



News Update

ICID•CIID

INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON IRRIGATION AND DRAINAGE

Diamond Jubilee Year (1950-2009)

January 2010

Inaugural Speech of the Hon'ble Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the 60th IEC Meeting and 5th Asian Regional Conference

10 December 2009, New Delhi, India

"I am very happy to be present here to inaugurate the 5th Asian Regional Conference on 'Improvement in Efficiency of Irrigation Projects through Technology Upgradation and Better Operation & Maintenance.'

It has been said that just as the conflicts of the 20th century were often over the sharing of scarce petroleum resources, those of the 21st century will probably be over the sharing of water. Some estimates suggest that world food demand could double in the next two decades. That will translate into a huge demand for water. Further stress on scarce water resources will be caused by population growth, the majority of which will be dependent on agriculture; industry and will lead to urbanization. Nowhere are these challenges more pressing than in Asia.

The spectre of climate change will also have an unpredictable consequence on the water regime. Various studies point towards its adverse impact on the hydrologic cycle that could result in the intensification of both temporal and spatial variations in precipitation.

In our country, we are already struggling every year with floods in one part of the country and droughts in other parts of our country. This year, we had severe floods in Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and elsewhere. At the same time around 300 districts of the country were declared as being drought affected. These imbalances will only intensify with climatic distortions that are now on the horizon. Moreover, there are concerns that climate change may also adversely impact on ground water table and its quality, affecting thereby productivity of the cropping systems.

The challenge of managing our water resources in a rational and sustainable manner will thus require action on many fronts and coordination across different sectors of the economy. In India, we have tried to address these complex inter-relationships through the formulation of a National Water Mission, which is one of the eight national missions that are part of our National Action Plan on Climate Change launched recently by the Government of India.

The main objective of our "National Water Mission" is integrated water resource management by conserving water, minimizing wastage and ensuring its more equitable distribution both across and within various states of our union. Some of the key action areas of the "National Water Mission" are: (i) Placing of a comprehensive water data base in the public domain and assessment of the impact of climate change on water resources; (ii) Promotion of citizen and State actions for water conservation, augmentation and preservation; (iii) Focused attention to over-exploited areas; (iv) Increasing water use efficiency by at least 20%; and (v)



Promotion of basin level integrated water resource management.

The Water Mission will seek to develop new regulatory structures, combined with appropriate entitlements and pricing of water. It will seek to optimize the efficiency of existing irrigation systems. Incentive structures will be designed to promote water-neutral or water positive technologies, recharging of underground water sources and adoption of large-scale irrigation programmes that rely on sprinklers, drip irrigation and ridge and furrow irrigation.

An expansion of irrigation and improvement in irrigation efficiency are thus key not only to improving agricultural productivity but also to our strategy for sustainable water use. There has to be a greater synergy between our agricultural policies and our water policies with a view to securing food supply, especially to the poor and vulnerable sections of the population, through more efficient and sustainable use of scarce water resources.

The target of doubling the annual rate of growth of agriculture in India to 4% during the Eleventh Plan Period of 2007-2012 is a top priority for our government. To achieve this, we are sharply increasing public investment in agriculture. The most important area for investment in agriculture relates to the provision of water and its most efficient use. In fact, we hope to be able to add about 16 million hectares to the irrigated area during the Eleventh Five Year Plan.

But, an assessment of the irrigation system in India indicates that efficiencies of surface water systems can be improved from the present level of 35 to 40% to about 60% and that of groundwater systems from the existing 65% to about 75%. Similar situations prevail in most developing countries in Asia and we have a great deal to learn from each others

experience. Utilization of created irrigation potential is another crucial issue. In India only about 84% of the created irrigation potential has been utilized thus far. Efficient use of crop water can increase the gross irrigated area, either by increasing the irrigated cropped area or the intensity of irrigation. All these options have to be explored and collaboration in research among countries represented here shall be a very important, fruitful collaborative exercise to improve the efficiency of water and promote its sustainable use.

Therefore, the subject of your deliberations today has vital importance for countries like India that are investing heavily in irrigation schemes. We look forward to the outcome of your deliberations today that could, I hope that will make a practical contribution to the adoption of best practices in the irrigation systems in India and elsewhere in Asia.

We need to increase investment in agricultural technologies, particularly those related to improved crop practices, water savings, design of storage structures & more efficient farm implements. The first Green Revolution came due to innovations developed in the public sector. The second Green Revolution may well come from technologies developed in the private sector. It is therefore essential that private investment and innovation be incorporated within a broader vision and strategy of development in the agriculture and water sectors.

