Managing Water for Sustainable Agriculture

From Secretary General’s Desk...

Dear Friends,

Earlier this month accompanying President Dr Gao Zhanyi and Prof Bart Schultz, I had the privilege to visit our host of the First World Irrigation Forum (WIF1) and the 64th IEC meeting the Turkish National Committee (TUCID) and attend the first meeting of Steering Committee of WIF1. The Steering Committee was co-chaired by Mr. Akif Ozkaldi, Chair of TUCID. In their true Turkish tradition, TUCID has progressed well in their preparations. It is commendable, particularly given that they had very limited time in bringing this all together after the decision of the IEC at its 63rd meeting in Adelaide.

There has been a very encouraging response to our call for abstracts. We have received more than 300 abstracts on a wide range of topics related to the three sub-themes. I am convinced that you will be able to deliberate on the "Irrigation and Drainage in a changing world: Challenges and Opportunities for Global Food Security", reflecting on how the mankind has slowly but surely moved from Hunters to Agriculturists during the last 10000 years. You will find Mardin, located at the crossroads of Euphrates and Tigris valleys and the Anatolia plains – the birth place of irrigation, providing the right ambience to deliberate on these issues.

We have held detailed discussions on the World Irrigation Forum with FAO and IWMI, our two technical partners, IFAD and World Water Council during the month. The concerns that our partners have raised at range from: livelihood of smallholder farmers in a changing rural landscape; the role of large infrastructure based irrigation systems – their sustainability, financing needs, and institutional capacity to sustain irrigation services; need for innovative solutions to usher in ‘green’ agriculture; to the role of agriculture water management in addressing water scarcity for global food security. Obviously these will require efficient application of various options of irrigation encompassing rainwater harvesting for preserving soil moisture, to supplemental irrigation, canal irrigation, drip and sprinkler irrigation.

An International Exhibition will showcase the application of innovations ranging from traditional knowledge to latest and modern technology. Opportunity to share these innovations through demonstrations, trainings, open talks, and film shows will be the highlight.

As you are aware, ICID through the mechanism of World Irrigation Forums aims at focussing discussions on all these issues, which have failed to attract focussed attention at World Water Forums. WIFs designed to supplement the efforts of WWC will bring forward the views and concerns of the entire range of stakeholders from the field of agriculture water management. At the same time ICID community will benefit from the feedback of hitherto silent stakeholders such as small farmers into their work.

Some of you have been actively contributing to the preparations, but the success of WIF will require rather more of your voluntary time. To make this event count you may like to approach various stakeholders that you are engaged with and appraise them of the opportunities, prepare Background papers on the sub-themes, submit the session papers and many other related inputs. I seek your indulgence.

Nominations for ‘World Irrigation and Drainage Prize’ are now open. Please spread the message by traditional word of mouth or the technology at your disposal. Of course the nominations for ICID WatSave Awards are also open and NCs are encouraged to please submit the nominations at their earliest. Please pay special attention to the WatSave award in the Young Professional category. Incidentally, we had a satisfactory response on our e-learning scholarship and ICID is supporting three young professionals from Nepal and Iran to the e-learning course on Management of Irrigation Services.

As always, we look forward to your feedback,

Best Regards,

Avinash C. Tyagi
Secretary General

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ICID invites nominations for the ‘World Irrigation and Drainage Prize 2013’ (WID Prize) instituted to recognize the contributions made by an individual or an institution promoting sustainable irrigation and enhanced agriculture production around the world.

The World Irrigation and Drainage Prize, a unique award instituted by the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID), shall be awarded to recognise the work of dedicated professionals and institutions who have actively contributed to the development of irrigation and drainage during the past 15 years. The award will be conferred upon an individual, a group of individuals or an institution without any discrimination whatsoever on the grounds of nationality, religion, race, gender, age or political belief.

The Prize including a cash award of US$10,000 and a ‘Citation Plaque’ citing the meritorious achievements of the winner will be awarded during the triennial World Irrigation Forum. The Prize would be awarded by the President of ICID at an official ceremony to be held for that purpose in the presence of the participants of the First World Irrigation Forum scheduled from 29 September 2013 – October 3, 2013.

