

**MINUTES OF THE 31ST MEETING OF THE
ASIAN REGIONAL WORKING GROUP (ASRWG)**

04 September 2024, 08:30-10:00 hours (Session I) and 10:30-12:00 hours (Session II)
Sydney, Australia

Year of Establishment: 1996

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 to coordinate activities in the region.

Members present: (1) Vice President Dr. Tsugihiko Watanabe, Chair (Japan); (2) Dr. Vijay K. Labhsetwar, Vice Chair (India); (3) Mr. David John Cameron (Australia); (4) Mr. Momir Vranes (Australia); (5) Ms. Li Ruoxi – Young Professional (China); (6) Dr. Tony Chih-Sheng Chen (Chinese Taipei Committee); (7) Mr. Toru Okuda (Japan); (8) VPH Dr. Mochammad Amron (Indonesia); (9) Prof. (Ms.) Kyung-Sook Choi (South Korea).

New nominees: (i) Prof. Dr. (Ms.) Nutchant Sriwongsitanon (Thailand); (ii) Dr. Noppadon Kowsuvon (Thailand); (iii) Mr. Sanjeeb Baral (Nepal).

Office Bearer: President Hon. Keizrul bin Abdullah (Malaysia).

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

ASRWG Minutes Item 1: Review of the membership

1. First of all, Chair Dr. Watanabe welcomed all the participants to the meeting. During the meeting, the group reviewed and accepted Prof. Dr. (Ms.) Nutchant Sriwongsitanon (Thailand), Dr. Noppadon Kowsuvon (Thailand), and Mr. Sanjeeb Baral (Nepal) as Members. Membership status is given in **Annex 3**, page 27.

ASRWG Minutes Item 2: Action taken report by the Chair

2. The Chair presented the action taken report on the decisions and proposals made during the last working group meeting. Chair Dr. Watanabe discussed various actions taken during the period as enumerated in the agenda such as virtual meetings, the technical report, and the international workshop.

ASRWG Minutes Item 3: Road Map to ICID Vision 2030 – Status of activities in the Asian region

3. The Action Plan on the Road Map to ICID Vision 2030 was reviewed (**Annex**). One of the main tasks assigned to the Task Team (TT) was to achieve Strategy C4.21 and prepare the Technical Report on 'Irrigation and Drainage for Food Security in Asia', which was released by President Marco Arcieri during the Opening Ceremony of the 9th Asian Regional Conference from 02 September 2024 at Sydney, Australia. While Chair Watanabe thanked all the members, Vice Chair Dr. Vijay Labhsetwar briefly introduced the e-book and profusely thanked all the contributing National Committees and International Organizations.

4. The WG reviewed the Road Map and the Chair informed the members that the mandated activities such as (1) International Workshop on '*Agricultural Water Management for Food Security: More than Modernization*' in Cooperation with IACID was successfully organized on 01 September 2024, and (2) the Technical Report on '*Irrigation and Drainage for Food Security in Asia*' has been successfully completed as per the mandate and the Road Map.

5. Dr. (Ms.) Nutchant Sriwongsitanon (Thailand) proposed to organize an International Workshop on Water Use Efficiency Aspects of Paddy Irrigation or Productivity Issues. It is proposed to organize this workshop during the WIF4 (2025) in Malaysia. The actual topic/ subtopic will be discussed during the upcoming virtual meetings. Alternatively, PH Dr. Keizrul bin Abdullah proposed organizing a Side Event on the subject at WIF4. The actual topics and format will be discussed in due course. Dr. (Ms.) Nutchant is expected to lead this activity.

ASRWG Minutes Item 4: Collaboration with IACID for the 9th Asian Regional Conference, September 2024, Australia

6. Chair Dr. Watanabe profoundly thanked the IACID for their constant support and cooperation all through several years of planning and preparations for the 9th Asian Regional Conference (ARC). The collaboration has involved numerous physical and virtual meetings, as well as hundreds of e-mail exchanges since 2018. The collaboration resulted in the successful organization of the 9th ARC, Internal and International Workshops besides bringing out the technical publication of ASRWG on '*Irrigation & Drainage for Food Security in Asia*'. The Chair expressed special thanks to Mr. David Cameron, Mr. Momir Vranes, and Ms. Naomi Carraher of IAL/IACID for their untiring support and cooperation.

7. Dr. Vijay Labhsetwar, the Vice Chair informed that e-publication of the WG on *"Irrigational and Drainage for Food Security for Asia"* included Technical Reports viz. Sri Lanka, Chinese Taipei Committee, Australia, Turkey, China, India, Indonesia, South Korea and Japan. Besides the above, two reports from International Organizations (IWMI and ADB) have also been included. Finally, the e-book was released in a special ceremony at the 9th Asian Regional Conference and 75th IEC meeting on 01 September 2024 at ICC Sydney, Australia. The e-book will be shortly available for download on the ICID Website.

ASRWG Minutes Item 4.1: Organization of International Workshop in September 2024, Australia

8. As per commitment/mandate, an International Workshop on *'Agricultural Water Management for Food Security: More than Modernization'* was held on 01 September 2024 with good attendance. It was organized and coordinated by IACID in cooperation with ASRWG. With efforts and coordination from Mr. Michel Scooby of IACID, the workshop was held successfully. The WG will bring out a short Technical Note on the Workshop.

