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**Year of Establishment: 1996**

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**Mandate:** The general objective of the Asian Regional Working Group (ASRWG) 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 to coordinate activities in the region.

**Members present:** (1) Vice President Hon. Dr. Tsugihiko Watanabe, Chair (Japan); (2) Dr. Vijay K. Labhsetwar, Vice Chair (India); (3) Ms. Li Ruoxi – Young Professional (China); (4) Dr. Ray Shyan Wu (Chinese Taipei Committee); (5) Dr. Gwo-Hsing Yu (Chinese Taipei Committee); (6) Dr. Tony Chih-Sheng Chen (Chinese Taipei Committee); (7) Vice President Hon. Dr. Mochammad Amron (Indonesia); (8) Dr. Masaomi Kimura (Japan); (9) Mr. Sanjeeb Baral (Nepal); (10) Eng. (Ms.) Talatha Janaki Meegastenna (Sri Lanka); (11) Prof. (Ms.) Kyung Sook Choi (South Korea); (12) Dr. Arthon Suttigarn (Thailand); (13) Dr. (Ms.) Nutchant Sriwongsitanon (Thailand).

**New nominees:** (i) Vice President Dr. Bakhrom Gaforzoda (Tajikistan); (ii) Mr. Sharif Mahmudov (Tajikistan)

**Office Bearer:** (i) Vice President Dr. Vadim Sokolov (Uzbekistan); and (ii) Vice President Dr. Sylvester Mpandeli (South Africa)

**Observers:** (1) Dr. Keita Amadou (Burkina Faso); (2) Dr. Liu, Jih Shun (Chinese Taipei Committee); (3) Dr. Liao, Kuo-Wei (Chinese Taipei Committee); (4) Mr. Hao-Tian Cheng (Chinese Taipei Committee); (5) Ms. Alexia Michels – ADB (India); (6) Dr. Alok Sikka – IWMI (India); (7) Mr. Toshiki Fujimoto (Japan); (8) Mr. Keisuke Nakayama (Japan); (9) Mr. Shin Takano (Japan); (10) Dr. Kenji Miyagawa (Japan); (11) Dr. Yukitoshi Takanashi (Japan); (12) Engr. Salau Rahmon Abiodun (Nigeria); (13) Dr. Luxon Nhamo (South Africa); (14) Dr. Stanley Liphadzi (South Africa); (15) Mr. Majid Hamidov (Tajikistan); (16) Mr. Rasu Suepsahakarn (Thailand); (17) Mr. Chonnapat Menchasompop (Thailand); (18) Dr. (Ms.) Areeya Rittima (Thailand).

**Website:** <https://icid-ciid.org/wbody/ASRWG>

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**Opening and Welcome:** The Chair, VPH Dr. Tsugihiko Watanabe (Japan), welcomed all members and participants to the 32nd meeting of the Asian Regional Working Group (ASRWG). The Chair highlighted the Group's continued focus on promoting cooperation among Asian countries on irrigation, drainage, and water management, aligned with ICID's Vision 2030.

**Minutes Item 1: Review of the membership**

1. The group reviewed the following new nominations received for the membership of the WG:

- (i) Dr. Bakhrom Gaforzoda, Vice President, ICID (Tajikistan)
- (ii) Mr. Sharif Mahmudov (Tajikistan)
- (iii) Mr. Yuldoshev Umedjon (Tajikistan)
- (iv) Eng. Mohammed Abdullah Al-Samhan (Saudi Arabia)

2. The Group confirmed the regular membership of Dr. Bakhrom Gaforzoda and Mr. Sharif Mahmudov, both from Tajikistan, as they attended the meeting in Malaysia and have actively participated in previous meetings. Mr. Yuldoshev Umedjon (Tajikistan) and Eng. Mohammed Abdullah Al-Samhan (Saudi Arabia) were accepted as 'Provisional Member' for one year due to their absence from the meeting.

3. The Group reviewed the memberships of non-participating members from Bangladesh, Iran, Chinese Taipei Committee, Malaysia, Myanmar, and Sri Lanka. Based on the responses received, the memberships of Dr. Gwo-Hsing Yu from the Chinese Taipei Committee, Dr. Robin Kumar Biswas from Bangladesh, and Mr. Mohamad Radzi Bin Abdul Talib from Malaysia will be continued. However, the memberships of VPH Dr. Karim Shiasi from Iran, Dr. (Ms.) Mu Mu Than from Myanmar, and Engr. W.B. Palugaswewa from Sri Lanka may be discontinued, and fresh nominations may be invited from their respective countries. Membership status can be found in **Annex 3, page 21**.

