Dear Colleagues

While our eyes are set on the next ICID Congress in September 2020 at Sydney, Australia, our feet are firmly grounded in the 5th African Regional Conference next month in Morocco. Experts opine that the developing countries of the African Region have the potential to be the next global food basket considering their natural resource-rich landscapes and energetic youth population. With the right mix of policy, technology, financing and entrepreneurship, the region holds a great future for the entire humanity. In fact, some African countries have realized this potential and are striving to leap-frog to the next level of food production and management systems. Our President, who happens to be from South Africa, has made plans to be in the Conference for sharing his views with the experts, participants and the young professionals of the region. A word of caution would be that the region should exploit its natural resources in a sustainable manner, learning from the adverse experiences of other regions of the world. The logistics and other preparations have been put in place for a smooth functioning of the Conference. I am very optimistic that technical deliberations and related events during the Conference shall pave the way for future activities to transform our imagination into on-ground realities. Colleagues, if you are coming to the Conference, I would very much like to meet and discuss with you our common strategy for the region, particularly in the area of irrigation and drainage.

The ICID Congress in Sydney with the theme “Innovation and Research In Agricultural Water Management to Achieve Sustainable Development Goals” and sub-themes, “What Role Can Information And Communication Technology Play In Travelling The Last Mile?” and “What Role Is Played By Multi-Disciplinary Dialogue To Achieve Sustainable Development Goals?” In the form of Questions 62 and 63, respectively, also holds a great promise to take future steps, particularly the role of Big Data (ICT, IoT, AI and Satellite-based Decision Making Tools) coupled with Multi-stakeholder dialogues to provide solutions that are sustainable and fulfil the promise of a brighter future for all. During the Congress, ICID will give away several awards and recognize nominated and selected world heritage irrigation structures (WHIS). This issue carries the announcements for inviting nominations for all the awards and WHIS. Please note that from this year onwards, the WatSave and WHIS nominations need to be completed on-line through a link provided in the announcements to make the process much faster and cleaner.

ICID Central Office has lined up a few webinars and the one held this month was on “Solar-powered Micro-Irrigation Systems” by Dr. TBS Rajput from the Water Technology Center in Delhi, who is considered a global expert on the subject with hundreds of publications, several projects and awards for his dedicated work over the last three decades. You can sign up for future webinars on ICID website (www.icid.org) as we have limited seats available.

I would like to close my message with a quote from the all-time great scientist Albert Einstein – “The true sign of intelligence is not knowledge but imagination.”

See you soon either in Morocco and/or Australia!

With best wishes

Ashwin Pandya
Secretary General, ICID

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ICID attends Multi-stakeholder meeting to Steer India’s Hydro-power Energy Generation

North-Eastern states of the Indian sub-continent. The hilly states boast of abundant rainfall spreading throughout the year thus having vast potential for harnessing power from the rivers and their tributaries for developing hydroelectric power by construction of mega, small, mini and micro power projects. Hitherto only 6.22% of its potential have been utilized or is in the process of construction. In order to meet the country’s growing demand for power and fulfill India’s Nationally Determined Contributions towards the United Nations’ Paris Agreement on climate change, the government is promoting new large hydel projects and revisiting several pending projects in the north-eastern part of India.

In the same vein - a high level multi-stakeholder meeting was organized on 11th February 2020 at Itangar, Arunanchal Pradesh, India. ICID was represented by Secretary General, Er. Ashwin B Pandya, who was the former chairman of Central Water Commission, the apex water governance body in India. The meeting witnessed the participation of the chief minister, respective cabinet ministers, the major corporate players as well as members from civil society organizations. Consultations were held with the local administration and the general public. The meeting culminated into identifying the future plan of action for strengthening the capacity development for hydro-power stations.
Introduction