It is equally important that developed technologies reach the farmers particularly the poorest farmers. I am very happy that the Ministry of Water Resources has launched a "Farmers' Participatory Action Research Programme" through Agriculture Universities and Agriculture Research Institutes with a view to demonstrate available technologies for increasing productivity and profitability of agriculture. Such programmes need to be expanded.

I would like to emphasize that water-related issues need to be addressed with the full involvement of the local communities and take into account specific local conditions and concerns. Farmers as principal stakeholders should be consulted in any agricultural water management initiatives. Women play a key role in food production activities in a large number of countries. Therefore, a special effort should be made to involve women in process of decision-making.

I wish to conclude by saying that we should work together, learn from each other and harness all our scarce resources to give substance to the slogan "More Crop and Income per Drop". I wish your (ICID) Conference all success."

[Source: Prime Minister's Office]

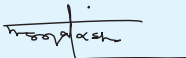
From Secretary General's Desk...

Dear Friends,

Greetings for a Happy New Year, 2010.

The value and importance of ICID Conferences / Annual Events ascended to new heights, thanks to the efforts of INCID, the hosts for our last IEC in Delhi that brought a galaxy of country's top leaders to Inaugural and Closing Plenary Session. Given the importance of the speech of distinguished Indian PM who graced the occasion and inaugurated the conference, you would appreciate my desire to publish it in the Front Page of your News Update.

Best regards,



M. Gopalakrishnan
Secretary General

News from ICID National Committees

Bangladesh (BANCID)

Mr. Md. Ahsan Ullah has taken over as the new Member-Secretary of the Bangladesh National Committee of ICID (BANCID). The contact coordinates of Mr. Ullah are as below –

Mr. Md. Ahsan Ullah
Member-Secretary
Bangladesh National Committee of
ICID (BANCID)
House-13, Road-4, Dhanmondi R/A
Dhaka-1205, Bangladesh
Tel : +88 02-9669935
Fax : +88 02-9668646
E-mail : jrcb@bdcon.net
Website: www.jrcb.gov.bd

The ICID fraternity extends its warm welcome to Mr. Md. Ahsan Ullah and expresses its thanks to Md. Salim Bhuiyan, former Member-Secretary who has been immensely co-operating with ICID in the past. [Source : BANCID]

Ukraine (UKCID)

The new e-mail address of Vice President Peter Kovalenko (Ukraine) is <pitkovalenko@gmail.com> and <peterkovalenko@mail.ru>.

Inaugural Address by Prof. Chandra A. Madramootoo, President, ICID

60th IEC and 5th ARC, 10 December 2009, New Delhi, India

Distinguished guests and Colleagues

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all this morning to the opening of the 60th International Executive Council meeting of ICID and the 5th Asian Regional Conference. I am particularly pleased to say how wonderful it is for us to gather here in Delhi, the home of ICID. For it is here, some 60 years ago, that our founding fathers gave birth to ICID. And it is through the gracious goodwill of the Government of India that the premises of our Central Office have been bequeathed. I therefore take this opportunity, Honourable Prime Minister, on behalf of all the National Committees and members of the ICID family, to express my deepest gratitude to the Government and people of India for their generosity towards ICID over the past six decades.

Honourable Prime Minister, Honourable Ministers of Water and distinguished colleagues, the mission of ICID, in summary, is to enhance the worldwide supply of food and fibre, by improving water and land productivity. The FAO estimates that an additional 100 million people in the world have been deprived access to adequate food in the past year, as a result of the current food crisis, and the number of people estimated to be undernourished is over 1 billion. Very startling statistics indeed. This statistic is even more dramatic when we consider that food production will have to double in the next 25 years or so, to meet rising population levels. The question is how will we accomplish this task, given the current drivers of water scarcity and climate change, which are affecting the sustainability of our food production system. The recent G8 and G20 summits in L'Aquila, Italy have therefore rightly placed food security and the water crisis at the top of the global development agenda.

It is my view that ICID, the largest international organization dedicated to water for food and fibre production, through its 108 member countries, active National Committees and committees of experts is best placed to finding solutions to the problems of water for food security. We will have failed our children and their children, through our inaction. But I believe that ICID has made many positive strides to



enhance the productivity of irrigated and drainage lands over the past 6 decades, and I am even more convinced that, as a collective group of international experts, we have the determination to make further technical, institutional and social-economic breakthroughs in the future.