Nominations are invited for the WID Prize from National Committees of ICID: Governments of ICID Member countries, International organizations and Non-governmental organizations / institution maintaining formal relations with ICID, especially those concerned with Irrigation and Drainage. Nominations must be submitted by 15th May 2013.

The candidates nominated for this prize shall have made exceptionally significant contribution through innovations in the field of irrigation and drainage by way of (a) research, (b) management, (c) technical services, (d) advocacy, (e) operationalization of innovations and (f) sensitization of decision makers and public; resulting in increased agriculture production, at national, regional and/or international level fulfilling the criteria listed in the announcement.

The prize winner(s) would be encouraged to give an acceptance speech/lecture on the subject relevant to the work for which the Prize has been awarded. More information is available at <http://www.icid.org/wid_prize.html>
An Update

The 1st Steering Committee Meeting of the First World Irrigation Forum (WIF1), held at Ankara on 5th February 2013 took stock of the preparation of the First World Irrigation Forum (1st WIF), together with ICID’s 64th International Executive Council (IEC) to be held during 29 September – 05 October 2013 at Mardin, Turkey. The SC reviewed the logistics arrangements for the event including the air connectivity to Mardin. The organizers have informed that the Turkish Airlines would be approached for operating more flights to Mardin during the Forum. Options for cheaper accommodation are also being explored.

PH Prof. Schultz, Chair of International Technical Advisory Committee, briefly presented the progress on the preparations from technical perspective and informed that nearly 300 abstracts have so far been received and that their review is in progress. The authors will soon start getting information on the submission of full-length papers. SC also discussed the proposals for Keynote Speakers, Chairs and Rapporteurs for different sessions.

SC was informed of the overwhelming support forthcoming from its partners for the event: FAO, IWMI, ADB, World Bank, GWP, ICRI SAT, IFPRI, AWC, ICARD A, and ECB. The SC was also apprised on the consultation held with FAO, IFAD and WWF in this regard and their keen interest in organizing events related to each of the sub-themes of WF1. ITAL-ICID is also interested in organizing a side event for the Mediterranean countries and partly sponsoring the WF1. The World Bank had offered to organize a couple of side events jointly with FAO and IWMI. It was also informed that WMO is also keen to organize a side event on use of weather information in irrigation management.

The draft program for the WIF1 and 64th IEC and pre-council meetings considered by SC was tentatively approved which will soon be available on the website of WF1. Ministry of Environment, Turkey will soon be sending invitation to the Ministers of Water Resources /Planning /Finance from the countries interested in joining the First Irrigation Forum and presenting their views at the Opening Ceremony of the WIF. The Opening Ceremony would include the award of the ‘World Irrigation and Drainage Prize’.

Proposals for various side events such as Special Sessions, Panel Discussions, Films, Trainings, and Speeches etc. were approved and soon a call for side events will be issued and posted on the website. TUCID and DSI deserve our sincere appreciation for the excellent progress that has been made and it is hoped that the first WIF would set up a great example for the future ‘World Irrigation Forums’ to follow.

Description of Forum Events

Under the main theme “Irrigation and drainage in a changing world: Challenges and opportunities for global food security”, the First World Irrigation Forum rests on three main tracks.

Sub-theme 1: Policy, Science and Society
Interactions

Sub-theme 2: Challenges and Developments in Financing Irrigation and Drainage Sector

Sub-theme 3: Integrated Water Management Approaches for Sustainable Food Production

In addition, there will be three International Workshops on related issues on following topics:

1. Water Wisdom and Sustainability
2. Developing Management Strategies for Coping with Drought and Water Scarcity
3. Management of Water, Crops and Soils under Climate Change

Thematic sessions

The issues related to the main theme and the three sub-themes will be deliberated using Background papers, presenting key note addresses, and discussions at the plenary sessions and parallel sessions, and recommendations for the future course of action will be brought out in the concluding sessions and the thematic wrap up session. Background papers on each of the sub-themes will be prepared by teams lead by Mr. Laurie Tollefson, Mr. Francois Brelle and Dr Charlotte de Failles. They will be made available for the stakeholders to come to a common understanding of the issues involved.

