

News Update

Managing water for sustainable agriculture

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September 2011



INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON IRRIGATION AND DRAINAGE (ICID)

From Secretary General's desk...

Dear friends,

ICID as one of the UN-Water partners had an invitation to join their annual meetings scheduled alongside World Water Week in Stockholm. In due regard, I



participated in a few of theirs as well as other Water Week events. An interesting feature this year in the global water talks was the elevation of 'Water for Food' linking it to 'Food Security' to the highest pedestal. The theme for the activities for the year ahead, particularly the World Water Day 2012, shall also be in line with this theme. ICID's significant role in addressing food security issues by looking into best practices in irrigated agriculture with a wide global network of countries received prominence.

In the Panel discussions of UN-Water as well as GWP, ICID shared the floor to voice issues of concern in respect of 'water and food security' in the coming decades. GWP's workshop to commemorate their 15 years' anniversary put a special emphasis to food security and new players like Global Soil Partnership were also associated. FAO organized "2012 World Water Day Seminar" on "**Water and Food Security: Call for Solutions**". I highlighted some of the ICID global initiatives that had made a difference in recent times, like 'WatSave Awards' to encourage efficient water use in agriculture, a few multi faceted programmes that our

workbodies address on connected issues like MIS, SDTA and climate change etc. There is a growing interest in understanding the 'efficiency aspects'; UN Water systems through FAO devoted time to explore common definitions. A UN Task Force on "*Water Efficiency addressing Water Accounting Terminology and Definitions*" had its maiden meeting with ICID participation. A basic note on "Water Accounting" (*Chris Perry and Karen Frenken*) explained the status and the gap between interpretations of terminology by UN-Water System. (One due to FAO and the other due to the System of Environmental Economic Accounting for Water – SEEA). ICID participation was considered valuable and MTD usage terms and interpretations on efficiency in an article on the subject in ICID Journal '*Irrigation and Drainage*' formed part of our discussions. The UN-Water is moving towards a '*National Accounting of Water (including Groundwater)*' and their task force outputs would help resolve some existing conflicts in interpretations, once common and universal terminologies are accepted by all concerned.

Given the focus on Food Security by lead UN-Water agencies and systems, GWP's plans to work on water and food security in the coming years besides SIWI's interest to tune next World Water Day to address 'Water and Food Security' concerns, I anticipate that ICID would also be invited to play its crucial role in them. All the vital inputs emerging from several workbodies like 'Poverty', 'Financing' and MDG apart from others, including regional workbodies could help us to project ICID perceptions.

WWC also had a stakeholders' consultation for WWF6. Both FAO and ICID joined the roundtable discussions on the topic of our interest viz: "*Agricultural Water Management*". More inputs for the forum are likely to emerge during the upcoming Tehran meetings when

FAO's and ICID are jointly planning three crucial sessions.

62nd IEC Agenda: I am pleased to indicate that the Central Office has placed all the Agenda for the pre-Council meetings and IEC in ICID website in August itself, following the usual practice of ensuring adequate time for workbody members to prepare for the meetings. I do hope that this received your kind attention. Based on my interaction with our friends in Iran, I am pleased to confirm their high level of preparedness to receive the guests and serve them best, and make their participation in the Congress and Council meetings highly rewarding. The field tours are planned such as to be quite interesting and memorable. The Organizing Committee had been swift enough to communicate visa token numbers for participants to facilitate obtaining visa in respective countries or consulates. I hope that your travel formalities are complete. Please ask for assistance, if need be.

Last, but not the least, it is my pleasant duty to welcome Mr. Avinash C. Tyagi, Secretary General Designate amidst us, now that the results of the selection process is declared by the President. I am sure that you had a chance to view the Presidential message (ICID News 2011/3) containing this announcement, and a brief profile on Mr. Tyagi. He is fairly well known to ICID family due to many earlier contacts and in fact, he had been attending our Council meetings representing WMO in recent years. His profile is also seen in this News Update.

Best Regards,

M. Gopalakrishnan
Secretary General

Avinash Tyagi is the new Secretary General (Designate) of ICID

Mr. Avinash C. Tyagi, a 1973 graduate from University of Roorkee, India and a post graduate from Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi, has 37 years of experience dealing with various facets of

water resources management.