We all have shining examples, in our respective countries, of solid achievements in the irrigation and drainage sector, which have boosted the food producing potential of our patrimonial lands. In this regards, by virtue of our meeting in India, I take this opportunity to congratulate the Government of India for its significant investments in agriculture and water resources development over the decades, and its extensive efforts at boosting food production, in order to satisfy the demands of the poorest of the poor.

Honourable Prime Minister, Honourable Ministers of Water, your achievements in food security in some of the worlds hardest of climatic extremes are laudable. In the last 50 years, you have quadrupled food grain production from 50 million tones to over 200 million tones. In light of such accomplishments, I am sure we will benefit wisely from our deliberations here in your remarkable country.

I thank you most wholeheartedly for welcoming us to India, and specifically wish to thank the Ministry of Water Resources, the Central Water Commission, and the Indian National Committee of ICID for organizing and hosting this excellent set of ICID meetings.

Thank you

Chandra A. Madramootoo
President, ICID

Disaster in Haiti

It is with profound sorrow and grief that we in ICID family took note of the great disaster gripping Haiti as an aftermath of an unprecedented earthquake last fortnight. Haiti is not an official member of ICID family. We convey our sympathies to all those affected by the disaster through our other National Committee members, particularly in Americas, with contacts in Haiti.

For those of us wishing to contribute financially for agencies at site working on relief to combat the disaster, kindly refer <http://www.google.com/relief/haitiearthquake/>.

6th Asian Regional Conference (ARC)

The 6th Asian Regional Conference (ARC) will be hosted by Indonesian National Committee of ICID (INACID) during 10-16 October 2010 at Sheraton Mustika Yogyakarta Resort and Spa, Yogyakarta Special Province in Indonesia. The 61st International Executive Council meeting will take place on 15 October 2010.

The Theme of the Conference

The theme of the Conference is "Improvement of Irrigation and Drainage Efficiency through Participatory Irrigation Development and Management under the Small Land Holding Conditions".

The Sub-theme are as follows:

1. Irrigation under the Escalating Water Scarcity and the Issues of Agricultural Land Conversion and Agricultural Land Fragmentation.
2. Challenges for Irrigated Agriculture under the Small Land Holders in the Approaching Decades :
 - a. Irrigation Water for Food Security;
 - b. Irrigation Water for Supporting Livelihood;
 - c. Irrigation Water for Supporting Environment
3. Participatory Irrigation Development and Management under the small Land Holding Conditions
4. Multifunctional Roles of Irrigation Water and the Role of Sustainable Balance of Ecosystem under the Small Holder
5. Synergizing of the Small and the Large Holder Irrigation under the Rapid Development of Rural and Urban Infrastructure

Deadlines : Abstract submission: **28 February 2010**; Notification of acceptance of papers: **30 March 2010**; Deadline for submission of full length papers: **30 April 2010**

More information on 'Call for Papers' is available at the Conference website www.icid2010.org

Contact: Secretariat : Indonesian National Committee of ICID (INACID), Ministry of Public Works Directorate General of Water Resources, Jl. Pattimura no. 20, Main Building, 3rd Floor, Kebayoran Baru, Jakarta Selatan 12110, Indonesia. Tel: +62-21-7230317 or +622-21-7230318; Fax: +62-21-7261956; E-mail: <secretariat@icid2010.org> [Source : *INACID*]

ICID Events

61st IEC and 6th Asian Regional Conference during 10-16 October 2010, Yogyakarta at Indonesia. Contact details: The Indonesian National Committee of International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (INACID), Ministry of Public Works, Directorate General of Water Resources, Main Building, 3rd Floor, Jalan Pattimura No. 20, Kebayoran Baru, Jakarta Selatan, Indonesia. Tel: +62 21 723-0317, +62 21 723-0318; Fax: +62 21 726-1956, E-mail: secretariat@icid2010.org, Website: <http://www.icid2010.org>

24th European Regional Conference during December 2010 at Orleans, France. Contact: Mr. Sami BOUARFA, Secrétaire Général, Association Française pour l'Etude des Irrigations et du Drainage (AFEID), 361, rue Jean-François Breton, F - 34090 - Montpellier, France. Tel: +33.4.67.04.63.16, Fax: +33.4.67.16.64.40, E-mail: afeid@cemagref.fr, Website: <http://afeid.montpellier.cemagref.fr>

