Dear Friends,

The year 2015 will see two crucial United Nations summits. The first in September, where the world should agree on new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with the aim to eradicate poverty, tackle inequality and ensure a more sustainable planet to ensure that the wellbeing of people today does not come at the expense of our children’s futures. The second is the climate summit of UNFCCC in December, where the global leaders should pen an accord to replace the Kyoto Protocol to prevent this blue lively planet Earth turning into an inhospitable ball of fire and deluge.

Just a few months to go before these summits, there are many issues to be settled. Very few leaders are playing the leadership role that is required for a better world that we all are looking forward to. We saw the climate talk under the UNFCCC banner progress but at a snails’ pace earlier in December, leaving a lot of loose ends to be tied. There is need to set goals that are ambitious and have adequate financing and implementation mechanisms. The actions that the world leaders take on these issues in 2015 will decide, which way the world turns for decades to come.

The International non-Governmental organizations are raising their voice against the slow progress leading to inequality and injustice that keep people poor and are going louder by the day can no more be ignored. However, once the agreements are inked, these organizations have the role cut out for them in facilitating the implementation process by enabling knowledge based participation of various stakeholders.

World Water Day 2015 will be focussed on the theme “Water and sustainable development”. The day will be used for making the concept of sustainable development inherent in all water related developments. It provides the NCs an opportunity to make their voice heard at the national level and influence the global agenda of sustainable development. We will be happy to hear from you about the celebrations that took place at your National Committee level. Some of the National Committees are regularly sharing their activities with other members through the News UPDATE. I encourage you to please do the same.

Sustainable agriculture is a subset of the Green Economy and a function of environmentally sound agriculture water management, the goal that ICID strives for. Under the new development paradigm, as a professional organization, ICID, for an optimal contribution, needs to take a fresh and careful look at where ICID is placed today in the Irrigation, drainage and flood management sectors and what role the Commission can and should play, in the intermediate and long term. Such a re-look is equally relevant in the changing role of irrigation and drainage in food production in both developed and developing economies.

Keeping the above in view, President Dr. Saeed Nairizi has established a Consultative Group to develop an ‘ICID Vision 2030′ to look at the most appropriate role in line with its mandate and the changing global expectations. The Consultative Group plans to involve you, our patrons, very soon before presenting the Vision 2030 for the consideration of International Executive Council, the general body of ICID.

In accordance with the decisions taken at the 65th IEC in Gwangju, some of the Working Groups have seized the opportunity to organize a virtual meeting of their Groups through video-conference in between physical meetings at two IEC sessions. This will enable those participants who are unable to attend the meetings physically during the IEC meetings, provide their inputs. Three of the WG Chairs have already fixed up tentative dates for the virtual meeting during January, February and March months of 2015. You may like to work with your WG chairs to arrange a convenient slot for the virtual meeting.

I also draw your attention to the Call for Papers (page 6) for the 26th European Regional Conference with the theme ‘Innovate to improve Irrigation Performance’ to be held in Montpellier, France from 11-16 October 2015 in conjunction with 66th meeting of IEC.

Let me once again offer the services of ICID communication channels to share your activities. We will be happy to assist you in reaching out and share the knowledge and experiences. Some of the National Committees are regularly sharing their activities with other members through the News UPDATE. I encourage you to please do the same. Particularly in the beginning of the year, I request you to please ensure that you have updated contact details of your National Committees, Office Bearers and Members. As always, we are keen in the Central Office to receive your feedback on our services.

Best regards,

Avinash C. Tyagi
Secretary General
President Dr. Saeed Nairizi visited ICID Central Office, New Delhi, after becoming the President of ICID from 12-15 January 2015. As per the invitation from India Water Week–2015 organizer, President Dr. Saeed Nairizi, addressed the gathering at the opening ceremony. Dr. (Mrs.) Ravinder Kaur, Project Director, IARI; Mr. V.K. Kanjlia, Water Technology Center, Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI); Mr. Masood Husain, Director General, National Water Development Agency (NWDA); Mr. Masood Husain, Director General, National Water Development Agency (NWDA); and Vice President Hon. A.K. Bajaj; Mr. Masood Husain, Director General, National Water Development Agency (NWDA); Dr. (Mrs.) Ravinder Kaur, Project Director, Water Technology Center, Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI); Mr. V.K. Kanjlia, Secretary, Central Board of Irrigation and Power (CBIP); Secretary General Avinash C. Tyagi and professionals from Central Office. President Dr. Nairizi and Secretary General also attended a gathering organized by Jal Bhagirathi Foundation headed by Mr. Prithvi Raj Singh where he had chance to interact with various NGOs, planners and top government officials.

