Mandate: The general objective of the Asian Regional Working Group is to focus on common topics and issues and to enhance the transfer of appropriate technology in irrigation and drainage to and from the Asian Region. The mission of ASRWG is to encourage membership and coordinate activities in the region.

Members present: (1) Vice President Dr. Tszugihiro Watanabe, Chairman (Japan); (2) Dr. Vijay K. Labhsetwar, Vice Chair (India); (3) Dr. Aygur Fayrap, Secretary (Turkey); (4) Mr. Momir Vranes (Australia); (5) Mr. Dang Ping (China); (6) Ms. Li Ruoxi – Young Professional (China); (7) Dr. Ray-Shyan Wu (Chinese Taipei Committee); (8) Dr. Wen Pen Shu represented by Chun-Hung Chan (Chinese Taipei Committee); (9) Mr. Rajni Kant Agrawal, Direct Member, WAPCOS represented by Mr. Amit Gupta (India); (10) Vice President Dr. Mohhammad Amron (Indonesia); (11) Vice President Hon. Karim Shiat represented by Dr. Narges Zohrafi (Iran); (12) Eng. (Ms.) Zainab Saleem – Young Professional represented by Vice President Rafat Nael (Iraq); (13) Mrs. Shaimaa Shihab Ahmed represented by Eng. Nisreen Sami (Iraq); (14) Ir. Syed Abdul Hamid bin Syed Shuib represented by Vice President Nor Hisham Ghazali (Malaysia); (15) Mr. Ahmed Kamal represented by Vice President Hon. Waseem Nazir (Pakistan); (16) Eng. W.B. Palugaswewa represented by Mr. Janaka Priyanthan (Sri Lanka); (17) Mr. Arthon Suttigarn (Thailand).

New nominees present: (i) Mr. Chih-Sheng Chen (Chinese Taipei Committee); (ii) Mr. Toru Okuda (Japan); (iii) Mr. Mohamed Radzi Bin Abdul Talib (Malaysia); (iv) Eng. (Ms.) Talatha Janaki Meegastenna represented by Mr. Janaka Priyanthan (Sri Lanka).

Office Bearer Hon. present: (1) President Hon. Keizrul bin Abdullah (Malaysia); (2) Vice President Hon. Dr. Willem Vlotman (Australia); (3) Vice President Hon. Dr. Ding Kunlun (China); (4) Vice President Hon. Dr. Hafied Gany (Indonesia).

Observers: (1) Mr. Richard McLoughlin (Australia); (2) Dr. Ruey-Chy Kao (Chinese Taipei Committee); (3) Hao-Che Ho (Chinese Taipei Committee); (4) Chun-Hung Chan (Chinese Taipei Committee); (5) Dr. Mikiko Suguri (Japan); (6) Ms. Nana Ishikawa (Japan); (7) Dr. Naoko Koshiyama (Japan); (8) Dr. Ir. Susilawati (Indonesia); (9) Sarwo Edhy (Indonesia); (10) Foyya Aquino (Indonesia); (11) Maria Kurniawati (Indonesia); (12) Vicki Ariyanti (Indonesia), (13) Ir. Mohd Azmi Ismail (Malaysia); (14) Dr. Ahmad Anuar Othman (Malaysia); (15) Eng. Ahmad bin Darus (Malaysia); (16) Ir. Abdullah Isnin (Malaysia); (17) Jin Yong Choi (South Korea); (18) Seung-Won Lee (South Korea); (19) Dr. Bahrom Gaforzoda (Tajikistan); (20) Mr. Rauf Yuldashov (Tajikistan); (21) Ahmet Seren (Turkey); (22) Ijsbrand De Jong (World Bank).

Website: http://icid-ciid.org/inner_page/104

The Chair, Vice President of ICID, Dr. Watanabe welcomed all the members and expressed his happiness and satisfaction over the large number of participants present in the meeting.

ASRWG Minutes Item 1: Review of the membership

1. As for new members, Dr. Robin Kumar Biswas (Bangladesh), Dr. (Ms.) Nazmun Nahar Karim (Bangladesh), Ms. Talatha Janaki Meegastenna (Sri Lanka) were present during the virtual meeting of the WG on 28 February 2002 and therefore, provisionally admitted to WG. JNCID nominated Mr. Toru Okuda in place of VPH Mr. Naoki Hatashida and CTCID nominated Mr. Tony Chih-Sheng Chen (Chinese Taipei Committee), for the membership of WG. Mr. Tony Chih-Sheng Chen (Chinese Taipei) and Mr. Toru Okuda (Japan), both were present during the meeting and introduced themselves to the group and hence, were accepted as ‘Members’ of the working group.

