



News Update

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INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON IRRIGATION AND DRAINAGE

Diamond Jubilee Year (1950-2010)

April 2010

From Secretary General's Desk...



Dear Friends,

At the outset, let me join you all in mourning the significant loss for ICID in the sad demise of VPH Henri Tardieu. May his soul rest in eternal peace!

President Madramootoo's visit to India during the later part of March enabled a meeting between us to discuss a few issues, take stock of the progress accomplished on a few decisions following the last IEC and the course of action for ensuring successful meetings in Yogyakarta in October. May I urge you to pay attention to some key circulars of Central Office on matters like nominations for the vacant positions of Vice Presidents, proposals for WatSave Award 2010 etc.

Honoring a specific invitation to ICID to partner ASIA 2010 organized by Hydropower & Dams in association with Sarawak Energy (Malaysia) and ICOLD, we responded positively. I attended the event in Kuching on 29 March. The inaugural session was attended by key dignitaries in Sarawak Region led by their Chief Minister Rt. Hon. Pehin Seri Haji Abdul Taib Mahmud with his cabinet colleagues; besides ICID representation by the undersigned, ICOLD President Hon. Prof. Luis Berga, World Bank Expert A. Palmieri and UN-ESCAP Expert Shaoyi Li were in the inaugural plenary session and spoke on their roles. ICID's recent contributions in agricultural water management to enhance the global food security were highlighted by me briefly in my



talk. The role of storages to cater to future water demands wherever there are shortages to ensure irrigated agriculture and food security came up strongly in an exclusive session on water resources development.

Agricultural Water Management is increasingly 'receiving' its deserved attention. During the month ICID President was invited to deliver a keynote speech in the 3rd International Symposium held in Murcia, Spain. A brief on this is seen elsewhere in NU while a full version in MP3 format along with PP slides is

posted on our website. In India, FAO and ICID were partners in a Symposium on water Savings held in the temple town of Tirupati. In Ahmedabad, again in India, Food Security was the key issue of a seminar that involved various stakeholders, ICID inclusive. All these occasions gave an opportunity to highlight ICID's significant role in the recent past in global fora on issues concerning food security and 'water for food'.

President Prof. Madramootoo and ASRWG Chair, VPH Dr. Karim Shiaty are being invited in the coming month, thanks to the initiative of CNCID, to share experiences in rehabilitation and modernization of large irrigation districts. Chinese Ministry of Water Resources is facilitating this partnering with ICID. We express our gratitude to them. Such gestures demonstrate the importance of ICID's role in enhancing Food Security assuring water for agricultural needs.

It is time for us to ready ourselves for the next IEC and related events in Yogyakarta. Our hosts in INACID are getting ready to ensure a very impressive and successful IEC and Asian Regional Congress. Please block the dates between 10-16 October in your diary. Incidentally, I must alert you about yet another side event that is being shaped. As a follow up of an ICID MoU with UNW- DPC, a side event, back to back with other IEC meetings and 6th ARC, is being planned the details of which are in our website (Sponsored ICID events under 'Events'). For those in our profession who are interested in the latest tools like FAO's 'AquaCrop', it will be a highly rewarding experience. The Capacity Building exercise handled in the recent past by FAO and UNW-DPC especially in Africa and Asia will be assessed for its effectiveness in a wrap up session involving ICID experts while some policy recommendations are attempted.

On 31 March, the Central Office assembled to bid their farewell to Secretary K.N. Sharma on his superannuation. Elsewhere in this News Update, we have a brief profile of him and his illustrious services and contributions to the profession. Please join me in wishing him all the best in his endeavours in the future.

Best Regards,

M. Gopalakrishnan
Secretary General

News from ICID National Committees

IAL (Australia)

MacLean Iedema Award 2010

Nominations are now open for the 2010 'MacLean Iedema Award' which recognizes an outstanding individual who has made a significant contribution to the advancement of the irrigation industry, or a sector of the industry. Please access their website at <www.irrigation.org.au/> for more details.

