

**MINUTES OF THE 4TH MEETING OF THE
ICID YOUNG PROFESSIONAL'S E-FORUM (IYPEF)**
5 September 2019, 09:00-11:00 Hours (Session I)
5 September 2019, 11:15-13:15 Hours (Session II)
Bali, Indonesia

Year of Establishment: 2015

Mandate: At the 65th International Executive Council (IEC) held at Gwangju, Korea, in September 2014, the Council approved establishing an ICID Young Professional's e-Forum (IYPeF) with open membership in order to engage all the Young Professionals interested in AWM issues on ICID platform. The e-Forum established as a new LinkedIn Group (<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/6990321>) is an open online membership consisting of more than 600 members to encourage and promote a high standard of professional development amongst the young professionals and network with the national and international youth having interest in water-related subjects or the activities, relevant to ICID objectives. IYPeF will not only act as a virtual meeting place but also a platform that would serve as a stepping stone to ICID annual events and provide opportunities to the budding professionals for interaction with the best professionals in irrigation and drainage sector, present papers, avail the latest information and join various technical working groups.

Members Present: (1) Mrs. Kathleen Murray, Coordinator Hon. (Australia); (2) Mr. Amali Abraham Amali, Coordinator (Nigeria); (3) Ms. Eman Ragab Nofal (Egypt); (4) Ms. Adey N. Mersha, Joint Coordinator Hon. (Ethiopia); and (5) Ms. Sahar Norouzi (Iran).

Observers: (1) Masaomi Kimura (Japan); (2) Azhari Adrie (Indonesia); (3) Budi M. Habibi (Indonesia); (4) Juliia Danylenko (Ukraine); (5) Heidi Salo (Finland); (6) Fedotova Ekaterina (Russia); (7) Samkelisiwe Hlope (South Africa); (8) Mortaza Yazdekhasti (Iran); (9) Keigo Noda (Japan); (10) Won-Ho Nam (Korea); (11) Higeline I. Lapac (Philippines); (12) Rafat Nael (Iraq); (13) Wele M. Sumith Priyankara (Sri Lanka); (14) Janga Niharika (India); (15) Chusnul Arip (Indonesia); (16) Dina Erlinawati (Indonesia); (17) Diro Nosrullah (Indonesia); (18) Dendy Permana (Indonesia); (19) Bayu Sejoawan (Indonesia); (20) Laela Fitriyantina (Indonesia); (21) Eunmi Hong (Korea); and (22) Sahdev Singh Dir-KM, ICID Central Office (India).

LinkedIn Group: <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/6990321>

IYPeF Minutes Item 1: Action taken by Coordinator

1. After the third IYPeF meeting held in Saskatoon in August 2018, the IYPeF Coordinators organised one follow-up virtual meeting in 2018. In the meeting and from discussion among coordinators, the e-Discussion and webinar topics as part of the IYPeF activities in 2019 were finalised and the role of lead coordinator for each e-Discussion topic was assigned. The activities to be undertaken by the group during the year were discussed and highlighted.

2. The forum also acknowledged and thanked the outgoing co-ordinators, namely, Ms Kathleen Murray (Australia) and Ms. Adey N. Mersha (Ethiopia) for their valuable contributions and active service during their time in office. Accordingly, the updated list of the IYPeF coordinators is as follows:

- (a) Mr Amali Abraham Amali (Nigeria), Coordinator (2018)
- (b) Ms Eman Ragab Nofal (Egypt), Joint Co-ordinator (2017)
- (c) Ms Sahar Norouzi (Iran), Joint Co-ordinator (2018)
- (d) Mr Mohammad Shoaib Saboory (Afghanistan), Joint Co-ordinator (2017)

3. The coordinator highlighted the need to fill the two vacated offices using the revised IYPeF Scheme or otherwise as would be discussed with the ICID Central Office and communicated to the Forum vide appropriate channels.

IYPeF Minutes Item 2: ICID Young Professionals e-Forum (IYPeF)

4. The IYPeF is composed of one coordinator and three joint-coordinators, including Ms. Kathleen Murray (Australia – Hon. Coordinator), Mr. Amali Abraham Amali (Nigeria- New Coordinator), Ms. Sahar Norouzi (Iran), Ms. Adey N. Mersha (Ethiopia – Hon. Joint co-ordinator), Ms. Eman Ragab (Egypt) and Mr. Shoaib M. Saboory (Afghanistan). To encourage and intensify the active participation of Young Professionals in ICID activities in the domain of irrigation, drainage, and flood management, the IYPeF organised series of e-discussions and webinars as per their mandate. Accordingly, five e-discussions, as indicated below, were held in 2019 to enable the young professionals to contribute their views on the topics of interest with a specific focus on the theme “Development for water, food and nutrition security in a competitive environment” for the upcoming Third World Irrigation Forum (WIF3) and 70th IEC Meeting held from 1-7 September 2019 in Bali, Indonesia.