Each sub theme will be introduced to the participants at a plenary session where the respective Background papers will be introduced, along with a key note from a well-known expert. The session will be presented with the best paper under the sub-theme and the best ‘short communication’ on the topic selected from among the full papers and short communications received.

Nine parallel sessions on different topics under each of the Sub-theme will feature best three Papers and best three Short Communications.

Deliberation under three tracks will confluence at the final thematic plenary session where recommendations from the concluding sessions of each of the sub-themes and related Round Tables and Panel Discussions will be presented and debated together by a panel in an all-inclusive session. The outcomes of thematic plenary will be reported at the wrap up session.

Roundtables and Panel discussions

Two roundtable sessions on ‘Policy and Financing’ and another on ‘Stakeholders: Farmers, Researcher, Industry and Youth’ will be organized during the Forum. Couple of panel discussions, on the issues of concerns of ‘Farmers’ and ‘Industry’, are expected to be sponsored by partners.
and international organizations will also be organized.

Side Events
Along with the parallel sessions on the three sub-themes and various topics under each one of them, certain side events in terms of Special Sessions, ‘Have your say’ platform, Trainings, Film Shows and Closed Discussions will be available as described below:

• Special Sessions
A limited number of Special Sessions, directly linked to one of the three sub-themes whose outcomes will be fed into the thematic wrap up session, will take place during the Forum. Special Sessions, can be organized by partners, governments, civil society organizations, the private sector, international organizations, and UN bodies. Proposals for special sessions (in a prescribed format) are invited to be submitted by 1st May 2013.

• ‘Have your say’
In the heart of the Exhibition arena, you will have the opportunity to take the stage and ‘have your say’ on any relevant topic for 45 minutes, albeit with prior appointment. The platform will provide an opportunity for the companies, and institutions to showcase their innovative approaches to proven successes or those with a promise. You will have to register in advance for a time slot.

• Trainings
Training sessions at the World Irrigation Forum would be organized at the ‘Learning Centre’ to provide an essential “how to” approach on the development of the latest irrigation and drainage tools and their implementation.

• Film Shows
Following the principle of “seeing is learning”, a small theatre of capacity of 30 participants will be available for presenting short films covering new instruments, technologies, development projects related to one of the sub-themes of the Forum. Each show will be of the duration of 45 minutes, including any discussions or question and answer session following the film show.

• Poster Sessions
The accepted full papers, which cannot be presented orally would be presented as posters in the area adjacent to the exhibition. In addition opportunity will be available for organizing thematic posters sessions on various related topics.

International Exhibition
The International Exhibition from 29 September to 2nd October will showcase some of the world’s premier irrigation technologies, tools and innovations.

The Mesopotamian plains surrounding Mardin, has served as the cradle of agriculture and irrigation some 10,000 years ago. The Irrigation and Drainage sector in Turkey and the region is once again undergoing renaissance. The Middle East and North Africa region also provides some of the best examples and opportunities for innovative technologies of recycle and reuse of poor quality water for irrigation as the pressure to grow more food with less water around the world is increasing. The Exhibition therefore, creates opportunities for investments, joint ventures and technology transfers in total agriculture water management and particularly irrigation and drainage.

The exhibition will feature company and thematic exhibits, country pavilions, a cinema area, a stage for having your say for informal discussions and equipped with food and refreshments kiosks. The next Announcement for First World Irrigation Forum and 64th IEC meeting would be brought out by 15th March 2013, which would provide more details.

Call for Short Communications
Theme: Irrigation and drainage in a changing world - challenging and opportunities for global food security
The First World Irrigation Forum offers excellent opportunities for research institutes, companies, irrigation and drainage agencies, NGOs and others to inform those active in the sector about their new products, innovations and approaches by means of short communications to be presented during the Forum. These short communications may be able to describe/present newly developed equipment, materials, software, technologies and tools, as well as on new management techniques. A maximum of 4 pages (A-4) on sub-themes and topics are solicited from potential contributors by 28 February 2013.

Short communications must be submitted online after registering on the following URL: https://www.easychair.org/conferences/?conf=fwif2013. The ‘Guidelines for Authors’ are available at http://www.icid.org/wif.

