

**WMINUTES OF THE 4<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH PROGRAM FOR IRRIGATION & DRAINAGE:  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE (AC-IRPID)**

01 September 2019: 0900-1100 Hours  
Bali, Indonesia

**Members Present:** (1) VPH Dr. Ding Kunlun, Chair (China); (2) Dr. Narges Zohrabi, Head, Ahwaz Regional Node of IRPID-IRN (Iran); (3) Ms. Li Rouxi, CNCID & Representative of Beijing Regional Node of IRPID (China); (4) Mr. Dilshod Kimsanov, Head, Central Asian and Caucasus Regional Node (Tajikistan), (5) Ms. Sasha Koo-Oshima, FAO Representative; (6) Mr. Pieter Waalewijn, World Bank Representative, (7) Dr. Alok Sikka, IWMI Representative; (8) VP Mr. Waseem Nazir, Co-Theme Leader, Strategy Theme-Knowledge (Pakistan); (9) VP Dr. Brian T. Wahlin, Co-Theme Leader, Strategy Theme-Knowledge (USA); (10) VP Er. Naoki Hayashida, Co-Theme Leader, Strategy Theme-Basin (Japan); (11) VP Dr. Kamran Emami, Co-Theme Leader, Strategy Theme-Basin (Iran); (12) VP Dr. Irene Bondarik, Co-Theme Leader, Strategy Theme-Schemes (Russia); (13) VP Dr. Marco Arcieri, Co-Theme Leader, Strategy Theme-Schemes (Italy); (14) VP Mr. Ahmed EL BOUARI, Co-Theme Leader, Strategy Theme-Schemes (Morocco); (15) VP Mr. Madhav Belbase, Co-Theme Leader, Strategy Theme-On-Farm (Nepal); (16) VP Dr. K. Yella Reddy, Co-Theme Leader, Strategy Theme-On-Farm (India) and (17) Mr. Ashwin B. Pandya, Secretary General, ICID.

**Terms of Reference (ToR):**

The Advisory Committee is responsible for developing a Framework Action Plan for the program, guided by the concept document as was presented at the 61st IEC in Yogyakarta in 2010 and keep overall coordination among the Nodes duly supporting their autonomy and maintaining flexibility in fulfilling their roles. These can be categorised as follows:

- (a) Develop the Strategy duly describing the strategic objectives and a Framework Action Plan for the program;
- (b) Review and monitor the implementation of the program to ensure the quality of outputs and their effectiveness; and
- (c) Mobilize and allocate extra-budgetary resources through joint activities.

**AC-IRPID Minutes Item 1: Brief introduction by SG, ICID**

1. SG provided a brief introduction and overview of the IRPID Scheme to the Committee members, including its genesis as an International Program for Technology Research in Irrigation and Drainage (IPTRID), initially hosted by the World Bank and later FAO and later reinvigorated as International Research Program for Irrigation and Drainage (IRPID) as a Scheme ([http://www.icid.org/irpid\\_scheme.pdf](http://www.icid.org/irpid_scheme.pdf)), notified vide Notification No.6 of 2017 dated 23 February 2017, under the patronage of ICID.

2. SG has explained how the multilateral agencies like the World Bank can support the research in irrigation and drainage by lending funding support to the Regional Nodes established under IRPID Scheme. In order to fulfill the mission of ICID, it is required to promote the capacity building activities, which cannot generate quick project oriented outcomes.

**AC-IRPID Minutes Item 2: Inputs from Beijing Regional Node**

3. Ms. Li Rouxi presented the report on the activities undertaken by the Beijing RN and future plans for information and guidance of the Advisory Committee. The activities organized by Beijing RN included the International Young Professionals Training Program on “Climate Resilient Smart Irrigation Systems”, held from 22-25 April 2019 at Aasan, South Korea with 34 young professionals from 17 countries in attendance, together with International Professionals Workshop on the same topic with 34 professionals from 10 countries held on 26 April 2019; Belt and Road Forum on Irrigation & Drainage Development and Science & Technology Innovation on “Irrigation Technologies to Mitigate Climate Change” on July 30 2019 in Beijing, China with more than 300 delegates from 17 countries participating; Forum on Wisdom of Heritage Irrigation Structures Serving Modern Irrigation Districts on 31 July 2019 in Beijing China, with more than 100 delegates from 7 countries getting benefitted and finally concluding with the organization of Annual Academic Meeting on “Accelerate modernization of irrigation and drainage – promote rural rejuvenation” with more than 200 delegates participating at CAU, Beijing on 14 September 2019. Beijing RN’s future plans included organization of activities during 2020 and cooperation and exchanges with NCs of Indonesia, Pakistan, Tajikistan, etc. with an earmarked budget of US\$ 40000.