During his visit to Central Office President Nairizi held a meeting with professionals and staff and discussed various issues like strengthening ICID membership network, supporting workbodies in achieving their mandate, cooperation with international partners, efficient management of financial resources, and progress on new initiatives were discussed in detail. President Dr. Nairizi appreciated the dedicated services of the Central Office staff and appreciated the way they are handling the new initiatives, such as, ICID Vision 2030, Virtual meetings of the workbodies, Knowledge Management, Register of Heritage Irrigation Structures (HIS), Integrated Library Management System (ILMS), and Multilingual Technical Dictionary (MTD) etc. President Dr. Nairizi took stock of various capacity development initiatives such as e-learning, support to young professionals by sponsoring online courses on Integrated Management of Water, Soil and Waste being conducted by the United Nations University, Inland Development' from 13-17 January 2015 at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi, India. The Water Week, third in the series was inaugurated by Union Minister for Water Resources Sushri Uma Bharti along with the South Australian Minister for Trade and Investment Martin Hamilton, in the presence of Union Urban Development Minister M Venkaiah Naidu; Minister of Agriculture Radha Mohan Singh; Minister of State for Water Resources Prof. Sanwar Lal Jat; and Minister of State for Environment Prakash Javadekar.

Plenary Session and delivered a lecture on “Sustainable Irrigated Agriculture – Making use of technological advances in water management” emphasized the need to understand the elements of basic hydrological cycle while undertaking modernization of irrigation projects. India Water Week, with Australia as the partner country and Maharashtra as the Partner state, was organized by Indian National Committee of ICID (INCSW), under the Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India on the theme ‘Water Management for Sustainable Development’ from 13-17 January 2015 at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi, India. The Water Week, third in the series was inaugurated by President Dr. Saeed Nairizi visits Central Office

President Dr. Nairizi, along with Secretary General Er. Avinash Tyagi and Director Dr. Vijay K. Labhsetwar, visited Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) Pusa, and Water Technology Centre (WTC) New Delhi where they were welcomed by Dr. (Mrs.) Ravinder Kaur, Director, IARI and Project Director of WTC. The delegation visited the pilot project on Eco-friendly waste water treatment and reuse, which was covered in ICID News 2014 (Fourth Quarter). Dr Nairizi expressed his keen interest in gathering more information on the rainwater harvesting structure for small holder farmers. Dr. Kaur briefed the delegation on various activities of Center for Protected Cultivation Technology (CPTC) where various technologies of Green House cultivations were being practiced. CPTC established in 1999, over the years, the center has progressed considerably and diversified into the various kinds of protected structures and production technologies of several crops including high tech nursery management. The infra-structure includes climate controlled & naturally ventilated greenhouses for vegetables and flower crops, net houses, nursery facilities, open fields, drip irrigation system and packaging cum training hall <http://iari.res.in/?option=com_content&view=article&id=372&Itemid=975>. Dr. Nairizi expressed his interest in more information on the water productivity vis a vis the economic productivity in various technologic combinations.

President Dr. Nairizi also took this opportunity to visit the National Agricultural Science Museum (NASM), situated in the National Agricultural Science Centre campus of ICAR in New Delhi. The museum portrays the development of agriculture in India since pre-historic time and the present state-of-the-art technology in agriculture in India, with a futuristic projection. For further details reader may visit <http://icar.org.in/en/node/306>.

