ICID Newsletter
Managing water for sustainable agriculture
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International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID) was established in 1950 as a scientific, technical and voluntary not-for-profit non-governmental international organization. The Newsletter is published quarterly by ICID Central Office, New Delhi, India.

Message from the President

I am thankful to the Israeli National Committee of ICID for securing space for ICID in the timetable and organising the meeting. All the countries and major groups attending CSD-16 received invitations. Although the audience was much less than the 680 capacity of the meeting room (!), the contributions from the panel (which included FAO, IFAD, WWC and Winrock) were excellent, and led to some candid debate on the topic “Water and agriculture for ending poverty and hunger” that ICID has been leading in preparation for the 5th World Water Forum in Istanbul, in March 2009. We also aired the importance of multiple uses of water services to reach the poor not served by formal systems, a topic of keen interest to our task force on poverty alleviation and livelihoods (TF-POVERTY).

The fact that ICID was able to hold such a meeting and be so strongly involved in these topics made a key impression on many more than those actually attending our meeting. My thanks to all those who contributed.

Several of the panel for the ICID meeting had been on the panel for the earlier side meeting organised by FAO-IFAD, chaired by the Hon Maria Mutagamba, Minister of Water and Environment in Uganda, to launch their new initiative to improve livelihoods in sub-Saharan Africa: “Water and the rural poor”. With the focus again on Africa, the presentations were on the process of mapping potential in Africa previewed by FAO at the ICID Regional Meeting last year in South Africa. It was again opportune to remind ourselves that irrigation is not necessarily about canals and pipes, but concerns management of soil moisture by any means, including runoff farming, drainage and informal irrigation.

Gerald Lacey Lecture, London

Every year ICID.UK hosts a lecture in memory of Gerald Lacey, known best for his regime theory for the design of canals, widely used in South Asia. This year, the speaker was Professor Sir Gordon Conway, Scientific Advisor to DFID and President of the Royal Geographical Society, who addressed the question “How do we feed the world?” and the need now for a “doubly green revolution”. This question is very pertinent to the present food crisis and we were informed by his perspective as an agricultural ecologist (as well as the subsequent questions from other points of view). Whilst the present prices may abate, most would agree the era of cheap food (and fuel) has ended. Mobilising pro-cesses that will enable food production to keep pace with demand will require understanding from many different viewpoints.

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The United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) was established by the UN General Assembly in December 1992 to ensure effective follow-up of United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), also known as the ‘Earth Summit’. The ‘Rio Declaration on Environment and Development’ as well as providing policy guidance to follow up the ‘Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI)’ at the local, national, regional and international levels. The CSD meets annually in New York in two-year cycles, with each cycle focusing on clusters of specific thematic and cross-sectoral issues. The Current Cycle (2008-2009) focuses on Agriculture, Rural Development, Land, Drought, Desertification, and Africa. The Commission emphasized the need for ramping up investment in research and development in innovative and sustainable agricultural technologies and infrastructure in developing countries.

A side event on the topic ‘Role of Water in Addressing the Challenges of Poverty and Food Security’ was organized by ICID and Israeli National Committee (ISCID) at the CSD-16. The panel discussion was moderated by Peter Lee, President ICID and participated by representatives from IFAD, FAO, Winrock International, WWC, besides ISCID. President Lee highlighted the linkages between water, food and poverty in his opening speech. It was noted that agriculture, which addresses poverty and food security is the largest user of water. The challenge of the global increase in food demand requires improving the access to water and land for the rural poor.

The future roles of water and agriculture comprise the developmental goals of household food security and rural livelihoods, and the goal of more productive use of natural resources to feed the world.

The new challenges for irrigated agriculture, as pointed out by Jean-Marc Faurés (FAO) stem from the rising food prices and tighter commodity markets, increasing environmental concerns, aging irrigation infrastructures, climate change, and growing demands for bio-energy. The rapid changing context causes increasing scarcity of water resources and affects the poor. Dr. Daniel Zimmer from the World Water Council (WWC) illustrated that if water productivity and diet pattern remain unchanged, there will be a need for an additional water supply to agriculture, reaching to an annual 5600 billion cubic meters by 2050, from the present 2600 billion cubic meters.