Contact: The Secretariat, Turkish National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (TUCID); ANKARA-TURKEY, E-mail: icid2013@dsi.gov.tr, Website: http://www.icid2013.org, http://www.worldirrigationforum.org, www.icid.org/wif

ICID President and Secretary General visits FAO, IFAD and ITAL-ICID
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD) have reiterated their keen interest in active participation in the First World Irrigation Forum in Mardin, Turkey, from 29 September-3 October 2013 at the highest level. Dr. Gao Zhanyi, President and Er. Avinash C. Tyagi, Secretary General, visited FAO and IFAD offices to hold detailed discussions with them on various technical aspects of the forthcoming First World Irrigation Forum. FAO has informed that participation of either the Director General or the Deputy Director General will be explored. IFAD has also indicated that the invitation to President IFAD to participate in the opening ceremony will meet positive consideration. IFAD is keen to bring in the perspective of smallholder farmers to WIFI. VPH Prof. Lucio Ubertini (Italy) and Vice president of Comitato Nazionale Italiano ICID (ITAL-ICID) Prof. Marco Arcieri also joined these discussions.

During their visit to ITAL-ICID headquarters, President and Secretary General were warmly welcomed by Dr. Gabriella Zanferrari, President; Prof. Marco Arcieri, Vice President; VPH Prof. Lucio Ubertini and other colleagues. It was informed that this was the first occasion that President and Secretary General of ICID have visited the ITAL-ICID headquarters housed in the Ministry of Agriculture, Secretary General recalled that Italy was one of the founder members of ICID and their contributions to ICID have been exemplary ever since. ITAL-ICID decided to place before its management the issue, of hosting ICID’s 23rd International Congress on Irrigation and Drainage in 2017, as
suggested by Secretary General, ICID. Dr. Marco Arcieri, Vice President, ITAL-ICID informed that ITAL-ICID plans to organize a training course in Italy, mainly aiming at participants from Mediterranean countries, details of which will be worked out shortly. Secretary General suggested inviting some candidates from Africa with sponsorship for this course, if possible, providing a boost to ICID’s efforts to strengthen its activities in Africa region.

Later, President and Secretary General paid visit to Italy’s Vice Minister for Agriculture, His Excellency Prof. Francesco Braga. Prof. Braga was keen to further strengthen the existing strong relationship with ICID. President Zhanyi invited Dr. Marco Arcieri, Vice President, ITAL-ICID suggested by Secretary General, ICID.

From Problems to Solutions

Mr. Jeremy Bird, Director General, IWMI and other professionals from IWMI-India visited the ICID Central Office on 8 February 2013 and held discussions with Secretary General Er. Avinash. C. Tyagi, and other professionals on various issues of mutual interest. SG explained the new ICID initiative on ‘Direct Membership’ to individuals and companies beyond National Committees and ‘World Irrigation and Drainage Prize’. He thanked IWMI to be a technical partner to the first ‘World Irrigation Forum’ to be held during 29 September – 03 October 2013 at Mardin, Turkey. SG appreciated the active involvement of IWMI in the review process of WIF papers and invited IWMI to organize a side event on issues related to Irrigation and Drainage. Mr. Bird accepted the invitation to be one of the keynote speakers at WIF. Dr. S.A. Kulkarni, Executive Secretary encouraged IWMI to nominate more members on ICID Workbodies of their choice. Later in the day, Mr. Bird delivered a talk on ‘Moving from water problems to water solutions’ to august gathering at the auditorium of CBIP, New Delhi.

Workshop on Safe Use of Wastewater in Agriculture

The 5th Regional Workshop for Asia on ‘Safe Use of Wastewater in Agriculture’ is scheduled to be held on 5-7 March 2013 at Bali, Indonesia. The workshop is part of the joint Capacity Development Project on Safe Use of Wastewater in Agriculture being organized by World Health Organization (WHO) in partnership with Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), United Nations University Institute on Water, Environment and Health (UNU-INWEH), UN-Water Decade Programme on Capacity Development (UNW-DPC), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), International Water Management Institute (IWMI) and International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID).

