Managing Water for Sustainable Agriculture

From Secretary General’s Desk...

Dear Friends,

Importance of irrigation and agriculture water management, under the increasing climate variability and looming water crisis is once again being realized. Every drop of water counts and ICID is committed to ‘more crop per drop’. But managing water for sustainable agriculture and ensuring food and water security is not about counting drops alone, as each drop of water carries four distinct but interrelated attributes: the quantity, the quality, the time of its availability at a given place and the potential energy it carries with it. The last attribute underpins the nexus between water, land, food and energy.

Improved efficiency of water use in agriculture, the largest user of water, by providing due attention to all the four attributes, has the potential to help mitigate climate change, adapt to the global challenges and obviate conflicts between various users and uses. Water use efficiency is one of the contentious issues within agriculture water management that has eluded a consensus approach. Answers to what, why and how of water use efficiency depend on a variety of complexly intricate perspectives. The water use efficiency canvas needs coherent approaches with multi-disciplinary inputs that require further research and innovations. Sharing his expertise with Indian water fraternity, VP Laurie Tollefson (CANCID), chaired a session directed at Research and Innovation for Increasing Water Use Efficiency at the ‘India Water Week 2013’ organized from 08-12 April 2013 at New Delhi, India with “Efficient Water Management: Challenges and Opportunities” as its theme.

The First World Irrigation Forum scheduled from 29 September – 3 October 2013 in Mardin, Turkey will also address this emerging challenge. Preparations for Forum are in full swing. All the authors have been informed of the status of their abstracts and they are now busy preparing full length papers. The last date for submitting ‘short communication’ is also drawing closer. The new website http://www.worldirrigationforum.org for World Irrigation Forum has been re-commissioned that provides all the latest information. It is time that National Committees take active part in disseminating to all their stakeholders the objectives of the World Irrigation Forums and encourage them to attend the Forum and make use of this opportunity to exchange experiences and good practices. May I suggest that all NCs and partner organizations establish a link to the First World Irrigation Forum website from their home pages.

The tentative program for the entire event that includes the World Irrigation Forum from 29th September to 3rd October followed by (and partly overlapping) the meetings associated with 64th International Executive Council meeting on 5th October is also available on the website. Please finalize your itinerary keeping in view of the various events including technical tours that follow the IEC meeting. Most important information among others is registration and logistics. I encourage you to register before 1st July 2013 and avail yourself of the Early Bird benefits.

Last month we introduced a new feature in our NEWS UPDATE “Know your National Committees”. Continuing the effort further, this month we present the Netherlands National Committee, headed by its new Chair Prof. Dr. Charlotte de Fraiture. At the same time, this month we are starting another new service for our members by creating exclusive ‘Members ONLY pages’ on our web site. Login procedure and related information have been e-mailed to all the members. We seek your feedback as to what all you would like to see in these Members ONLY pages.

Last but not the least, please do provide nominations for our World Irrigation and Drainage Prize and WatSave Awards.

Best regards,

Avinash C. Tyagi
Secretary General

The COUNTDOWN Begins
Nominations for World Irrigation and Drainage Prize 2013

Countdown to the nominations for the WID Prize has begun as the last date for nominations, 15th May 2013 approaches closer. Nominations can be submitted by 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. The candidates nominated for this prize shall have made exceptionally significant contribution through innovations in the field of irrigation and drainage, fulfilling the criteria listed in the announcement.

The ‘World Irrigation and Drainage Prize 2013’ (WID 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.

The Prize (US$10,000 in cash and a ‘Citation Plaque’) 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 the purpose in the presence of the participants of the First World Irrigation Forum scheduled from 29 September – 03 October, 2013 at Mardin, Turkey.

