

News Update

Managing water for sustainable agriculture

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INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON IRRIGATION AND DRAINAGE (ICID)

From Secretary General's desk

Sharing the Concerns

Japan Earthquake, Tsunami and some incidences leading to Nuclear Disasters

Immediately after the massive and unprecedented earthquake of Richter magnitude 9.0 hit nearby Northeastern Japan around 2:46pm on March 11 (JST) a series of unfortunate events commencing with a destructive tsunami, blackouts, fire and a widespread damage followed. The message that I sent on behalf of ICID family to all our colleagues soon thereafter is reproduced below:

Dear Colleagues in JNC-ICID,
It is with deep anguish that we in our ICID family follow the shocking news that are coming out for the last several hours since yesterday following the disastrous Sanriku Oki earthquake (coupled with a ferocious tsunami that hit so severely many parts of Japan) causing misery to a lot of people and distress to all. And we just heard of the nuclear plant disaster adding up to the woe. Hope that there is no more incidences due to aftershocks or other consequential impacts, by God's Grace.

Our heart and mind is with you all and the Japanese, since yesterday. And our sincere prayers that all your people and the country as a whole are able to withstand the immediate impacts despite its shocking nature.

Once again, may I convey you all that the entire ICID fraternity is with you at this hour of anxiety?

We look forward that your efforts with a resolve and determination to emerge out of the troubles and re-build would succeed, sooner than anticipated.

Our sympathies to all your near and dear who must have a great tension during this testing time with so much losses.

M. Gopalakrishnan, Secretary General

President Chandra Madramootoo adds his words of sympathy as:

Dear Members of the Japanese ICID Fraternity, I also wish to add my personal message of sympathy, condolence and support at this time of horrendous national calamity. Our thoughts are with you at this time of despair. Please do not hesitate to contact either me or

the Secretary General should you require our support or assistance.

Chandra Madramootoo, President, ICID

The Response received from:

Chairman, JNC-ICID

Dear Prof. Dr. Chandra Madramootoo and Dr. M Gopalakrishnan,
Many thanks for your concern about the disaster in Japan.

TV programs were and are reporting continuously the current situation, we could not grasp nevertheless the whole picture of the damages. But we know so many people have lost their lives and many kinds of structures have been destroyed by mostly Tsunami. We also worry over the people in the area of the northern part of Japan (Tohoku Region) who suffered the earth quake and Tsunami.

Thank you again for your concern about the disaster.

Yohei SATO, Dr., Chairman of JNCID

Vice President Ota

Dear Dr. Madramootoo, Mr. Gopalakrishnan,
Thank you for your email expressing your sympathy with this unprecedented disaster.

Everything is still in confusion. Even four days after the calamities, we are bothered by intermittent earthquake. The more anxious is the difficult situation of the nuclear power plants hit by the earthquake. In the metropolitan area, scheduled power cut has been put into operation due to decreased power supply, which causes serious effects on people's daily life as well as industrial activities.



Tsunami affected areas with Fukushima Nuclear Plant in the background

So far, major efforts are made to find out the safety of the people in the disaster area and take care of the refugees. But recovery measures should be started soon. For this, we, as irrigation and drainage engineers, are going to play an active role in restoring farmland and agricultural facilities.

Thank you again for your deep concern about the woe.

VPH Dr. Shigataka Taniyama

Thank you very much for your kind letter. Although Japan has experienced many earthquakes, this one was the worst. The Magnitude was reported as 9.0, the largest that have measured since investigation started about 120 years ago. Many people lost their lives by Tsunami caused by the earthquake. I have heard some dams had slight damages. I hope they aren't serious ones. But I especially worry about damages of several power plants in Fukushima nuclear station. Twenty kilometers circle inward of damaged plants is now under warning of radioactive contamination. As a matter of hand, Kanto areas will run short of its supply of electric power. But I hope we will gradually recover. Under such difficulty it is a great comfort to receive your hearty email.

The Japanese National Committee, ICID (JNC-ICID) located in their Overseas Land Improvement Office, Design Division, Rural Development Bureau in the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries is approachable at: 1-2-1, Kasumigaseki, Chiyodaku, Tokyo 100-8950, Japan. Tel : +81-3-3595-6339; and e-mail: jncid@nm.maff.go.jp

More messages are pouring in. Please visit <http://www.icid.org> for viewing them.

Tehri Dam — An Indian Success Story

ICID VPH & USSD Executive Director Larry Stephens records his impressions

In 2009, Tehri Dam received an ICOLD Award as an “**International Rockfill Dam Milestone Dam**”.

