

Presentation of Strategy Theme 'Knowledge'

60th IEC and 5th Asian Regional Conference

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Vice President Hon. Alain Vidal who was the Theme Leader, had prepared the presentation and VPH Stephens presented on his behalf.

The ICID workbodies generated, synthesized and disseminated knowledge. ICID had looked at the canal and beyond and then from 'more crop per drop' to 'more income and less water'. We all were faced with the question of how we put our knowledge to students, farmers and practitioners. Looking back at ICID achievements, VPH Larry said that during the last few years, we had increased our publications, especially the quality of publications, while we also dramatically improved our website. He credited the Central Office for their work in keeping the website up-to-date, very active and as a good communication tool. He opined that this was probably our best vehicle for communication with the rest of the world. VPH Stephens mentioned about the strong representation and visibility of ICID in the World Water Forum-5. He said that we were facing some new challenges also. Not only there was a need to enhance productivity from water, but we needed more crops per drop, more income per drop, or perhaps even more millennium development goal per drop, which were all linked to poverty alleviation.

There was a necessity to cope up with global climate change and other challenges such as development of local markets. He called for exploring and better understanding of links between food and water crises, recognizing that 75% of the rural poor among 1 billion suffered from hunger. He said that alleviating hunger meant reducing rural poverty. Since increased climate variability required more water storage, it was necessary to see how we could develop storages in the present environment. VPH Larry Stephens mentioned some of the key players in the knowledge area like FAO, IWMI, IPTRID (a part of FAO-UN), CGIAR, Challenge Program on Water for Food etc. as also institutions like the Gates Foundation and other foundations that were investing huge amounts in food, agriculture and water. He made a brief review of the knowledge making bodies in progress and thought that PCTA Chairman Hector Malano was doing a good job on this. He recalled the contribution of workbodies like the present Working Group on WG-TRUE who were discussing how ICID should address capacity building, as also a possible new structure for IPTRID that will be driven by the client countries and not the donors. He lauded the contribution of the workbodies like publications committee, dictionary, editorial board, and ICID Journal and said that the WG-HIST had brought out interesting developments - not just history of physical projects for water, but also institutional factors and social concerns, relationship between history and sustainability etc. Concluding his presentation, VPH Stephens said that the Task Force for World Water Forum-6 will become a part of the Knowledge Theme and he looked forward to see the ICID presentations in the Forum as before.