With the rapid depletion of fossil fuels and threats of global warming, alternative clean sources of energy are being explored in the energy sector. In recent years, solar energy has emerged as one of the cleanest, environmentally friendly and reliable sources of energy. Energy, one of the main inputs of agriculture especially for irrigation, is becoming a focus in the agricultural water management agenda. In this respect, Solar Powered Irrigation Systems (SPIS) are beginning to gain traction worldwide as the alternative to traditional electric or diesel-run pumps. Such pumps provide an environment-friendly opportunity for irrigation because of the significantly lower emissions of greenhouse gases compared to the higher carbon footprint of the fossil fuel-based electricity options. For sustainable agricultural and rural development, the SPIS’ have proven to be a boon for several pilots and near-commercial scale projects. The SPIS provides a reliable source of clean energy to the farmers to irrigate their lands while reducing their operating cost and providing freedom from fluctuating fuel prices.

In this webinar, Dr. TB Rajput and Dr. Neelam Patel discussed the technological, social and economic benefits of SPIS while gauging its sustainability in the long run. The dialogue entailed the future scope of these emerging systems. The speakers shared their on-ground experience from the Indian farms.

Speaker

Dr. T B S Rajput is an Adjunct Professor at Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi and a Visiting Professor at the Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok, Thailand. He has over forty years of experience in research and postgraduate teaching in the field of Agricultural Water Management (AWM). He is a former Project Director and a scientist of national repute. He has published ten books and more than two hundred research articles. He has developed seven computer softwares on different aspects of AWM. Besides research, he has supervised more than twenty post-graduate researches. He was adjudged as the Best teacher by the IARI. He has received many honors and awards for research including the prestigious Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Award, the highest award an Agricultural Scientist can get in India. He is widely traveled and is a Fellow of the National Academy of Agricultural Sciences and six other National Scientific Societies in India.

Convenor

Dr. Neelam Patel is Principal Scientist and Incharge, Centre for Protected Cultivation Technology, Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi since June, 2015 after graduating in Agricultural Engineering from Allahabad University and Master’s degree from Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur and Doctoral degree from IARI, New Delhi. She has demonstrated her engineering capabilities in various ventures including sensor based automatic irrigation, precision irrigation and waste water treatment technology. She has worked as member of FAD -17 in Bureau of Indian Standards for formulating the different standards of irrigation system. Her research contributions have earned several recognition including Wat Save Best Young Professional (ICID) and outstanding women scientist, Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi.
Call for Papers

ICID has been organizing its flagship triennial event International Congress on Irrigation and Drainage since 1951. The 24th International Congress on Irrigation and Drainage and the 71st International Executive Council meeting is being organized by the Irrigation Australia’s Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (IACID) on the theme ‘Innovation and Research and In Agricultural Water Management to Achieve Sustainable Development Goals’ from 22nd-28th September 2020 at Sydney, Australia.

Congress Theme: Innovation and Research in Agricultural Water Management to Achieve Sustainable Development Goals

Congress Questions (Topics / Sub-Topics)

Question 62: What role can information and communication technology play in travelling the last mile (i.e. the greater adoption of research outputs)?

Information and communication technology offer tools and systems which may be used to speed up the adoption of research and development outcomes to produce more crop per drop and to minimize the impacts of irrigation in and to the environment. There are a range of other components to the adoption process including the policy environment, financial assistance and various types of incentives (both financial and non-financial), along with social and cultural influences. Information and communication technology have a role to play in all these and the diverse communities and individuals may adopt different processes and seek potentially different step outcomes.

Question 63: What role is played by multi-disciplinary dialogue to achieve sustainable development goals?

In the past, the insular/silo approach had its downside with agronomic research not always being relevant to the needs of the end-users, implications of policy changes not fully understood or even anticipated, adoption of new and more effective ways of crop production was often slow and farmer lead research and adoption not being recognized as pathways to improved production. Multi-disciplinary dialogue engages, by its definition, more than one discipline in design and implementation of policy, research, extension and adoption/use of processes that lead to sustainable development.

