

ICID YOUNG PROFESSIONALS e-FORUM (IYPeF)

REVISED CONCEPT NOTE

(Minutes of the 66th IEC Meeting, Annex R3.2 [Resolution IEC-3/66, Para 3])

1. Background

- 1.1 At the 65th International Executive Council (IEC) held at Gwangju in September 2014, the Council approved establishing an ICID-Young Professional's e-Forum (IYPeF) with an open membership. The Council suggested to ICID Central Office (CO) to develop rules and assist in the organization of the Young Professionals Forum.
- 1.2 This note is prepared to lay down the concept and working rules for this Forum. It is expected that the establishment of this Forum may, in the course of its development require adjustment of some of the by-laws, which will be presented separately after the conceptual and administrative framework is agreed to.

2. The Context

- 2.1 Increasing food production through sustainable use of water will, among others, require large investments in infrastructures, research and development, that are compatible with the preservation of ecosystems and can adapt to climate change. The sector will need to increase its water use efficiency by reducing water losses and, most importantly, increase crop productivity with respect to water.
- 2.2 The Asia and Pacific region has seen development of large irrigation infrastructure in the last fifty years which has helped in creating food security and fueled growth. However, these systems are beset with the low efficiencies. The old public irrigation department in these countries are saddled with old and ill-maintained large irrigation systems and aging staff. The in-service professionals need to be aligned with the rapid technological developments. Given the complexity of development process, irrigation and drainage professionals need exposure to the social, environmental and other disciplines that influence the agriculture water management. There is need for greater sharing of experiences and tools particularly related to social, economic and environmental aspects.
- 2.3 Given the fast-changing development scenario and the exponential growth in technology, coping with a new work environment is a difficult proposition. In addition to learning from past experiences, what definitely is required under the increasing complexities of supply, demand and uncertainties, is a breed of young professionals that approach the irrigation and drainage issues with a more open mind and accepts the multi-dimensional aspects of the water sector and are willing to undertake their activities through an inter-disciplinary approach. However, the number of young professionals joining the water sector is dwindling by the year.

3. Objective of IYPeF

- 3.1 Despite the challenging development scenario the sector is suffering from a lack of interest from the young professionals as they find the career in the sector uninteresting with little growth potential. This lack of interest in the sector among the new generation has resulted in the closure of irrigation and drainage departments in academic institutions around the world. The generation X has to be attracted to the sector by making the careers in irrigation and drainage sector more interesting and challenging. Information has to reach them at their finger press, which they are used to in the era of social media.
- 3.2 With these long-term objectives in view, ICID has established IYPeF that provides an international platform to young engineers/scientists/professionals for their career development in the areas of irrigation, drainage, flood management and environment. IYPeF provides an opportunity to young professionals to engage, network and share their experiences and also learn from the experiences of senior engineers (Mentors) in the field. The main objectives of establishing the Forum are to:
- (a) Encourage and promote a high standard of professional development amongst the young professionals in the field of irrigation, drainage, and flood management,
 - (b) Provide an international platform for young irrigation and drainage professionals,
 - (c) Expose young professional to ICID's purpose, objectives, role and activities,
 - (d) Facilitate the wider dissemination of knowledge and information amongst the young professionals,
 - (e) Maintain and enhance links with national and international youth having interests in water related subjects or the activities, relevant to ICID objectives.
 - (f) Strengthen National Committees (NCs) through participation of YPs in their national irrigation and drainage network.

4. Membership

- 4.1 Person desirous of becoming member of IYPeF will have to fulfill the following eligibility criteria:
- (a) Any professional from water sector below the age of 40 years.
 - (b) Working or pursuing studies in the area of agricultural water management and/or flood management discipline.
 - (c) The membership will have to be endorsed by their organization where working/academic institute where pursuing higher studies/an ICID National Committee/ an International ICID Partner Institution/ a direct institutional member of ICID in case of availing scholarship(s). In a member country of ICID, NC should endorse the nomination of the YP to become a Coordinator/Joint Coordinator of IYPeF.
 - (d) NCs are encouraged to nominate YPs from their countries using a diversity-based approach.
- 4.2 The Forum will essentially be an e-Forum. Members would have the opportunity to interact with each other through a LinkedIn Group (<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/6990321>) moderated by experts. The network will be different from other such platforms as the active members of the Forum would have the opportunity to interact face to face with each other at the time of the ICID events and training programs.
- 4.3 The activities of the Forum will be monitored and overseen by a group of volunteer young professionals – one coordinator and four joint coordinators - that will link the Forum with ICID network.
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4.4 The Coordinator will also serve as a member of the PCSO.

5. Professional Advantages

The members of the Forum will be able to:

- (a) **Interact** with likeminded young professionals, researchers, and practitioners involved at international level and share resources;
- (b) **Develop relations** for peer to peer learning from around the world and enhance self-potential;
- (c) **Bridge the knowledge gap** between theory and practice by attending the global meetings of ICID and listening to senior professionals;
- (d) **Stay informed** on the latest knowledge in the area of irrigation and drainage through various ICID publications: ICID News, News Update and e-Bulletin, all available online;
- (e) **Benefit** from the latest scientific knowledge available through ICID Journal on Irrigation and Drainage.
- (f) **Access** the resources available in the Integrated Library Management System (ILMS)
- (g) Keep up-to-date on best practices and trends in the field;
- (h) **Advance** professional skills by way of participating in ICID training workshops;
- (i) **Better appreciate** different viewpoints, approaches and cultures from around the world; and
- (j) **Enhance** ability to plan career in the irrigation and drainage sector.