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>

First World Irrigation Forum
‘Early Bird’ Registration – Now open

‘Online’ and ‘off-line (manual)’ registrations are now open for the mega ICID event the First World Irrigation Forum (1st WIF) to be held in Turkey. First World Irrigation Forum together with 64th International Executive Council (IEC) and its pre-council meetings will be held during 29th September to 05th October 2013 at Mardin, Turkey. The main theme of the 1st World Irrigation Forum is “Irrigation and Drainage in a Changing World: Challenges and Opportunities for Global Food Security” with three sub-themes. In addition, other International Workshops, Special Sessions and Side events will be organized. Short communications would provide an opportunity to describe new/promising products (equipments, technologies, etc.) and to participate in a poster session. The deadline for submission of abstracts is 15 May 2013. Full details are available at: http://www.worldirrigationforum.org
1st WIF is being organized in cooperation with the host Turkish National Committee of Irrigation and Drainage (TUCID) and in partnership with FAO, IWMI, ADB, World Bank, GWP, ICRISAT, IFPRI, AWC, ICARDA and ECB. The event will bring together all stakeholders in irrigation and drainage sectors, policymakers, experts, researchers, non-governmental members etc.

‘Early Bird’ registration fees (on or before 01 July 2013) for the participants are – (i) US$ 750 (Forum + Council meetings) and US$ 550 for WIF only; (ii) US$ 375 for Young Professionals (Forum + Council Meeting) and US$ 275 for WIF only. Other categories (daily registration, exhibitors, accompanying person and non members) of registration fee can be seen at the website. Contact: The Secretariat, Turkish National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (TUCID); ANKARA-TURKEY. E-mail: icid2013@dsgi.gov.tr. Website: www.worldirrigationforum.org

**Efficient Water Management: Challenges and Opportunities**

Increasing pressure on water from different sectors, decreasing per capita water availability and increasing variability due to climate change makes it obligatory on the agriculture sector to manage its water use more efficiently. Research and innovation in the increasing water use efficiency plays a crucial role in such an effort. Vice President Laurie C Tollefson chaired a session on “Research and Innovation for Increasing Water Use Efficiency” at the India Water Week on 11 April 2013 in New Delhi. Chairing the session, VP Laurie Tollefson, member CANDID who was on invitation from the organizers of the ‘India Water Week’ (IWW) from 08-12 April 2013 at New Delhi, India with Efficient Water Management: Challenges and Opportunities” as its theme, presented an in-depth analysis on the subject.

ICID was actively involved in the IWW-2013 with, SG Avinash. C Tyagi and SGH Mr M Gopalakrishnan involved as members of Technical Organizing Committee. SGH chaired the session titled ‘Hydropower Generation – Impact on Environment’, while SG Avinash C. Tyagi chaired the Panel Discussion on ‘Technological Advances and Improvement in Water Use Efficiency’ and spearheading a Brain storming session on “Increasing Water Use Efficiency – Case for Setting Aside Gains for Environmental Flow”. For more information and the presentations please visit <http://www.indiawaterweek.in/html/download.html>.

While in New Delhi, Mr. Tollefson paid the first ever visit to the Central Office, after becoming the Vice President of ICID in June 2012 in Adelaide. The VP saw for himself the rehabilitation work – the deferred maintenance - undergoing at the Central Office building, taking advantage of the reorganization opportunity just before re-leasing the office on rent. Professionals and staff extended a warm welcome to VP Tollefson. During the meeting with professionals and staff that followed, issues like reactivation of National Committees in Americas and reinvigorating AMRWG, position paper by WG-POVERTY, technical report of WG-CROP, framework for TF-Bioenergy papers, building renovations and issues related to financial health of ICID were discussed. VP Tollefson appreciated the dedicated services of the Central Office staff. He appreciated various new initiatives having been taken such as the e-Bulletin, re-organized ICID website, besides other endeavours appraised by the staff.
Water Storage and Hydropower Development in Africa: Africa 2013

Importance of water storage in meeting the various demands for water, particularly due to increased variability, is beyond question. While various kinds of water storage mechanisms such as soil moisture, groundwater, ponds and tanks can meet the needs of agriculture water management, hydropower development requires medium to large storage structures to increase potential energy stored in water. An International Conference and Exhibition on the theme “Water Storage and Hydropower Development to Africa” titled Africa 2013 was organized by Aqua-Media International, in cooperation with International Commission on Large Dams (ICOLD) and Ethiopian Electric Power Corporation (EEPCO), in partnership with ICID at African Union Congress Centre, Addis, Ethiopia from 16 to 18 April 2013.