Ir. Ping Deng, Ir. Hu Yqiong and Prof. Wang Shaoli from Chinese National Committee of ICID (CNCID); Ir. Jamil Sharaai from Malaysian National Committee of ICID (MANCID); and Ms. Pomsiri Khanayai from Thai National Committee of ICID (THACID) will be representing ICID at the workshop. Mr. Avinash Tyagi, Secretary General will participate in the workshop as a resource person. More information is available at <http://www.ais.unwater.org/wastewater>

The United Nations General Assembly declared 2013 as the United Nations International Year of Water Cooperation. International World Water Day, held annually on 22 March, this year is being organized with the theme of “Water Cooperation”. The objective of this International Year is to raise awareness, both on the potential for increased cooperation, and on the challenges facing water management in light of the increase in demand for water access, allocation and services. The Year will highlight the history of successful water cooperation initiatives, as well as identify burning issues on water education, water diplomacy, transboundary water management, financing cooperation etc. For more information, please visit at <http://www.unwater.org/watercooperation2013/>

All National Committee are requested to send a summary of how they celebrated the World Water Day along with high resolution photographs. The feedback will be given due coverage in subsequent News Update and Annual Report of ICID.

Environmental Impacts and Sustainable Management of Tidal Areas

The main theme of the workshop is ‘Environmental Impacts and Sustainable Management of Tidal Areas’. The members of the Working Group are requested to contribute papers on the following topics:

(i) Impacts of climate change on tidal areas;

Risk assessment; Adaptive management with consideration of climate change; (2) Flood/Ecosystem management: monitoring, forecasting, impacts, mitigation, strategies and vulnerability assessment; and (3) Stakeholder involvement and integrated management

This Workshop is being organized by ICID’s Working Group on Sustainable Development of Tidal Areas (WG-SDTA) during its 1st World Irrigation Forum (WIF) and 64th International Executive Council (IEC) Meeting to be held from 29 September - 5 October 2013 at Mardin, Turkey.

Contacts: Prof. Ruey-Chy Kao (Chinese Taipei), Chairman of the Workshop and Chairman, WG-SDTA (SDTA-THL@thl.ncku.edu.tw) and Dr. Vijay K. Labhsetwar, Workshop Coordinator (E-mail: icid@icid.org)

ICID Invites Nominations for the WatSave Awards 2013

Nominations are invited for the annual WatSave Awards 2013’ from individuals / team through National Committees / Committee. Awards are given in four categories viz. (i) Technology; (ii) Innovative Water Management; (iii) Young Professionals; and (iv) Farmer. Entries for the nominations for the 2013 awards are not now open. The Awards will be presented during the 64th meeting of the International Executive Council (IEC) scheduled to be held during 29 September to 05 October 2013 at Mardin, Turkey. The last date for the receipt of the entries through the National Committees, along with a completed ‘Nomination Forum’ in the ICID Central Office, New Delhi, India, is 31st May 2013. The nominations sent directly to the ICID Central Office will not be entertained. Please visit <http://www.icid.org/awards.html> for other details. For further information, please contact Dr. Vijay K. Labhsetwar, Director, ICID at E-mail: <icid@icid.org>
Change of Guards

INCSW – (India)

ICID fraternity extends its warm welcome to Mr. W.M. Tembhurney, Chief Engineer (EMO) who has become the new Member Secretary of Indian National Committee on Surface Water (INCSW, previously INCID). The contact coordinates of Mr. Tembhurney are:

Room No. 403 (South), Sewa Bhawan, Central Water Commission (Hq.), R.K. Puram, New Delhi-110066, India, Telfax: +91-11-2617 6533 / 2610 7897; E-mail: <incid-cwc@nic.in>

We thank Mr. Yogesh Paitthankan, Former Member Secretary of INCSW for his support and contributions to ICID.

IRNCID (Iran)

ICID fraternity extends its warm welcome to Eng. Homan Khaledi, the new Executive Secretary of Iranian National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (IRNCID).

