and development partners to ensure sustainable use of water resources and ecosystem management.

- Donors are encouraged to continue to support the laudable programmes; the planners and decision makers are to learn and utilize the lessons from the projects which are in progress.
- To ensure that the comprehensive nature of IWRM and the balance between supply and demand is

appreciated, all stakeholders should be sensitized on the issues.

The session expressed its full support for the formation of the Special Work Team on Lake Chad (SWTLC) by ICID and expressed the need to coordinate its activities with Special Work Team on Aral Sea Basin (ST-ARAL), Task Force on "Inter Basin Water Transfers (TF-

IBWT)", Working Group on Integrated Land and Water Resources Management (WG-ILWRM); Working Group on Irrigated Agriculture Under Drought and Water Scarcity (WG-IADWS). The session called for special effort to get member States of LCBC to join ICID (Source : NINICID).

## **FACTS AND FIGURES ABOUT WATER**

- ❖ Because 70% of the Earth is covered by water, it is called the 'Blue Planet'. Yet only 2.5% of the world's water is freshwater, while 97.5% is oceans. Only 0.3% of the world's freshwater is available from rivers, lakes and reservoirs; 30% is groundwater, while the rest is stored in distant glaciers, ice sheets, and mountainous areas – all places that we can hardly access.
- ❖ Raindrops are not tear-shaped. Scientists, using high-speed cameras, have discovered that raindrops resemble the shape of a small hamburger bun.
- ❖ About two thirds of the human body is water. Some parts of the body contain more water than others. For example, 70% of your skin is water.
- ❖ You can survive about a month without food, but only 5 to 7 days without water.
- ❖ Most of our food is made up of

water: tomatoes (95%), spinach (91%), milk (90%), apples (85%), potatoes (80%), beef (61%), hot dogs (56%).

- ❖ More than half of the world's animal and plant species live in an aquatic environment.
- ❖ The Nile River is the world's longest river. It flows 6,671 kilometres from its headwaters to the Mediterranean Sea.
- ❖ The largest river basin in the world is the Amazon River Basin. It covers about 6,145,186 km<sup>2</sup>.
- ❖ Lake Superior (United States and Canada) is 563 km long, 257 km wide, and covers an area of more than 82,000 km<sup>2</sup>, which makes it the largest freshwater lake in the world.
- ❖ Lake Baikal, situated in south-east Siberia, is the oldest (25 million years) and deepest (1,700 m) lake in the world. It contains 20% of the world's total unfrozen freshwater reserve. Known as the 'Galapagos

of Russia', its age and isolation have produced one of the world's richest and most unusual freshwater faunas.

- ❖ Within 25 years, half the world's population could have trouble finding enough freshwater for drinking and irrigation.
- ❖ Currently, over 80 countries, representing 40% of the world's people, are subject to serious water shortages. Conditions may get worse in the next 50 years as populations grow and as global warming disrupts rainfall patterns.
- ❖ A third of the world lives in water stressed areas, where consumption outstrips supply. South West Asia faces the greatest threat. Over 90% of the region's population is experiencing severe water stress, with water consumption exceeding 10% of renewable freshwater resources.

(Source : <http://www.ec.gc.ca>; <http://www.awwa.org>; <http://www.unep.org>)

### **Newly Released on IFNet Website**

In a new release, the IFNet Website has summarized events which could be categorised as world flood disasters. More information at : [http://www.internationalfloodnetwork.org/ifnet\\_worstflood\\_eng.html](http://www.internationalfloodnetwork.org/ifnet_worstflood_eng.html)

### **Grants for Research**

Grants for strengthening capacity in Water Resources Research in many African Countries (upto US\$ 12,000) is available from the Inter-Islamic Network on Water Resources Development. More information at [www.ifs.se](http://www.ifs.se)

### **Education Kit on Combating Desertification**

The United Nations resolution declared 2006 the International Year of Deserts and Desertification.

Combating desertification both preserves the natural heritage of the world's drylands and contributes to the eradication of poverty, so that the development of today's world does not harm future generations.

This education kit comprises a teacher's guide, a series of case studies, an illustrated children's book and a poster. This kit is principally aimed at teachers

and pupils at the end of primary school and the beginning of secondary school in countries affected by desertification. It has been conceived to existing school program. Teachers can easily incorporate elements of the kit into existing lesson plans. Access the full publication (PDF format – 22 MB) at <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0012/001258/125816e.pdf>

### **World Water Day, 2006**

In 1992, the United Nations declared 22 March to be the World Water Day. World Water Day 2006 will be guided by the Theme "Water and Culture" under the leadership of UNESCO on 22 March 2006 within the framework of the

"International Decade for Action : Water for Life". The 2<sup>nd</sup> UN World Water Development Report will also be launched this year during the 4<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum in Mexico.

All National Committees are invited to devote the day to water related activities such as organizing conferences/seminars, round table discussions, public awareness through publications and documentaries etc. Feedback from National Committees will be given due coverage in this very your own News Update.