3rd African Regional Conference in 2011 at Mali. Contact: Dr. Adama SANGARE, Secretary General, Association Malienne des Irrigations et du Drainage (AMID), Au Modibo Keita, Im Sulla and Fils, BP 1840, BAMAKO, Mali. Tel: (223) 222 75 21, Mobile No.: (223) 674 08 94, Fax: (223) 223 48 82, E-mail: a.sangare@betico.net; betico@betico.net

25th European Regional Conference during 16-20 May 2011 at Groningen, The Netherlands. Contact: Mr. Pol Hakstege (Secretary of NETHCID), Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water Management, Rijkswaterstaat Centre for Infrastructure, P.O. Box 20.000, 3502 LA Utrecht; The Netherlands, E-mail: pol.hakstege@rws.nl or Mr. Bert Toussaint (Chairman of organizing committee), Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water Management, Rijkswaterstaat Centre for Corporate Services, P.O. Box 2232, 3500 GE Utrecht, The Netherlands, Conference Email: bert.toussaint@rws.nl, Website: www.nethcid.nl, Email: nethcid2011@rws.nl

65th IEC and 22nd ICID Congress, South Korea 2014. Contact details: Dr. Jin-Hoon JO, Secretary General, Korean National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (KCID), 1031-7 Sa-dong, Sangnok-gu, Ansan-Si, Gyeonggi-do 425-170, Republic of Korea. Tel: +82 31 400 1755/1758, +82 31 400 1759, Fax: +82 31 406 7278, E-mail: kcidkr@gmail.com, kcid@ekr.or.kr

Other Events

3rd International Symposium on Soil Water Measurement Using Capacitance, Impedance and Time Domain Transmission at Murcia, Spain, April 7-9, 2010. Organized by Paltin International Inc. in cooperation with the CEBAS - CESIC, The ICID is the collaborative sponsor of Symposium - 2010. A specific focus will be on real-time multi-parameter (Water/EC/Temperature) soil profile monitoring probes and telemetry systems. Invited Keynote Speaker is Professor Dr. Chandra A. Madramootoo - President of ICID. Contact: Dr. Ioan Caton Paltineanu ioan@paltin.com and Dr. Juan Vera Munoz jvera@cebas.csic.es. For more details at www.paltin.com and www.soil-water.net

3rd International Conference and Exhibition on Water Resources and Renewable Energy Development in Asia, Borneo International Convention Centre, Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia, 29-30 March 2010. International Journal Hydropower and Dams, Sarawak Energy, ICOLD, ICID, IWMM, Min. of Public Utilities Sarawak, and a few others are organising the above event to consider Water Resources Development and Hydro in Asia, For more details visit: www.hydropower-dams.com

New Additions to ICID's TDS Database (December 2009)

The additions during the months to the TDS Database are:

Article Section – 32 additions (Articles / Papers)

- (i) Hydropower & Dams, 2009, Vol. 16, No. 4 (6 articles)
- (ii) Paddy and Water Environment, December 2009, Vol. 7, No. 4 (9 articles)
- (iii) Lakes & Reservoirs – Research and Management, December 2009, Vol. 14, No. 4 (8 articles)
- (iv) International Water Power & Dam Construction, October 2009, Vol. 61, No.10 (2 articles)
- (v) Water and Energy International, January-March 2009, Vol. 66, No. 1 (2 articles); and July-September 2009, Vol. 66, No. 3 (5 articles)

Book Section – 10 additions; till date 31439 additions have been made to TDS database. The Text Delivery Service (TDS) has received one request during the period from India.

The Text Delivery Service (TDS) database can be accessed by visiting ICID website: www.icid.org.



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Now available on the website **Volume 58.5**, published in December. Right click

on <http://www.interscience.wiley.com/journal/ird> for direct access to the home page of *Irrigation and Drainage* at the Wiley site, or at the Abstract or the PDF of the concerned paper for a direct link to respectively the abstract or the full paper.