President Dr. Nairizi hosted a dinner for invited guests, which includes: Prof. Dr. Doğan ALTINBİLEK, Vice President, World Water Council (WWC); Vice President A.B. Pandy; Vice President Hon. A.K. Bajaj; Mr. Masood Husain, Director General, National Water Development Agency (NWDA); Dr. (Mrs.) Ravinder Kaur, Project Director, Water Technology Center, Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI); Mr. V.K. Kanjlia, Secretary, Central Board of Irrigation and Power (CBIP); Secretary General Avinash C. Tyagi and professionals from Central Office. President Dr. Nairizi and Secretary General also attended a gathering organized by Jal Bhagirathi Foundation headed by Mr. Prithvi Raj Singh where he had chance to interact with various NGOs, planners and top government officials.
WatSave Awards 2015 – Call for Nominations

Nominations are invited for the ‘WatSave Awards 2015’ from individuals/team through National Committees/Committee latest by 15 June 2015. The WatSave Awards are given in four categories: (i) Technology; (ii) Innovative Water Management; (iii) Young Professional; and (iv) Farmers.

The idea of routing the nominations through the NC is to receive only one nomination per category per country after an initial scanning of the nominations for a sequential ordering based on merit and recommending only one nomination. ICID member country can also support one nomination from a non-member country, but every country should present only one candidate per category.

The award(s) is/are presented to an individual or a team for the outstanding contribution to water conservation/water saving for increasing the beneficial and/or efficient use of water to develop and improve the sustainable use of the critical resource.

National Committees can nominate newly developed works of previous WatSave Award winners provided it is for a different innovation, as the purpose of the award is to identify successful water saving technologies and management techniques in practice among the ICID family and disseminate them across the world. The nomination could come on behalf of an individual or a team of named individuals, but not from an organization itself. An entry or innovation once rejected for the WatSave Award by ICID should not be re-nominated, even under a different category.

In order for the Jury to adjudicate the awards, which are highly dependent on the actual application of the technology in the field, the nominating National Committee/Committee has to play a crucial role since members of the Jury will often not have detailed first-hand knowledge of the situation in a particular country, and thus would not be in a position to judge the realism of individual submissions.

National Committees should undertake initial screening of the nominations, through a broad-based National Screening Committee for WatSave Awards against the criterion laid down in this Scheme, and in the process recommending them, authenticating the research, the application cited in the nominated work and ensure that the nomination is for the original work carried out by the authors.

The awards will be presented at the 66th International Executive Council (IEC) meeting scheduled to be held during October 2015 at Montpellier, France. The last date for receipt of the entries from the National Committees along with a completed ‘Nomination Form’ etc. to the ICID Central Office, New Delhi is 15 June 2015.

The nominations sent directly to the ICID Central Office cannot be entertained. The selection of the winners from amongst the nominations received will be made by an International Panel of Judges. National Committees are urged to give wide publicity to these awards in their country among persons actively engaged in water savings/conservation practices, particularly farming communities.

For more information, please visit <http://www.icid.org/awards_ws.html>.

Water for Future: 7th World Water Forum

ICID together with FAO is a member of the “Design Group” for the issue 2.1: Water for Food at the 7th World Water Forum (WWF7) to be held during 12-17 April 2015 at Daegu & Gyeongbuk, Republic of Korea. The main theme of the Forum is “Water for Future” with focus on the implementation of the solutions that were identified during the 6th World Water Forum (France, 2012) in line with its three primary objectives: (a) Moving from solutions to implementation; (b) Bridging the platform of science and technology to water issues; and (c) Contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The Forum will consist of four processes: (a) Thematic Process; (b) Regional Process: (c) Regional Process; (d) Science and Technology Process; and (e) Political Process. Under the thematic framework there are four main subject groups of 16 themes, such as (1) Water Security for All; (2) Water for Development and Prosperity; (3) Water for Sustainability: Harmonizing Humans and Nature; and (4) Constructing Feasible Implementation Mechanisms. In the thematic process, 14 important fields were identified and ICID joined as a member of the “Design Group” for the issue 2.1: Water for Food. The Design Group members discussed about session themes proposed by the members and narrowed down them into five, of which ICID is acting as a Coordinator for the 2.1.3 session of “Modernization of irrigation schemes”, together with Korean Rural Community Corporation (KRC).

The Science & Technology process is a new process focusing on the importance of science and technology in addressing water issues, this process aims to encourage the exchange of water-related cutting-edge technologies and information, and thus close the technological gaps between developed and developing countries.