### **1<sup>st</sup> International Water and Film Event**

1<sup>st</sup> International Water and Film Event will be organized during 17-21 March 2006, in the framework of the 4<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum. During these five days, water will be brought to the big screen through movies and audiovisual materials in which it plays a central role. For more information, please access [http://www.worldwaterforum4.org.mx/home/fest\\_cine.asp?lan=](http://www.worldwaterforum4.org.mx/home/fest_cine.asp?lan=)

### **Dams and Development e-Paper**

Dam projects' benefits and impacts have been constantly debated upon. This paper provides structured information and easy access to case studies and websites to clear up some of the more contentious issues in dam projects. For information, please contact : [water@adb.org](mailto:water@adb.org). Free copies of the CD-ROM version are available.

### **World Water Week in Stockholm (2006)**

"Beyond the River – Sharing Benefits and Responsibilities" is the theme of the 2006 World Water Week in Stockholm, which takes place during 20-26 August 2006 and will address livelihood improvement, land-based activities within a river basin, and society's ability to cope

with natural disasters, among other aspects. Abstracts for presentation should be submitted by 1 February 2006. For more information, visit [www.worldwaterweek.org](http://www.worldwaterweek.org)

## **EVENTS**

**International Symposium on "Towards Sustainable Livelihoods and Ecosystems in Mountainous Regions", 7-9 March 2006, Chiang Mai, Thailand.** For more information, please access their website : [http://www.unesco.org/water/water\\_events/Detailed/1171.shtml](http://www.unesco.org/water/water_events/Detailed/1171.shtml)

**International Symposium on Water & Land Management for Sustainable Irrigated Agriculture, Adana, Turkey, 4-8 April 2006.** For information, please contact Dr. Attila Yazar at [symp2006@cu.edu.tr](mailto:symp2006@cu.edu.tr) or visit: <http://symp2006.cu.edu.tr/>

**Workshop on Flood Forecasting Management in Mountainous Areas, 17-19 April 2006, Pokhara, Nepal.** For more information, please access their website : [http://www.unesco.org/water/water\\_events/Detailed/1159.shtml](http://www.unesco.org/water/water_events/Detailed/1159.shtml)

**Second Call for Papers : International Conference on Rivers and Civilization : Multidisciplinary Perspectives on Major River Basins** during 25-28 June 2006 at La Crosse, Wisconsin, USA. Please access ([www.rivers2006.org](http://www.rivers2006.org)) for more information.

**Prince Sultan Bin Abdulaziz International Prize for Water.** For further details, e-mail : [info@psipw.org](mailto:info@psipw.org) or [molanshaw@btconnect.com](mailto:molanshaw@btconnect.com); website : [www.psipw.org](http://www.psipw.org).

**International Conference on "The Challenges of Living with Flood Risk : Resistance, Resilience or Retreat?", 27-29 June 2006, Churchill College, Cambridge, UK.** For more information, please contact : Cambridgeshire Country Council, ET1036 The FLOWS Project, Castle Hill, Castle Court, Cambridge, CB3 0HY, UK and access their website : [www.floodscape.net](http://www.floodscape.net).

**World Congress on Agricultural Engineering for a Better World, 3-7 September 2006, Bonn, Germany.** Deadline for Abstracts is 1 February 2006. Additional information can be found at

### **New Additions to ICID's TDS Database (December 2005)**

**Article Section** – 65 additions, viz. (i) Paddy and Water Environment, April 2004, Vol. 2, No. 1; (ii) Lakes & Reservoirs – Research and Management, June 2005, Vol. 10, No. 2; (iii) Canadian Journal of Plant Science, July 2005, Vol. 85, No. 3; (iv) Land + Water International, October 2005; (v) International Water Power & Dam Construction, November 2005, Vol. 57, No. 11; (vi) Civil Engineering, ICE, November 2005, Vol. 158, No. 4; (vii) WMO Bulletin, October 2005, No. 4; (viii) Journal of Indian Water Resources Society, April 2005, Vol. 25, No. 2; (ix) entwicklung & landlicher raum, 2005, No. 5; and (x) HRW, November 2005, Vol. 13, No. 5; up-to-date tally 5075; **Book Section** – 24 additions; up-to-date tally 30405. The Text Delivery Service (TDS) database can be accessed by visiting ICID website: [www.icid.org](http://www.icid.org)

[www.2006cigr.org](http://www.2006cigr.org); E-mail : [info@2006cigr.org](mailto:info@2006cigr.org).

**9<sup>th</sup> International Riversymposium, 4-7 September 2006, Brisbane, Australia.** For more information, please access their website : [www.riversymposium.com](http://www.riversymposium.com).

**Conference on "Environmentally Sound Technology in Water Resources Management" Gaborone, Botswana, 11-13 September 2006,** organised by the International Association of Science & Technology for Development. For more information, please access [www.unesco.org/water/water\\_events/Detailed/1079.shtml](http://www.unesco.org/water/water_events/Detailed/1079.shtml)

**3<sup>rd</sup> International Symposium on Integrated Water Resources Management, 26-28 September 2006, Bochum, Germany.** For more information, please access their website: <http://www.conventus.de/water/> or e-mail [IWRM2006@rub.de](mailto:IWRM2006@rub.de).

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