ETCID (Ethiopia)

The Ethiopian National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (ETCID) has new contact co-ordinates as below:

Engr. Etafa Emama Ligdi
Acting Secretary
The Ethiopian Committee on Irrigation & Drainage, ETCID, Research Coordinator [Water Resources & Watershed Management]
Ministry of water Resources (MoWR),
P.O. Box: 5744/5673; Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Tel: +251 0116 611111 (Ext. 390) (Office), +251 0116 515578 (wireless), Fax: +251-1-610710, Mobile: +251 911 121725, E-Mail: <etcid@yahoo.com>; <etafa_emama@yahoo.com>

PANCID (Pakistan)

Vice President Engr. Dr. Illahi B. Shaikh has retired from Govt. service at the age of 60 years in Pakistan and his new contact co-ordinates are as below :

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IRNCID (Iran)

The Iranian National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (IRNCID) has organized the 6th workshop on 'Drainage and Environment' on 6th January 2010 in Ahwaz city, Khuzestan province. Two key speeches covered the topics of "Necessity of Establishing Ground Drainage in Khuzestan" and "Khuzestan & Ground Drainage Challenges" during this occasion. Five other papers were presented on designing, execution experiences, and issues with relevant procedures in Iran and especially in Khuzestan. Three topics on "Voluminous Drain Waters with Low Quality", "Conveyance Structures & Outlet Areas of Drain Waters", and "Drainage Linings & Depth of Drainers" as challenges of drainage and environment in Khuzestan were also discussed.



The 12th IRNCID Seminar on "Irrigation Management in Iran : Challenges & perspectives" was held in Tehran during 24th & 25th February 2010 in the presence of His Excellency Mr. M.R. ATTARZADEH, the Head of IRNCID High Council & Deputy Minister of Energy for Water and Wastewater Affairs. The main topics discussed were :

(i) Present management analysis on supply and distribution of agricultural water and return flow in the network & farms; (ii) Outlook of Irrigation in Iran; (iii) Agricultural Water Productivity; (iv) Analysis of Pressurized Irrigation Development Trend in Iran; (v) Water Management & Organization; and (vi) Application of Modern Technology in Agricultural Water Management.

Mr. Siahí & VPH Dr. Nairizi presented the two key speeches on "Irrigation & Drainage System Improvement" & "Review on Water Management Criteria in Iran and Procedures", respectively. In

addition, 26 other selected papers were also presented and published in the proceedings. [Source : IRNCID]

MANCID (Malaysia)

Secretary General visited Putrajaya in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 1 April 2010 to interact with MANCID Chairman VPH Ir. Mohd. Azhari bin Ghazalli and other Office Bearers. PH Keizrul bin Abdullah was a Special Guest during the occasion. MANCID's new composition after broadbasing the Committee including Industry, Academia and Government officials was introduced in Powerpoint slides. Secretary General Gopalakrishnan briefed on the recent ICID contributions especially in WWF5 and the outcome of Conference on Water Resources Development in Kuching, Sarawak. He sought more NC's inputs for ICID's paper for ADB's Manila conference (October 2010) and hoped a quick response from MANCID.

President Madramootoo's Keynote (excerpts) in Murcia, Spain

The opening session of the "Third International Symposium on Soil Water Measurement using Capacitance, Impedance and Time Domain Transmission" during 7-9 April 2010 at Murcia, Spain was chaired by the Director of CEBAS-CSIC, Dr. Francisco A. Tomás Barberán, accompanied by Dr. Ioan Calton Paltineanu and Dr. Juan Vera Muñoz, Chairmen of the International and the Local Organizing Committees, respectively. After the welcome speech of Dr. Tomás, Dr. Paltineanu introduced the Symposium and President Madramootoo; and gave the floor to Dr. J.A. Ortiz, Executive Secretary of the ICID Spanish National Committee to introduce the President of ICID. President Madramootoo's Keynote speech followed. Thanking VPH Dr. J.A. Ortiz, for his presence in the event, Prof. Madramootoo made a quick reference to the 2nd Symposium on the same subject (Beltsville, 2007). Prof. Madramootoo covered a broad range of issues on the question as to why we need to be concerned by the future food demand and the role of new technologies including uncertainties.

The present world food shortage affects over one billion people. The need to cover food demand for undernourished and further increase in population will require doubling food production in the next 25 years. The plans to reduce poverty and hunger in the past have failed in one go, due to the sudden rise of world food prices which have almost tripled in the last two years, making food still more unaffordable to the poorest sectors and affecting them as an economic 'Tsunami'. Prof. Madramootoo said that mankind has always tried to find out new methods to increase the food production to meet the food demands at each time as it happened in the last few decades, with the Green Revolution and the introduction of genetically modified seeds to raise yields and prevent diseases. In any case, an intensive crop production is unthinkable without water.