Research Articles

Girma Senbeta Ararso, Bart Schultz, Peter Hollanders: Planning water management for secure food production in sub-Saharan Africa. Abstract, PDF

Keshav R. Adhikari, Yih-Chi Tan, Jih-Sung Lai, Dhruba Pant: Irrigation intervention: a strategy for conserving biodiversity and improving food security in Royal Chitwan National Park buffer zone, Nepal. Abstract, PDF

Aymen Frija, Stijn Speelman, Ali Chebil, Jeroen Buysse, Guido Van Huylenbroeck: Assessing the efficiency of irrigation water users' associations and its determinants: evidence from Tunisia. Abstract, PDF

Sayyed Hassan Tabatabaei, Payam Najafi: Effects of irrigation with treated municipal wastewater on soil properties in arid and semi-arid regions. Abstract, PDF

Mohammad Ali Shahrokhnia, Mahmood Javan, Mohammad Hosein Shahrokhnia: Influence of lateral canal water depth on

offtake and cross-regulator discharge. Abstract, PDF

Björn Tetzlaff, Petra Kuhr, Frank Wendland: A new method for creating maps of artificially drained areas in large river basins based on aerial photographs and geodata. Abstract, PDF

Heidi Webber, Chandra Madramootoo, Maryse Bourgault, Mikhail Horst, Galina Stulina, Donald Smith: Response of two legume crops to soil salinity in gypsiferous soils. Abstract, PDF

Luca Salvati, Maria-Elisa Venezian-Scarascia, Marco Zitti: Monitoring drought severity in agriculture through a synthetic index based on dry periods: a case study in the Mediterranean basin. Abstract, PDF

Leszek Labeledzki, Ewa Kanecka-Geszke: Standardized evapotranspiration as an agricultural drought index. Abstract, PDF

Emrah Dogan: Reference evapotranspiration estimation using adaptive neuro-fuzzy inference systems. Abstract, PDF

M. Gopalakrishnan: ICID Diamond Jubilee. PDF

Special Session on Groundwater : A Report

A Special Session on Groundwater was organized during the 60th International Executive Council (IEC) and 5th Asian Regional Conference (ARC) on 16 December 2009 at New Delhi, India.

Groundwater resources have been playing an increasingly important role in the economic development of many countries in the world. In developing countries, the proportion of people who depend on groundwater for potable water supply is generally much higher than the global average.

The session highlights were the strategies being adopted to address emergent groundwater management issues in order to ensure sustainable management of groundwater resources.

Recommendations

1. There is an urgent need for coordinated efforts by various Governments and non-governmental

agencies, civil society organizations and the stakeholders for evolving practical plans for effective management of groundwater.

2. Factors responsible for the imbalances in groundwater utilization in parts of India, in terms of technical and socio-economic considerations should also be taken into consideration while formulating any comprehensive water resources management initiatives.

3. There is an urgent need to shift the focus from supply side to demand side management to deal with problems related to water scarcity.

4. Mobilization of civil society and the community for action on natural resource management and conservation for rural uplift is vital for saving the environment and bringing prosperity to the rural communities. Community management of

groundwater resources needs to be encouraged through piloting, replication and scaling up of promising ideas.

5. In view of the increasing importance of community participation in demand management of groundwater, Government agencies should do the role of facilitators of groundwater related information instead of technical experts.

6. National policy should be formulated for protection of natural recharge sites of confined aquifers and more recharge schemes should be implemented in such areas for augmentation of groundwater resources.

7. A comprehensive framework for integrated management of water resources needs to be formulated in predominantly agricultural areas.



Messages from Dignitaries on the Occasion of 60th International Executive Council Meeting and 5th Asian Regional Conference

ICID•CIID

6-11 December 2009, New Delhi, India



BHUPINDER SINGH HOODA
CHIEF MINISTER,
GOVT. OF HARYANA



MESSAGE

It gives me immense pleasure to know that the 'Indian National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage' (INCID) and 'Central Water Commission' (CWC) are hosting the 60th meeting of the International Executive Council (IEC) of the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage and 5th Asian Regional Conference in December 2009. The theme of the conference, mainly, "Improvement in Efficiency of Irrigation projects through Technology Upgradation and Better Operation Maintenance" is very relevant.

Water is an essential commodity. Lately this has become more scarce and precious as the need for water has increased considerably. Haryana is a water deficit state and thus improvement in efficiency of Irrigation projects becomes very important and crucial. The State has already adopted rain water harvesting techniques and sprinkler irrigation to conserve water. Equitable distribution of water is also an important issue.

I am also happy to know that 150 papers on different topics are being presented in the conference which is being attended by 700 experts from 60 countries. I am sure that the deliberations in the meeting of the Council and also in the Regional Conference would be able to come up with recommendation for water management techniques.

I wish the IEC Meeting and Asian Regional Conference a great success.