6. Benefits to Young Professionals

- (a) Membership of two WGs of their choice subject to their active participation;
- (b) Liberal concession in registration fee (about 50%) in World Irrigation Forum and ICID's Congress, conferences and events;
- (c) Eligible for WatSave Young Professional Award: An exclusive category (out of four categories) of WatSave Awards, dedicated to Young Professionals (YPs);
- (d) Free on-line subscription of the ICID Journal on Irrigation and Drainage to selected 50 YPs subject to their active participation;
- (e) Eligible for ICID scholarship for participation in ICID events provided a certain level of output is contributed in the form of e-Discussions, preparation of country papers, profiles, outcome summary report, contribution to the ICID Knowledge Base, Multilingual Technical Dictionary (MTD), Products & Services, and scientific publications;
- (f) Participate in Sessions/ RoundTable discussions especially organized for young professionals;
- (g) Eligible to participate in capacity development programs - webinars, training, e-learning and conferences.
- (h) YPs are required to develop country status papers, profiles and contribute to scientific documents (journals/ ICID News) and ICID publications (News Update). These documents will be uploaded on ICID website after respective NCs approval.
- (i) YPs will get a chance to function as session 'Rapporteurs' / 'Secretary' in ICID's Congresses, WIFs and other events.

7. Broad Rules and Regulation

General conditions/rules and regulations for ICID-YPF/ IYPeF will be as follows:

- (a) Professionals willing to join IYPeF can do so using LinkedIn Group URL <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/6990321>
- (b) YP nomination from NCs should be submitted in a prescribed format made available by the Central Office.
- (c) Professional will undertake to follow the core values of ICID and work towards fulfilling its vision.
- (d) ICID CO staff will review Group membership and approve and support the experts in moderating the forum and its activities.
- (e) IYPeF Coordinator/Joint Coordinator are be eligible to receive online certificate after completing their term of active participation or on attaining the age of 40.

(f) Election/selection of Joint Coordinators

- i. The Forum members will choose joint-coordinators (maximum 3 nos.) to manage day-to-day affairs of IYPeF.
- ii. In addition, maximum 2 joint coordinators will also be selected from the YP nominations received from NCs.
- iii. One of the joint coordinators will be designated by ICID CO to act as the Coordinator. In case, NCs fail to nominate any candidate ICID CO will nominate two joint coordinators from the panel of elected Joint Coordinators.
- iv. ICID CO will facilitate online election of joint coordinators every year. Based on the active participation in ICID activities/IYPeF, ICID will identify 10 most active members every year from the IYPeF for online election, out of which 3 active YPs will be elected as joint coordinators.
- v. The term of coordinator and joint coordinators will be for a year which can be extended to a maximum period of 3 years based on the performance in e-Discussions, preparation of country papers, profiles, outcome summary report, contribution to Multilingual Technical Dictionary (MTD), Products & Services and scientific publications. After the term of the Coordinator is over, one of the joint coordinators shall be considered as the coordinator to ensure continuity.
- vi. Out going coordinator/ joint coordinator will join IYPeF virtual meetings as observers and provide guidance to the new team.

(g) Sponsorship of YPs to ICID Events

- i. Generally 10 YPs will be sponsored every year to ICID Annual events out of which 5 YPs will be from IYPeF and 5 YPs from the nominations received from NCs.
- ii. ICID will cover participation of coordinator and joint coordinators under YP scholarship to ICID annual events.
- iii. YPs completing the term will be eligible for next sponsorship after a cooling period of 3 years in case they continue to contribute to ICID activities especially strengthening their country's NC, where it exists.

(h) Duties & Responsibilities

- i. A completion report needs to be prepared and submitted to Central Office by each YP coordinator to highlight how this program has benefitted them as well as their country's NC and also share the report with their respective NC for considering
- ii. his/her nomination for next term. In case of non-existence of NC in any country, the YP needs to highlight the individual work done to raise the profile of ICID and encourage or facilitate the formation of NC in his/her own country.
- iii. To organize and manage e-Discussions; preparation of country papers, profiles, outcome summary report of event(s) participated, contribution to Multilingual Technical Dictionary (MTD), collecting data for enriching Products & Services directory; and scientific publications.
- iv. The YP selected from any country will have to connect with the NC of their respective country and liaise with ICID CO to strengthen NC/IYPeF with their active participation. In case of no NC existing, efforts should be made to establish NC or promote Direct Membership.
- v. YPs shall be allowed to join two ICID Working Groups of their choice as its YP members.
- vi. Coordinator and joint coordinators will participate in the allotted workbody activities to brief about activities of IYPeF to the permanent committees.
- vii. Each YP shall contribute to the ICID Knowledge Base in the form of scientific output/ publication/review and metadata of national knowledge resources.

Screen capture of IYPeF

