

**PREPARATORY MEETING FOR THE ESTABLISHING OF  
AMERICAN REGIONAL WORKING GROUP (AMRWG)**

6 November 2023, 09:30-11:00 hours  
Visakhapatnam (Vizag), Andhra Pradesh State, India

**Presented by the Interim Chairman**

**Members Present:** (1) President Prof. Dr. Ragab Ragab (United Kingdom); (2) Vice President Tsugihiko Watanabe (Japan); (3) Vice President Alireza Salamat (Iran); and (4) Er. B. A. Chivate, Director (Technical), ICID Central Office.

**Background:**

1. In the absence of Interim Chair Dr. Warren Helgason (Canada) of American Regional Working Group (AMRWG), President Prof. Dr. Ragab chaired the meeting of the AMRWG and went through the background and necessity for reactivating the American Regional Working Group (AMRWG) which became inactive in 2012. As stated the mandate of the working group is broad basing ICID National Committees in Latin American countries, organizing national and international discussions on relevant scientific and technical issues, and acting as a catalyst for promoting better contact with other relevant international organizations in the region.

2. In brief, to get America involved in the activities of the Commission, VPH Laurie C. Tollefson from Canada communicated with several South American countries to reinvigorate the AMRWG with no success leading to its closure in 2012.

3. To strengthen its membership in America's, ICID has shared a list of Associate Members and New Countries in the Americas and requested VP Tsugihiko Watanabe and VP Alireza Salamat to take up the matter with 'Associate Members' in the assigned region to foster and encourage greater country participation in ICID activities.

4. President Prof. Dr. Ragab has communicated with the Latin American Ministries and their concerned Embassies in India which was later followed up by ICID with no success except Brazil and Jamaica which later became a member of ICID. As mentioned by the ICID President, politics in Latin America is quite dynamic and the high ranks are positioned for a short-term period and are substituted shortly, making strong network is a challenge.

5. **Approvals:** As per the suggestion of President Prof. Dr. Ragab, VP Tsugihiko Watanabe and VP Alireza Salamat were asked to go through the following ways to strengthen the membership in the Americas:

- (a) To follow up and resend required communications to the concerned Ministries in Latin America with Ccs to their Embassies in India. The main communication should formally reach the ministries via the embassies.
- (b) President who will shortly be elected (during Vizag 2023 ICID annual meetings) may travel to the Latin American countries to approach relevant ministries and raise the importance of their contribution to ICID activities face to face.
- (c) ICID CO may invite the Latin American Embassy representatives in New Delhi to its Office to highlight the importance of their contribution which is a win-win situation. This will facilitate the process.
- (d) The following focal persons are to be contacted by VP Tsugihiko Watanabe as well as VP Alireza Salamat to receive their advice and assistance to reactivate the AMRWG: Mr. Brian Wahlin (USA), Mr. Franck Dimick (USA), VPH Laurie Tollefson (Canada) and Mr. Chandra Madramootoo (Canada).
- (e) VP Salamat and VP Watanabe will follow up on the matter of organizing the 1<sup>st</sup> American Regional Conference in December 2024 onwards with the above-mentioned focal persons.
- (f) The above Conference revenues may be used to pay America's pending annual subscription fees.

Er. B.A. Chivate, Director (Technical), ICID Central Office thanked the President Prof Dr. Ragab and Vice Presidents Watanabe & Salamat for accepting to take up the above-mentioned issue.

**Any other business:**