High yields can only be obtained under irrigation. Agriculture uses 75% of the world fresh water resources, considered as too much as per the public opinion. Some countries like Egypt uses even upto about 88% (of Nile's resources); others in the Aral Sea basin use 99% of Amu Darya and Syr Darya river resources. To reach self sufficiency in food production, agriculture water scarcity in a scarce capital environ is posing difficulty. The implementation of new irrigation schemes, crucial in many parts of Africa and Asia, lags behind. Research to find and develop, wherever possible, more efficient and water conservative and less energy consuming irrigation methods continue. Achieving better Irrigation efficiency has always been a basic subject for ICID. Specific Working Groups have focused on this subject, issued useful guides to improve irrigation efficiency in many countries, all over the world. Given the competition for water, the challenge in the future will be to increase irrigation efficiency and reduce water consumption.

But even under strict water saving policies, surface, ground and other non-conventional water resources are frequently not enough to match the irrigation needs and irrigation managers shall consider the water stored in the soil as another additional source to be taken into account at the time of managing the irrigation schemes. To serve the purpose,

since long ago, researchers have studied the water stored in the root zone and have developed tools to measure the soil moisture using improved technological aids. From the first field sampling and oven drying, to tensiometers, neutron probes and other traditional methods to the modern use of capacitance and impedance probes or time domain transmission techniques, one is able to give an accurate data. One question, asked Prof. Madramootoo, as to how will we use them for irrigation scheduling, once these data are collected? Related with the use of these devices and necessary calibration of sensors, future challenges are to know the best sites to install sensors to get crucial information and the best measures to manage scarcity. President Madramootoo ended his presentation inviting the participants to the Third McGill Conference on Global Food Security to be held in Montreal, Canada during 18-20 October 2010.

The 3rd Symposium was attended by some 100 participants. 38 papers (oral and posters) were discussed under three sections, viz: State of the Art, Applications and New Developments. Besides the Invited Keynote Lecture delivered by Prof. Madramootoo, Prof. Elias Fereres, former President of CSIC (High Council of Scientific Research), delivered a Lecture on "Application of advanced technologies to the improvement of farm irrigation management, as invited speaker.

Dr. Irena G. Bondarik visits Central Office

Dr. Irena G. Bondarik, Secretary General of National Committee of the Russian Federation on Irrigation and Drainage (RuCID) visited ICID Central Office on 27 March 2010 and held discussion with Secretary General M. Gopalakrishnan.



Issues discussed included forthcoming events, possible bidding for a Drainage conference by Russia and changes in the office in RuCID.

Secretary General Honoured

American Academy of Water Resources Engineering (AAWRE) has conferred an Honorary Diplomate, Water Resources Engineer (Hon.D.WRE) on Engr. M. Gopalakrishnan, Secretary General, ICID.

Honorary Certificates of Special Knowledge are normally granted by AAWRE to outstanding individuals who attain a position of eminence in the water resources engineering profession, rendering an outstanding service over a sustained period of time to the work of the Academy.

Engr. M. Gopalakrishnan would be presented by the AAWRE with a special medallion, certificate and lapel pin at the 2010 World Environmental Water Resources Congress in Providence, RI, USA on 17 May, 2010 to be followed by a special Honorary Diplomate/Trustee Dinner in honor of him and other Academy honored guests.

President, ICID and others in ICID family congratulate Secretary General Gopalakrishnan on receiving this very distinguished Award.

For more details : <http://www.aawre.org/john-j-cassidy-mukuteswara-gopalkrishnan-receive-aawres-highest-honor.cfm>

UACID – A Brief Report 2010

The 23rd European Regional Conference on 'Progress in managing water for food and rural development' was organized at Lviv, Ukraine during 17-24 May 2009 by the Ukrainian and German National Committees of ICID together with European Working Group of ICID. The Conference was devoted to the issues of current importance on water and land resources management, especially focusing on progressive methods and technologies developed and applied in European countries. More than 180 participants (*experts, professionals, scientists in the sphere of water*

Secretary KN Sharma retires



Er. K.N. Sharma, Secretary ICID retired on 31 March 2010 after about 21 years in Commission's service. He had joined the Central Office in May, 1989 as Deputy Secretary. Prior to that, Er. Sharma taught at the National Institute of Technology, Jaipur as Asstt. Professor from 1969-1981 and then joined the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Ltd., a Govt. of India Undertaking in 1981 as Head of the Water Resources Unit, in which capacity he was responsible for water resources planning and hydrologic designs of large number of Hydropower projects in India. Widely traveled, he was a Ford Foundation Fellow in Water Management at the University of California, Davis (USA) during 1976-77. Author of a book on Water Power Engineering and several technical papers on water-related subjects, Er. Sharma is an accomplished writer, having deep interest in modern and ancient Indian literature.