The Turkish National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (TUCID) will be organizing a Side Event on ‘Modernization of Irrigation Projects for Sustainability’ under Theme 2: ‘Water for Development and Prosperity’ with sub-theme ‘2.1: Water for Food’. The main objective of the side event is to promote benefits of pressurized irrigation network and advanced maintenance practices to increase agricultural water efficiency. The event will focus on evaluation of various financial systems/instruments necessary for the investments on such irrigation systems. National Committees and partner institutions are requested to inform the sessions and side events that they are planning to organize so that the ICID fraternity could be informed.

The details of registration, transportation, accommodation, programme and updates of the WWF7 can be accessed at <http://eng.worldwaterforum7.org/introduce/intro.asp>.

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<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Theme(16)</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Action Goals</strong></td>
<td>1. Water Security for All</td>
<td>1.1 Enough Safe Water for All</td>
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<td>1.2 Integrated Sanitation for All</td>
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<td>1.3 Adapting to Change: Managing Risk and Uncertainty for Resilience and Disaster Preparedness</td>
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<td>1.4 Infrastructure for Sustainable Water Resource Management and Services</td>
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<td>2. Water for Development and Prosperity</td>
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<td>2.3 Water and Cities</td>
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<td>3.2 Managing and Restoring Ecosystems for Water Services and Biodiversity</td>
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<td>3.3 Ensuring Water Quality from Ridge to Reef</td>
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<td>3.4 SMART Implementation of IWRM</td>
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<td>4.2 Effective Governance: Enhanced Political Decisions, Stakeholder Participation and Technical Information</td>
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<td>4.3 Cooperation for Reducing Conflict and Improving Transboundary Water Management</td>
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<td>4.4 Water Cultures, Justice and Equity</td>
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<td>4.5 Enhancing Education and Capacity Building</td>
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Water, Food and Energy in the 21st Century

ICID has organized a workshop on ‘Role of Agriculture within the framework of a New Technologies in Water Management’ organized by the Ege University Faculty of Agriculture within the framework of a South African irrigation and drainage industry. The Symposium provided a platform for exploration of a plethora of water management practices employed in creating sustainable livelihoods for the people as it brought together the various role-players of the South African irrigation and drainage industry for knowledge sharing, showcasing of new technologies and productive interaction. The main objective of the Symposium was to attract a multi-disciplinary group of professionals involved with irrigation and drainage sector in Southern Africa. Over 32 innovative presentations were showcased in seven sessions at the Symposium ranging from engineering, new technologies, economics, models, water management, energy etc. all underpinned by irrigation and drainage.

Mr. Naidoo in his keynote address presented global perspectives regarding agriculture, hunger and how irrigated agriculture could contribute to food provision as well as security at a global scale. He further elaborated that the challenge might not lie with production but distribution of food across the country; cost of food due to production costs was getting unaffordable; rising electricity energy prices and the looming uncapping of water tariffs for irrigation water might provide the great threat to this industry.

Mr. Dhesigen Naidoo, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Water Research Commission (WRC) delivered a keynote address at the 21st Anniversary of South African National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (SANCID) as a member of the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID) by organizing a bi-annual three day Symposium under the theme ‘Water, Food and Energy in the 21st Century’ from 18 to 20 November 2014 at Glenburn Lodge, Muldersdrift, Gauteng, South Africa.

During the workshop, presentations were made by Vice President Dr. Wahba, on ‘About the ICID and how it works & how it serves its members?’ and towards establishing Northern African Regional Association for Irrigation and Drainage (NARAIID) with its background, mission and objectives. The papers titled ‘Comparison of Micro Irrigation Systems for Olive Trees’ and ‘Micro-Irrigation Systems for Vegetable Production under Green Houses’ were presented by Dr. Atef Nassar and Dr. Abdbraco Shehatta from Water Management and Irrigation Systems Research Institute, National Water Research Center (NWRC), Egypt, respectively. At the end of the workshop, the role of NARAIID and future actions required for establishment were discussed in detail.