Symposium

Theme: Integrated Approaches to Irrigation Management in Future [Only Country Papers Through ICID National Committees]

The symposium aims to provide a platform for irrigation and drainage professionals and the broad range of other stakeholders to share their knowledge and experience in sustainable agriculture water management focusing on irrigation management and its related/integrated aspects.

Special Session

Theme: Developing the future tools for managing uncertainty in irrigation water supply

This “Special Session” presents an opportunity to broadly evolve a future approach to the very fundamental challenges at the base of all water and irrigation-dependent systems. No matter what the geography, all presenters and participants in this session should gain enormous benefit from the presentation of the diverse experiences, research and development activity, policy and regulatory approaches underpinning future adaptation and mitigation of variability in irrigation water supply.

Call-for-papers: The full version of Call-for-papers is available at http://congress.icidevents.org/24cong_callforpapers.pdf


Schedule of submission of abstracts/full papers

- Submission of ‘Extended Abstracts’ (500-600 words) : 29 February 2020 (FURTHER EXTENDED)
- Notification of Acceptance of Extended Abstracts : (15 March 2020, EXTENDED)
- Submission of Full papers : 15 April 2020
- Notification to Authors (oral/poster/presentation) : 15 June 2020

Online paper submission

Online ‘Extended Abstract’ submission is now open. New Users are expected to create their own account. The procedure for creating a new account is available at https://www.icid2020.com.au/call-for-papers/how-to-submit-papers/

ICID is pleased to announce the “Call for Nominations for 2020 WatSave Awards and Recognition of World Heritage Irrigation Structures (WHIS)” to be presented during the 24th ICID International Congress and 71st IEC Meeting to be held from 22nd-28th September 2020 at Sydney, Australia.

WatSave Awards 2020

Improving water efficiency is the imminent challenge faced in agriculture today. There is a need to innovate and change existing water policies, management practices, and water-saving techniques. A holistic approach involving all the stakeholders like farmers, corporate, government, and civil society organizations are required to improve water productivity.

Recognizing this need, ICID constituted WatSave Annual Award(s) in 1997 to identify and promote exceptional water conservation/saving practices in agriculture. They are presented every year to individuals or a team of individuals after evaluating actual realized savings; and not promising research results, plans or good ideas/intentions to save water. WatSave Award has been categorized into four categories:

- Technology
- Young Professionals
- Innovative Water Management
- Farmer

Nominations are invited from individuals/teams through National Committees/Committee. The entries are open to all professionals/teams from ICID member countries as well as non-member countries. In case of entries from ‘nonmember’ countries, the nominations have to be routed through and validated by an active National Committee of ICID. Such National Committee should be in touch with the nominee and must be aware of his/her work to endorse the nomination.

For further details, visit: https://www.icid.org/icid_his1.php

Deadline and Nomination process

From this year onwards, ONLY ONLINE NOMINATION FORM SUBMISSIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED for WatSave Awards and World Heritage Irrigation Structures.

Kindly use the following link for the same, https://icidevents.org/awards

The deadline for receipt of the entries for WatSave awards and WHIS from the National Committees along with the completed ‘Nomination Form’ and related details to the ICID Central Office, New Delhi (India) is 30th June 2020.

For queries, please contact Dr. Sahdev Singh, Director (Knowledge Management) at icid@icid.org

Invited Nominations for 7th Best Performing National Committee Award (BPNA) 2020

The Best Performing National Committee Award (BPNA) is presented triennially at every ICID Congress, with the main objective to recognize the contributions made by a National Committee to fulfill ICID’s mission and objectives. These awards, initiated in 2002, have been presented to the Korean National Committee, followed by the National Committees of Egypt, Iran, South Africa, Korea, and Iran during the subsequent Congresses held in the years of 2005, 2008, 2011 and 2014, respectively.


Nomination and Deadline

Nominations from National Committees are invited for BPNA, based on the performance during the 3 years between 23rd and 24th Congresses (covering calendar years 2017 - 2020) by submitting the duly filled in Nomination Form to ICID Central Office latest by 30th June 2020.