Er. Sharma's contributions in ICID have been highly acclaimed. He was honoured with the award of a citation plaque at the Montreal Congress (2002) recognizing his "outstanding services to ICID and Global Food Security". His contributions were recounted at the 60th IEC in New Delhi in December 2009.

management) from 12 European and some Asian countries participated in the Conference. During the Conference the technical tours were organized, where the participants of the Conference had a good chance to acquaint themselves with water and agricultural work in Ukraine.

The members of Ukrainian National Committee of ICID participated in all significant events of ICID all over the world as well as in the meetings, conferences, seminars devoted to the key problems of water management at

Obituary

VPH Henri Tardieu passes away

It is with deep regrets that we place on record the sad and untimely demise of Vice President Hon. Henri Tardieu on Friday, 02 April 2010 after a brief illness.



Mr. Tardieu was a strong supporter of the objects of ICID and indeed epitomized excellence in all his contributions to the works of Commission through various capacities such as the Vice Chairman of Permanent Committee for Technical Activities (PCTA), Vice Chairman of erstwhile ICID Working Group on Operation, Maintenance and Management of Irrigation and Drainage Projects (WG-OMM), and Strategy Theme Leader of Theme 'Basin' (a position he held admirably till the last IEC meeting in New Delhi in 2009). His valuable contributions as the Chairman of ICID Task Force 3 on "Developing Position Paper on Socio-Economic Sustainability of Services Provided by Irrigation, Drainage and Flood Control Schemes in Water Resources Sector" and as the Vice President of ICID during the term 1994-1997 are well-known. His significant and noteworthy recent contribution was during the World Water Forum-5 in Istanbul where ICID took over the role of forming a consortium to bring out a position paper on "Topic 2.3: Water and Food for ending poverty and hunger". Mr. Tardieu leaves an everlasting imprint of his inspiring personality on all the work of ICID.

At this time of great grief, the ICID fraternity records its profound sympathy and condolences to the bereaved family and to the members of the French National Committee. May his soul rest in peace!

national level. Members also participate in making quarterly reports of State Committee of Water Management on monitoring of waterworks facilities in Ukraine and work out the measures to improve the state policy on the effective operation and sustainable development of water management in the country.

Under the aegis of the Ukrainian Committee on Irrigation and Drainage, a Seminar devoted to the World Water Day was held on 22nd March 2010. This year's theme was on 'water resources quality' and the motto was 'Pure water for the healthy world'. During the Seminar, issues concerning effective use of water resources and conservation were discussed. More than 60 experts and professionals from the sphere of water management from all over Ukraine participated in the seminar. The participants in the Seminar have made a Declaration, where the main principles and trends for further activities are indicated. [Source : UACID]

World Water Day

22 March 2010

Message of UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon

Water is the source of life and the link that binds all living beings on this planet. It is connected directly to all our United Nations goals: improved material and child health and life expectancy; women's empowerment; food security; sustainable development; and climate change adaptation and mitigation. Recognition of these links led to the declaration of 2005-2015 as the International Decade for Action "Water for Life".

Our indispensable water resources have proven themselves to be greatly resilient, but they are increasingly vulnerable and threatened. Our growing population's need for water for food, raw materials and energy is increasingly competing with nature's own demands for water to sustain already imperilled ecosystems and the services on which we depend.

Day after day, we pour millions of tons of untreated sewage and industrial and agricultural wastes into the world's water systems. Clean water has become scarce and will become even scarcer with the onset of climate change. And the poor continue to suffer first and most from pollution, water shortages and the lack of adequate sanitation.

The theme of this year's World Water Day. "**Clean Water for a Healthy World**", emphasizes that both the quality and the quantity of water resources are at risk. More people die from unsafe water than from all forms of violence, including war. These deaths are an affront to our common humanity, and undermine the efforts of many countries to achieve their development potential.

The world has the know-how to solve these challenges and become better stewards of our water resources. Water is central to all our development goals. As we mark the mid-point of the International Decade for Action, and look forward to this year's Millennium Development Goals Summit, let us protect and sustainably manage our waters for the poor, the vulnerable and for all life on Earth. [Source : UNIC]

Events

HYDRO 2010 during 27-29 September 2010 at Lisbon, Portugal. More information is available at <www.hydropowerdams.com>

4th International Conference on Water Resources and Arid Environments during 5-8 December 2010 at Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Please visit their website for more details <<http://www.icwrae-psipw.org/>>

IVth World Aqua Congress, Exhibition & Conference during 8-10 December 2010, New Delhi, India. Contact: Ms. Neha Gadi and Ms. Suprita Bandyopadhyay, Co-organizing Secretary, Aqua Foundation, New Delhi, India. E-mail: neha@worldaquacongress.org or suprita@worldaquacongress.org; website: www.worldaquacongress.org

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