2. The Malaysian National Committee (MANCID) proposed the nomination of Mr. Mohamed Radzi Bin Abdul Talib in place of Mr. IR. HJ. Ahmad Bin Darus. Mr. Mohamed Talib was present and expressed his strong interest in joining the WG. ICID Central Office received a formal nomination from MANCID. Membership status is given in Annex 3 (page 29).

3. As far reactivation of NCs, the ICID Central Office sent letters on behalf of President Dr. Ragab Ragab to the countries of Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Jordan, Kuwait, Laos, Lebanon, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Syria, Yemen during the year and requested their Ministry of Water Resources/ Agriculture to join the membership of ICID. In
response, Vice President Jin-Yong Choi (South Korea) kindly offered (25 July 2022) to support the first-year membership subscription for Laos to join the membership of ICID.

ASRWG Minutes Item 2: Action taken report by the Chair

4. The Chair presented a brief report of the actions taken and the decisions made since the 28th meeting of the WG held in November 2021 in Morocco.

5. During the Adelaide meeting, the Chair enumerated the actions taken as below:

(a) The 1st interim (virtual) meeting was held on 28 February 2022
(b) The discussions on the Technical Report and Workshops have been initiated (03 March and 19 May 2022).
(c) The proposal/format for the Technical Report (TR) shared and discussed (20 May 2022).
(d) The structure of the Country Case Studies (CCS) shared and discussed (20 May 2022).
(e) The areas of collaboration with IACID for ARC9 have been discussed.
(f) The organization of the internal/international workshops have been initiated.
(g) The other pertinent issues, such as the website, etc., have also been discussed.
(h) The 2nd interim (virtual) meeting was held on 20 September 2022.
(i) Drafting process of the CCS for TR was discussed, and the design of the internal workshop during the 73rd IEC on the CCSs was finalized.

ASRWG Minutes Item 3: Brief of the virtual meetings organized

6. The Chair briefed the members about the organization of the virtual meeting on 28 February 2022 wherein 14 members were present in addition to four new nominees. Most of the actions described above (Item 2) were discussed and finalized during the virtual meeting. The 2nd virtual meeting was held on 20 September 2022 to firm up the attendance of the members at Adelaide and make the Country Case Studies (CCS) presentations in Session II of the meeting. The Chair emphasized the importance of bringing out the Technical Report and releasing it during the 9th Asian Regional Conference in Sydney in 2024.

ASRWG Minutes Item 4: Road Map to ICID Vision 2030 – Status of activities

7. The WG reviewed the Action Plan on the Road Map to ICID Vision 2030 during the meeting (refer to Annex). The two major tasks assigned to Task Team (TT) for achieving Strategy C4.21, were: (1) to continue actions for preparing the Technical Report to be released at the ARC9, and (2) to continue discussions on topics/subtopics for the internal and international workshops. The provisional title of the Technical Report is “Irrigation and Drainage for Asian Food Security”.

ASRWG Minutes Item 5: Collaboration with IACID for the 9th Asian Regional Conference, September 2024, Australia

8. The Chair briefed the members about the areas of collaboration with IACID:

(a) Development of theme and sub-theme of ARC9 and International Workshops
(b) The program of ARC9
(c) Review papers
(d) Promote ARC9
(e) Organize YP Training on “Advances, techniques, and modernization of the irrigation systems”
(f) Organize a workshop on ‘Australian experiences on modernization’

9. However, no representative from IACID was available for making any comments/observations. A side meeting was sought with IACID members to discuss the collaboration but it could not be materialized.

10. The group noted that the 9th Asian Regional Conference (ARC9) will be held from 01-07 September 2024 in Sydney, Australia.
ASRWG Minutes Item 5.1: Progress on the technical report / Country Case Studies of the group

11. A Task Team (TT) has been established, chaired by Dr. Vijay K Labhsetwar, Vice Chair of the WG. Dr. Labhsetwar discussed and described the proposal/format for the Technical Report. The Technical Report of ASRWG is likely to have the following structure:

(a) Part I. Introduction (Scope, propose, etc.),
(b) Part II. International perspective on Asian food security (invited papers from international organizations),
(c) Part III. Country strategies for food security from ASRWG/ICID member countries, and
(d) Part IV. Way Forward: Asian strategy for food security

12. The Part III above would consist of the Country Case Studies (CCS) from ICID member countries and may have the following structure: 1) Introduction (Geography, etc.); 2) Population (Status, density in agricultural, etc.); 3) Climate and rainfall (Temperature, snow, etc.); 4) Area under agriculture, irrigation and drained lands (Status, GCA/CCA, crop production land use, etc.); 5) Role of water resources management (Water resource development, top 3 dams and capacity, reduce gap between irrigation potential and utilized, water policy and governance, investments, reclaiming waterlogged/saline lands, etc.); 6) Intercessions for food security (Food bank, infrastructure, etc.); 7) Role of research and development (Appropriate technology, effective capacity development, database, Innovative crop management technologies, etc.); 8) Progress in reducing food insecurity (Food stocks, goals, the impact of COVID-19, etc.); 9) Way Forward: A country strategy for food security; and 10) References.