An earth and rockfill structure, Tehri Dam is 260.5 meters high and located on the Bhagirathi River in the Himalayan Mountains northeast of New Delhi, India. Construction began in 1978 and was completed in 2006. The construction cost was about US\$1 billion. Tehri Dam Project is a joint venture of the Government of India and the state of Uttar Pradesh. The Central Water Commission in New Delhi was the Project Civil Works Design Consultants.

The reservoir created by Tehri dam has a live capacity of over 2.6 billion cubic meters (and a gross capacity of 3.54 billion cubic meters). The multi-purpose project caters to peaking hydropower (1000 MW), and provide regulated water for irrigation in a monsoon environment, ensure drinking water supply for several rural areas and urban dwellings, including the Nation's Capital city of New Delhi; managing floods from the catchment upstream of Tehri Dam is a secondary benefit besides scores of others like adequate environmental flows etc. Besides the stabilization of 604,000 hectares of existing irrigable areas, about 270,000 hectares will receive water for additional irrigation; 270 million gallons per day of drinking water will be provided to both rural and urban needs.

The Tehri Dam powerplant is currently of 1,000 MW capacity and an additional 1,000 MW will be getting added in Stage II when a Pumped Storage Plant, four units of 250 MW each, get installed in the coming years. With the recent completion of the downstream Koteshwar Dam, the Tehri Hydropower Complex will contribute an additional 400 MW to the grid.

Last January, I had an opportunity to visit Tehri Dam and Powerplant and the downstream Koteshwar Dam, accompanied by Secretary General M. Gopalakrishnan. He was the then design engineer with India's Central Water Commission and was directly involved with Tehri Dam features. He proved to be an excellent guide, showing me a number of features of the dam including, more specifically, some novel concepts like galleries through the core of an 'embankment' type of high dam, shaft spillways 12 meter diam, nearly 200 meter deep for handling flows of about 1900 cumecs in each one of them and thus augment the evacuation capacity of a



(L to R) Secretary General Gopalakrishnan, VPH L.D. Stephens, R.S.T. Sai and R.K. Vishnoi

typical chute spillway with a fall of over 220 meter that handle about 5500 cumecs at MWL. We visited the Tehri Dam Powerplant which was constructed in the hill side on the left abutment of the dam since there was not enough room in the canyon below the dam to include the powerplant. I was quite impressed with Tehri Dam and powerplant, noting especially the high level of maintenance.

We also visited the under construction Koteshwar Dam. We watched as the diversion tunnel gates were being closed, a unique opportunity to see the newly completed upstream dam face — project engineers told us that the reservoir would filled within three days.

The highlight of the Tehri Dam visit was the opportunity to visit the office of R.S.T. Sai, the Chairman and Managing Director of the Tehri Hydro Development Corporation Ltd. Mr. Sai was obviously proud of the Project and the recognition received from ICOLD. The award is prominently displayed in Mr. Sai's office.

My visit to India included a very positive meeting with the Indian Committee on Large Dams. We discussed the USSD bid to host the 2013 ICOLD Annual Meeting and INCOLD's plans to bid for the 2014 Meeting. I reviewed USSD preparatory activities and showed the video we presented during the 2010 ICOLD Meeting in Hanoi. The INCOLD officials were quite supportive of USSD's plans to host ICOLD 2013; they suggested that INCOLD and USSD make plans for a Memorandum of Understanding to further technical exchanges between the two National Committees.

The Delhi visit included meetings at the ICID offices. All in all, a most productive visit to an important country involved in many water resources activities!

GWP-IWMI Workshop on “Climate Change, Food and Water Security

GWP-IWMI Workshop on “Climate Change, Food and Water Security: Identifying critical issues and exploring cooperative strategies in an age of increased risk and uncertainty for South Asia”, Colombo, Sri Lanka, 24-25 February 2011

In a Workshop held on “Climate Change, Food and Water Security” under the auspices of Global Water Partnership (GWP) and International Water Management Institute (IWMI) the critical issues related to climate change, water and food security for South Asia were looked into. More than 70 Participants and Researchers from Asian region and outside assembled during the occasion. ICID was an invitee. The GWP / IWMI sessions were guided by the Chair, GWP Technical Committee, Dr. Mohamed Ait-Kadi. The sessions concluded with a media message that “No more ‘Business as Usual’ in face of Climate Change and Food Security”.

