**Annex**
[IEC Minutes Item 13]

**ICID STRATEGY THEME BASIN**
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The Strategy Theme 'Basin' is new for ICID. This is here in Kuala-Lumpur that the first general presentation is being made. This theme was introduced in place of the theme 'Policy', besides the themes 'System', 'On-Farm' and 'Knowledge'.

The Strategy Theme 'Basin' includes six workbodies: Working Group on Integrated Land and Water Resources Management (WG-ILWRM), Working Group on Environmental Impacts of Irrigation, Drainage and Flood Control Projects (WG-ENV), Working Group on Irrigated Agriculture under Drought and Water Scarcity (WG-IADWS), Working Group on Comprehensive Approaches to Flood Management (WG-CAFM), Working Group on Sustainable Development of Tidal Areas (WG-SDTA), and the newly created Working Group on Global Climate Change and Irrigation (WG-CLIMATE). Three other special teams are very close to the theme Basin: the Special Work Team on Lake Chad Basin (ST-LCB), the Special Work Team on Aral Sea Basin (ST-ARAL) and the European Work Team on Drought and Floods (under another workbody – ERWG).

To maintain a simple structure, we closed the theme 'Policy'. For ten years the theme 'Policy" had provided focus for ICID on less technical issues such as non structural measures, economic approaches, legal and institutional issues. This shift is visible in the summaries of our Irrigation and Drainage Journal. Allow me to say that an important output has been the Position Paper "Irrigation and Drainage Services: Five Principles Towards Sustainability of Irrigation Services" produced by the now-closed Task Force 3. Besides the need to emphasize our 'Basin' approach, I suggest that we keep in mind the global 'Policy'' issues such as sustainable and equitable development, and food security. In the larger dialogue on economy versus environment, we have particularly to represent voices from rural areas and poor farmers.

Why has ICID to address the theme Basin? We have to show our own understanding of the concept of integrated water management. Representing 'water for food' sector in the global debate on water, we have specific responsibilities. Population growth produces a complex context for agriculture, under the pressure of global trade and country policies. This is illustrated by Cai & Rosegrant (Water Policy 6 - 2005):

- '*Significant water transfer from agricultural to non-agricultural sectors might be unavoidable… initiatives should be established to protect farmers* ….
- *Decline of water available for agriculture (1995-2025): China 85% to 70%; India 92% to 84%...*
- *Growth in cereal production coming from irrigated crops: in India 92%, in China 76%….*
- and by Schultz et al.(Irrigation and Drainage 54-3 2006):
- *'Increase in need for water for irrigation is expected. However, although the sector is the largest water user, it is not the strongest water user! 'Needed contribution to total food production: 50% from irrigated area, 20% from rainfed areas with drainage, 30% from rainfed areas without water management….".*

The key word for the theme Basin is 'integrated'. As it has been suggested in the fifth principle of the TF3 Position Paper, this can be for better or worse. The better is when it raises new transparency in resources allocation, new negotiation between users, new efficiency of public policies, clearer debate between agriculture and environmental water flow, and between water for poverty alleviation and groundwater protection. But worse if it is a means for us to escape from our specific responsibilities in the complex irrigation water sector, an excuse for donors to ignore Irrigation and drainage, and for environmentalists to use 'integrated" as a means to delay the needed public decisions in water infrastructure development. We should keep high our flag and say "Integrated yes, but raising also water for food".

**Present and future work of the working groups under the theme Basin.**

According to the recommendation of the Chair PCTA, WGs are now considering their closure or renewed objectives.

**(i) Integrated approaches**

The WG-ENV has been revived by its new chair. I recommend WG-CLIMATE to take over the general issue of climate change circulation modelling and the impact of the postulated changes on water management. WG-ENV is exploring the impact of irrigated agriculture on climate, particularly methane flux from rice fields and probably other agriculture practices. The impact of I&D on human health is frequently criticized and has become an important issue for ICID, which could be handled by WG-ENV. A first step should be to circulate documents issued by FAO (on malaria) and WHO. On the impact of dams we must consider the ICID Position Paper on Dams and the common activities with ICOLD and IHA. The WG workshops could be more focused on safety of small dams and farm reservoirs which are often presented as a possible alternative to large dams.