Water, Food and Energy in the 21st Century

The 3rd Arab Water Forum (AWF3) was organized by the Arab Water Council (AWC), while opening the 3rd Arab Water Forum organized by the Arab Water Council in the presence of Egyptian Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation, Dr. Hossam Maghazi; President of the Arab Water Council, Dr. Mahmoud Abu Zeid; and a number of Ministers of Water, Agriculture as well as a number of experts from various governments, regional and international organizations, pointed out that the failure or inability to ensure the minimum of Arab water security threatens political and social stability in all Arab countries.

The Egyptian National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (ENCID) in cooperation with ICID has organized a workshop on ‘Role of Micro-Irrigation in Ensuring Water and Food Security in the Arab World’ as a side event on 11 December 2014 for the North African countries. The workshop was led by VPH Dr. Mohamed Hassan Amer, Chairman of the Egyptian National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (ENCID) and Dr. Mohamed Wahba, Vice President, ICID and Secretary General of ENCID. About 15 participants attended the workshop.

The Symposium highlighted reflection that irrigated crop production has a potential to make significant local socio-economic impact as well as contribute to improved food security, poverty alleviation and increased employment. In several cases, irrigation schemes are the main economic activities in rural areas and they can have significant positive impacts on the local economy. Such event disseminate knowledge that makes everyone conscious about water issues and their inter-linkages with other social, political, economic and environmental factors. The contribution of research and innovations to the formulation and development of policy frameworks is enormous. The variety of presentations received proved that irrigated crop production is not only about pipes, sprinklers, systems, climate, water, soils, economics etc. but is also about the people involved in it, who on a daily basis strive to turn this sector for the better and optimize outputs through their commitment to innovative research, economics, engineering, policy development and knowledge.
Dr. Hüseyin GÜNDOĞDU, Vice President of ICID; Ir. Jos Balendonck, Project Co-ordinator from Wageningen University and Research Center, The Netherlands; and Prof. Dr. I. Hakki Tuzel, Local Project Partner from the Ege University in Turkey delivered their lectures during the workshop.

The AquaTag/Sutek project was supported by The Netherlands Enterprise Agency of the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs, and coordinated by Wageningen University and Research Center during 2012-2015. While another partners i.e. Sensor Tag Solutions (Dutch inventor of the AquaTag) and the Ege University Faculty of Agriculture were also present. The goal of the project was to introduce a work method for the low-cost AquaTag soil moisture sensors making it possible for small-scale, low-tech farmers to save considerable amounts of water in their production.

The AquaTag was only the wireless, battery-free and affordable soil moisture sensor in the world. It provides an easy and low-cost way to assess the available water for a large number of plants in settings varying from greenhouses to outdoor fields, making it possible to customize irrigation. It can be easily calibrated for almost any soil or substrate. The system consists of a handheld reader and a number of sensors. It was used in the project at 8 farmers’ conditions in crops, such as lettuce, cucumber, tomato, eggplant, pepper and French beans during growing periods between 2012 and 2014. Irrigation scheduling based on Aquatag was compared with the farmers’ decisions. Water-saving ratios (based on irrigation water applied to obtain one kg yield per m²) obtained by using the AquaTag and compared with farmers’ decisions were 15 to 45%. For more information visit www.aquatag.nl.

Collaboration between IRNCID and TUCID

A four-day technical tour by a Turkish Team from General Directorate of State Hydraulic Works (DSI), Turkey, was organized at the Water Structures in Khuzestan Province Iran and visited Karkheh Reservoir Dam; Dez Regulatory and Storage Reservoir DAMs; Dez Irrigation & Drainage Networks; Karkheh and Dez DAMs’ Hydraulic Power Plants; Mard Pumping Station; Karun-Bahmanshir Cellular Coffer Dam; Date Palm Plantation in ARVAND-KENAR Region; and Shushtar Water Falls during 22-25 December 2014.

A Session was held on 25 December 2014 in Khuzestan Water and Power Organization under the leadership of Mr. Eng. Shamsaei, Managing Director, who discussed on various issues, like Khuzestan Water Sector and also consulted with the Turkish delegates for their experiences.