Invited Nominations for 6th Best Performing Workbody Award (BPWA), 2020

ICID presents the Best Performing Workbody Award (BPWA) triennially at the time of every ICID Congress, based on the performance and various other facets demonstrated by the Workbody in between two Congresses. Such Awards in BPWA series have been presented to the Working Group on History of Irrigation, Drainage and Flood Control (WG-HIST), ICID Journal Editorial Board (EB-JOUR), Working Group on Sustainable Development of Tidal Areas (WG-SDTA), and Working Group on On-Farm Irrigation Systems (WG-ON-FARM) in 2005, 2008, 2011 and 2014, respectively for their excellent performance, impressive achievements, and outstanding contributions. For more details on BPWA, please visit the link http://www.icid.org/awards_ws.html.

BPWA Scheme

The Award comprises of a Citation / Certificate / Plaque to active members of the work body. The criterion for the BPWA is available at http://www.icid.org/bpwa_scheme.pdf and the prescribed nomination form is available at https://www.icid.org/bpwa_nomination_form.pdf

The 6th Best Performing Workbody Award (BPWA-6) will be presented during the 24th ICID International Congress and 71st IEC Meeting held from 22nd-28th September 2020, Sydney, Australia. The award will be adjudicated by a Panel of Judges.

Nomination and Deadline

The Chairs of ICID Work bodies and current Office Bearers are requested to submit the candidature of their work bodies, may submit the nomination of their work body by providing the information and supported by relevant documents to reach the ICID Central Office by 30th June 2020.

Recognition of World Heritage and Irrigation Structures (WHIS) 2020

Starting from 2014, the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID) recognizes the World Heritage Structures (WHIS) to consider, identify and select important historical irrigation/drainage structures from around the world. These include operational irrigation structures of antiquity as well as structures with an archival value that are at least 100+ years old. To recognize and formally enter these nominations in the WHIS register of ICID, a task team of international experts is set up every year which grants recognition to these structures along the lines of World Heritage Sites recognized by the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). The seventh batch of WHIS will be included in the ICID Register of WHIS.

For details, visit: https://www.icid.org/icid_his1.php

For further details, visit: http://www.icid.org/bpna_nomination_form.docx
**32nd UN-Water Meeting for chalking out Water Strategy**

Over 60 delegates of UN-Water members and partners participated in the deliberations at the 32nd UN-Water Meeting held at the headquarters of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) in January 2020. The delegates represented the UN Secretariat and UN agencies, funds, programmes and other entities, multilateral environmental agreements, and civil society organizations. Apart from these, there were 24 observers from governments and other organizations.

**FAO DG outlines Cooperation Models for Transforming the Agricultural Sector**

At a high-level panel discussion on ‘Targeting Hunger: South-South and Triangular cooperation for Transforming Agriculture’ held at the United Nations headquarters in New York on 12th February 2020, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Director-General (DG) QU Dongyu declared that the path to reducing unacceptable hunger levels “lies in our ability to transform the agriculture sector”.

The FAO Director-General advocated a south-south and triangular cooperation to foster smarter agriculture. The interactive dialogue was convened by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) President Tiijani Muhammad-Bande. Jorge Chediek, Director of the UN office for south-south cooperation was also present at the panel discussion.

According to FAO’s ‘State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2019’ report, more than 820 million people in the world suffer from hunger while two billion people are affected by moderate or severe food insecurity on a regular basis. FAO has been at the forefront of South-South and triangular cooperation for more than 40 years. It has raised over $370 million for projects and deployed more than 2,000 experts and technicians to 80 countries for facilitating the transfer of solutions and technologies.

In conclusion, the Director General exhorted: “FAO can do a lot together, we can do more and we can do it faster, and deliver, to achieve the SDGs.”