IYPeF Minutes Item 3: Report of the 4th Virtual Meeting of the ICID Young Professionals e-Forum (IYPeF)

5. The coordinator presented a brief report of the 4th virtual meeting of the IYPeF held on 28 November 2018 in conjunction with the IYPeF coordinators and staffs of the ICID Central Office. The meeting finalised the e-discussion topics as well as webinars as part of the activities of the IYPeF towards the WIF3 in Bali 2019. The need to end the e-discussions in sufficient time to allow for selection of YPs and Visa application process was also emphasised. The forum was also briefed on the revised IYPeF scheme with modifications with respect to membership and selection criteria for sponsorships.

IYPeF Minutes Item 4: IYPeF e-Discussions (Completed)

6. The coordinator informed the forum that for the 2019 activities leading up to the Bali meetings, the IYPeF organised five e-Discussions to enable YPs contribute own views on various topics with a specific focus on the theme “Development for water, food and nutrition security in a competitive environment” for the WIF3 and 70th IEC Meetings held from 01 – 07 September 2019 in Bali, Indonesia. Based on the revised IYPeF Scheme, Young Professionals were selected for scholarships to join the WIF3 and 70th IEC meetings. The following YPs received the scholarships;

- (a) Ms Kathleen Murray (Australia)
- (b) Ms Adey N. Mersha (Ethiopia)
- (c) Ms Eman Ragab Nofal (Egypt)
- (d) Ms Sahar Norouzi (Iran)
- (e) Mr Amali Abraham Amali (Nigeria)
- (f) Mr Mohammad Shoaib Saboory (Afghanistan)
- (g) Mr Rafat Nael AbdulGhani Al-Intaki (Iraq)
- (h) Ms Higelaine I. Lapac (Philippines)
- (i) Ms Ekaterina Viktorovna Fedotova (Russia)
- (j) Mr Wele Methrige Sumith Priyankara (Sri Lanka)
- (k) Ms Luliia Danylenko (Ukraine)
- (l) Ms Janga Niharika (India)
- (m) Ms Heidi Salo (Finland)

7. The coordinator informed the forum that the membership strength has risen to over 650 members on the LinkedIn group but highlighted the low number of active participants across e-discussions. The rise in plagiarised content was also discussed in the forum, reiterating the call for ingenuity of knowledge as opposed to an era of copy pasting. The topics and their lead coordinators for 2019 were as follows:

- (a) Non- Conventional Water Use/re-use in irrigation (Ms. Eman Ragab)
- (b) Solar-Powered Irrigation System: Exploring Opportunities and Threats (Mr. Amali A. Amali)
- (c) Soil Conditions to Ensure Sustainable Agriculture and Coping with Climate Change (Ms. Kathleen Murray & Mr. Shoaib Saboory)
- (d) Flood management in agriculture (Ms. Sahar Norouzi)
- (e) Cost-effectiveness of Agricultural Field Drainage (Ms. Adey Mersha)

8. A two-page summary on each e-discussion topic was also prepared and submitted by the lead coordinators to the ICID Central Office. As a formal contribution to knowledge, the forum also discussed plans to coherently condense the outcome of the e-discussions into a review article to be published in the Irrigation and Drainage Journal. This was agreed to be made consistent with subsequent e-discussions. In line with this, the forum discussed the need for meaningful and useful contribution to knowledge and it was agreed to set up some guidelines for discussions that ensures quality and coherence of discussions among forum members in line with forth coming ICID events. The Coordinators agreed to take the responsibility of formulating guidelines for YP contributions in coordination with the ICID Central Office and will be made available to forum members before the commencement of year 2020 activities.

9. With respect to output of the e-discussions, the coordinators will work on coherently compiling the 2-page summary and will consult the Chair of the ICID Journal Editorial Board (EB-JOUR) to discuss the possibility of publishing with the Journal on Irrigation and Drainage. Herewith, it was also agreed to follow-up with the Chair EB-JOUR to explore that recipients of ICID Young Professionals scholarships are added to the list of those receiving the ICID Journals as stated in the scholarship criteria.