(BHUPINDER SINGH HOODA)



CHIEF MINISTER
Govt. of HIMACHAL PRADESH

PREM KUMAR DHUMAL

MESSAGE

I am glad to learn that the Ministry of Water Resources, (Govt. of India) is organizing the 5th Asian Regional Conference and 60th International Executive Council Meeting (IEC) of the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID) during 6-11 Dec. 2009 at New Delhi. Experts and technocrats from all over the world are expected to join the stimulating debate on managing water in a way that reflects its economic, social, environmental and cultural values, besides deliberating on the challenges being faced in the irrigation, Agro & Food sectors.

I take this opportunity on the behalf of the state of H.P. to congratulate the Central Water Commission for organizing this conference at a time when issues of climate change, global warming and fast depletion of water resources are engaging the attention of policy makers world over. I am reminded of an incident quoted by John F. Kennedy, "The great French Marshall Lyautey once asked his gardener to plant a tree. The gardener objected that the tree was slow growing and would not reach maturity for 100 years. The Marshall replied, in that case, there is no time to lose: plant it this afternoon!"

I take this opportunity to comment on the developments made by the State of H.P. in the field of Water Management, Irrigation and Agriculture sectors. The Government of Himachal Pradesh, has framed a State Water Policy in the year 2005, to provide adequate & safe drinking water and assured irrigation to the entire State. With a view to protect ground water, the State has also enacted the Himachal Pradesh Ground Water Regulation and Management Act 2005. Further, in order to secure a multi-sectoral, multi-disciplinary and participatory approach in the field of Water Management, a "Water Management Board" has also been constituted recently in order to ensure convergence of Government efforts in Water Harvesting. In order to boost farm production the farmers are being encouraged to adopt modern practices and technology, a Rs. 353 crore 'Pandit Deen Dayal Kisan Bagwan Samridhi Yojna' is under implementation in the State which will bring 20,000 Hectares of area under Sprinkler/Drip Irrigation.

Last but not the least, I express my best wishes to C.W.C. & INCID for organizing this special event & further wish for it to be a great success.

(PREM KUMAR DHUMAL)



SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN



CHIEF MINISTER
GOVERNMENT OF
MADHYA PRADESH
BHOPAL-462 004
Dated: 3 November, 2009

MESSAGE

It is a matter of great pleasure that the Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India is organizing the fifth Asian Regional Conference on the key issue of "Improvement in efficiency of irrigation projects through technology (upgradation) and better operation and maintenance" from 6th to 11th December 2009 at New Delhi. I am happy to note that scientists, engineers and subject matter experts from 60 countries all over the world will participate in the conference.

One of the top most priorities of my government is to make agriculture a profitable enterprise for the farmers. Water is a critical input for increasing the agricultural productivity. I am particularly concerned about the sub optimal utilization of the created irrigation potential. There are immense possibilities of improving efficiency of irrigation projects through technology upgradation and better management practices. I hope that the discussions in the conference will result in practical solutions to improve irrigation efficiency leading to higher productivity and rural prosperity.

I extend my best wishes for the success of the conference.

(SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN)



ASHOK CHAVAN



CHIEF MINISTER
Govt. of MAHARASHTRA
November 5, 2009

MESSAGE

I am happy to know that 60th International Executive Council Meeting and 5th Asian Regional Conference will be held in New Delhi in December, 2009.

With the growth in population and fast industrialisation all over the world, the per capita water availability for agriculture is rapidly falling. It has also resulted in indiscriminate use of ground water lowering the water table substantially. On this background, the meeting of ICID & 5th Asian Regional Conference has a great significance.

I have been informed that around 700 experts from 60 countries will be participating in the Conference which will be inaugurated by Hon'ble Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singhji. I extend my warm wishes to organisers and all the participants. I understand that vital issue relating to management of water, its economic, social, environmental and cultural aspects, and challenges facing the Irrigation and agro-food sectors, food requirements, and increasing pressure on Land and Water Resources in Asia will be discussed in the Conference.

Maharashtra has introduced various Water Sector reform initiatives such as covering full maintenance cost of Irrigation Projects through collection of water charges, increasing farmers' participation in Irrigation Management and adopting advanced techniques in Water Sector. Maharashtra is the first State in India to constitute Water Resources Regulatory Authority to regulate water resources within the State of Maharashtra, facilitate and ensure judicious, equitable and sustainable management, allocation and utilisation of water resources fix rates for use of water for agriculture, industrial, drinking and other purposes, and matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

I hope that the exchange of theories and experiences of the experts from various countries will go in a long way in betterment of Water Sector.