TUCID (Turkey)

ICID fraternity extends its warm welcome to Mr. Yakup BASOGLU, the new Vice Chairman of Turkish National Committee of ICID (TUCID) and Deputy Director General of DSI (State Hydraulic Works). The contact coordinates of Mr. Yakup BASOGLU are: Devlet Su Isleti Genel Mudurlugu, Devlet Mahallesı Inonu Bulvari No:16, 06100 Cankaya / Ankara/Turkey. Tel: +90 312 418 34 14, Fax: +90 312 417 86 35; E-mail:ybasoglu@dsi.gov.tr.

We thank Mr. A. Cüneyt GEREK, the new Vice Chairman of Turkish National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (TCID), E-mail: ybasoglu@dsi.gov.tr.

Changes in E-mails

CNCID (China)

ICID Workbody members:

- Mrs. Gao Hong (member of WG-CROP), E-mail: <Gaohong129@sina.com>
- Mr. Hao Zhao, Deputy Secretary General of CNCID (Member of PFC), E-mail: <hao_zhao@mwr.gov.cn>

JNC-ICID (Japan)

Prof. Dr. Masayoshi Satoh (member of Permanent Committee for Technical Activities (PCTA) is <smasty@mail2.accsnet.ne.jp>

CERYD (Spain)

Prof. Dr. Ricardo Segura Graiño, Vice President Hon. and members of ICID Working Group on History of Irrigation, Drainage and Flood Control (WG-HIST) and European Regional Working Group of ICID (ERWG) is <seguragrr@yahoo.es>

PNCID (Portugal)

Eng. Pedro Teixeira [(General Director, DGADR and President of Portuguese National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (PNCID)] is <gerald@dgadr.pt>

UzNCID (Uzbekistan)

The new e-mail address and Tel./Fax numbers of Dr. Shavkat Khamraev [(Chairman of Uzbekistan National Committee, ICID (UzNCID)] are: <uzncid@qsvx.uz> and +(99871) 241-51-13.

Forthcoming Events

ICID Events

ICID’s 1st World Irrigation Forum (WIF) and 64th IEC meeting, 29 September - 5 October 2013, Mardin, Turkey. Contact: Mrs. Serpil KOYLU, Turkish National Committee, ICID (TUCID), Delvett Mahallesı İnönü Bulvari No. 16, 06100 Cankaya, Ankara, Turkey, Tel/ Fax : +90 312 425 4614, E-mail: tucid@dsi.gov.tr, serpil.koylu@dsi.gov.tr, Website: http://www.icid2013.org

12th International Drainage Workshop (IDW), June 2014, St. Petersburg, Russia. Contact: Ms. Irena G. Bondarik, Secretary General, National Committee of the Russian Federation on Irrigation and Drainage (RuCID), E-mail: ibondc@online.ru, ruprrtid@mail.ru

22nd ICID Congress and 65th IEC, 14-20 September, 2014, at Gwangju Metropolitan City, Republic of Korea. Contact: Ir. Hun Sun Lee, Korean National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (KCID), E-mail: koidkr@gmail.com, kcidd@ekr.or.kr, Website: http://www.icid2014.org

Other Events


Regional Workshop on ‘Strengthening Regional Capacity for Irrigation Revitalization and Agriculture Water Governance’, 4-6 March 2013 in Nanjing, China. All information is available at <http://www.fao.org/asiapacific/rap/home/meetings/list/detail/en/?meetings_id=777&year=2013>

2nd India Water Week, April 8-12, 2013, New Delhi will center around the theme “Efficient Water Management: Opportunities and Challenges”. The event will provide a wide ranging conference and a series of side events around the improved water use efficiency areas in the fields of Agriculture and Irrigation, Energy generation and Industry, and Urban and Rural Drinking water supply. For more information visit http://www.indiawaterweek.in/

7th International Conference on ‘Using 21st Century Technology to Better Manage Irrigation Water Supplies’, 16-19 April, 2013 at Phoenix, Arizona, USA. Contact: Vice President Hon. Larry D. Stephens and Executive Vice President of USCID (E-mail: stephens@uscid.org), Website: <http://www.uscid.org>.

7th Water Malaysia 2013 Conference, 23-25 April 2013, Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre - Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. All information is available at <http://www.watermalaysia.com>