IYPeF Minutes Item 4.1: Non- Conventional Water Use/re-use in irrigation (Ms. Eman Ragab)

10. The Chair informed the Forum that Mrs Eman Ragab coordinated the first e-discussion for 2019 on “Non-Conventional Water Use/re-use in Irrigation” from 15 – 31 January 2019 to which Prof. Ragab Ragab (Egypt) acted as a Mentor. The discussion; explored non-conventional water use/re-use in irrigation and provided insights into the non-conventional water types, its use and challenges in irrigated agriculture. Also, it discussed the need for putting in place policies, schemes and measures that would help in promoting sustainable management tools of non-conventional water use; appropriate guidelines for use of non-conventional sources of irrigation water as well as highlighted the views of young professionals with regards to non-conventional water use for sustainable agriculture and the challenges and potential solutions in achieving food security.

IYPeF Minutes Item 4.2: Solar-Powered Irrigation System: Exploring Opportunities and Threats (Mr. Amali A. Amali)

11. The report of the second e-discussion on Solar-Powered Irrigation System: Exploring Opportunities and Threats held from 15th February to 2nd March with Dr Petra Schmitter (Research Group Leader - Agriculture Water Management – IWMI) acting as discussion mentor was presented by Amali Abraham Amali. The landmark discussion coinciding with ICID’s knowledge exploration on Solar Powered Irrigation Systems drew case studies from Asia Pacific and Africa to explore the use of Solar Power as a non-conventional source of energy in agricultural water management. Guided by the discussion mentor, YPs explored the different policy guidelines needed to promote adoption of as well as access to SPIS especially among smallholder farmers and the need to establish governance frameworks that limits the potential dangers the system may pose to available water resources such as groundwater. The discussion also highlighted the key areas that can be used to promote the use of SPIS as a renewable energy and climate change adaptation measure when compared to conventional systems currently in use. It concluded by identifying potential opportunities for upscaling the technology beyond environmental sustainability to economic sustainability cutting across constrains of land rights and access to capital.

IYPeF Minutes Item 4.3: Soil Conditions to Ensure Sustainable Agriculture and Coping with Climate Change (Ms. Kathleen Murray & Mr. Shoab Saboory)

12. The report on the third e-discussion on Soil Conditions to Ensure Sustainable Agriculture and Coping with Climate Change held from 15 – 30 March 2019 was presented by Kathleen Murray. During the two weeks, YPs discussed on how soil health impact on agricultural production and climate change as well as explored options for sustainable agriculture under climate change such as management practices that lead to reduced carbon footprint from agricultural soils. The discussion identified pressures on land as one of the factors driving expansion without proper management of soil for existing agricultural lands. Lack and high cost of field monitoring equipment’s was also highlighted as one of the challenges to research efforts that tend to address soil health. As a way forward, it is obvious that agricultural practices should be able to adapt to future conditions include tackling poor soil structure by preventing soil compaction which leads to higher nutrient leaching and decreased crop productivity.

IYPeF Minutes Item 4.4: Flood Management in Agriculture (Ms. Sahar Norouzi)

13. The report of the fourth IYPeF e-discussion held under the topic: Flood management in agriculture from 15 – 30 April 2019 was presented by Sahar Norouzi. The e-discussion identified the positive effects as well as negative impacts of flood on agricultural lands. It went further to review existing information on the existence of large agricultural lands that are irrigated using flood water in countries such as Somalia, Iran, Finland, and India. Traditional methods of flood conservation were also discussed as well as the need for cooperation and collaboration between technocrats, policy makers, and local communities.

IYPeF Minutes Item 4.5: Cost-effectiveness of Agricultural Field Drainage (Ms. Adey Mersha)

14. The discussion on “Cost-effectiveness of Agricultural Field Drainage” was organised from 15 – 31 May as one of IYPeF activities in 2019. The report of the discussion was presented by Ms Adey Mersha and explored the history, current need of agricultural drainage in the context of alarmingly rising global food demand, determining factors for improving the cost-effectiveness of agricultural drainage systems as well as possible interactions with the environment. Furthermore, the discussion also explored the role of young professionals in advancing and modernising the field of Agricultural drainage. Brief deliberations were made highlighting the positively energetic, enthusiastic and fast learning behaviour of young professionals as well as their potential for an improved communication and dissemination of knowledge for use in sharing experiences and practical knowledge among researchers and practitioners across various scales towards further advancing and modernising agricultural drainage. As a way forward, the need for further research in the field to achieve optimum drainage solution as per the desired level of automation and affordability was also identified and recommendations on priority research areas were made.

