Welcome to the 60th IEC Meeting and 5th Asian Regional Conference at New Delhi.

On 6 December 2009, the Indian National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (INCID) will have the privilege of welcoming delegates from around the world to the ICID’s 60th International Executive Council (IEC) meeting and 5th Asian Regional Conference. It is a matter of immense pleasure and pride to host these events when ICID is celebrating the 60th year of its foundation. India had been honored to host ICID Secretariat at New Delhi since its establishment in 1950, and is also one of its founder member countries. It would be therefore an excellent opportunity for the entire ICID family to be here in the Diamond Jubilee year of the Commission’s foundation.

Presently, INCID is hosted by the Central Water Commission (CWC), an apex technical organisation of the Ministry of Water Resources, Govt. of India. INCID has the membership of professionals drawn from government organizations, academic and research institutes across the country. INCID has organized many national and international workshops in close liaison with the Central Office, and has brought out over a dozen technical publications.

In India, the history of irrigation development can be traced back to prehistoric times. Vedas and ancient Indian scriptures have references to wells, canals, tanks and dams which were beneficial to the community and their efficient operation and maintenance was the responsibility of the State. Civilization flourished on the banks of the rivers and harnessed the water for sustenance of life. There is an evidence of the practice of irrigation since the establishment of settled agriculture during the Indus Valley Civilization (2500 BC).

Today, India is a fast growing and the fourth largest economy of the world in terms of GDP. India’s achievements in water resources development and management during the past 60 years have been spectacular. The country has the largest irrigated area in the world of about 61 million ha covering 42% of the cultivable area. The irrigated agriculture has made major contribution towards food grain production and in the process has made the country not only self-sufficient, but an exporter of food grains in 2005-07.

We have received overwhelming response to the “call for papers” for the conference; more than 238 abstracts of papers from 24 countries have been received for oral/poster presentations. We have blocked more than 300 rooms in various categories of hotels. A dedicated website www.incid2009delhi.org has been established which provides details on accommodation, programme, post conference tours, and facility of online registration and payment.

We are happy that the event will be inaugurated by our Hon’ble Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh. Delhi with its population of about 12 million is a modern city of India having a blend of both old and modern culture. There are many sites of tourists’ interest within and around Delhi including the world famous Taj Mahal. The weather in December will be very pleasant. The Indian National Committee (INCID) and the Central Board of Irrigation and Power (CBIP) - the organizing agency are fully geared-up to ensure an enjoyable stay and rewarding experience to our guests. I am pleased and honored to invite you to participate in these meetings and look forward to welcoming you at New Delhi shortly.

A.K. Bajaj
Chairman, CWC and INCID

M. Gopalakrishnan
Secretary Geeneral
News from ICID National Committees

Indonesia (INACID)

61st IEC and 6th ARC

As you are aware, the 6th International Executive Council (IEC) and 6th Asian Regional Conference (ARC) will be hosted by Indonesian National Committee of ICID (INACID) during 10-16 October 2010 at Yogyakarta, Indonesia.

INACID has recommended that all concerned correspondence should be addressed to their INACID Secretariat at secretariat@icid2010.org, unless otherwise specified. [Source : INACID]

Switzerland (CH-AGRAM)

World Climate Conference-3

World Climate Conference-3 (WCC-3) was held from 31st August to 4th September 2009 in the United Nation Center in Geneva, Switzerland, under the aegis of the World Meteorological Organization.

CH-AGRAM (Swiss National Commission on agro-systems and land improvement) represented the ICID (International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage) in the Conference.

WCC-3, which has brought together more than 2000 climate scientists, sectoral experts and decision-makers, established a Global Framework for Climate Services “to strengthen production, availability, delivery and application of science-based climate prediction and services”. “WCC-3 was a natural bridge for connecting science to the climate negotiations for Copenhagen” said Mr Ban Ki-Moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations.

“The Framework gives an instrument to better adapt on actual climate change” said H.E. Mr Moritz Leuenberger, Federal Councillor, Head of Federal Department of the Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications. The Framework “builds a bridge between the science, climate experts and users around the world and within as many users as possible in several socio-economic sectors” continued Mr. Leuenberger.