For outcome of the workshop, various presentations, etc., please visit: <http://www.gwp.org/en/gwp-in-action/News-and-Activities/No-More-Business-as-Usual-in-Face-of-Climate-Change-and-Food-Security/>

News from ICID National Committee

NETHCID (The Netherlands)

The Netherlands National ICID Committee (NETHCID) has informed that Ir. Gerrit van Vuren will be the new Secretary / Treasurer of NETHCID. He replaces Dr. Pol (A.L.) Hakstege. Contact details are as below :

Ir. Gerrit van Vuren, Secretary/Treasurer, NETHCID, Droevendaalsesteeg 3, 6708 PB Wageningen, The Netherlands, Tel: +31 317 482769, +31 317 484190 and E-mail: secretariat.nethcid@wur.nl

We welcome Ir. Gerrit van Vuren and look forward to actively working with him while expressing our gratitude to Dr. Pol Hakstege for his contribution to ICID through NETHCID. [Source : NETHCID]

Call for Papers

Workshop on “Sustainable Water / Environment Management in Tidal Areas”

The Workshop on “Sustainable Water / Environment Management in Tidal Areas” will be held on 17 October 2011 during ICID’s 21st International Congress on Irrigation and Drainage at Tehran, Iran.

Select papers on the sub-themes covered in the workshop will find a place in a Special Issue of ICID Journal on SDTA to be brought out in 2012.

Sub-themes: (1) Water Quality Management in Tidal Areas - Process of Waste Water Transport; Water Quality Monitoring and Improvement Measures; (2) Ecological Resources Management in Tidal Areas - Strategies Monitoring and Forecasting; Risk Assessment / Management; (3) Flood Management in Tidal Areas - Forecasting, Vulnerability Assessment; Impact and Mitigation of Climate Change; (4) Engineering for Sustainable Development of Tidal Areas; (5) Integrated Tidal Area Management and Decision and Policy Making.

Last date for submission of the abstracts is 31 March 2011. Please send them to Prof. Ruey-Chy Kao (Chinese Taipei), Tainan Hydraulics Laboratory (THL), E-mail: <SDTA THL@thl.ncku.edu.tw>.

25th European Regional Conference – Conference alert

ICID invites you to come to Groningen, the Netherlands from 16-20 May 2011 to learn, look, discuss, share ideas and find solutions on Integrated water management for multiple land use in flat coastal areas. Partners of this conference have prepared special sessions for Thursday (19 March) afternoon to deepen insight in the theme and topics of this conference. German Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (GECID) will co-host this event. Visits also cover the Ems barrier and the Meyer Werft located both in the lower Saxony area in Germany.

Early bird registration is up to 31 March 2011. For more information, please contact Dr. Bert Toussaint

<bert.toussaint@rws.nl>; <nethcid2011@rws.nl> or access the website <www.icid2011.nl>; <www.nethcid.nl>

2nd Istanbul International Water Forum

The 2nd Istanbul International Water Forum will be held during 3-5 May 2011 at the Halic Congress and Cultural Centre in Sutluce, Istanbul. Registration is free of charge. Topics for discussion will be Water-related problems in the Middle East and North Africa, Central Asia, Eastern Europe and Turkey. The 2nd Istanbul International Water Forum will also be an opportunity to revisit the Istanbul Water consensus and Istanbul Water Guide.

Please access their website <http://www.iusf.org.tr/index.php/EN/home> for more information.

Call for Papers

3rd ICID African Regional Conference, Mali

The 3rd ICID African Regional Conference will be held during 29th November to 5th December 2011 at Bamako, Mali. The theme of the Conference is **‘Food security in Africa and climate change: Improve Irrigation and drainage contribution’**.

The main objectives of the Conference are - (i) To share documented experiences and knowledge on climate change and how to scale up experiences; (ii) To suggest strategies for improving water productivity; and (iii) To advise policy makers on how irrigation could contribute to food security in Africa. Following are the sub-themes :

Theme 1: Effects of climate change on the development of irrigation and drainage in Africa

Theme 2: Policies and strategies to improve the contribution of irrigation and drainage to food security in Africa under climate change context

Theme 3: Water use productivity in agriculture and the challenges of climate change

Deadlines: Abstracts (500 words) submission: **15th June 2011**; Notification of acceptance: **30th June 2011**; and Submission of full length papers: **15th August 2011**

Contacts: Conference Secretariat, E-mail: secretariat3.craf@amid-mali.org or gueyekeita@yahoo.fr, Phone +22320287521 / +22320227192. For more information, please visit the Conference website at <http://www.amid-mali.org>

“Water for Life” Best Practices Award

The UN-Water Decade Programme on Advocacy and Communication (UNW-DPAC) and the UN World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP) are pleased to invite submissions for their 1st edition of the “Water for Life” Best

Obituary

It is with deep regrets that we note the passing away of one of our able colleagues, Captain Sunthorn Ruanglek, Vice President, ICID during the years 1983 – 1986 representing Thailand. Mr. Ruanglek was elected as Vice President in the 34th International Executive Council (IEC) in Melbourne, Australia on 1 October 1983 and held this distinguished position for three years contributing immensely to various workbodies.