The Turkish delegates held a session under the leadership of Eng. Hajrasouliha, Managing Director of Water Resources Management Company on 27 December 2014 at Tehran, Iran. They discussed and exchanged their views on various issues as well as DSI experiences and achievements relevant to Water Users Association in Turkey. In the afternoon, Dr. Saeed Nairizi, President of ICID and Eng. S.A. Assadollahi, Secretary General of IRNCID, discussed the developments of bilateral cooperation with the DSI team.

As per the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), which took place at Mardin, Turkey, 2013 an Iranian Team of Managers and Experts will visit the Turkish Water Resources Structures & Hydraulic Works and will hold various technical meetings to exchange their experiences and ideas on relevant water related issues.

News from ICID National Committees

Hearty welcome to Fiji!

ICID takes great pleasure in welcoming Fiji National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (FIJICID) back into the network of member countries. We convey our warmest felicitations and hearty congratulations to the members of FIJICID for their faith in ICID and willingness to contribute to the international community. ICID appreciate the hard efforts of Mrs. Rohini Lata Kumar, Secretary to Director of Land & Water Resources Management Division of Ministry of Agriculture, Republic of Fiji, who was instrumental in reactivating the FIJICID. The contact coordinates of FIJICID are:

Mr. Colin Simmons
Director, Land & Water Resources Management Division, Ministry of Agriculture, Robinson Complex, Rainwaqa, Suva, Republic of Fiji
Tel: +3383155 Extn. 302; Fax: +3383546
E-mail: <cssimmons@agriculture.gov.fj>

Mrs. Rohini Lata Kumar
Secretary to Director
Tel: +3383155 Extn. 302; Fax: +3383546
E-mail: <rohini.kumar@govnet.gov.fj>

IRQCID (Iraq)

Engr. Shaimaa Obaid Kareem (Iraq) has taken over as the Secretary of the Iraqi National Committee of ICID (IRQCID). The contact coordinates of the Engr. Kareem are:

Engr. Shaimaa Obaid Kareem
Secretary, Iraqi National Committee of Irrigation and Drainage (IRQCID), Head of Environmental Policies Center Planning and Follow-up Department, Ministry of Water Resources, Palestine Street, Baghdad, Iraq, E-mail: <icid_iraq@yahoo.com>

ICID fraternity extends its warm welcome to Engr. Shaimaa Obaid Kareem and expresses its thanks to Dr. Hussein Ilaibi Zamil, former Secretary of IRQCID for his valuable contributions to ICID.

Also, please note the new e-mail address of E.M. Ahmed Aziz (Member of the ICID’s Working Group on Environment, WG-ENV) is <aziz817@yahoo.co.uk>.

Forthcoming Events

ICID Events

66th IEC and 26th European Regional Conference, 11-16 October 2015, Montpellier, France. Theme: Innovate to improve irrigation performances. Contact : Secrétariat Général, Association Française pour l’Étude des Irrigations et du Drainage (AFEID), 361 rue Jean-François Breton, BP 5095, F - 34196 – MONTPELLIER CEDEX 5, France.
Call for Papers
26th ERC and 66th IEC at Montpellier, France in 2015

Papers are invited for the 26th European Regional Conference with theme “Innovate to Improve Irrigation Performance” and sub-themes (a) Innovations for smallholders in irrigation; (b) Wastewater use in agriculture; and (c) Governance of surface water and groundwater.

Schedule for submission of Extended Abstracts
- Submission of Extended Abstracts (max. 300 words): 1st January 2015 to 28 February 2015
- Notification of acceptance: 1st April 2015
- Submission of full papers: 30th June 2015

The objective of the Conference is to provide analysis and to exchange experiences with a wide community of international irrigation experts. The conference will focus on innovations in irrigation which are promoted by decision-makers or initiated by local experts, and will analyze their drivers, their processes and results of adoption and adaptation, as well as their outputs and performance.

The 26th European Regional Conference (ERC) will be held along with ICID’s 66th International Executive Council (IEC) Meeting and will be hosted by French National Committee of ICID (AFEID) during 11-16 October 2015 at Montpellier, France. To access First Announcement and Call for Papers visit <http://icid2015.sciencesconf.org/?lang=en>.