Dr. Labhsetwar browsed through the draft CCS-India and hoped that other members will follow suit. So far, Australia, India, Indonesia, Japan, Turkey, Bangladesh, China, Iran, Iraq, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka have expressed their consent to contribute.

13. Ten CCS Reports (Australia, China, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Japan, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Tajikistan, and Turkey) in the form of a PPT presentation were presented in Session II of the WG Meeting. To reflect the international perspective in the report, FAO, IWMI, and World Bank have been contacted by the Chair and Vice Chair. Hence, the progress on the preparation of the Technical Report of the WG was satisfactory.

ASRWG Minutes Item 5.2: Organization of Internal/International Workshops

14. Ten member countries (Australia, China, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Japan, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, and Turkey) presented their CCS during the Internal Workshop in the second half of the ASRWG meeting. The organization of the internal workshop would continue in 2023 to get more reports from some other member countries. A meeting was sought with IACID members to discuss the international workshops but it could not be materialized.

ASRWG Minutes Item 6: Strengthening linkages among NCs

15. The WG re-recognized that the linkages among NCs of the member countries need to be strengthened and close/smooth communication among the WG members also needs to be established.

ASRWG Minutes Item 7: Collaboration with the International Society of Paddy and Water Environment Engineering (PAWEEES) and the International Network of Water Environment and Paddy Fields (INWEPF)

16. The ASRWG has long been cooperating with PAWEEES and INWEPF as they have common mutual interests. The Chair informed the members of the past events and upcoming activities of PAWEEES and INWEPF, and the association of ASRWG with them.

ASRWG Minutes Item 8: Interim online meeting of the working group

17. The group noted that the next 74th IEC face-to-face meeting is planned to be held during 16-22 April 2023 in Beijing, China, and therefore not more than one interim meeting may be possible before the planned 74th IEC in 2023.

ASRWG Minutes Item 9: Working Group webpage update

18. As a new initiative, ICID has launched a new website (https://icid-ciid.org) as part of ICID’s 70th Anniversary Celebration to meet the new web technologies, Members were requested to review and update their information
using their credentials and help ICID Central Office to maintain accurate information. The presentations made during the Session II will be collected and uploaded on the ICID website/ WG webpage.

**ASRWG Minutes Item 10: 14th International Drainage Workshop, September 2023 in Tajikistan**

19. Mr. Rauf Yuldashev from the Tajikistan National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (TajNCID) presented a proposal to organize the 14th International Drainage Workshop (IDW) on the topic “Modernization of irrigation and drainage systems for adaptation to climate change and sustainable development” in September 2023 at Dushanbe in the Republic of Tajikistan. The PCTA/IEC may take a view on the subject.

**ASRWG Minutes Item 11: Any other business**

20. Regarding the **World Irrigation and Drainage Schemes (WI&DS)**, Chair encouraged members to urge all irrigation and drainage scheme owners, managers, and researchers across the world and especially in their respective countries for contributing to the register. The review process and other details were outlined on the portal <https://wip.icidevents.org/> in detail.

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### ROAD MAP TO ICID VISION 2030 – ACTIVITIES OF WORK BODIES

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<th>Goals/Strategies</th>
<th>Activities</th>
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<td>3.5 Enhance Linkages between National Committees for International Cooperation</td>
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<td>3.6 Broaden relationship and mutual understanding and cooperation between NCs from developing countries and developed countries</td>
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<td>3.7 International conference/workshop/seminar</td>
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<td><strong>C4. Strategy:</strong> Compile, Collate and Share Knowledge and Experiences</td>
<td>4.4 Special joint Publication on Agricultural Water Management for Sustainable Rural Development</td>
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<td><strong>D3. Strategy:</strong> Facilitate Development of Inter-sectoral Platforms Involving NCs</td>
<td>3.1 Developing inter-sectoral engagement</td>
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<th>Outcomes/Outputs</th>
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<td>Compilation of proceedings</td>
<td>Review of the Process, Organization, and Outcomes of the 8th Asian Regional Conference, May 2019, Nepal</td>
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<td>Technical Report (&quot;Contribution of Agricultural Water to the Rural Development in Asia&quot; was published in 2018)</td>
<td>Workshop on Irrigation and Drainage for Asian Food Security in Asia, in 73rd IEC, Oct. 2022, Australia</td>
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<td>Workshops on Irrigation and Drainage for Asian Food Security in Asia, in 7th IEC, Apr. 2023, China, and 75th IEC, Nov. 2023, India</td>
<td>The formal release of the Report at 9th ARC, Sep. 2025, Australia</td>
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(Source: Consultative Group (CG) Report: A Water Secure World Free of Poverty & Hunger: A Road Map to ICID Vision 2030)