Minutes of the 66th IEC Meeting – WG-YPF

Appendix VIII [PCSO Item 8.3]

Minutes of the 21st Meeting of the WORKING GROUP ON YOUNG IRRIGATION PROFESSIONALS FORUM (WG-YPF)
14 October 2015, 14.00-15.30 hours
Montpellier, France

Year of Establishment: 1993

Mandate: (1) To provide an international platform for young irrigation and drainage professionals and to encourage and promote a high standard of professional development in the subjects of irrigation, drainage and environment, (2) To facilitate the development, acquisition and wider dissemination of knowledge and information about irrigation, drainage, flood management and environment amongst the young professionals, (3) To maintain and enhance links with national and international youth having interests in the related subjects or the activities relevant to ICID objectives, and (4) To educate young professionals about ICID’s role, objectives, activities, structure, constitution and By-laws.

Members Present: (1) Ms. Hayati binti Zainal (Malaysia), (2) Dr. Atsushi Marui (Japan).

Member Honorable Present: (1) President Hon. Dr. Gao Zhanyi (China); (2) Vice President Dr. Huseyin Gundogdu (Turkey); (3) Mr. Avinash C. Tyagi (Secretary General, ICID)

Observers: (1) Mr. Issam Khaddam (Syria), (2) Mr. Christian June C Maquiling (Philippines), (3) Ms. Ady Nigatu Mersha (Ethiopia), (4) Ms. Yingduo Yu (China), (5) Mr. Chansung Oh (Korea), (6) Mr. Paul Ayella (Uganda), (7) Mr. Rafael Gonzales Perea (Spain), (8) Ms. Gong Ju (Korea), (9) Mr. Hay Aung Tint (Myanmar), (10) Mr. Mohamad Razali Nazari (Malaysia), (11) Ms. Eman Ragab Nofal (Egypt), (12) Ms. Hind Massoud Hamed Elneel (Sudan), (13) Mr. Pin Han Kuo (Taiwan), (14) Mr. Abdullahi Abdul Rahman Ogole (Nigeria), (15) Mr. Mohammad Shoaib Saboory (Afghanistan), (16) Dr. Mortaza Yazdkhasti (Iran).

(Ms. Hayati binti Zainal (Malaysia) Chaired the meeting in absence of Mr. Yaser Barghi (Iran), Chair, WG-YPF)

WG-YPF Minutes Item 1: Action taken report by Chair

1. Ms. Hayati binti Zainal (Malaysia), Secretary of the WG presented the report on the follow up actions on the various decisions / proposals of the working group at its last meeting held at Gwangju, Korea (2014).

WG-YPF Minutes Item 2: Review of the membership of the working group

2. As the WG was having its concluding meeting, new membership proposals were not considered.

WG-YPF Minutes Item 3: Review of the progress made by the National Committees in establishing Young Professionals Forum (YPF)

3. It was reported that the seven National Committees have their YPF directories. It was recommended that these directories could form the basis for starting the new ICID-YPF. It is proposed to invite all attendee YPs (Observers) to join the new ICID-YPF.

WG-YPF Minutes Item 4: Scholarship to young professionals for attending ICID events – 26th European Regional Conference, October 2015, Montpellier

4. In 2015, fourteen young professionals from National Committees (NCs) and partner International Organizations (IOs) have been awarded full scholarship. Two half-day training workshops were organized for them besides taking responsibilities as rapporteurs in various sessions of the Conference and attending ICID Working Group meetings of their choice. The two half-day training workshops organized were:

- **Training Workshop – 1:** “Coupling innovative methods for participatory water management” by Nils Ferrand, IRSTEA on 15 October 2015; 09:00 – 12:30 hours
- **Training Workshop – 2:** “Integrated Flood Management: from theory to practice” by Mr. Giacomo Teruggi, WMO on 15 October 2015; 14:00 – 17:30 hours

5. President Dr Saeed Nairizi inaugurated the Training Workshops and expressed hope that the YPs would take full advantage of the opportunities provided. He thanked IRSTEA and WMO to partner in ICID’s efforts to enthuse YPs to participate in professional activities.
6. The proposal of Ms. Hayati, Secretary of the YPF to organize training workshops in future on topics such as: climate smart agriculture, water footprints or issues related to sustainable irrigated agriculture were noted and it was assured by Secretary General (SG) Avinash C Tyagi that while organizing such trainings in future, the proposals from YPF will be considered and efforts made to meet the expectations of YPs. He encouraged YPs to give more suggestions.