9. The workshop was coordinated by Mr. Michael Scobie, University of Southern Queensland and the opening remarks were made by Prof. Tsugihiko Watanabe, VP ICID and Chair ASRWG. The other speakers were: Mr. Richard McLoughlin, Former Australian Government officer including National Water Commission; PHDr. Gao Zhanyi (China); Mr. Steve Attard, Agritech Solutions; Mr. Yaozhou Zhou, ADB; Mr. Erik Schmidt, Industry Fellow, University of Southern Queensland; Dr. Alok Sikka IWMI Representative- India & Bangladesh; Mr. Peter Smith, Sapphire Irrigation Consulting; and Dr. Vijay Labhsetwar, Vice Chair ASRWG.

10. The Chair Watanabe thanked each one of the above speakers especially Mr. Michael Scobie for their time and active participating in the workshop.

ASRWG Minutes Item 4.2: Organization of Internal Workshop in September 2024, Australia

11. The internal workshop on *'Irrigation and Drainage for Food Security in Asia'* was successfully organized during the Session II of the Annual Meeting at Sydney. Concerned members/ authors made their presentations based on their submissions during this workshop. The workshop was well attended with no chairs to spare. With efforts and meticulous coordination from Vice Chair Dr. Vijay Labhsetwar, the workshop was held successfully.

12. Chair, Prof. Tsugihiko Watanabe opened the workshop and HE Mr. Kenji Seiyama (MAFF, Japan) made the opening remarks. The other speakers were: Mr. Yaozhou Zhou in place of Mr. Lance Gore, ADB; Dr. Alok Sikka, IWMI Representative- India & Bangladesh; Mr. Momir Vraines, IACID; Ms. Li Ruoxi in place of Dr. Dang Ping, China; Mr. Toru OKUDA, Japan; Dr. Vijay K Labhsetwar, India; VPH Dr. Mochammad Amron, Indonesia; Mr. Seulgi Lee for Kyung-Sook Choi, South Korea; and Dr. Tony Chih-Sheng Chen, Chinese Taipei Committee.

13. Unfortunately, Dr. (Ms.) Aynur Fayrap (Turkey) and Eng (Ms.) Janaki Meegastenna (Sri Lanka), though contributed to the technical report, were unable to be physically present to make their presentation.

14. Chair Watanabe thanked each one of the above speakers and especially Vice Chair Dr. Vijay Labhsetwar for their time and active participating in the workshop.

ASRWG Minutes Item 5: Brief report of 14th International Drainage Workshop in 2024, Tajikistan

15. Mr. Sharif Mahmudov together with Dr. Bahrom Gaforzoda from the TajNCID were present and informed that the 14th International Drainage Workshop (IDW) on *"Modernization of irrigation and drainage systems for adaptation to climate change and sustainable development"* was held from 30 May to 01 June 2024 in Dushanbe, Republic of Tajikistan. Mr. Sharif informed that the Agency for Land Reclamation and Irrigation organized the event with the support of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan and international development partners. He also informed the group that many Office Bearers and others from ICID also attended the event. The event was well attended. Mr. Sharif Mahmudov was expected to share the proceedings of the workshop in due course of time.

ASRWG Minutes Item 6: Strengthening linkages among NCs

16. During the Vizag meeting, the chair informed that while strengthening linkages among NCs is important, there is still a lack of mutual linkages between the NCs. It is anticipated that efforts will be made to strengthen the connections between NCs. MANCID, TajNCID, and JNCID-CNCID reported their collaboration with some other NCs and introduced the collaborated work.

17. PH Dr. Keizrul bin Abdullah (Malaysia) informed the group about their annual conference and collaboration with Thailand, the Philippines, and others. Mr. Sharif Mahmudov informed the group about their collaboration with Iran, which involved exchanging expert members and technical tours in both countries. A short report from each of these organizers is expected in due course of time.

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

18. The Chair provided updated information about the collaboration with PAWEES and INWEPF as follows:

- (a) The International Conference of PAWEES 2023 was held from 23 to 25 October 2023 in Busan, Korea, and PAWEES 2024 will be held from 23 to 25 October 2024 in Chinese Taipei.
- (b) INWEPF organized some activities during WWF10 in cooperation with ICID and JNCID in Bali. The 19th Steering Meeting of INWEPF will be held from 3-11 December 2024 in Pattaya, Thailand, and the 20th Governing Council Meeting will be held in November 2025, in Japan (tbc).

19. More details will be shared by the Chair when available.

ASRWG Minutes Item 8: Working Group webpage update

20. The group noted that the ICID Central Office requested all the members to share their innovative ideas for improving the ASRWG website. The existing-updated website of the group is available at https://icid-ciid.org/inner_page/104

ASRWG Minutes Item 9: World Irrigation and Drainage Schemes (WI&DS)

21. The Chair shared a brief about ICID's initiative to document the development of irrigation and drainage schemes in the world by establishing an online Register on "World Irrigation and Drainage Schemes (WI&DS)". The Chair encouraged members to urge all irrigation and drainage scheme owners, managers, and researchers worldwide, especially in their respective countries, to contribute to the register. The review process and other details are outlined on the portal < <https://wip.icidevents.org/> > in detail.

ASRWG Minutes Item 10: Any other business (with permission of Chair)

22. The meeting ended with thanks to the Chair and a group photo.



Annex [Appendix V, Item 3]

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	Responsibility
C3. Strategy: 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	
	3.6 Broaden relationship and mutual understanding and cooperation between NCs from developing countries and developed countries	Collaboration/ MoU	Exchange visits/ training between NCs	Exchange visits/ training between NCs	Exchange visits/ training between NCs	Exchange visits/ training between NCs	
			MoU between NCs	MoU between NCs	MoU 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.	
C4. Strategy: 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 ("Contribution of Agricultural Water to the Rural Development in Asia" 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	
D3. Strategy: 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	
			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)

