Dear Colleagues,

To realign its vision and mission with the UN Sustainable Development Agenda 2030, ICID readjusted its mission to “Facilitate prudent agriculture water management by encouraging interdisciplinary approaches to irrigation and drainage management”. The mission of ICID is proposed to be achieved by generating new knowledge, compiling and collating information, sharing experiences and good practices, disseminating the new knowledge and capacity development of the relevant stakeholders.

In this connection, I would like to draw your attention to the UN World Data Forum held its first meeting in South Africa earlier this month which has laid emphasis on the need to have accurate, reliable, and timely data to achieve sustainable development goals. ICID has been collecting such data related to agriculture water management for many years. However, it’s time that we give the process of collecting this data, that will also support identifying irrigation and drainage contribution to sustainable development. I am sure that concerned Working Groups will take note of the outcomes of the important World Data Forum.

Number of approaches and tools are available to undertake capacity development and sharing of knowledge, which include conducting training programs, developing e-Learning modules, organizing webinars (web-based seminars) etc. We have been using web-conferencing for a couple of years.

This year in 2017, we are starting ICID Webinar Series (refer page 2). Management Board took this decision in its recently concluded Virtual Meeting. The ICID Webinars Series will be used for involving large number of stakeholders beyond irrigation and drainage fraternity, which otherwise is not possible, in ICID activities and disseminate and share our experiences across the continents. The possibilities are limitless. Many other professional organizations are using this tool suiting their own requirements. It is for us to customize according to our needs and use it effectively. I solicit support and suggestions from all our patrons.

Shortly, we will issue the schedule of the first ICID Series of Webinars slated for the run up to the 23rd ICID Congress, scheduled for 8-15 October 2017 in Mexico City. We encourage our patrons to make best use of this opportunity, particularly for those who for some reasons are unable to join the physical meetings.

Subsequent to our meeting in Chiang Mai we have received encouraging response from our NCs and their inputs, which Consultative Group will take into account and start finalizing the ICID Action Plan 2030. However, we encourage the NCs who have not submitted the questionnaire yet to do so as your feedbacks in whatever form act as beacons in our efforts to provide you the required services.

NCs and Working Groups play a key role in our efforts to achieve our mission. In this Congress year, we recognize the good work being done by them through the Best Performing National Committee and Best Performing Working Group Awards. Call for nominations have been issued for these Awards.

Please note that as a followup of the decision taken in the 67th IEC regarding the change of Bank accounts for ICID to receive foreign remittance, we had requested our NCs to not to send remittance to receive foreign remittance, we had requested our NCs to not to send remittance, we had requested our NCs to not to send remittance, we had requested our NCs to not to send remittance, we had requested our NCs to not to send remittance, we had requested our NCs to not to send remittance, we had requested our NCs to not to send remittance. We have been using web-conferencing for a couple of years.

For more details please visit http://www.icid.org/awards_ws.html for other details.

With Best Regards,

Avinash C. Tyagi
Secretary General
UN Data Forum opens in South Africa to harness power of data for sustainable development

The inaugural United Nations World Data Forum kicked off on 15 January 2017 in the South African city of Cape Town, bringing together more than 1,500 data experts from more than 100 countries, with the aim of building broad consensus on how to harness the power of data for sustainable development.

Organized by the UN in cooperation with the South African government, the four-day gathering also aimed at rallying support behind a new global action plan.

To achieve sustainable development, it is essential to have accurate, reliable, timely and disaggregated data. This will require everyone in the statistics and data community – from governments, the private sector, the scientific and academic communities and civil society – to find ways to work across different domains and create partnerships and synergies.

The 2030 Agenda was adopted by world leaders in September 2015 at an historic UN summit. A key component of the agenda is the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which came into force on 1 January 2016, and which set out new 15-year targets for global efforts to end all forms of poverty, fight inequalities and tackle climate change, while ensuring that no one is left behind.

The 2030 Agenda poses enormous challenges for the global statistical community, to modernize and improve our capacity, so that all national statistical offices become the new data hubs for data sources from across many different data systems and provide the necessary data to inform policies, and for national, regional and global monitoring.