The closure of WG-ILWRM is a necessary step to revive our technical activities. Besides the planned special issue on country/basin ILWRM cases, a short "synthesis and recommendations" paper focussing on how to understand and use the concept of ILWRM in the "water for food" sector should be proposed to ICID for publication in the Newsletter as a milestone in our technical work. Considering the initial mandate, I suggest PCTA to address the specific question of water allocation in relation to land rights, keeping in mind that in ILWRM, the L is unique to ICID.

**(ii) Risk management**

The contemplation of WG-IADWS is to write a book on "Irrigated agriculture under drought and water scarcity". Given that "coping with scarcity" is the top theme of the UN Water Initiative, we should support this initiative. The Chairman plans to finalise the book in one year and to close the Group at Sacramento (2007). For the sake of consistency, I suggest to separate more clearly the generic chapters and country papers and to set up a review team as soon as possible. Before closing the WG it is suggested we have a synthesis for the ICID Newsletter. The question of finding a commercial publisher instead of ICID should be discussed by C-PR&P and PCTA.

In the last two years WG-CAFM published two books on flood management, one on non-structural measures and the other on structural approaches. A special issue of the I&D Journal "Integrated Flood Management" shows that ICID is involved in risk management from both points of view: drought and flood, which allowed ICID to make an important contribution at WWF4 Mexico. I fully support the President's suggestion that we convert the conclusion paper "Management of river flood risk" into a paper which could be endorsed as an ICID Position Paper. Considering the specificity of our WG in the landscape of professional organisations, I do not suggest the closure of the group but to revisit its mandate with new objectives. I suggest that it could include how to revise design specifications according to climate change and economic constraints.

**(iii) Tidal areas, an issue less known in ICID**

The handbook prepared by the WG-SDTA - set up in 2002 - will be finalized at Sacramento in 2007 with an impressive involvement of many members and contributions from four annual workshops. Review and publishing could be completed in 2008. Beyond this useful book named "Some principles and experiences in SDTA", a Position Paper prepared by WG could enlarge the ICID reputation on tidal area issues.

**(iv) Climate Change, a new working group**

The first meeting of WG-CLIMATE was attended by more than 15 country representatives with different skills and responsibilities. A workshop is planned in Sacramento to discuss results of models, to hear input of WMO and IFPRI and to exchange on country experiences with hydrologic changes. A website has been set up in which papers can be posted. Four valuable presentations introduced climate change as a "global phenomenon with local impact". We are sure that the new WG-CLIMATE will help us understand uncertainties and implications of climate change, to become aware of the threat and to explore needed changes in water demand/resource plans and food security policies.

**New challenges**

**(v) Crossing environment and agriculture policies**

In the water sector, the specific role of ICID should be to cross water policies and agricultural policies, which is a difficult task due to frequent contradictions in objectives. The farmer lives with prices depending on global markets and agriculture policies, and also under the increasing constraints of environmental policies. The new WG-

CLIMATE should be a good opportunity to have a realistic approach to that complexity at the crossroads of both policies. "*Water allocation*" is a also major issue at the crossroads, which could be addressed as a "Basin" issue (resource and demand management plans) and as "System" issue (operational equitable sharing with technical tools). It should also be seen as a central question to fight against poverty and food insecurity with the proposed new WG-POVERTY.

*Coping with scarcity (top theme of UN Water initiative)*

We probably have to renew our approach of "water scarcity" which the water community expects ICID to address. Based on several examples in dry regions with reliable but scarce resources, one can see scarcity as a driver for productivity, allowing us to share water within large communities. It is nevertheless useful to remind that beyond urgency for sharing present resource water for poverty alleviation, reliability depends on new storages.

**(vi) Biofuel and Biomaterials, new frontier for agriculture**

We in ICID are now familiar with the global food balance and impact of the need of the growing population on irrigated agriculture. We will have to rapidly change our figures in introducing the new role of agriculture for bioenergy and biomaterials. Brazil uses 50% of its sugarcane for ethanol; USA covers 3% of its fuel consumption by 14 % of its maize production and plans to double it. EU is engaged in covering 10%.

The immediate consequence is the increase of global prices and a significant impact on farmers' revenue. It probably will renew interest of policymakers for agriculture. For us the challenge will be to promote a better conjunctive use of rain and complementary/supplementary irrigation.

I suggest a new phrase representing our water sector: "***Water for Food…and Bioenergy***