**Minutes Item 2: Action taken report by the Chair**

4. The Chair reported on actions taken since the previous meeting (Sydney, 2024). Key developments included:
- (a) Conduct of virtual meetings on 10 March, 28 May, and 25 July 2025
  - (b) Progress on the Road Map to ICID Vision 2030.
  - (c) Preparations for the Special Session on 'Optimizing Water Use in Paddy Irrigation with Advanced Sensing Technologies' during WIF4.
  - (d) Coordination for the Internal Workshop scheduled on 11 September 2025.

**Minutes Item 3: Virtual meetings organized during the year**

5. Three virtual meetings were held successfully during 2025 and discussed the ongoing activities, membership updates, and Special Session coordination during WIF4 and the Internal Workshop. The minutes of these meetings are available on the ICID website at [https://icid-ciid.org/inner\\_page/152](https://icid-ciid.org/inner_page/152).

**Minutes Item 4: Road Map to ICID Vision 2030 – Status**

6. The Chair presented an update on the implementation of activities aligned with ICID Vision 2030 (refer **Annex 1**). Achievements included:
- (a) Successful completion of the 2024 International Workshop on '*Agricultural Water Management for Food Security: More than Modernization*' during ARC9 at Sydney, Australia
  - (b) Finalization of the Technical Report on '*Irrigation and Drainage for Food Security in Asia*', since released during ARC9 at Sydney, Australia
  - (c) The Internal Workshop focusing on the Technical Report was successfully organized during the 75th IEC meeting at Sydney, Australia
  - (d) Additional work is in progress to include case studies from countries not covered in the published Technical Report
  - (e) Successful completion of the Special Session on '*Optimizing Water Use in Paddy Irrigation with Advanced Sensing Technologies*' on 10 September during WIF4
  - (f) Ongoing efforts to strengthen regional collaboration and exchange

**Minutes Item 5: Special Session on “Optimizing Water Use in Paddy Irrigation with Advanced Sensing Technologies”, 10 September 2025**

7. The Special Session, held on 10 September 2025, focused on emerging technologies for efficient water management in paddy cultivation. Prof. Dr. Nuchanart Sriwongsitanon (Thailand) successfully coordinated the session with the support of Vice Chair Dr. Vijay K. Labhsetwar. Speakers from Thailand, South Korea, Japan, Tajikistan, and representatives from ADB and IWMI participated. The session emphasized the application of advanced sensing and monitoring tools, reduction of water use, enhancement of rice productivity, and integration of technology-driven solutions.

**Minutes Item 6: Organization of the Internal Workshop**

8. The Internal Workshop was scheduled during Session II of the ASRWG annual meeting on 11 September 2025. Contributions were received from Nepal and Uzbekistan for inclusion in the next issue of the ASRWG Technical Report. Vice Chair Dr. Vijay K. Labhsetwar (India) coordinated the workshop. Besides country reports on '*Irrigation and Drainage for Food Security*' from Nepal (Mr. Sanjeeb Baral) and Uzbekistan (Dr. Vadim Sokolov), Mr. Shin Takano (JNCID) presented '*Future directions on overseas agriculture (MAFF, Japan)*'. IWMI (Dr. Alok Sikka) and ADB (Ms. Alexia Michels) made their presentations on '*Urgent Issues in Irrigation and Drainage in the Asian Region: ASRWG's Immediate Action Plan*'. Lastly, the Chair Dr. Watanabe, discussed the '*Challenges and R&D in water management for food security – International and National perspectives*' based on ASRWG's Technical Report published in 2024.

**Minutes Item 7: Strengthening linkages among NCs**

9. Members from Iran and Tajikistan reported on their joint meeting held on 29 September 2024 in Tehran, which strengthened bilateral collaboration on agricultural water management. It was agreed that such regional linkages and MoUs should continue to be encouraged. Dr. Vadim Sokolov (Uzbekistan) informed of their bilateral relations with Afghanistan. The Chair encouraged the members to enhance inter-country cooperation and knowledge exchange.

**Minutes Item 8: Collaboration with the International Society of Paddy and Water Environment Engineering (PAWEES) and International Network of Water Environment and Paddy Fields (INWEPF)**

10. The Group noted successful collaboration with PAWEES (International Society of Paddy and Water Environment Engineering) and INWEPF (International Network of Water Environment and Paddy Fields). Outcomes from the 19th INWEPF Steering Meeting and Symposium held in Chonburi, Thailand (12–14 December 2024) were discussed. The next INWEPF Meeting will be held from 12-14 November 2025 at Otsu City in Japan. The PAWEES International Conference 2024, themed “Integrating the Water–Energy–Food Nexus for Sustainable Agricultural Advancement,” was held in Taichung, Taiwan, from 23 to 25 October 2024. The PAWEES International Conference 2025 will be held in Morioka, Japan, on 27 and 28 October 2025, with the main theme “Challenges and Innovations for Sustainable Paddy Agriculture with Climate Resilience and/or Ecosystem Services.” Future joint activities were proposed for 2026, including workshops and joint publications.