IYPeF Minutes Item 5: IYPeF Webinars for 2019

15. The coordinator presented a brief on the two webinars organised as part of the activities of the IYPeF in 2019. The webinars; (1) Open Source Geo-Spatial Tools and Mobile Device for Canal Network Digitization by Paavan Kumar Reddy Gollapalli used case studies from India to explore how mobile devices, open source mobile apps, and geospatial technology can be used for collecting ground truth data and how to process the obtained raw data. (2) Crop Water Productivity in Afghanistan by Najumuddin further discussed how best available scarce water resources in Afghanistan can be optimised to ensure maximum utilisation of each cubic meter of water. The coordinator further stressed the uniqueness of these webinars as delivered by fellow Young Professionals and called on the forum to take up the responsibility of co-sharing knowledge across the available platforms.

IYPeF Minutes Item 6: Training workshops for Young Professionals at WIF3, Bali 2019

16. As part of the IYPeF activities in Bali 2019, ICID in close collaboration with the Indonesian Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (INACID) and International Water Management Institute (IWMI), organised a one-day International Young Professionals Training attended by 37 participants including Young Professionals and experts. The forum during her 4th meeting discussed the low participation of YPs in the training workshop by YPs that attended the Bali meetings to which low publicity was highlighted as one of the major setbacks. As way forward to future YP events, the forum recommended highlighting these events on the conference websites as well as using available networks for publicity. Possibility of having YPs sign up at the point of registration will also be investigated.

IYPeF Minutes Item 7: Proposed activities, e-discussion, and webinar topics towards Sydney 2020

17. During the meeting, the forum suggested and discussed topics to be considered in e-discussion and webinars as part of IYPeF activities in 2020. The discussion also went further to propose activities that can be organised by the IYPeF during ICID events to increase reach, create awareness, and encourage more participation of YPs in future events. In line with the theme of the 71st IEC meetings and 24th International Congress to be held in Sydney, Australia from 22-28 September 2020 - Innovation and Research in Agriculture Water Management to Achieve Sustainable Development Goals – the forum suggested the following topics viz;

- (a) Application of bigdata in agricultural water management. To include groundwater mapping.
- (b) Nature-based drainage solutions to increase flexibility of drainage systems under varying climate.
- (c) Remote sensing for water resources management: Challenges and opportunities. To include drought monitoring and evapotranspiration measurements.
- (d) Bridging the irrigation gap through stakeholder involvement for achieving the SDGs.
- (e) Smart agricultural water management systems for increasing water security and water productivity.
- (f) Sustainable agricultural intensification for food security and ecological integrity. To consider vertical farming, urban agriculture, aquaponics.
- (g) Application of ICT smart technologies for decision support systems at different scales of agricultural water management. Including a review on state-of-the-art as well as use of social media for farmer peer-to-peer learning.
- (h) Governance structures for sustainable agricultural water management.
- (i) Carbon cultivation in irrigation and drainage as mitigative strategies to climate change.
- (j) River restoration as a method for flood conservation and control.
- (k) 2-D Flood Modelling with HEC-RAS.

18. The coordinators will follow-up the proposed topics to finalise and assign lead coordinators as will be appropriate for e-discussions and webinars via a virtual meeting to be held after the Bali meetings in coordination with the ICID Central Office.

IYPeF Minutes Item 8: Any other Business

19. As part of the planned activities for the WIF3, Bali 2019, the coordinator also briefed the forum on how YPs can use social media to increase the reach of ICID events particularly using the WIF3 as a sample study. As part of the IYPeF activities, certain YPs committed to sharing highlights of the WIF3 across social media platforms using certain keywords which will be filtered, analysed, and presented as part of YP inputs to WIF3.

20. The coordinator briefly introduced to YPs present how to use the LinkedIn platform for e-discussions in ways that makes it logical for readers to follow. He also stressed on creativity and innovation as the driving force of the e-discussions rather than plagiarised contents. With output discussed as contributing to review articles for publications, the forum further stressed the need for qualitative discussion among YPs.

21. The forum also deliberated on the time allotted to each e-discussion as one of the drivers for plagiarism and rush for quantity rather than qualitative information. Due to constraints of time, it was however agreed to keep the length of e-discussions to two (2) weeks while the coordinators will liaise with the ICID Central Office to establish guidelines that govern contributions of YPs on the LinkedIn platform. This will also take into consideration appropriate communication channels for expressing displeasure with members participation as well as engagement on the forum.

22. The Young Professionals also discussed the challenges with using LinkedIn as discussion platforms and the low/late notification. Email groups were suggested as avenues to circulate activities among young professionals and to be explored by the coordinators. It was however agreed to use the social media platforms for notifying members of upcoming activities ahead of time. YPs are therefore encouraged to follow the different social media currently operated by the IYPeF as more channels are to be explored.

23. Finally, the forum discussed the need to include more YP activities in future events to increase the participation of more young professionals as well as drive their active engagement before, during, and after ICID events. The participation of YP's from the hosting National Committee and surrounding region may be encouraged.