Dr. Adamah Sangare (Mali), Vice President, ICID and President of Malian National Committee of ICID (AMID) participated in the Africa 2013 and made a presentation on “Irrigation and Food Security Challenges in Africa” during Opening Plenary Session of the Conference. The session on “Multipurpose water storage facilities” with focus on irrigation and food security was of particular interest to ICID. More information is available at <http://www.hydropower-dams.com/africa-2013.php?cd_id=88>

Water Security and Water related Disaster Challenges

President Dr. Gao Zhanyi and Vice President Preachwit Chaiwat will be participating in the 2nd Asian Pacific Water Summit (2nd APWS) that will be held during 14-20 May 2013 at Chiang Mai, Thailand. The theme of the APWS is “Water Security and Water related Disaster Challenges: Leadership and Commitment.” President Gao will be a panelist in the Focus Area Session on Economic, Food and Water Security, jointly organized by FAO, UNESCAP and other Lead Organizations during the Summit. VP Chaiwat will be participating with the Royal Irrigation Department in workshop on “Technology for water related disasters” under subtheme 7. Please access their website at <http://www.apwatersummit2.org> for more information.

The Importance of Irrigation in the New Water Management Planning

The 15th Conference of the National Federation of Spanish Federation of Irrigators’ Communities (FENACORE) on ‘The Importance of Irrigation in the New Water Management Planning’ was held on 12 March 2013 in Spain. The conference was supported by CERYD (Spanish National Committee of ICID) members. Ms. Liana Ardiles, Director General of Water, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment (MAGRAMA), Chaired the ‘Opening Session’ along with Mr. Andrés del Campo, President of FENACORE and referred to the new Basin Management Plans in which the Government aims to join the interests of all stakeholders in order to achieve the common good and guarantee the water supply to all sectors, both in quality and quantity, and is committed to achieve a ‘National Agreement on Water’ to allow a new National Water Management Plan to be passed before the end of 2013.

Ms. Isabel Garcia Tejerina, Secretary General of Agriculture and Food, Chaired the ‘Closing Session’ and in order to move forward in Water Management Planning, said that an effort shall be made to improve the irrigation water use efficiency and reduce its total consumption while keeping up the productivity and rural employment. She pointed out the need to consider irrigation water use together with other competing uses keeping in mind that irrigated agriculture consumes 65% of water. She looked forward to the Ministry of Agriculture of the new National Water Management Plan to be implemented in the city of Kumamoto in Japan. Category 2, best participatory, education practice, has been awarded to a project implemented in the city of Kumamoto in Japan.

ICID Invites Nominations for the WatSave Awards 2013

Nominations are invited for the ‘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 now open.

The WatSave Awards will be presented during the 1st World Irrigation Forum (1st WIF) and 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 Form’ 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://icid.org/awards.htm> for other details. For further information, please contact Dr. Vijay K. Labhsetwar, Director, ICID at E-mail : icid@icid.org

Winners of 2013 edition of UN-Water “Water for Life” Best Practices Award

3rd edition of the ‘Water for Life’ UN Water Best Practices Award focused on the topic “Water Cooperation” during the ceremony of World Water Day 2013 held on 22 March 2013 at Hague, The Netherlands. The purpose of the Annual Award is to promote efforts to fulfill international commitments made on water and water-related issues by 2015 through the recognition of outstanding best practices that can ensure the long term sustainable management of water resources and contribute to the achievements of internationally agreed goals and targets contained in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

Category 1, best water management practices, has been awarded to a project implemented in the city of Kumamoto in Japan. Category 2, best participatory, communication, awareness-raising and education practice, has been awarded to the project “Water and sanitation for all” from the Republic of Moldova. Please click on: <http://www.un.org/waterforlifedecade/waterforlifeaward.shtml> for more information.

New WWC Executive Director

The World Water Council (WWC) has appointed Mr. Henk Sterk as its new Executive Director. Mr. Sterk will take up his responsibilities with effect from 2nd May 2013 and will provide important leadership as the Council implements its strategic plan for the year 2013-2015. Mr. Sterk has vast experience in water management and expertise in political and technical issues which will come in good stead in his new role at the Council. Please access <http://www.worldwatercouncil.org/> for more information about the WWC and its events.

Many hearty congratulations to Mr. Henk Sterk.
Bangladesh (BANCID)

On 23 March 2013, the Bangladesh National Committee of ICID (BANCID) organized a Seminar on “International Year of Water Cooperation”, the theme of the World Water Day - 2013. Eminent Water Experts and Engineers from different organizations, academicians, representatives from NGO’s attended the Seminar. A Special supplement was published in the National Daily ‘The Ittefaq’.