**IFAD stresses Mobilization of Funds for the Marginalized**

The 43rd session of the annual Governing council meeting of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) was inaugurated by HE Ibrahim Boubacar Keita, Hon’ble President of the Republic of Mali, at the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) headquartered in Rome, Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, on 11th February 2020.

The theme of the meeting was: “Investing in sustainable food systems to end hunger by 2030”. Interactive sessions and events highlighted IFAD’s role and experience in supporting sustainable, inclusive, nutritious and efficient food systems. The two-day meeting witnessed the launch of IFAD’s 12th replenishment, mobilizing funds for the most marginalized people in the world. Notable speakers included Aksel Jøabsb, State Secretary of International Development for the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Agnes Matilda Kalibata, President of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in African (Agnes Matilda was recently appointed Special Envoy of the Food Systems Summit 2021), Sherried Silver (the award-winning choreographer and IFAD Rural Youth Advocate) and Eazi (Afrobeats singer and songwriter).

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**News from International Organizations in cooperation**

In conclusion, the Director General exhorted: “FAO can do a lot together, we can do more and we can do it faster, and deliver, to achieve the SDGs.”

**Invitation to write for ICID Coffee Table Book**

The International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID) is bringing out a colorful Coffee Table Book (CTB) to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of ICID. All national committees are requested to send in a brief write-up covering the birth of the national committee, their organizational structure, location, and contact details, activities and such other details. The material received will be edited for uniformity and adapted to the format of the CTB. The national committees are further requested to submit the material immediately so that the process of putting together the CTB may begin at the earliest.

Please send the write-up and any accompanying pictures at icid@icid.org
Vice President Kamran Emami (Iran) visits SMART Tunnel in Malaysia

Dato’ Ir. Hj. Keizrul bin Abdullah, President Hon. ICID and Ir. Hj Ahmad Bin Darus, Chairman, Malaysian National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (MANCID) welcomed the guests Vice President Kamran Emami (Iran) and Dr. Vijay K Labhsetwar (India) from ICID Central Office at the Smart Control Centre, Department of Irrigation and Drainage in Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia) in early September 2019. Ir. Salwa Binti Ramly and her team explained the functioning of the tunnel through the models and executing the commands in the control room.

Malaysia’s capital of Kuala Lumpur is regularly subjected to flash floods after heavy rains that remain for three to six hours, flooding the city center. After a series of devastating flash floods washed the heart of Kuala Lumpur city center and accumulated losses rose to billions of ringgit, the government approved a never-before-attempted concept to tackle the crippling floods and snarling traffic jams that plague the Southern Gateway of the city – a SMART tunnel.

SMART stands for ‘Storm water Management and Road Tunnel’. The 13.2 m diameter tunnel consists of a 9.7 km storm water bypass tunnel, with a 4 km dual-deck motorway within the storm water tunnel. The main purpose of the SMART tunnel is to solve the problem of flash flooding in Kuala Lumpur from the Sungai Klang and Kerayong rivers and also to reduce traffic jams during the daily rush hour.

Dr. Emami and Dr. Labhsetwar appreciated the time and efforts of MANCID in general, Ir Keizrul, Ir Ahmad, Ir. Dr Salwa, Ir. Noorul and Ir. Nor Hisham in particular.

Asian Regional Working Group (ASRWG) commends the initiatives of CTCID

The Asian Regional Working Group (ASRWG) commended the initiative of International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage—Chinese Taipei (CTCID) to promote international cooperation among the ICID National Committees in the Asian region and requested CTCID to keep the Working Group posted of the progress in CTCID initiatives in this direction.

CTCID invited Maysian National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (MANCID) to Chinese Taipei last November for the 2019 CTCID Annual Conference on “Contribution of Agricultural Water to Rural Development in Asia” followed by a technical tour.

CTCID is actively engaged in exploring the possibility of promoting international cooperation in the Asian region. Also, the Japanese National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (JNC-ICID) is scheduled to visit Chinese Taipei in March to discuss possible cooperation between CTCID and JNC-ICID.