Various solutions to the water challenges were discussed at the panel. Dr. Zimmer highlighted that the key to the future of food and water lies in increasing productivity of small-scale farmers. Rodolph Cleveringa (IFAD) discussed poverty reduction strategy through targeted interventions in water and rural livelihoods. Dr. Mary Renwick from Winrock International underscored that the multiple-use of water services can bring financial and non-financial benefits in addressing multiple dimensions of poverty. Dr. Jorge Tarchizky (Israel) elaborated on the use of treated wastewater for irrigation to increase food production in arid areas, and emphasized that it could be a feasible solution for all sizes, from big metropolitan areas to small villages.

For more information on CSD-16, please visit <http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/index.html>.

ICID WatSave Awards 2008: Invitation for Nominations

The nominations for the ICID WatSave Awards 2008 are being accepted. Please rush your entries before the deadline 30 June. The entries are open to all professionals/teams from ICID member countries as well as non-member countries. In case of an entry from a ‘non-member’ country, the nomination should be submitted through and validated by any active national committee of ICID. National committees are requested to send their nominations by inviting contributions on outstanding achievements from all those persons who are engaged on water saving/conservation activities.

The ‘Conditions and Criteria’ set for the awards, ‘Nomination Form’, and the checklist of enclosures to be forwarded by a national committee while submitting the nominations can be downloaded at <http://www.icid.org/awards.html>. The Awards will be presented at the 59th meeting of the IEC and 20th Congress scheduled to be held in October 2008 at Lahore, Pakistan. For further information, please contact Secretary General, ICID at icid@icid.org.
As the coordinators for topic 2.3- Water and Agriculture for Ending Poverty and Hunger of Theme 2- Advancing Human Development and the Millennium Development Goals (MDG), ICID has floated a discussion paper prepared by VPH Henri Tardieu and President Hon. Bart Schultz which has been widely circulated to prospective consortium member organizations, individuals and interest groups. The draft paper has also been uploaded on the ICID website <http://www.icid.org/index_e.html> for all to peruse and comment upon.

The discussion draft on Water for Food for ending poverty and hunger under theme 2.3 attempts to consider a gamut of issues that have impact on food production in the light of growing demand. This inter-alia includes aspects like world market trends, security, nourishment, investments, equity and environmental sustainability, food price increase, access to land and water for the poor, etc. It seeks to examine to what extent can institutional and technical water management improvements (water harvesting, irrigation, drainage, artificial recharge, etc.) contribute to existing cultivated land - with or without a water management system - to meet the required increase in food production, and whether modernization of irrigation and drainage systems in a broad sense (technical, management, financial, environmental) will be required at a large-scale, especially in emerging countries to achieve the required increase in food production. Also it examines issues like saving water for other uses and saving financial resources to develop water resources further. The influence of external resources, like impacts of land being assigned for crops for bio-energy, global climate change, virtual water trade, changes in agri-markets, prices of commodities etc. are being flagged.

Whilst biofuels are expected to provide the least developed countries and poor farmers with new opportunities for employment to improve their economy and livelihoods, the paper will discuss the global impacts of bio-energy crop production. The necessity for food security, the risk and capacity to absorb food supply shocks by allowing a rapid reversing to food production on natural resource management and environment, agricultural commodity prices, as well as the likely impact of biofuel production on the environment.

There is a recognition that the demand for food production cannot be met with the existing structure and anticipated trends in production in irrigated and rainfed areas. This requires significant change in the actions at national, regional and global levels. The optimal mix of small-scale and large-scale systems under prevailing and expected future conditions is to be identified. The discussion paper attempts to highlight these issues in a dynamic environment affecting land and water uses and migratory trends from rural to urban areas etc.