WG-YPF Minutes Item 5: Young Professionals photo exhibition at Montpellier in 2015

7. Chair Yaser Barghi (Iran) in cooperation with Ms. Caroline Coulon (France) had proposed to organize a photo exhibition (in line with the theme of the conference) as a side event during Montpellier meetings. However, due to some reasons the exhibition could not be materialized. SG took note of the suggestion and assured that YPs would be given the responsibilities to organize a similar event at Chiang Mai in 2016.

WG-YPF Minutes Item 6: Closure report of the WG-YPF

8. The achievements of the WG were highlighted in a summary report of the activities of the WG for the period 1993-2015. The Chair appreciated the efforts of Central Office in preparing the summary report of activities, especially from 1993.

9. Speaking at the meeting, PH Dr Gao Zhanyi pointed out that he was first initiated into the activities of ICID through WG-YPF. He had served as the Chair of the WG for three years and also benefitted from the WatSave Award for the YPs. He said that many other Office Bearers of ICID have worked their way upward through WG-YPF. He therefore, encouraged the YP participants to make best use of the opportunity provided by ICID to interact with senior professionals.

WG-YPF Minutes Item 7: Guidelines/format for the new ICID-YPF

10. At the 65th International Executive Council (IEC) held at Gwangju in September 2014, the Council approved establishing an ICID-Young Professional’s Forum (ICID-YPF) with open membership. SG presented the concept note on ICID-YPF enumerating benefits to YPs, role of YPs and the mechanism for the management of the Forum. He pointed out that the enclosed Annex proposes the rules in order to assist the organization of Young Professionals Forum. Keeping the above in view, ICID-YPF would be a platform for all young professionals to come together and share knowledge and experiences. It is recognized that under the increasing complexities of supply, demand and uncertainties, a breed of professionals who approach the irrigation and drainage issues with a more open mind and accept the multi-dimensional aspects of the water sector is required. They should be willing to undertake their activities in an inter-disciplinary manner.

11. SG pointed out that keeping the long-term objectives of ensuring water and food security in view, ICID has established ICID Young Professional’s Forum (ICID-YPF) that provides an international platform to young engineers/scientists for their professional development. The Forum would provide 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.

12. The Group appreciated the efforts made by SG and felt that the rules were quiet acceptable. There was a feeling that efforts should be made to try the new way of working and make suitable modifications as we go along.

WG-YPF Minutes Item 8: Any other business

13. WebEx meeting: The WG-YPF organized its very first WebEx (Online) meeting on 29 September 2015 which was very useful in narrowing the issues for discussion during the main meeting at Montpellier. Chair Yaser Barghi (Iran) inputs proved valuable since he could not attend Montpellier meetings. The YPs intend to organize more such online meeting in 2016.

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ICID – YOUNG PROFESSIONAL’S FORUM
CONCEPT NOTE

Background

At the 65th International Executive Council (IEC) held at Gwangju in September 2014, the Council approved establishing an ICID-Young Professional’s Forum (ICID-YPF) with open membership. The Council suggested that ICID Central Office develop rules and assist the organization of Young Professionals Forum. 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.

The Context

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.

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.

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 inter-disciplinary approach? However, the number of young professionals joining the water sector is dwindling by the year.

Objective of ICID-YPF

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.

With these long-term objectives in view, ICID has established ICID Young Professional’s Forum (ICID-YPF) that provides an international platform to young engineers/scientists for their professional development in the areas of irrigation, drainage, flood management and environment. The Forum 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.
Membership

Person desirous of becoming member of ICID-YPF 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/.

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 Linked-in platform 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.

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.

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.

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.
Broad Rules and Regulation

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

(a) Professional willing to become member of ICID-YPF will have to apply in the prescribed form with ID and age proof.

(b) Professional will undertake to follow the core values of ICID and work towards fulfilling its vision.

(c) ICID Central Office staff will review application and approve membership and support the experts in moderating the forum and various other activities.

(d) The Forum members will chose a coordinator and five joint-coordinators to manage affair of YPF.

(e) 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 YPF members through online poll organized by ICID. For joint coordinators 10 active members will be identified out of which 5 will be elected as joint coordinators. YPF members may review this process and may evolve better process of electing coordinator and joint coordinators.

(f) 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.

(g) ICID will support participation of coordinator under YP scholarship to ICID annual event to brief about activities of the YPF to permanent committees etc.

(h) Member of forum will be allowed to get online certificate as YPF member after 5 years of active participation in the Forum (or on attaining age of 40).

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