**Minutes Item 9: ICID Members’ Profile Section – Status**

11. Members were reminded to regularly update their member's profile by visiting the ICID ASRWG website <https://icid-ciid.org/wbody/ASRWG>.

**Minutes Item 10: World Irrigation and Drainage Schemes (WI&DS) - updates**

12. The Chair briefed the Group on the World Irrigation and Drainage Schemes (WI&DS) initiative—an online register documenting global irrigation schemes over 5,000 hectares. Members were urged to encourage national agencies and experts to submit data for inclusion in this database.

**Minutes Item 11: Any other business (with permission of the Chair)**

13. The Chair thanked all participants for their active engagement and valuable contributions. He also appreciated the ICID Central Office for administrative support. The Chair will present the ASRWG report to the PCSO meeting on 11 September 2025. The first virtual meeting of the group may be organized in December 2025 or early 2026.



**Annex 1 [Item 4]**

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

Goals/ Strategies	Activities	Outcomes/ Outputs	Milestone for 2021	Milestone for 2022	Milestone for 2023	Milestone for 2024	Milestone for 2025
<b>C3. Strategy:</b> Promoting Regional Cooperation	3.5 Enhance Linkages between National Committees for International Cooperation	Technical Report	Enhancement of Linkages between NCs for International Cooperation through Knowledge Sharing and Event organization	Enhancement of Linkages between NCs for International Cooperation through Knowledge Sharing and Event organization	Enhancement of Linkages between NCs for International Cooperation through Knowledge Sharing and Event organization	Enhancement of Linkages between NCs for International Cooperation through Knowledge Sharing and Event organization	Enhancement of Linkages between NCs for International Cooperation through Knowledge Sharing and Event organization
	3.6 Broaden relationship and mutual understanding and cooperation between NCs from developing countries and developed countries	Collaboration/ MoU	Exchange visits/ training between NCs MoU between NCs	Exchange visits/ training between NCs MoU between NCs	Exchange visits/ training between NCs MoU between NCs	Exchange visits/ training between NCs MoU between NCs	Exchange visits/ training between NCs MoU between NCs
	3.7 International conference/ workshop/ seminar	Compilation of proceedings	Review of the Process, Organization, and Outcomes of the 8th Asian Regional Conference, May 2018, Nepal	MoU between NCs Participation in 9th World Water Forum(WWF9), March 2022, Senegal Participation in 4th Asia-Pacific Water Summit (APWS4), April 2022, Japan	Collaborated Preparatory Works for the 9th Asian Regional Conference with IACID	Workshop in 9th Asian Regional Conference, Sep. 2024, Australia.	Special Session “Optimizing Water Use in Paddy Irrigation with Advanced Sensing Technologies”,in the 4 <sup>th</sup> World Irrigation Forum, Sep. 2025, Malaysia
<b>C4. Strategy:</b> Compile, Collate and Share Knowledge and Experiences	4.4 Special joint Publication on Agricultural Water Management for Sustainable Rural Development	Side Event with AARDO (African-Asian Rural Development Organization) (held in 2018)					
			WG Workshops on Impacts of COVID-19 on Agricultural Water Management in Asia				
	4.21 Report on “Contribution of Agricultural Water to the Rural Development in Asia”	Technical Report was published in 2018		Workshop on Irrigation and Drainage for Asian Food Security in Asia, in 73rd IEC, Oct. 2022, Australia	Workshops on Irrigation and Drainage for Asian Food Security in Asia, in 74th IEC, Nov. 2023, India	The formal release of the Report at 9th ARC, Sep. 2024, Australia	The update of the Report “Irrigation and Drainage for Food Security in Asia”
<b>D3. Strategy:</b> Facilitate Development of Intersectoral Platforms Involving NCs	3.1 Developing inter-sectoral engagement		Collaboration with PAWEES and INWEPF	Collaboration with PAWEES and INWEPF	Collaboration with PAWEES and INWEPF	Collaboration with PAWEES and INWEPF	Collaboration with PAWEES and INWEPF
			Organizing multisectoral events /workshops	Organizing multisectoral events /workshops	Organizing multisectoral events /workshops	Organizing multisectoral events /workshops	Organizing multisectoral events /workshops

(Source: Consultative Group (CG) Report: A Water Secure World Free of Poverty & Hunger: A Road Map to ICID Vision 2030)