In addition to its key role in Topic 2.3, ICID intends to contribute to the Forum Topic 1.1 on Adapting to climate change: understanding the impact of climate change, vulnerability assessments and adaptation measures, Topic 3.2 on Ensuring Adequate Water Resources and Storage Infrastructure to Meet Agricultural, Energy and Urban Needs, Topic 2.4 on Optimizing multiple uses of water systems e.g. water supply and irrigation, and possibly others like Topic 1.3 on Improving Performance through Regulatory Approaches, and possibly others like Topic 1.3 on Mitigating Disasters in which ICID's WG-SDTA has shown interest. ICID would also be the catalyst to involve other IWAC partners in theme 6 on Education, knowledge and capacity building: particularly the one relating to theme 6.3 on “Using the Assets of Professional Associations and Networks to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals” [in association with International Association of Hydraulic Engineering and Research (IAHR) and others]. A preliminary draft paper on Topic 3.3 - Preserving National Ecosystems was posted on the WWF-5 website by Dr. G A P H van den Eertwegh, Secretary, WG-ENV on behalf of ICID, to show our interest for collaborating in this topic.

Yet another channel of the provision of ICID inputs to the Forum is through participation in the preparatory process of the World Water Development Report. This is a flagship report on water, facilitated by the World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP) under UN-Water. The United Nations World Water Development Reports (WWDR) released every three years in conjunction with the World Water Forum, provide a comprehensive review of the state of the world’s freshwater resources. They take stock of past actions, present challenges, and future opportunities to provide decision-makers with an updated, reliable information that can help to change the ways in which one uses water. A joint effort of the 24 UN agencies and entities which work in partnership with governments, international organizations, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders, the WWDR3 will focus on “Water in Changing World”. For guiding the process of WWDR3, a Technical Advisory Committee has been constituted and ICID is pleased to have Prof. Lucio Ubertini (ITAL-ICID) and Secretary General M. Gopalakrishnan as contributing members. In addition, President Peter Lee participated in a WWAP expert group that has recognized the importance of storage to the resilience and productivity of agriculture. The WWDR3 devotes one exclusive chapter on Water for Human Needs and Ecosystems and the Chapter writers have been supplied with inputs generated in recent times. These, inter-alia, include the draft paper on topic 2.3, erstwhile TF3 and TF4 Reports, CPSP reports on select basins and ICID’s MTD (for an appropriate use in the glossary of terms to explain the terms relating to irrigation and drainage in the Report).

The IEC sessions in Lahore would further delve upon ICID inputs to the Forum.
China Reduces Irrigation Water Withdrawals by 25 percent

Water conservation and increased water use efficiency have become the driving force of China’s irrigation development. Various water saving measures and modernization works are being taken up on large scale since 1990s. As a result the share of irrigation water withdrawal in the total fresh water use in China has been decreased from 80% in 1980 to about 60% at present.

Dr. Gao Zhanyi, Vice President, ICID provides a brief on the China’s modernization program of large irrigation schemes.

Large Irrigation Schemes

In China, there are 402 large irrigation schemes (LISs) covering about 25% of the country’s total irrigated area of 56 million ha. A LIS refers to the irrigation district having an irrigated area more than 20,000 ha. Most of the LISs were constructed between 1950 and 1970 and are the main baskets of food grain production, and thus play an important role in achieving food security in China. However, infrastructure of some of the old schemes has been deteriorating, affecting their performance. To improve the performance, modernization of large irrigation systems has been taken up in China since 1998. The main objective of the modernization program was to improve quality of water supply service, increase water use efficiency and productivity. From 1998 to 2005, China has invested a total of 18.9 billion RMB Yuan¹ to modernize 253 large irrigation schemes.