4. A couple of suggestions made by RN included such as ICID could set up (a) a network of training specialists to provide future training sessions with more and better options of lecturers and (b) a mechanism of regular meeting and exchanges among countries in the region so as to address common problems.

5. The Committee expressed its appreciation at the overall functioning of the Beijing RN, and agreed to the suggested plans of the Regional Node in addressing the issues related with training of YPs and for promoting the regional cooperation among the countries. The Committee suggested that the Regional Node may beneficially utilize the model of relationship between Korea Rural Community Corporation (KRC) and Korean National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (KCID) for long-term progress in cooperation with ICID and generating more opportunities for capacity building on the similar lines.

### **AC-IRPID Minutes Item 3: Inputs from Ahwaz Regional Node**

6. Dr. Narges Zohrabi, Head, Ahwaz Regional Node presented the report on the activities undertaken by the Ahwaz RN and future plans for the information of the Advisory Committee.

7. In her report, Dr. Zohrabi stated that so far 8 countries have joined the IRPID-IRN, viz. Afghanistan, Egypt, Georgia, Iran, Iraq, Korea, Russia and Tajikistan. So far, the Regional Node has held three Advisory Committee meetings, three Management Board meetings and a meeting of its member countries, including virtual meetings. The fourth MB meeting of RN would be held at Bali on 01 September 2019. The first of the two major activities that have been undertaken during the year included finalizing the Iran-Russia Bilateral Research Collaboration Protocols I, II and III between the All-Russian Research Institute for Hydraulic Engineering and Reclamation (VNIIGiM) on one side and Deputy Minister of soil and Water of Ministry of Jihad-e Agriculture and Khuzestan Water and Power Authority (KWPA) on the other. The areas of cooperation under Protocol I were (1) Agricultural Sustainable Development under Saline Environment, (2) Drainage Water Treatment and Reuse and (3) Real-time Operation of Multi-purpose Reservoir with References to Agricultural Demand. Bio-engineering pilot on drainage and waste water treatment for re-using in irrigation of agricultural crops and fish breeding was the research topic of the Protocol II and Protocol III dealt with Drainage Water Treatment and Reuse, which led to the required studies for design and implementation of Bio Engineering Pilot (BEP). Under these protocols, the visits have been exchanged between Iranian and Russian researchers.

8. The second major activity undertaken by the Ahwaz RN was the organization of the International Training Workshop on Water Accounting Concepts and Tools held Tehran/Ahwaz from 23-26 February 2019 in collaboration with FAO and ICID. A wide range of audiences attended the workshop including high-level decision-makers, academics, and professionals in the water, agriculture, and environmental sectors, and some specialists from member countries of the Regional Node. The participants in the workshop were expected to learn about the process of rapid water accounting, different terminologies used in water accounting, and how to avoid common errors in water accounting through case studies. It was also designed to strengthen the existing inter-agency strategic capabilities and fostering a fruitful exchange of information across experts and decision-makers responding to prevailing issues in water sector. The workshop concluded with a Technical/Cultural tour to Shushtar. The presentations and the report of the workshop are uploaded on the Ahwaz RN's website: <http://irpid-iran.org>

9. The future plans as envisaged by the RN included (i) To extend and follow up with member countries for contribution to the data base, (ii) To continue with the existing collaborative research and extend such activities among the members in the model of Russia- Iran protocols, (iii) To encourage international agencies to support the activities of RN, (iv) To continue with capacity development, with the support from ICID and FAO and a request has been submitted to ICID for further support on Irrigation Management Transfer (IMT) workshop and (v) To extend further cooperation with other national/international institutions to embark on more researches. She said that the IRPID-IRN is prepared to pursue any research topics supported by these international agencies among member countries. She concluded her report seeking the guidance and assistance of Advisory Committee in achieving the targeted activities.

10. Advisory Committee appreciated the report presented by Dr. Zohrabi and assured its support to Ahwaz RN in carrying out its planned activities.

### **AC-IRPID Minutes Item 4: Inputs from Central Asian-Caucasus Regional Node**

11. The Head/Representative of the Central Asian-Caucasus Regional Node presented the report on the activities undertaken by the CAC RN and future plans for the information of the Advisory Committee. The representative of CAC RN has presented an overview of the mission, objectives and organizational set up which have been firmed up as per the notified IRPID Scheme. The countries proposed to be part of CAC RN included Bangladesh, China, Japan, Kazakhstan, Nepal, Turkey, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, Georgia, India, Indonesia, Russia, South Korea and Kyrgyzstan and they have been approached for their consent to be part of the program.