“To make this happen, we will need governments, international organizations, businesses, academia and civil society to join forces and work together,” he said.

New Addition for Knowledge Dissemination

In order to realize the ICID Vision 2030 which has set six organizational goals for the network: (i) Enable more crop per drop, (ii) Be a catalyst for change in policies and practices, (iii) Facilitate technology exchange, (iv) Enable cross disciplinary dialogue, (v) Support development of tools to convert research and innovation into field implementation, and (vi) Facilitate capacity development, ICID is starting ICID Webinar Series.

Recent ICID meetings have seen lot of discussion on strengthening capacity building activities in irrigation and drainage sector. During the 67th IEC meeting at Chiang Mai in November 2016, different workbodies agreed that Webinars can be used as an efficient tool to disseminate and share knowledge and vast expertise available within and outside the ICID fraternity. Members supported the idea of organizing Webinars, to be coordinated by ICID Central Office.

Webinar (short for Web-based seminar) will be in the form of presentation, lecture, workshop or seminar that will be transmitted over the Web using video conferencing software. Webinars allow groups in remote geographic locations to listen and participate in the same conference regardless of the geographic distance between them. The key feature of these Webinars will be their interactive elements: the ability to give, receive and discuss information in real-time. Participants will be able to share audio, documents and applications with webinar attendees.

ICID Webinars will also be recorded for later viewing (sans of course the interactive elements) and will be available on ICID media. In this sense, a recorded webinar becomes a webcast.

Before starting a Webinar, members/patrons will be informed of the contents and target audience of the webinar through ICID communication channels.

ICID propose to host Webinars on Citrix platform (GoToWebinar), which provides a complete and integrated portfolio of Workspace-as-a-Service, application delivery, virtualization, mobility, network delivery and file sharing solutions that are securely available to users via the cloud or on premise and across any device or platform.

Key features of the system are: -

- Option for online Recording of the webinar
- Registration process allows to promote the webinar and book the participation in advance
- Enables Polls & Surveys in between webinar
- Option to invite guest panelists
The 23rd International Congress on Irrigation and Drainage and 68th International Executive Council (IEC) Meetings will be organized by the host Mexican National Committee of ICID (MXCID) from 8-14 October 2017, Mexico City, Mexico. The main theme of the Congress is “Modernizing Irrigation and Drainage for a New Green Revolution”. During the Congress, papers are presented and discussed for two Questions, a Special Session, and a Symposium. The topics for the two Questions Special Session and Symposium are:

**Question 60: Water Productivity: Revisiting the concepts in light of water, energy and food nexus**
- **Q.60.1:** Emerging issues and challenges of water saving, including impact of transferring water out of agriculture
- **Q.60.2** Understanding water productivity, water and energy use efficiency and water footprint of crops
- **Q.60.3** Water security for growth and development

**Question 61: State of knowledge of irrigation techniques and practicalities within given socio-economic settings**
- **Q.61.1** Adopting precision irrigation and improving surface irrigation to combat water scarcity
- **Q.61.2** Using ICT, remote sensing, control systems and modelling for improved performance of irrigation systems
- **Q.61.3** Adaptability and affordability of new technologies under different socio-economic scenarios

**Spl Session: Irrigation techniques for reuse of wastewater in agriculture and its impact on health and environment**

**Symposium: Global Review of institutional reforms in irrigation sector for sustainable agriculture water management, including water users associations.** (For the Symposium only country will be invited, including from Latin-American countries)

### Seminar: Water Use in food value chains

**Schedule for submission of Extended Abstracts for the two questions:**
- Submission (Online) of comprehensive ‘Extended Abstracts’ (500-600 words): — 15 Dec. 2016 - 01 March 2017
- Acceptance (Online) of Extended Abstracts: — 01-31 March 2017
- Full Paper Submission (Online): — 01 April 2017 - 15 May 2017
- Notification to Authors (oral/poster): — 15 May 2017 - 15 July 2017


**Online Paper Submission for 23rd ICID Congress**

The ‘Extended Abstracts’ must be submitted online after registering on the URL [https://easychair.org/conferences?conf=icid2017](https://easychair.org/conferences?conf=icid2017)

All authors are requested to create a new account on the above EasyChair URL for submission of their Extended Abstracts by using “sign up for an account” link as shown on the ‘Screen Catch’ in case they are not already registered on EasyChair portal earlier. Existing EasyChair users can use their account identities to submit their Extended Abstracts.