Modernization Works

The modernization of irrigation schemes not only includes application of new materials, technologies and techniques to upgrade the structures of irrigation systems but also adoption of modern concepts and institutions to improve their management aspects. The modernization works/measures include - reinforcing and upgrading water storages, upgrading canals and control structures, replacing and reinforcing dilapidated structures, upgrading pumping systems, lining canals, upgrading on-farm irrigation systems, applying information and automation technologies to operate and control irrigation systems, reforming management institutions and establishing water user associations.

Modernization Benefits

The main benefits of the modernization of LISs are - improved water supply service, reduced cost of operation and maintenance, increased water use efficiency and agricultural productivity and eventually increased farmer’s income. In 2005, the Ministry of Water Resources carried out an assessment of the modernization works implemented during 1998 to 2004. The results showed that 12,784 km canals were lined, 39,583 structures were reinforced or constructed. These works led to improvement in the safety of the irrigation structures, decreasing the duration of water conveyance and irrigation interval, and reduction in water losses.

Post-evaluation of the modernization program revealed that, 0.65 million ha irrigated area was restored, 3.31 million ha irrigated farmland was improved leading to an increase of 5.82 million tonnes of food grain production annually. The total agricultural output in the program area increased by 46.1% and net per capita income increased by 43.8%. The staff deployed for management was reduced by 25.7% i.e. from 5.68 persons to 4.12 persons per ten thousand ha of irrigated area. The irrigated area managed by water user associations increased from 9.1% to 36.0% of the total irrigated area. The average annual losses occurring due to natural disaster reduced by 3.2 billion RMB Yuan, besides significant reduction in the number of accidents due to collapse of irrigation structures and failures of pumps.

The modernization of irrigation schemes facilitated the diversification of crop pattern and returned more water to ecosystem. The assessment also identified the following key needs for effective implementation of the modernization program in LISs: (i) an appraisal tool to diagnose, (ii) proper selection of structural and non-structural measures to balance technical, economic, social and environmental aspects comprehensively, (iii) prioritization based on diagnostic analysis, and (iv) formulation of appropriate investment mechanism to obtain sustainable financial support mechanisms.

Future Modernization Plans

Recently, the Chinese National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (CNCID) with the support of the FAO, has introduced the Rapid Appraisal Procedure (RAP) in four irrigation schemes. As per the provisions made in the “National Eleventh-Five-Year Plan (2006-2010) on Rehabilitation and Modernization of Large Schemes”, 697 head structures will be upgraded, 30.1 thousand km of main and sub-main canals will be lined and 17.9 thousand km drainage channels will be improved. The management reforms include establishing new management institutions and mechanism, promoting water user associations, and introducing appropriate irrigation water pricing system, etc. A national research project on the modernization of large irrigation schemes is also being implemented to address the key issues.

Dr. Gao Zhanyi may be contacted at <gaozhy@iwhr.com>

¹ 1 USD = 7.0 RMB Yuan
Preamble

Agricultural water management (AWM) faces a number of challenges which emphasise the importance of capacity development in the sector. Foremost amongst these challenges are the growing demand for additional water resources, and the consequent need for the sector to reduce consumption and increase returns to water use.

ICID’s focus on capacity development comes at a time when many other sectors and agencies are also working on these issues. WG-CBTE has therefore been able to learn from research and practice in other fields, spearheaded in particular by UNDP and, at an earlier stage CIDA. Developing capacity involves empowering people and organisations to solve their problems, rather than attempting to solve problems directly.

The WG-CBTE took its working definition of capacity as - “the ability of individuals and organisations to perform functions effectively, efficiently and sustainably” (UNDP, 1998)

It also built on a conceptual framework (see the figure) developed in the late 90s at UNESCO-IHE which saw capacity development as consisting of three levels or domains, the enabling environment, the organisational and the individual. However, recent work has seen the addition of a fourth cross-cutting domain - the knowledge management.