12. The Committee noted the report and approved the mission, objectives, and organizational structure of the RN as given in Annex to the agenda notes of AC-IRPID.

**AC-IRPID Minutes Item 5: Evolving Collaborative Research Mechanism among the Regional Nodes**

13. The Advisory Committee reviewed the existing collaborative research mechanism among the RNs and explored the ways to further evolve it.

14. SG informed the Committee that with the objective to help ICID to serve as a repository of knowledge in irrigation and drainage sector, IrriSEARCH ([https://www.icid.org/res\\_tools.html#Irrisearch](https://www.icid.org/res_tools.html#Irrisearch)), an important tool in fulfilling the objectives of IRPID, has been put in place in accordance with the Irrigation Research (IrriSEARCH) database template approved at the 68th IEC meeting in Mexico City, Mexico in October 2017. The objective is to bring together all agriculture water management (AWM) research activities from various NCs on a single forum to help others learn from their experiences. The IRPID Scheme is recognized as one of the activities that could provide NCs an opportunity to improve its profile within the countries as it provides various research stakeholders in AWM research, a window to exchange and showcase ongoing research activities in the irrigation and drainage sector worldwide.

15. So far, around 10 research institutes have registered in the portal. The Committee urged RNs and NCs to encourage the research institutions in their country involved in AWM to join the network by projecting key information of their research activities for wider dissemination and fulfilling the objective of collaborative research mechanism among the RNs.

**AC-IRPID Minutes Item 6: Dissemination Mechanism on Exchange of Research Findings**

16. The Committee appreciated the dedicated page on ICID web site for IRPID (<https://www.icid.org/irpid.html>) and dissemination of activities of IRPID RNs through ICID News update and ICID News, as some of the measures initiated by ICID to encourage the exchanges of research findings on an intra-node basis and inter-nodes basis.

17. The Advisory Committee deliberated about how to improve the existing mechanism for wider dissemination and exchange of research findings among RNs, NCs and other stakeholders of ICID.

**AC-IRPID Minutes Item 7: Establishment of Additional Regional Nodes**

18. The Committee considered the updated status presented by the proponents of additional RNs approved in principle by 69<sup>th</sup> IEC meeting last year.

19. The Advisory Committee considered the report regarding the establishment of the RN for Africa supported by NCs of Egypt, Sudan and Morocco and recommended that due to constraints of individual members that the North African RN be hosted by the Moroccan NC, for which the concerned National Committees have agreed.

20. VP Dr. Marco Arcieri provided an update on the Mediterranean RN proposed to be hosted by Italian NC as per the submission last year and informed that efforts are being continued for generating resources for the establishment of the proposed Mediterranean RN and mobilizing the associated countries for the same. The Advisory Committee took note of the developments in this regard and requested the Italian NC to firm up the proposal for the establishment of the Mediterranean RN, so that the RN can be formally established this year.

21. The Advisory Committee felt the need for a RN for Spanish speaking countries in Latin America and urged Mexican NC of ICID to take the lead in establishing a RN for Spanish speaking countries or for entire Americas.

22. The Advisory Committee advocated for establishment of more RNs in various regions in order to fulfil the objectives of the IRPID Scheme.

**AC-IRPID Minutes Item 8: Leveraging National Funding for Raising Financial Resources by RNs**

23. The Committee supported the idea of RNs approaching international funding mechanisms that support AWM activities and for that a good track record of successful outcomes from its activities are to be maintained.

24. The Committee acknowledged that one of the objectives of the IRPID is to support the NCs to receive adequate funding from their own governments. The members of the Committee were unanimous in their opinion that the NCs, through the outcomes of the Regional Nodes, sharing the best and new technologies, making use of various ICID communication channels, such as web pages, ICID News and Irrigation and Drainage Journal are in the best position to leverage the research and development outcomes for their direct implementation in the field

and thus generate funding for their planned activities. The national funding can be leveraged further by international collaborations through funding such as IFAD, FAO, World Bank, etc. In case, the NCs are not in a position to raise resources for research activities, the IRPID RN may approach directly the international funding mechanisms that support AWM activities. The Committee reiterated that in order to attract such funding for the IRPID program, there is a need to have a good track record of successful outcomes.

25. The Committee has urged the funding agencies such as FAO, IFAD IsDB and the World Bank to support IRPID training and research programs.

**AC-IRPID Minutes Item 9: Any Other Business**