### Submission Instructions

**Step 1:** Prepare ‘Extended Abstracts’ (500-600 words)

**Step 2:** Log in to the EasyChair account [https://easychair.org/conferences?conf=icid2017](https://easychair.org/conferences?conf=icid2017)

**Step 3:** Select ‘Sign up for an Account’ in case you are not having an account.

To use EasyChair, one should first create an account. The procedure for obtaining an account is as below :

1. You should type the words as shown on the screen and click on “Continue”.
2. Fill the form details with name and e-mail address and click on “Continue”.
3. On submission you will receive an e-mail with a link to EasyChair account.

**Step 4:** Fill the details as required by EasyChair and click and ‘create’ account.

**Step 5:** Account created, screen appears with a link to ‘https://easychair.org/conferences?conf=icid2017’.

Congress Secretariat: 23rd ICID Congress Secretariat: Dr. Gustavo Hinojosas, E-mail: gustavo.hinojosas@conagua.gob.mx; info@icid2017.org; info@mxcid.org and Website: [http://www.icid2017.org/](http://www.icid2017.org/)

Congress Coordinator: Dr. Vijay K. Labhsetwar, Director, ICID Central Office, New Delhi (E-mail: icid@icid.org) and Website: [http://www.icid.org](http://www.icid.org)
Vice President Waseem Nazir (Pakistan) visited Chinese National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (CNCID) at Beijing, China after becoming the Vice President of ICID on 29th November 2016 for strengthening cooperation between CNCID and Pakistan National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (PANCID). VP Nazir was well received by President Hon. Dr. Gao Zhanyi (China) and Dr. Ding Kunlun (China), Vice President of ICID and Deputy Secretary General of CNCID. During the meeting, strengthening of cooperation between PANCID and CNCID on matters of mutual interest and strengthening relationship between the ICID active member countries were explored. A proposal for Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the two National Committees will be considered and finalized in early 2017.

Cooperation opportunity among two countries (CNCID and PANCID) enterprises in the field of irrigation and drainage was also discussed and it was agreed to explore possibilities of collaboration between MM Pakistan (Pvt.) Ltd., and China Institute of Water Resources and Hydropower Research (IWHR).

Collaboration between CNCID and PANCID

The 13th International Drainage Workshop (IDW13) will be organized by the Iranian National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (IRNCID) under the patronage of the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID) and the auspices of the Ministry of Energy (MoE) and its subsidiary Khuzestan Water and Power Authority (KWPA), Islamic Republic of Iran, from 4-7 March 2017 at Ahwaz, Iran.

The main theme of the workshop is “Drainage and Environmental Sustainability” and four sub-themes are: (i) Measures to improve drainage water quality; (ii) Measures to lower volume of drainage water; (iii) Adaptation of new design criteria in favour of the environment; and (iv) Application of alternative drainage methods.

The aim of the workshop is to introduce the challenges, needs and solutions facing the drainage community worldwide and to share experience on the national, regional and international scales in the field of agricultural drainage in relation to the environment.


Contact: The Secretariat, 13th International Drainage Workshop (IDW13), Khuzestan Water and Power Authority (KWPA), Golestan Ave, Ahwaz, Iran, Email: 13idw2017@gmail.com, Website: http://www.idw13.org/English
Managing Water Systems within Fragile Environments in the Arab Region

A five-day 4th Arab Water Week (AWW4) will be organised by the Arab Countries Water Utilities Association (ACWUA), Arab Ministerial Water Council (AMWC) and the Jordanian Ministry of Water and Irrigation (MWI) during 19-23 March 2017 at Kempinski Hotel Ishtar, Dead Sea, Jordan. The main theme is “Managing Water Systems within Fragile Environments in the Arab Region” and sub-themes include: (i) Water Resources Management Policy and Governance; (ii) Utilities leadership empowerment; (iii) Political unrest in region; (iv) Effective Utility Management Tools; (v) Water energy and food nexus; and (vi) Advancing SDGs in the Arab region.