He has worked in water resources sector for Government of India for 28 years at Central Water Commission (CWC) and

Ministry of Water Resources in India. Mr. Tyagi is presently the Director of the Climate and Water Department of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), a specialized UN Agency, and is



responsible for providing support to the countries in the field of water resources management including flood management and adaptations to climate change particularly in the water and agriculture

sectors. For the last 9 years at the WMO, he has developed an intimate knowledge of issues related to water resources management in developing countries around the world. He is presently the coordinator of UN-Water Thematic Priority Area on Water and Climate Change.

Mr. Tyagi has worked closely with various UN agencies and other International organizations. He is known for his candid and professional approach to realize the benefits of international cooperation. He

is an ardent advocate of multi-disciplinary collaboration, a continuing dialogue with various stakeholders and community participation for solving complex development challenges in the water sector. Mr. Tyagi has been associated with activities of ICID as an observer in its Working Groups on flood management and climate change and strived for closer relationship between ICID and WMO.

Hearty welcome to Mr. A.C. Tyagi

News from National Committee

INCID (India)

Mr. R.C. Jha has assumed the role of Chairman, INCID consequent to his elevation to the position of Chairman, Central Water Commission (CWC) of Government of India on 01 September 2011. Mr. Jha, an Engineer by profession, is a well-known expert in India in the River Management Sector and is currently Vice Chairman of ICID WG on Poverty Alleviation. Secretary General Gopalakrishnan felicitated Mr. Jha on 5 September 2011 in ICID Central Office. His contact details are:

Mr. R.C. Jha, Chairman, Indian National Committee, ICID (INCID), Chairman, Central Water Commission, Room No. 315 (S), Sewa Bhawan, R.K. Puram, Sector-I, New Delhi 110 066, India, Tel: +91 11 2610 8855, Fax: +91 11 2610 8614, E-mail: cmanoff@nic.in, arc5delhi@gmail.com

ICID fraternity extends its warm welcome to Mr. Jha in his new capacity as Chairman of INCID and expresses its thanks to Mr. A.K. Bajaj, who relinquished the position of Chair, INCID on 31 August 2011. However, Mr. Bajaj has assured devoting more of his time for ICID activities in various capacities, besides as one of its Vice Presidents. [Source: INCID]

Dr. Kenji Yoshinaga, JNC-ICID visits ICID Central Office

Dr. Kenji Yoshinaga of Toyo University and a member of JNC-ICID visited the Central Office on 02 September 2011

along with his 19 students, as part of their study program to learn about the activities related to Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in different countries. Dr. S.A. Kulkarni, Executive Secretary introduced ICID and briefed them on water resource management in general with focus India since the freshwater issue is one of the important targets of MDGs. The students later actively participated in a question / answer session.

Best Performing Workbody Award

The Panel of Judges for the 3rd Award for the Best Performing Workbody (BPWA-3) has selected ICID Working Group on Sustainable Development of Tidal Areas (WG-SDTA) for the Best Performing Workbody Award (2008-2011). The performance of the WG-SDTA was adjudged the best, based upon a set of criteria. The award reflects that the WG-SDTA's contributions towards the mandate and mission of ICID was outstanding and impressive during the past 3 years.

WG-SDTA is one of the active ICID workbodies, established in 2001 with its maiden meeting in 2002. Under the mandate of WG-SDTA, a number of publications were brought out, viz. (i) "Proceedings of the International Workshop on Sustainable Development of Tidal Areas", (ii) "Wise Use and Environmental Conservation of the Tidal Areas", (iii) "Socio-Economic Management and Stakeholder Participation for Agriculture in Tidal Areas", (iv) "Monitoring Systems for Sustainable Development of Tidal Areas", and (v) "Tidal Area Features and Natural Process".

A book titled "Towards Sustainable Development of Tidal Areas" to improve

the planning, design and management of irrigation and drainage projects in tidal areas will be released in October 2011 at Tehran, Iran. The WG-SDTA had also held a number of workshops since its inception during various ICID annual meetings, including Congresses. The new initiatives of the workbody recently covered (i) during Tsunami invasion (December 2004), and the valuable information of the contribution of Seawall were uploaded in the WG website and (ii) supporting of the renewable ocean energy as green power.

WG-SDTA members have been regular in attending the WG meetings and also attending international seminars. The technical papers were published from time to time. WG-SDTA has a well-maintained website. WG-SDTA joined in the efforts of International Organizations, such as (i) Global Environmental Centre (GEC) on "Guideline on Integrating Wetland Conservation" supported by Ramsar, (ii) the Society of Agricultural Research on Reclaimed Lands, and (iii) International Network for Water and Ecosystem in Paddy Field (INWEPF) to exchange valuable information.