The scientists and sectoral experts supported the development of the proposed Global Framework and called for strengthening of five essential elements:

- the Global Climate Observing System and all its components, encouraging exchange and access to climate data.
- the World Climate Research Program, underpinned by adequate computing resources and increased interaction with other global climate research initiatives.
- climate services information systems taking advantage of existing national and international arrangements.
- climate user interface mechanisms focused on building linkages and integrating information between the providers and users of climate services.
- efficient and enduring capacity building through education, training and strengthened outreach and communication.

Mr. Rajendra Pachauri, Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, emphasized the scientific realities associated with a 2 degree Celsius target. Only due to thermal expansion, sea-level rise is inevitable and will threaten millions of people in coastal areas and mega-deltas. In order to achieve the 2 degree Celsius target, it is important that the global greenhouse gas emissions peak by 2015 and then sharply decline. He stressed the huge co-benefits of mitigation for health, agriculture, employment and energy security. “Given that the inertia in the system will result in climate change and its impacts, even if we reduced our emissions to zero today, the global community has to address the need for adaptation measures, particularly in the most vulnerable regions of the world” he said.

For more details, visit the WCC-3 Website: http://www.wmo.int/wcc3 [Source : CH-AGRAM]

Reducing evaporation losses

Australian agriculture is highly dependant on farm dams. Storage sizes range from a few megalitres (ML) for stock and domestic supplies to larger dams used for commercial irrigation. Conservative estimates suggest that in excess of 8 million ML is stored in farm dams (i.e. 9% of total stored water), and that there are more than 2 million farms dams across Australia. Significant evaporation losses can occur from these dams besides distribution channels. It is important to quantify the evaporation losses to propose mitigation technologies.

There are a wide range of products available for controlling evaporation loss. There systems include:

- Continuous floating covers
- Modular covers
- Shade structures
- Chemical covers

Continuous floating plastic covers act as an impermeable barrier that floats on the water surface and can achieve above 90% evaporation savings for full cover of the dam. Modular floating covers come in a range of sizes typically up to 3m² in...
area and act in a similar manner to floating covers. Shade structures in general are suspended above the water surface using cables creating a web-like structure with shade cloth fitted between the cables. Chemical covers have been promoted as a low cost method to reduce evaporation losses.

The cost benefit of evaporation control is a key driver in investment in the technologies mentioned above. For more details log onto www.waterpowermagazine.com

[Source : Erik J Schmidt, University of Southern Queensland, Australia in International Water Power and Dam Construction, Vol.61, No.10, October 2009]

The Water Channel

We would like to draw your attention to <www.thewaterchannel.tv> – with over 300 videos in many water-related categories. This is a public facility, which apart from hosting the videos, is producing off-line compilations for education and awareness and is also supporting the production of new material. Contact: e-mail : <thewaterchannel@metameta.nl>
**60th IEC and 5th ARC Updates**

Less than a month is left when all of us will meet on occasion of 60th International Executive Council (IEC) and 5th Asian Regional Conference (ARC) during 6-11 December 2009 at New Delhi, India. The venue is ‘Vigyan Bhawan’ near ‘India Gate’, not far from designated hotels.

Please rush your registration (if not done earlier) and make you travel plans final. Online registration is available through website: [http://www.incid2009delhi.org](http://www.incid2009delhi.org). You may register yourself upon arrival on 5 December 2009 (Saturday), a day before the Conference begins and the registration continues through the Conference.

We are delighted that INCID is working hard to give ICID events, the importance it rightfully deserves. For instance:

- The Chief Guest for the Inaugural (10 December 2009) will be the Hon’ble Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh.
- National Committees display will be on 7th and 8th December 2009. The Exhibition will be inaugurated by the Hon’ble Union Minister for Ministry of Water Resources, Mr. Pawan Kumar Bansal on 9th December 2009.
- The ‘Closing Ceremony’ on 11 December 2009 will be graced by Hon’ble Union Minister of Finance, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, Government of India.

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**PROGRAM AT A GLANCE**

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**ANNUAL AND REGISTRATION**

- **Registration**
  - 4th Floor, Vigyan Bhawan
  - 9.30 AM – 5.00 PM

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**INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON IRRIGATION AND DRAINAGE**

48 Nyaya Marg, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi 110021, India, Tel : 91-11-2611 5679, 91-11-2611 6837, 91-11-2467 9532
Fax : 91-11-2611 5962; E-Mail : icid@icid.org; Website : [http://www.icid.org](http://www.icid.org)

**Editor : Dr. V.K. Labhsetwar, Director; DTP : K.D. Tanwar, Central Office**

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