Virtual Workbody Meetings (WebEx)

ICID Working Groups are provided an opportunity to organize a video-conference in between two physical meetings at the IEC in order to enable the Group to take a review of the progress made on the activities undertaken by them. This online meeting would enable those members who are unable to attend the working group meetings physically during the IEC meetings, to provide their inputs and help bodies to achieve their mandate. The workbody Chairs/Vice Chairs/Secretaries of the following workbodies have taken up the initiative and informed Central Office their preferred time slot for the online meeting to be scheduled during January, February and March months of 2015.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of the Workbody</th>
<th>Chairman</th>
<th>Preferred dates</th>
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<tr>
<td>Working Group on Environment (WG-ENV)</td>
<td>Dr. Sylvain Roger Perret (France)</td>
<td>19 March 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Working Group on Water Management in Water-Stressed Regions (WG-DROUGHT)</td>
<td>VPH Franklin E. Dimick (USA)</td>
<td>21-22 January 2015, 11, 12, 18 February 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>European Regional Working Group (ERWG)</td>
<td>VPH Dr. Laszlo Hayde, (Hungary)</td>
<td>28, 30 January 2015, 12, 25 February 2015, 10, 19 March 2015</td>
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</table>

In case your workbody is not listed above, please seize the opportunity and inform Central Office to book a slot for your workbody’s online meeting.

To join the video conference the only requirement is a computer with microphone; Internet connection; and a WebCam for video streaming (optional). Every notebook computer/Tablet contains all these features. We hope you will make use of this new platform established by the Central Office to organize your workbody video conference as decided at the 65th International Executive Council meeting held at Gwangju, September 2014.

Tel: +33.4.67.04.63.16, Fax: +33.4.67.16.64.40, E-mail: icid2015@irstea.fr, Website: http://icid2015.sciencesconf.org/?lang=en

2nd World Irrigation Forum (WIF2) and 67th IEC, 6-12 November 2016, Chiang Mai, Thailand. Theme: Water management in a changing world: Role of Irrigation for sustainable food production. Contact: Dr. Somkiet Prajamwong, Secretary General of THAICID, (Director of Project Management, Royal Irrigation Department), Thai National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (THAICID), 811 Samsen Road, Thanon-Nakornratchasima, Bangkok 10300, Thailand. Tel: +662 243 7883; Fax: +662 243 7883; E-mail: thaicid@hotmail.com; Website: http://www.rid.go.th/thaicid/

13th International Drainage Workshop (IDW), March 2017, Ahvaz City, Iran. Theme: Drainage and Environmental Sustainability. Contact: Dr. S.A. Assadollahi, Secretary General, Iranian National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (IRNCID), No. 1, Shahrzad Alley, Kargarz St., Zafar Ave., Tehran, Postal Code: 19198-34453, Tel: (+9821) 2225 7348 – 22250162, Fax: (+9821) 2227 2285, E-mail: irncid@gmail.com, Website: http://www.irncid.org

23rd ICID Congress and 68th IEC, 8-14 October 2017, Mexico City, Mexico. Theme of the Congress: Modernizing Irrigation and Drainage for a new Green Revolution. Contact: Dr. Luis Rendón Pimentel, President, Mexican National Committee of International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (MXCID), Gerente de Distritos y Unidades de Riego Comision Nacional del Agua, Insurgentes Sur 2416 7o Piso, Colonia Coipilo El Bajo, Delegación Coyoacán, C.P. 11330 México D.F. Tel: +52 53 222407, +52 53 222400 Ext. 6672; Fax: +52 53 222409, E-mail: cmn@mxicid.org, luis.rendon@cna.gob.mx, luis.rendon@conagua.gob.mx;

Other Events

International Conference on DROUGHT: Research and Science-Policy Interfacing, 10-13 March 2015 at Valencia, Spain. For details, visit: http://www.icdrought2015.upv.es
7th World Water Forum, 12-17 April 2015 at Daegu-Gyeongbuk, South Korea. For details, visit: http://eng.worldwaterforum7.org/main/
A National Seminar on ‘Participatory Irrigation Management-Promises and Problems’, 17-18 April, 2015 at Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India. For details, visit: http://www.ieigsc.org