The Award winning WG's members will be presented with a Plaque (*as per the latest membership composition but having served on the workbody for at least 2 years*) and free publications of decided value.

Heartiest congratulations to WG-SDTA!

FAO gets new Director-General

The 37th Session of the Conference of Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), held in Rome from 25 June to 02 July 2011,

elected Mr. José Graziano da Silva as Director-General of FAO. The new Director General will take office on 01 January 2012. Congratulations to Mr. José Graziano da Silva from ICID fraternity and look forward to a greater cooperation during his tenure between ICID and FAO!

The Session also paid a warm tribute to outgoing Director-General Dr. Jacques Diouf, whose term of office ends on 31 December 2011 with establishment of the "Jacques Diouf Award for Food Security". ICID expresses its thanks to Dr. Diouf for all the cooperation he extended to ICID during his tenure.

INAE Fellowship is conferred on Secretary General Gopalakrishnan

Secretary General Gopalakrishnan is nominated as Fellow of Indian National Academy of Engineering this year in acknowledgement of his significant life time contributions to the profession. The Indian National Academy will confer his fellowship in a meeting to be held in December this year in New Delhi.

The Indian National Academy of Engineering (INAE), founded in 1987, comprises India's most distinguished engineers, engineer-scientists and

technologists covering the entire spectrum of engineering disciplines. The Academy has a restricted number of elected fellows in each discipline and has lead Engineers of distinction conferred with National Honours.

As was earlier announced, Secretary General Gopalakrishnan was conferred by the American Academy of Water Resources Engineering, the 'Honorary Diplomat' of the Academy in 2010 during EWRI World Environmental & Water Resources Congress in Providence, RI, USA.

ICID fraternity congratulates SG Gopalakrishnan on his recognition as a FNAE.

21st ICID Congress on Irrigation and Drainage and 62nd IEC Meeting 15-23 October 2011 – Latest Updates

• Registration for Side Exhibition

There are numerous exhibitions in the field of irrigation and drainage all over the world where the latest products and achievements of the industries are presented to relevant parties. What makes ICID Congress exhibition an outstanding event is the visitor profile.

Irrigation and Drainage, being the core of the event in ICID Congress, are the main concerns of the decision makers and key people in the field of irrigation and drainage throughout the world who will attend the 21st International Congress on Irrigation and Drainage and 8th International Micro-Irrigation Congress. This unique specialized event provides an opportunity to irrigation and drainage industrialists, consultants and contractors companies to find their most important audiences in one place, an incident hardly probable to take place anywhere else.

Exhibit space will be available during the congress for commercial and information displays. Interested parties, including potential sponsors and exhibitors may contact the congress secretariat (e-mail: irncid@gmail.com) for more information.

The above-mentioned side exhibition will be organized from 20-23 October 2011. All those interested to register a

booth are invited to fill out the exhibition space order form available at the congress website at www.icid2011.org

• Introducing Tehran Congress Tours

Tehran congress precedes by two technical tours and two post-conference tours respectively to the Mazandaran, Khuzestan, Esfahan and Shiraz province. These tours have been scheduled for the interested delegates and accompanying persons. The details of these tours are available at congress website: www.icid2011.org

• Accompanying Persons' Tour

In previous ICID events, the congress accompanying persons could only attend the general invitations and meetings by paying the registration fee without having specific schedule for filling their free time.

However, in Tehran congress, the organizing committee has considered various motivating, recreational tours simultaneous with the glorious events for the accompanying persons to visit historic places, traditional and modern purchasing centers, museums, etc. of Tehran city, without any extra charge.

• Special Session for Young Irrigation Professionals

The Iranian National Committee on

Irrigation and Drainage (IRNCID) is planning to host the Young Professionals gathering at the time of the 21st ICID Congress on Irrigation and Drainage and 62nd IEC Meeting in Tehran, Iran on 17 October 2011. This gathering would be a golden opportunity for young professionals to engage, network, exchange ideas and share experiences in a warm and friendly session during the magnificent ICID 2011 events.

Young professionals attending this event on behalf of their National Committees (NCs) will be making brief presentations on the activities and achievements of their YPF's.

The young advisory board of the Ministry of Energy, Iran will be also involved in the gathering by presenting its activities and achievements which could be interesting for the participants.

In addition, young professionals will have a chance to discuss and put forward the challenges and constraints of their participation in ICID annual events and congresses.

IRNCID looks forward to welcoming all young professionals during ICID 2011 events in Tehran.