Mr. Shaikh Altaf Ali, Senior Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources, Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh was the Chief Guest while the seminar was chaired by Mr. Md. Azizul Haque, Director General, Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) and Chairman, Bangladesh National Committee of ICID (BANCID).

Nine distinguished experts discussed the theme paper by Mr. Malik Fida A. Khan, Director, Climate Change Study Division, Center for Environmental and Geographic Information Services (CEGIS) under the Chairmanship of Mr. Md. Azizul Haque, Director General, Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) and Chairman, BANCID.

Water is a scarce resource with high economic value. As such, its judicious use would have paramount importance and need to develop and manage the water resources of this region in an integrated and cooperative manner. Realizing the fact that the meaningful utilization of the water resources in this region through collaborative efforts would result in economic prosperity, peace and social harmony, and environmental sustainability of the region, a number of observations and recommendations emerged from the Seminar: the constructive and meaningful dialogue with the neighboring countries in order to receive due shares of water of the common rivers and resolve all water related issues.

Readers may contact Mr. Md. Ahsanullah, Member-Secretary, BANCID (E-mail: jrcb@qubeemail.com.bd, jrcombd@gmail.com) for more information.

Pakistan (PANCID)

Pakistan Engineering Congress, member of PANCID, celebrated the World Water Day on the theme “Water Cooperation” on 25 March 2013. During the event, Engr. Riaz Ahmad Khan, President of Pakistan Engineering Congress delivered the Welcome Address. Dr. Ch. Mazhar Ali, Past President of Pakistan Engineering Congress, was the Chief Guest. More than 16 technical papers were presented by leading Water Resources, Agriculture, Environmentalists and Irrigation Experts. Numerous engineers /Students from various colleges in Lahore participated in the program. The Chief Guest, at the conclusion of the event, distributed the Shields/Certificates amongst the Speakers.

We thank Mr. K.A.M. Shahiduzzaman, Former Director General of BWDB for his active support and contributions to ICID.

Pakistan National Committee, ICID (JNC-ICID) Overseas Land Improvement Cooperation, Design Division, Rural Infrastructure Department, Rural Development Bureau, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, 1-2-1, Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-Ku, Tokyo 100- 8950, Japan. Email: jncoid@nm.maff.go.jp

We thank you Mr. Nobuyoshi Fujwara, Former Secretary General of JNC-ICID for his active support and contributions to ICID.

Forthcoming Events

ICID Events

ICID’s 1st World Irrigation Forum (WIF) and 64th IEC meeting, 29 September - 05 October 2013, Mardin, Turkey. Contact: Mrs. Serpil KOYLU, Turkish National Committee, ICID (TUCID), Tel/Fax: +90 542 461 61, E-mail: lbcd@dsi.gov.tr, Website: http://www.icid2013.org; www.worldirrigationforum.org

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

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

Other Events

2013 Water for Food Conference, 5-8 May 2013 at the Cornhusker Marriott Hotel in Lincoln, Nebraska, USA. All information is available at <http://waterforfood. nebraska.edu/wff2013>


2nd Asian Pacific Water Summit (2nd APWS) on the theme “Water Security and Water related Disaster Challenges: Leadership and Commitment”, 14-20 May 2013 at the International Convention and Exhibition Centre in Chang Mai, Thailand. All information is available at <http://www.apwatersummit2.org>


2nd Asia-Netherlands Water Learning Week, 17-21 June 2013 at Delft, The Netherlands. All information is available at <http://www.adb.org/news/events/2nd-asia-netherlands-water-learning-week?

XXXI National Irrigation Congress, 18-20 June 2013 at Orhuela (Alicante), Spain. All information is available at http://www.congresoriogros-aeryd.org/

1st Inter-regional Conference on Land and Water Challenges entitled “Water, Environment and Agriculture: Challenges for Sustainable Development”, 10-14 September 2013 at Bari, Italy. All information is available at <http://www.landandwater2013. lamb.it>

3rd Annual World Congress of Agriculture, 23-25, September 2013 at Hangzhou, China. All information is available at <http://www.bitconferences. com/wca2013>