

**MINUTES OF THE 1ST VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE  
ASIAN REGIONAL WORKING GROUP (ASRWG)  
12 APRIL 2023, 13:00-14:30 HOURS (INDIAN STANDARD TIME)**

**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) Dr. Aynur Fayrap, Secretary (Turkey); (4) Mr. Momir Vranes represented by Mr. David Cameron (Australia); (5) Dr. Nazmun Nahar Karim (Bangladesh); (6) Ms. Li Ruoxi – Young Professional (China); (7) Dr. Ray-Shyan Wu (Chinese Taipei Committee); (8) Dr. Tony Chih-Sheng Chen (Chinese Taipei Committee); (9) Mr. Rajni Kant Agrawal represented by Mr. C.P. Arora-WAPCOS (India); (10) Mr. Toru Okuda (Japan); (11) Mr. Ahmed Kamal represented by Mr. Ather Hameed (Pakistan); (12) Dr. Bahrom Gaforzoda (Tajikistan); (13) Mr. Ilhom Juraev (Uzbekistan); (14) Er. B.A. Chivate, Director (Technical), ICID Central Office (India).

**Invitees present:** Ms. Naomi Carragher (IACID); Mr. Eddie Parr (IACID); Mr. Michael Scobie (IACID).

**Observer:** Ms. Shweta Tyagi, India Water Foundation (India)

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

1. Vice President Dr. Watanabe, Chair, ASRWG welcomed all participants and reviewed the membership of the working group (**Annex 1**). The members were informed that the membership of the following members was approved during the Adelaide meeting held in October 2022: Dr. Robin Kumar Biswas (Bangladesh), Dr. (Ms.) Nazmun Nahar Karim (Bangladesh), Ms. Talatha Janaki Meegastenna (Sri Lanka), Dr. Tony Chih-Sheng Chen (Chinese Taipei Committee) and Mr. Toru Okuda (Japan). The membership of Mr. Mohamed Radzi Bin Abdul Talib (Malaysia) is now accepted as the formal nomination from the Malaysian National Committee (MANCID) has since been received.

2. Mr. Egemen Gürsoy (Turkey) and Mr. Arvind Kumar (India) - Direct Member, India Water Foundation (India) have been nominated for the membership of the WG and provisionally accepted as they were not available during the virtual meeting.

3. Chair reiterated that ICID Central Office may liaise with Vice President Jin-Yong Choi (South Korea) to support the first-year membership subscription for Laos.

The Chair Dr. Watanabe requested Dr. Vijay K Labhsetwar, Vice Chair of ASRWG to present and lead Item 2 and 3.

**ASRWG Minutes Item 2:                      Road Map to ICID Vision 2030 – Status of activities**

4. Vice Chair Dr. Vijay presented and reviewed the Road Map to ICID Vision 2030 (**Annex 2**). The Vice Chair restated that one of the main tasks assigned to the Task Team (TT) is to prepare the Technical Report of the WG which is expected to be released at the Asian Regional Conference (ARC9) to be held on 01-07 September 2024 at Sydney, Australia besides finalizing the theme/subthemes for the upcoming international workshops.

5. The Chair Dr. Watanabe asked members present for their opinions and suggestions about the contents of the Road Map and the activities of WG as listed were then firmed up.

**ASRWG Minutes Item 3:                      Collaboration with IACID for the 9th Asian Regional Conference, September 2024, Australia**

6. Vice Chair Dr. Vijay gave a brief overview of the activities of collaboration with IACID for the 9th Asian Regional Conference (ARC9). He further informed that ASRWG took the lead and organized a preparatory virtual meeting on 14 March 2023 among representatives from ASRWG, IACID, and ICID for better understanding.

7. Mr. David Cameron (IACID) provided updates related to the preparatory processes for ARC9, including the conference website and logo, the program for ARC9, seeking support and grants (federal) for exhibition, poster session, promoting the event and hosting a reception at Vishakhapatnam (Vizag), November 2023, etc. The ARC9 website is likely to be up and running, hopefully by the end of April 2023. Mr. David expected 1000+ delegates to attend ARC9 and the concurrent Australian event. He further informed that a board meeting of IAL (Irrigation Australia Ltd)/IACID is likely to be held on 14 April 2023 for further planning the refining of the preparatory processes.