Working Group’s Key Activities

ICID’s main contribution towards understanding of these issues lies in the outputs of its four workshops, viz. Montpellier (2003), Moscow (2004), Beijing (2005), and Kuala Lumpur (2006). The workshop proceedings consisted of a conceptual paper and supporting case studies and are available through the WG webpage <http://www.wg-cbte.icidonline.org/home.html>. The WG has also made contributions in the area of training and education, specifically through its partnership in the compilation of a database of training and education opportunities (http://www.fao.org/ag/agl/cdwa/index_en.htm). All of these activities have been carried out in partnership with other institutions, notably IPTRID and FAO. It is worth emphasising the importance of these partnerships, both for the professional networking they provide and also for the possibilities of long-term funding support which is vital to an organisation like ICID.

The WG is also bringing out a special issue of the ICID Journal ‘Irrigation and Drainage’, due for publication in July 2008. The papers in the special issue link to the conceptual framework of capacity development in its different domains. They report a range of experiences in different contexts and locations, from policy-making and capacity development for urban agriculture in West Africa to knowledge management for water resource development in Indonesia. Several of the papers address issues of capacity development for farmer organisations, and there are also lessons to be learnt from Kenya about capacity development for individual farmers. Together they represent the ‘state-of-the-art’ of capacity development in the sector.

Looking Ahead and Future Challenges

The challenges identified previously are likely to grow and intensify, as the drivers of change continue and new pressures such as the impacts of climate change appear. The changing context for AWM is evidenced by the recent flurry of policy documents (the Camdessus report, the Commission for Africa report, the World Bank’s report on ‘Re-engaging with Agricultural Water Management’ and finally IWMI’s “Comprehensive Assessment of Water Management of Agriculture”). All of these highlight, in one way or another, the growing importance of capacity development in the sector. The changing context requires new and changing approaches, and we are seeing a change in paradigms and approaches to capacity development, from technical to social, from structure to process, from ‘best practice’ to experiential learning.

For the future, the difficulty remains of disentangling the outcome of capacity development initiatives from other interventions, and therefore a continuing difficulty in justifying expenditure on capacity development. We shall therefore continue to see capacity development as part of other programmes and projects but perhaps with increasing emphasis and importance. Capacity development is a complex process and there will always be challenges in drawing universal lessons from localised experiences. Whilst rulebooks and guidelines for best practice are often desired, they can play only a marginal role in effective capacity development and there will be a growing need for reflective practitioners, who can interpret and develop approaches appropriate to the context. Managing the process of capacity development is another challenge. WG-CBTE’s Kuala Lumpur workshop on ‘monitoring and evaluation’ only served to emphasise how little is really known about effective approaches, principally because it is very hard to measure outcomes in a meaningful way. Interest in indicators and measures of progress is therefore likely to grow.

Finally, the sector is not alone in facing these challenges and the growing body of work on water governance may also yield insights and lessons of importance for those concerned with increasing capacity for agricultural water management.

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Partnership for Agricultural Water in sub-Saharan Africa

Despite its importance, there has been less agricultural water development and management efforts to date in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) than in any other region of the world. IJsbrand H. de Jong, Senior Water Resources Specialist, Africa Region of the World Bank provides a brief on the current situation and World Bank’s initiatives in poverty reduction and achievement of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) through improved agricultural water management in SSA.

Agricultural Water, Poverty, and Growth

Although the world as a whole is roughly on track to reach the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) is unlikely on present trends to do so. If nothing changes, the absolute numbers of poor in the region will continue to increase and by 2015 close to half of the world’s poor will live in SSA. Recent global emergencies such as climate change and high food prices are posing an additional challenge. Agricultural growth is one of the keys to poverty reduction and achievement of the MDGs, as emphasized in the World Development Report 2008. Rural poverty accounts for 83% of the total extreme poverty in SSA, and 85% of the poor depend for their livelihoods at least partly on agriculture.

Agricultural water development can provide an important contribution to agricultural intensification and diversification that will drive agricultural growth and poverty reduction. Yet, at just 4.9% of the total cultivated area of 183 million ha, the area under agricultural water management in SSA is by far the lowest of any region of the world. Over the last forty years, only 4 million ha of new irrigation has been developed in the region.