The AWW4 provides a platform for greater coordination among the existing network of key stakeholders active in the water sector in the region. Please access http://aww.acwua.org/ for more information.

News from ICID National Committees

IACID (Australia)

Mr. Bryan Ward (Australia), Chief Executive Officer of Irrigation Australia Limited (IAL) has informed that they have restructured Australian National Committee of ICID (IACID). Accordingly, Mr. Momir Vranes and Ms. Kathleen Heuvel have taken over as new Chair and Dy. Chair of IACID. Their contact details are:

**New Chairman**

Mr. Momir Vranes  
Chair  
Irrigation Australia’s Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (IACID)  
PO Box 283  
Ashgrove QLD 4060  
Australia  
Email: mvranes@hotmail.com

**New Deputy Chairman**

Ms. Kathleen Heuvel  
Deputy Chair  
Irrigation Australia’s Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (IACID)  
PO Box 202  
Fortitude Valley Qld 4060  
Australia  
Email: kheuvel@growcom.com.au

ICID fraternity extends its warm welcome to Mr. Momir Vranes and Ms. Kathleen Heuvel and expresses its thanks to Mr. Andrew Ogden, outgoing Chairman for his valuable contributions to ICID.

INCSW (India)

New e-mail address of Indian National Committee on Surface Water (INCSW) is <incsw-cwc@nic.in>

Activities of INCSW during 2016

The following activities were held by INCSW in addition of India Water Week 2016 successfully organized with participation from Asian Development Bank, FAO, IWMI and World Bank. In the field of Research, INCSW has been handling around 92 research schemes under progress in various organizations in the country with funding from the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation (MoWR, RD & GR). 2nd R&D Session of INCSW was organized on 5th September 2016 in New Delhi. The session highlighted the role of R&D in water sector in developed countries and requirement of environmental flows in water resources projects and water conflict management. INCSW organised an innovation session on “New Technology” in collaboration with TERI and Ms. Yellow Tropus Pvt. Ltd on ‘Evaporation Control from Reservoirs using Floating Solar Panels on 21 December 2016 at CWC. The Session highlighted the water savings and energy production on the idle water surface areas.

PANCID (Pakistan)

On 26 December 2016, a Consultative Meeting was organized by Pakistan National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (PANCID) Secretariat under the Chairmanship of Engr. Asjad Imtiaz Ali in Islamabad, Pakistan for revitalization of PANCID activities and interactive session with Vice President Mr. Waseem Nazir. Twenty-two members participated from all over the country, including the Heads of various organizations. PANCID members congratulated, Mr. Waseem Nazir and appreciated long-time association of Mr. Waseem Nazir with PANCID as an active member from private sector and lauded his technical contributions in the water-sector development in the country.

VP Waseem Nazir made a detailed presentation on ‘ICID Vision and Current Initiatives’ which were discussed during the 67th IEC meetings held at Chiang Mai, Thailand, November 2016. He informed the Forum, that the members of ICID play a key role in identifying improved practices in core areas of irrigation, drainage and flood management and help promoting them through their personal efforts/national committees. He emphasized on strengthening the role of PANCID activities. During the meeting, it was decided to make PANCID website more vibrant and designate focal persons from PANCID member organizations for more effective contribution. It was also decided that PANCID would hold meetings in each provincial capital for the meaningful interaction and valuable technical input from provincial stakeholders. In this regard, the first meeting would be organized at Karachi, Pakistan in March 2017. It was also decided that two questionnaires regarding Revitalization Strategies of PANCID and Key Strategic Goals of PANCID’s Revitalization would be completed by all PANCID members and sent it to PANCID Secretariat within two weeks’ time. A proposal on financial sustainability of PANCID and annual business plan would be developed by a Committee and presented in the next meeting of PANCID.