Japan International Cooperation for Agency (JICA) training courses

As per Working Group on Irrigation Drainage in the States Under Socio-Economic Transformation (WG-IDSST)’s mandate, JICA is organizing two training courses on “Appropriate management of land and water resources for sustainable agriculture in arid/semi-arid regions” from 6th July – 21st October 2020 at JICA Center for the young engineers especially from Afghanistan, Yemen, Iraq, Egypt, Kenya, Sudan, Niger, and Jordan. For more details on the same, kindly contact Dr. Katsuyuki Shimizu at shimizu@tottori-u.ac.jp
B n g l a d e s h N a t i o n a l Committee gets a new Chairman

A very warm welcome to Engineer AM Aminul Hoque, who have assumed the responsibility as Director General of Bangladesh Water Development Board as well as Chairman of Bangladesh National Committee of ICID (BANCID) since 13th February 2020. The BANCID has been a very active member of ICID since 1973 and always has been supporting the mission and vision of ICID by way of participation and providing information from Bangladesh as and when required. We look forward to future association with BANCID and its members in the activities of ICID.

Nigerian National Committee appoints a new chair person

Engineer (Mrs.) Esther Oyeronke Oluniyi, Agricultural Director of Irrigation and Drainage, Federal Ministry of Water Resources is currently serving as the Chairperson of Nigerian National Committee on Irrigation of ICID (NINCID). We welcome Engr. (Mrs.) Esther Oyeronke Oluniyi, Ag. Director of Irrigation and Drainage as Chairman of NINCID and look forward to closely working with her to promote ICID activities.

Obituary

It is with great displeasure we inform you that the senior most member of the Italian National Committee of ICID (ITAL-ICID), Eng. Antonio Linoli passed away early February 2020. Antonio Linoli was the backbone of ITAL-ICID for many years, making significant contributions to scientific research through his publications on "Italian History of Irrigation and Drainage." PH Bart Shultz was associated with him for a long time and had collaborated with him on a number of occasions.

Transboundary Water Management in Central Asia

Activities were carried out under the GIZ Program “Transboundary Water Management in Central Asia” on behalf of the German Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs; all results were achieved in close cooperation with the Ministry of Water Resources and cover the period from January 2016 to March 2020. A final event was held in Tashkent on 7th February, 2020, in the presence of the Minister of Water Resources, Dr. Shavkat Hamraev, as well as the Head of the Delegation of the European Union to Uzbekistan, Ambassador Eduard Stiprais and Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany Mr. Gunther Leo Overfield. The project was coordinated by a Project Management Group (PMU) consisting of a team leader and three international partners – the International Institute for Water Management (IWMI), the Austrian Environmental Protection Agency (Umweltbundesamt UBA) and the Italian Council for Research and Agricultural Economics (CREA).

ICID participates in CBIP’s 93rd Foundation Day Celebrations

Central Board of Irrigation & Power (CBIP), set up by Government of India in January 1927, is a pioneer organization involved in dissemination of technical knowledge in Water Resources, Power and Renewable Energy Sectors for the past 93 years by way of bringing out technical publications, organizing conferences/workshops/seminars and imparting training to the professionals and other stakeholders. CBIP celebrated its 93rd Foundation Day on 19th February 2020 at New Delhi, India. They used the occasion to recognize and present awards to organizations/institutions, engineers/scientists/administrators for their outstanding contribution in the field of Water Resources, Power and Renewable Energy Sectors in India. Mr. Rattan Lal Kataria, Hon’ble Minister of State, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Indian Ministry of Water, was the Guest of Honor. ICID attended the event; it was represented by Executive Director, Er. Harish Kumar Varma, Director (Technical) Er. B.A. Chivate, Director (Knowledge Management) Dr. Sandeep Singh, Knowledge Officer, Er. Prachi Sharma and Knowledge Management Consultant, Ms. Shreshtha Sharma.

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