ICID fraternity recalls that Mr. Ruanglek rose to the highest position of the Director General of Royal Irrigation Department in the Ministry of Agriculture, Thailand and had been responsible for several impressive projects that were under construction in Thai basins. He also had been advising Prime Minister of his country till 1985 and later, held the distinguished position of Senator in the Thai Assembly. Till end, his contributions as consultant had enriched the irrigation community.

We in the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID) deeply mourn the passing away of Vice President Honoraire Sunthorn Ruanglek and wish to convey our deepest sympathies to the bereaved family.

May his soul rest in peace!

Practices Award. The purpose of the Award is to promote efforts to fulfil international commitments made on water and water-related issues by 2015 through recognition of outstanding best practices that can ensure the long-term sustainable management of water resources and contribute to the achievement of internationally agreed goals and targets contained in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

The prize is awarded yearly in two categories, one in best water management practices and another one in best participatory, communication, awareness-raising and education practices. Every year, special emphasis is being put on the theme selected for next World Water Day.

For further information please visit <www.un.org/waterforlifedecade/pdf/water_for_life_award_eng.pdf>

New Commission Confronts Threats to Food Security from Climate Change

Recent droughts and floods have contributed to increases in food prices. These are pushing millions more people into poverty and hunger, and are contributing to political instability and civil unrest. Climate change is predicted to increase these threats to food security and stability. Responding to this, the world's largest agriculture research consortium announced the creation of a new Commission on Sustainable Agriculture and Climate Change.

Chaired by the United Kingdom's Chief Scientific Adviser, Professor Sir John Beddington, the Commission will, in the next ten months, seek to build international consensus on a clear set of policy actions to help global agriculture adapt to climate change, achieve food security and reduce poverty and greenhouse gas emissions.

Extreme weather like the droughts in Russia, China and Brazil and the flooding in Pakistan and Australia have contributed to a level of food price volatility that has not been seen since the oil crisis 40 years ago. Unfortunately, this could be just a taste of things to come because in the next few decades the build-up of greenhouse gases already in the atmosphere could greatly increase risk of droughts, flooding, pest infestation and water scarcity for agriculture systems already under tremendous stress.

The Commission brings together senior natural and social scientists working in agriculture, climate, food and nutrition, economics, and natural resources from Australia, Brazil, Bangladesh, China, Ethiopia, France, Kenya, India, Mexico, South Africa, the United Kingdom, the United States and Vietnam.

The Commission has been set up by the CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security program (CCAFS) – a 10-year effort launched by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) and the Earth System Science Partnership (ESSP) – with support from the Global Donor Platform for Rural Development.

For more information, please contact: Pascal Corbé of Global Donor Platform for Rural Development in Germany at <pascal.corbe@donorplatform.org>. Website <www.donorplatform.org>

Short Course on 'Water Security for Policy Makers and Practitioners' in UK

The short course on 'Water Security for Policy Makers and Practitioners' will be held during 23-27 May 2011 at the University of East Anglia, Norwich in United Kingdom (UK). The course will provide policy-makers with comprehensive background knowledge relevant to the increasingly important

New Additions to ICID's TDS Database (February 2011)

The additions during the months to the TDS Database are:

Article Section – 33 additions (Articles / Papers)

- (i) Irrigation and Drainage – The Journal of the ICID, February 2011, Vol. 60, No. 1 (12 articles)
- (ii) Journal of Hydraulic Research, 2010, Vol. 48, No. 6 (8 articles)
- (iii) Water and Energy International, November 2010, Vol. 67, No. 9 (5 articles)
- (iv) Journal of the Institution of Engineers (India), December 2010, Vol. 91 (4 articles)
- (v) Water Management – Proc. of the Institution of Civil Engineers, January 2011, Vol. 164, No. WM1 (4 articles)

Book Section – 11 additions; till date 31678 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.

policy challenge of 'water security'. Please access their Website: <<http://www.uea.ac.uk/dev/co/prodev>> or contact Mrs. Jane Donaldson, E-mail: <devco.train@uea.ac.uk> for more information.

Forthcoming Events

The 25th European Regional Conference (ERC) will be held during **16-20 May 2011 at Groningen, The Netherlands**. For further details, please access the conference website at <<http://www.icid2011.nl>>, or contact Dr. Bert Toussaint, Chairman of Organizing Committee of 25th ERC at <bert.toussaint@rws.nl>.

The 21st Congress, 62nd IEC and 8th International Micro Irrigation Congress of ICID will be held during **15-23 October 2011 at Tehran, Iran**. For details of Congress, please access Congress website <<http://www.icid2011.org>>.

INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON IRRIGATION AND DRAINAGE

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