USCID (USA)

New email ID of Prof. Dr. Kristoph-Dietrich Kinzli P.E. (Joint Editor of ICID Journal Editorial Board, EB-JOUR) is <kkinzli@mines.edu>
Nominations Invited for Heritage Irrigation Structures (HIS)

At the 67th International Executive Council (IEC) meeting held at Chiang Mai, Thailand in November 2016, twenty five Heritage Irrigation Structures were approved for inclusion in the ICID Register of Heritage Irrigation Structures, which is now projected on ICID website (http://www.icid.org/icid_his1.php).

Nominations are invited from ICID National Committees for selection of “Heritage Irrigation Structures” (HIS) older than 100 years. National Committee can nominate more than one structure, using separate nomination form for each. Associated Members and non-member countries can nominate their structures through the neighboring active national committees or by submitting directly to Central Office.

The last date for receipt of nomination of the ICID Central Office is 30 July 2017.

Third batch of the Heritage Irrigation Structures will be included in the ICID Register of Heritage Structures and awarded a “Plaque” during the 68th IEC meeting to be held at Mexico City, Mexico in October 2017. For more information about criterion for selection procedure download details from http://www.icid.org/his_appendix_n_annexure.pdf

ICID Events
13th International Drainage Workshop (IDW), 4-7 March 2017, Ahwaz City, Iran on the theme ‘Drainage and Environmental Sustainability’. Contact: Dr. S.A. Assadollahi, Secretary General, Iranian National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (INCID), E-mail:13idw2017@gmail.com, Website: http://www.idw13.org/English/
23rd ICID Congress and 68th IEC, 8-14 October 2017, Mexico City, Mexico on the theme ‘Modernizing Irrigation and Drainage for a new Green Revolution’. Contact: Lic. Roberto Ramirez de la Parra, President, MxCID, E-mail:info@icid2017.org; info@mxcid.org; Website: www.icid2017.org
8th Asian Regional Conference, March 2018, Kathmandu, Nepal. Contact: Mr. Bashu Dev Lohanee, Secretary, Nepal National Committee, ICID (NENCID), Deputy Director General, Department of Irrigation, Email : lohanibasu@yahoo.com, irrigation@wlink.com.np
69th IEC & 5th American Regional Conference, Saskatoon, Canada, 23 - 28 September 2018, Saskatoon, Canada. Contact: Mr. Laurie C. Tollefson, Secretary - Treasurer, Canadian National Committee, CANCID, Email: laurie.tollefson@agr.gc.ca, Website: http://www.cwra.org/en/affiliates/cancid
9th International Micro Irrigation Conference, January 2019, Auranagabad, India. Contact: Mr. Anuj Kanwal, Member Secretary, Indian National Committee on Surface Water (INCSW), Email: incid-cw@nic.in, Website: http://www.cwc.gov.in/main/INCID/welcome.html

Forthcoming Events

70th IEC Meeting and 3rd World Irrigation Forum (WIF3), 2019, Indonesia. Contact: Ir. Mohamad Hasan, President, Indonesian National Committee of ICID (INACID), Director General of Research and Development, Email: inacid_indonesia@yahoo.co.id, mohasan33@yahoo.co.id

71st IEC and 24th ICID Congress, 12 May to 18 May 2020, Sydney, Australia. Contact: Mr. Bryan Ward, Chief Executive Officer, Irrigation’s Australia Limited (IAL) (Incorporating IACID), Email: Bryan.ward@irrigation.org.au, Website: http://www.irrigation.org.au

Other Events

2017 Water for Food Global Conference, 10-12 April 2017 at Nebraska Innovation Campus in Lincoln, Nebraska, USA. For details, visit http://waterforfood.nebraska.edu/2017-water-for-food-global-conference/

2nd International Conference on Food Security and Sustainability, 26-27 June 2017 at San Diego, USA. For details, visit http://foodsecurity.conferenceseries.com

International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID)
48 Nyaya Marg, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi 110021, India, Tel: 91-11-2611 5679, 91-11-2611 6837, 91-11-2467 9532
Fax: 91-11-2611 5962; E-mail: icid@icid.org; Website: http://www.icid.org; Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/icidat
Editor: Madhu Mohanan, Communication Officer; Layout: Keshav Dev Tanwar, IT Assistant