In response to the above challenges, five international organizations (World Bank, AfDB, FAO, IFAD and IWMI) prepared a collaborative agricultural water strategy: “Investment in agricultural water for poverty reduction and economic growth in SSA” (June 2007). The Strategy responds to the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) desire to operationalize Pillar I (land and water management) of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP). The Strategy analyzes the contribution to date of agricultural water management to poverty reduction and growth in SSA, the reasons for its slow expansion and apparently poor track record, as well as the ways in which increased investment in agriculture water management can contribute to further poverty reduction and economic growth.

Agricultural Water Strategy

In view of the important inter-linkages between water, agricultural productivity and poverty reduction in SSA, the World Bank, African Development Bank (AfDB) and NEPAD launched a Partnership for Agricultural Water in Africa (AgWA). AgWA aims to bring African countries and development partners together in promoting the critical role of water to increase agricultural productivity, economic growth and poverty reduction in the continent. Specifically, AgWA aims to provide support to countries in expanding area under agricultural water in SSA through: (i) partner harmonization of programs and approaches on a country by country basis, (ii) knowledge exchange and learning, and (ii) leveraging and resource mobilization for pipeline development and investments. The Initiative is fully aligned with the CAADP Pillar-1 framework and its implementation processes at the country level, i.e. through the CAADP roundtables to ensure that agricultural water is an integral component of the more comprehensive agriculture and rural development agenda.

During the 1st Africa Water Week held in Tunis in March 2008, a technical meeting was held to discuss implementation arrangements of the AgWa Partnership. The meeting, jointly chaired by AfDB, NEPAD and WB, was well attended by over 30 organizations and agencies including FAO, IFAD, ICID, IWMI, France, Japan and Spain. Participants welcomed the partnership and agreed on its timeliness, the need to enhance attention for agricultural water and the importance to scale up investments. The meeting recognized partner diversity with excellent opportunities for complementarity.

Agricultural Water Business Plan

As contribution to the AgWA partnership, the World Bank has prepared an ‘Africa Agricultural Water Business Plan’ to propose a strategic and rational alignment of instruments to country situations. It identifies three groups of countries that differ in the level of the World Bank experience and country readiness for investment. Group 1 includes those countries where investment can be scaled up immediately. Group 2 includes those countries that have expressed significant interest in agricultural water development but where the World Bank has limited experience in agricultural water. Group 3 includes those countries where the World Bank has little experience and where a strategic country focus on the sector is missing. Analytical work, strategic work as well as business development is required prior to preparation of investments. The business plan extends over five years and proposes lending for $1billion over the next 5 years.

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Forthcoming ICID Events

10th International Drainage Workshop, July 2008, Finland and Estonia

National Committees of Finland (FINCID) and Estonia (ESTCID) have a great honour to invite all prospective delegates to the ICID’s 10th International Drainage Workshop (IDW10) scheduled to be held in Helsinki and Tallinn from 6 to 11 July 2008. The workshop will focus on the effects of agri-cultural drainage on water quality and the methods of preventing leaching of nutrients and other elements to surface and ground water.

The workshop will be held in six sessions i.e. (1) Agricultural drainage and environment in different farming policies, (2) Technical solutions to prevent leaching from agricultural drainage systems, (3) Agricultural water management, decision support methods and technology, (4) Drainage in the context of environ-mental river engineering, (5) Extreme weather conditions, drainage, flood management and land use, and (6) Drainage, the driver of sustainable environments.

The workshop takes place during the Nordic midsummer, which should guarantee pleasant weather and luminous nights due to midnight sun. For online registration and more information about the workshop, please visit <http://www.fincid.fi/idw2008>. For additional information, please contact FINCID at <fincid@fincid.fi>.

