APPENDIX XXVI [PCTA Item 3.3.1]

Minutes of the Sixth Meeting of the
WORKING GROUP ON MODERNIZATION OF IRRIGATION SERVICES (WG-MIS)
25 June 2012: Time: 15.30-17.30 hours, Adelaide, Australia

Strategy Theme: Systems

Year of Establishment: 2007 **Completion of the Mandate: 2012**

Mandate: To provide a continuing focus in ICID for sustainable improvement of irrigation service delivery through progressive modernization of infrastructure, management and institution.

Members Present: (1) Dr. Maurits Ertsen, Chairman (Netherlands); (2) Mr. François Brelle, Vice Chairman (France); (3) Mr. Lee, Tsong-Hwei (Chinese Taipei) represented by Dr. Ming-Young Jan; (4) Mr. Sezar Ercan (Turkey) represented by Remziye Yildiz Gulagaci; (5) Dr. Ashwani Kumar (India) represented by Mr. R.K. Gupta; (6) Dr. Masayoshi Sato (Japan); (7) Mr. Andre Roux (South Africa) represented by VP Dr. Gerhard Backeberg; (8) Mr. Mehrzad Ehsani (Iran); (9) Mr. Mohammud Yazd bin Abdullah (Malaysia) represented by Azaman bin Md. Ali.

Permanent Observer: Mr. Thierry Facon (FAO)

Members Hon.: Mr. Franklin Dimick, Vice President Hon., ICID (USA); Dr. Willem Vlotman, Vice President, ICID (Australia)

Observers: (i) Mr. Ruey-Chy Kao (Chinese Taipei);(ii) Dr. Yingduo Yu (China); (iii) Dr. Sanjay Belsare (India); (iv) Mr. Hassan Shantia (Iran); (v) John Grant (Australia); (vi) Ms. Pooja Kapoor (India); (vii) Ms. Aysen Pervin Gungor (Turkey); (viii) Mr. Ying-Chien Lo (Chinese Taipei); (ix) Mr. Yun-Chung Lee (Chinese Taipei); (x) Ms. Mei-Chang Chen (Chinese Taipei); (xi) Ron Leamon (Australia); (xii) Mr. Uttam Raj Timilsina (Nepal); (xiii) Mr. Syed Mansoob AliZaidi (Pakistan); (xiv) Dr. Shukhrat Mukhamedjanov (Uzbekistan); (xv) Mr. Ardavan Azari (Iran); (xvi) Mr. Mostafa Razzaghmanesh (Australia); (xvii) Moslem Sarvestani (Iran); (xviii) Mr. Nick Gillingham (Australia).

Item 1 : Membership of the Group

Existing membership, the new nominations nor the attendance at the last two meetings were discussed, since the extended mandate (6 years) of the WG has expired in Adelaide. The three newly nominated members were present in the Adelaide meeting and participated actively (Ms. Remziye Yildiz Gülağaci (Turkey), Mr. R.K. Gupta (India) and Mr. Uttam Raj Timilisina (Nepal)). The recommendation is that they will be accepted as members of the successor of the MIS working group.

Item 2 : Website of the Group

As no material had been received, and the group mandate has ended, there was no action to be taken. As the presentations under item 4 were cancelled, members were requested to send the slides to ICID Central Office for placing on the website.

Item 3 : Work Plan of the Group towards closure

3.1 Session on irrigation modernization at Adelaide

Thanks to the Australian colleagues, a very interesting prominent session on modernization of irrigation services and systems has been made possible. This means that the MIS will not have a separate workshop in Adelaide. All MIS members were encouraged to participate in the modernization sessions and discussions at the conference.

3.2 Proposing mandate and tenure of the new working group

The chairman informed the meeting about progress on the final product of the working group. As no financial support could be secured so far, and the extent of easily available documents to be included in any final product is relatively low, it was decided not to pursue a formal final document for the working group anymore. Securing future attention to MIS issues was seen as more important by the WG.

The Iranian WG member Mr. Ehsani presented the ideas behind and the draft outline of the book project on "Construction of Irrigation Canals". The book would discuss how, based on the existing long experience of irrigation system management and operation of current systems, newly designed canal systems could be designed and constructed differently to secure proper management and operation from the start. This proposal was discussed. The importance of a topic like construction and design was seen as important by many members and observers. Even though several members pointed to already existing documentation – but was generally seen as a less prominent future key topic for a WG focusing on delivering water services. Furthermore, the practicalities of writing a book within a WG setting may become a too challenging issue. It was suggested that a Task Force with the task to provide better insight in issues of design and construction, including structural rehabilitation, may be a good way forward.

The general feeling of the members was that a key topic for a new WG would be how to ensure that current irrigation systems management will keep delivering proper services to users or can be improved to deliver the necessary services.

Several topics for detailing this general notion were discussed. Issues like water measurement, organization of water managers and users, and service delivery were mentioned. The need to compare the situations in each member country in terms of modernization issues (whether it was construction, operation, management, transitions, etc.) was mentioned. Multiple use within and of irrigation systems was presented as a topic by vice-chairman Mr. Brelle, especially as most irrigation systems worldwide face water scarcity issues with a growing need to share available water with other uses, including ecosystems.

The option to propose two working groups – one on design and construction/rehabilitation of systems, and one on delivering water services – was discussed. Although this was seen as a practical option to secure attention for both topics, the meeting was in favor of an arrangement in which potentially combined and integrated attention to these issues was secured within a WG mandate, even though the importance of construction/rehabilitation as such was discussed as well.

Item 4 : Internal Workshop of the WG

Because of the time used for the important discussions under item 3, the presentations of Mr. Perret and Mr. Ehsani were cancelled.

Item 5 : Any other business

The chairman thanked all those present at the meeting. Furthermore, he stressed what a privilege it has been to chair one of the key groups of the ICID family. The meeting ended at 17.25 hours.