(ASHOK CHAVAN)



NAVEEN PATNAIK
CHIEF MINISTER
Govt. of ORISSA



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Bhubaneswar

MESSAGE

I am happy to note that the Indian Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID) is going to organize their 60th I.E.C. Meeting & 5th Asian Regional Conference from 6th-11th December, 2009 at New Delhi on a topic which is one of the most challenging issues for the future - "Improvement in Efficiency of Irrigation Projects through technology up-gradation on Better Operation & Maintenance".

I extend my best wishes to all the professionals participating from across the world and wish the endeavor all success.

(NAVEEN PATNAIK)



M. KARUNANIDHI
Chief Minister
Govt. of Tamil Nadu



Secretariat
Chennai-600 009
Date: 13-11-2009

MESSAGE

I am very glad that India is hosting the 60th International Executive Council meeting and 5th Asian Regional Conference 6-11, December 2009, in New Delhi.

India, dependent on the monsoons for its water resources and with the second largest population in the world to be fed, has always been on the forefront in creating irrigation systems in the world. We are proud, in Tamil Nadu that the Grand Anicut at the head of the Cauvery Delta built in the second century AD by the Raja Karikala Chola can claim to be the oldest structure in the world built on sandy foundation, still in service. Irrigation in the Cauvery Delta for growing rice, which is the staple food of the Tamils, is the most ancient in India and is contemporaneous with the irrigation systems in the Mesopotamian Valley in today's Iraq. Tamils also had excelled in rainwater harvesting, creating a chain of minor irrigation tanks, one spilling over the next during the monsoon, in the sloping plains of the southeast.

I am also happy that the main theme of the Conference is "Improvement in Efficiency of Irrigation Projects through Technology Upgradation and Better Operation and Maintenance."

We are conscious that water all over the world is becoming a scarce resource and there is need for increasing the present water use efficiency to maximise the benefits. We have launched several schemes in Tamil Nadu, some with external financial aid, for modernising our ancient physical systems and revitalising our management practices, to grow more crop per drop.

I wish the conference success through fruitful discussions and sharing of expertise.

(M. KARUNANIDHI)

M. Gopalakrishnan, Secretary General, ICID

The tradition of creating of water infrastructure in India could be traced back to the times of ancient scriptures, though the sizeable water diversion from major rivers like the Cauvery dates back to the Chola Kingdom of the peninsular India (in the present Tamil Nadu State) dating back to over 1800 years.

India is privileged to host the ICID base after a laudable initiative in 1950, co-opting with 11 other nations with similar enthusiasm. The Central Office, located in the Diplomatic Enclave in New Delhi is in a central enviable area where foreign embassies and missions are located. ICID has now grown as an established global network with a membership of 108 member countries. We are proud to usher in the 60th year in June 2009. The upcoming ICID international council meetings coupled with Asian Regional Conference in December 2009 indeed connote our Diamond Jubilee.

With the dominant size of irrigated agriculture in the country, India's concerted efforts are being shifted to increase water productivity as this alone can guarantee the food and feed for the increasing billions of people ensuring nutritional demands besides its livestock population that is as sizeable as its human counts. This year's theme for the regional congress is exactly that.

The scope to revamp the traditional systems asks for picking up the best of the state of the art knowledge available, anywhere in the



world. And indeed, further improve upon it or tailor it to Indian needs. Irrigation practices are getting revolutionized with the growing pressure on water for various uses and there are interesting lessons to learn from each other and the conference provides ample scope for this to happen. Exhibits by Global Entrepreneurs in the field of modern irrigated agriculture will showcase evolving new technologies to help the developing countries to closely see their relevance in their own settings; there is a dire need to enhance the performance of large scale schemes already developed to yield manifold production while saving water for optimal utilisation.

I congratulate the organizers for their thoughtfulness to bring out a souvenir on the occasion. This provides an opportunity not only for irrigated agricultural sector but also other associated water agencies to highlight the impressive strides taking place.

We are grateful to INCID's Advisory / Organising / Science and Technology Committees for their efforts to mentor in organizing the 5th Asian Regional Conference befitting the ICID Diamond Jubilee.

M. Gopalakrishnan
Secretary General

INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON IRRIGATION AND DRAINAGE

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