XVIII National Congress on Irrigation and Drainage (CONIRD), 27 July to 1 August 2008, Sao Mateus ES, Brazil

The congress is organized by the Brazilian National Committee (ABID). Abstract of the paper(s) are being accepted. For details, please contact Ing. Helvecio Mattana Saturnino, President, ABID, Brasilia DF, Brazil, Tel: +55 61 32732154 / 32723191, E-mail: abid@pib.com.br, helvecio@gsnet.com.br or visit the website <http://www.abid.org.br>.

USCID Water Management Conference, 17-20 September 2008, Portland, USA

A conference on ‘Managing Water in a Climate Changing World: Implications for Irrigation, Drainage and Flood Control’ is organized by the US National Committee (USCID). A ‘pdf’ version of the preliminary program is available at <http://www.uscid.org>. The final program, registration form, etc. will be available on this website by 1 July. For details, please contact VPH Larry D. Stephens, Executive Vice President, USCID. Tel: +1 303 628 5430, E-mail: stephens@uscid.org.

59th IEC and 20th International Congress on Irrigation and Drainage, 13-19 October 2008, Lahore, Pakistan

The theme of the 20th ICID Congress is ‘Participatory Integrated Water Resources Management – From Concepts to Actions’. The 3rd and final announcement has been issued by the Pakistan National Committee (PANCID). Arrangements are being made by the organizers for ‘on-line’ registrations. Early bird registration is available up to 1 July. Those planning to attend the events should initiate VISA procedure at the earliest. Please contact the Organizing Committee for invitation letter, if required to obtain the VISA. All national committees are advised to make reservations for their displays in time. Companies/organizations intending to exhibit their products/services may contact organizers for their space requirements well in advance.

The Congress website <http://www.icid2008.org> is functional and details like programme, venue, registration, accommodation, tours are available. For any further query about the event or visa, etc. please feel free to contact Mr. Syed Raghib Abbas Shah, Secretary General, Congress Secretariat, 506 WAPDA House, Lahore, Pakistan, Tel: +92 42 9202538/ 9202610, E-mail: icid@icid2008.org or Engr. Dr. I B Shaikh, Chairman, PANCID and Vice President, ICID at pancid@icid2008.org.


The seminar is jointly organized by the British National Committee (ICID.UK) and University of East Anglia (UEA) and will unpack irrigation/ water use efficiency and productivity as a contested subject. The seminar will be held in three sessions viz. (1) Paradigm and political ecology, (2) Scales, contexts and trade-offs, and (3) Performance and measurement, and will be addressed by acclaimed speakers. For more information, please contact Dr. Bruce Lankford, Head, School of Development Studies, UEA, E-mail: b.lankford@uea.ac.uk. For registration please contact Tim Fuller, Secretary, ICID.UK, E-mail: icid@ice.org.uk, tim.fuller@ice.org.uk. Website: <http://www.icid.org.uk> or <http://www.uea.ac.uk/dev/lankford>.

60th IEC and 3rd African Regional Conference, 11-17 October 2009, Abuja, Nigeria

The theme of the Conference is “The Role of Irrigation and Drainage in Food Security: Towards attaining the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) in Africa”. The sub topics include: (i) Food production and income generation through irrigated agriculture, (ii) The role of private public partnership in irrigated agriculture in poverty reduction, (iii) Performance appraisal of different irrigation systems towards achieving MDGs and the way forward, (iv) Irrigated agriculture as a strategy for poverty reduction in developing countries, (v) Environmental sustainability and pursuit of the millennium development goals.

The conference is organized by Nigerian National Committee (NINCID) and will be held at the Transcorp Hilton Hotel in Abuja. Abstracts of the paper(s) are accepted up to 30 June 2008.

For details, please visit the conference website <http://www.icid2009.org>. For submission of the abstract and more information about registration, technical tour, exhibition, accommodation etc., please contact Engr. D B Madu, Secretary General, NINCID, Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources, Department of Dams and Irrigation, Abuja, E-mail: nincid@yahoo.co.uk, nincid@icid2009.org

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