

## **ICID – YOUNG PROFESSIONALS FORUM (ICID-YPF)<sup>1</sup>**

### **CONCEPT NOTE**

**(Minutes of the 66<sup>th</sup> IEC Meeting, Annex R3.2 [Resolution IEC-3/66, Para 3])**

#### **1. Background**

- 1.1 At the 65<sup>th</sup> International Executive Council (IEC) held at Gwangju in September 2014, the Council approved establishing an ICID-Young Professional's e-Forum (IYPeF) with open membership. The Council suggested that ICID Central Office develop rules and assist the organization of Young Professionals Forum.
- 1.2 This note is prepared to lay down the concept and working rules for this Forum. It is expected that the establishment of this Forum may, in the course of its development require adjustment of some of the by-laws, which will be presented separately after the conceptual and administrative framework is agreed to.

#### **2. The Context**

- 2.1 Increasing food production through sustainable use of water will, among others, require large investments in infrastructures, research and development, that are compatible with the preservation of ecosystems and can adapt to climate change. The sector will need to increase its water use efficiency by reducing water losses and, most importantly, increase crop productivity with respect to water.
- 2.2 The Asia and Pacific region has seen development of large irrigation infrastructure in the last fifty years which has helped in creating food security and fueled growth. However, these systems are beset with the low efficiencies. The old public irrigation department in these countries are saddled with old and ill-maintained large irrigation systems and aging staff. The in-service professionals need to be brought to pace with the rapid technological developments. Given the complexity of development process, irrigation and drainage professionals need exposure to the social, environmental and other disciplines that influence the agriculture water management. There is need for greater sharing of experiences and tools particularly related to social, economic and environmental aspects.
- 2.3 Given the fast changing development scenario and the exponential growth in technology, coping with these fast changes is a tough proposition. In addition to learning from past experiences, what definitely is required under the increasing complexities of supply, demand and uncertainties, is a breed of professionals that approach the irrigation and drainage issues with a more open mind and accepts the multi-dimensional aspects of the water sector and are willing to undertake their activities with an interdisciplinary approach? However, the number of young professionals joining the water sector is dwindling by the year.

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<sup>1</sup> Renamed as ICID-Young Professional's e-Forum (IYPeF), as it is essentially an e-Forum

### **3. Objective of IYPeF**

- 3.1 Despite the challenging development scenarios the sector is suffering from a lack of interest from the young professionals as they find the career in the sector uninteresting with little growth potential. This lack of interest in the sector among the new generation has resulted in the closure of irrigation and drainage departments in academic institutions around the world. The generation X has to be attracted to the sector by making the careers in irrigation and drainage sector more interesting and challenging. Information has to reach them at their finger press, which they are used to in the era of social media.
- 3.2 With these long-term objectives in view, ICID has established IYPeF that provides an international platform to young engineers/scientists for their professional development in the areas of irrigation, drainage, flood management and environment. IYPeF provides an opportunity to young professionals to engage, network and share their experiences and also learn from the experiences of senior engineers (Mentors) in the field. The main objectives of establishing the Forum are to:
- (a) Encourage and promote a high standard of professional development amongst the young professionals in the field of irrigation, drainage, and flood management,
  - (b) Provide an international platform for young irrigation and drainage professionals,
  - (c) Expose young professional to ICID's purpose, objectives, role and activities,
  - (d) Facilitate the wider dissemination of knowledge and information amongst the young professionals,
  - (e) Maintain and enhance links with national and international youth having interests in water related subjects or the activities, relevant to ICID objectives.

### **4. Membership**

- 4.1 Person desirous of becoming member of IYPeF will have to fulfill following eligibility criteria:
- (a) Person should be any professional below the age of 40 years,
  - (b) working or pursuing studies in the areas of agriculture water management and/or flood management disciplines,
  - (c) The membership will have to be endorsed by their organization where working/ academic institute where pursuing higher studies/an ICID National Committee/ an International ICID Partner Institution/ a direct institutional members of ICID.
- 4.2 The Forum will essentially be an e-Forum with most of its activities being met through remote. Members would have the opportunity to interact with each other through a LinkedIn Group (<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/6990321>) moderated by experts. The network will be different from other such platforms as the active members of the Forum would have the opportunity to interact face to face with each other at the time of the ICID events.
- 4.3 The activities of the Forum will be monitored and overseen by a group of volunteer young professionals – one coordinator and five joint coordinators - that will link the Forum with ICID network.

### **5. Professional Advantages**

The members of the Forum will be able to:

- (a) **Interact** with likeminded young professionals, researchers, and practitioners involved at international level and share resources;

- (b) **Develop relations** for peer to peer learning from around the world and enhance self-potential;
- (c) **Bridge the knowledge gap** between theory and practice by attending the global meetings of ICID and listening to senior professionals;
- (d) **Stay informed** on the latest knowledge in the area of irrigation and drainage through ICID publications: ICID News, News Update and e-bulletin, all available on-line;
- (e) **Benefit** from the latest scientific knowledge available through ICID Journal on Irrigation and Drainage.
- (f) **Access** the resources available in the Integrated Library Management System (ILMS)
- (g) Keep up-to-date on best practices and trends in the field;
- (h) **Advance** professional skills by way of participating in ICID training workshops;
- (i) **Better appreciate** different viewpoints, approaches and cultures from around the world; and
- (j) **Enhance** ability to plan careers in the irrigation sector.

## 6. **Benefits for Young Professionals**

- (a) Membership of two WGs of choice subject to their active participation;
- (b) Liberal concession in registration fee (about 50%) in World Irrigation Forum and ICID's Congress, conferences and events;
- (c) Eligible for WatSave Awards: one category (out of four categories) of awards, exclusively dedicated to Young Professionals (YPs);
- (d) Free on-line subscription of the ICID Journal on Irrigation and Drainage to fifty YPs subject to their active participation;
- (e) Eligible for ICID scholarship for participation in ICID events;
- (f) Participate in Sessions/ RoundTable discussions especially organized for young professionals;
- (g) Discounted pricing on educational programs - online learning, webinars, and conferences

## 7. **Broad Rules and Regulation**

Broad conditions/rules and regulation for ICID-YPF/ IYPeF will be as follows:

- (a) Professionals willing to join IYPeF can do so using LinkedIn Group URL <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/6990321>
  - (b) National Committees/ Committee can send list of professionals including their email addresses to Central Office for sending invitation to join
  - (c) Professional will undertake to follow the core values of ICID and work towards fulfilling its vision.
  - (d) ICID Central Office staff will review Group membership and approve and support the experts in moderating the forum and various other activities
  - (e) The Forum members will chose a coordinator and four joint-coordinators to manage affair of IYPeF.
  - (f) ICID CO will facilitate election of coordinator and joint coordinators. ICID will identify three most active members, out of which one will be elected as coordinator by IYPeF members through online poll organized by ICID. For joint coordinators 10 active members will be identified out of which 4 will be elected as joint coordinators. IYPeF members may review this process and may evolve better process of electing coordinator and joint coordinators.
  - (g) Terms of coordinator and joint coordinators will be maximum for a period of 3 years. After three years one of the joint coordinators can be elected as coordinator to ensure continuity.
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- (h) ICID will support participation of coordinator under YP scholarship to ICID annual event to brief about activities of IYPeF to the permanent committees etc.
- (i) Member of IYPeF are eligible to get online certificate after 5 years of active participation (or on attaining an age of 40).

### Screen capture of IYPeF