8. Ms. Naomi Carragher (IAL) further shared the draft program of the ARC9 showing the events of both the ARC9 and the concurrent Australian event including WG meetings, workshops, administrative meetings, evening receptions, etc.

9. Vice Chair Dr. Vijay reminded the members in terms of their voluntary contribution for reviewing the abstracts/papers received for ARC9, most likely early next year?

**ASRWG Minutes Item 3.1: Progress on the technical report / Country Case Studies of the group**

10. Dr. Vijay K Labhsetwar, Chair of the Task Team (TT) shared and described the proposal and format, which had been circulated as **Annex 3** before the virtual meeting. It was, once again, informed that the Technical Report of ASRWG is likely to have the following structure and context:

- (a) Part I. Introduction (Scope, purpose, 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

11. It was stated that ten Case Studies (Australia, China, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Japan, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Tajikistan, and Turkey), in the form of PPT presentation, were presented at Adelaide Meeting in October 2022. While these countries further develop their case studies in the form of a 'Report' (about 12 pages) as per the format given in **Annex 3**, it is hoped that more case study presentations will be made at the next annual meeting of the WG to be held in November 2023 at Vishakhapatnam (Vizag) in India.

**ASRWG Minutes Item 3.2: Organization of Internal/International Workshops**

12. The TT-Chair gave information about the International and Internal Workshop which have been planned as per **Annex 4**.

13. Dr. Vijay K Labhsetwar stated that an internal workshop, where ten countries, including Australia, China, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Japan, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Tajikistan, and Turkey presented their Case Study, had been organized during Adelaide Meeting in Oct. 2022. Likewise, an internal workshop on '*Irrigation and Drainage for Asian Food Security in Asia*' will also be held during Vizag Meeting in November 2023. Dr. Vijay invited other members to make their presentations at Vizag. Dr. Tony Chih-Sheng Chen (Chinese Taipei Committee) informed that he would be willing to do so.

14. An Internal Workshop, titled '*Impacts of COVID-19 pandemic on Agricultural Water Management in Asia*', was held in Morocco in 2021. It was stated that current short papers need to be expanded to 10 pages each. The members were encouraged to take up this task at the earliest as well.

15. It has also been proposed to organize an International Workshop on '*Agricultural Water Management for Food Security: Beyond Modernization*,' which is within the scope of the 9th Asian Regional Conference (ARC9), and is to be organized by IACID in cooperation with ASRWG. Vice Chair provided detailed information on issues such as the purpose, scope, themes, and sub-themes of the international workshop (**Annex 4**) for consideration. The IACID is expected to finalize the information in the shape of an announcement in consultation with their organizing committee in due course of time.

**ASRWG Minutes Item 4: 14th International Drainage Workshop, May 2024 in Tajikistan**

16. Dr. Bahrom Gaforzoda, Secretary, Tajikistan National Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (TajNCID) provided updates related to the 14th International Drainage Workshop (IDW) on '*Modernization of irrigation and drainage systems for adaptation to climate change and sustainable development*', which will be held on 01-03 May 2024, in Dushanbe, Republic of Tajikistan. He further informed that the IDW website is being developed in consultation with ADB and will be running by the end of May 2023.

17. However, Dr. Bahrom was concerned with the number of participants (attendance) at the IDW due to the 10th World Water Forum being held on 18-24 May in Indonesia, which is very close to the dates of IDW. This may result in poor attendance at IDW due to the close dates of these two events. Therefore, it was proposed that the TajNCID contact the ICID CO and Working Group on Land Drainage (WG-LDRG) to discuss the new dates for the 14th International Drainage Workshop.

**ASRWG Minutes Item 5: Any other business**

18. The Chair thanked the members and finished the meeting by announcing that the next meeting would be held by the end of June or early July 2023.



## Annex 1

## Membership of ASRWG (as of 10 April 2023)

Sr. No.	Title	Name	Country	Email	Presence at the 73rd IEC at Adelaide
1	VP Dr.	Tsugihiko Watanabe, Chair	Japan	watanabe.tsugihiko.4v@kyoto-u.jp,	on
2	Dr.	Vijay K Labhsetwar, Vice Chair	India	vijaylabh@gmail.com,	on
3	Dr.	Aynur Fayrap , Secretary	Turkey	aynurf@dsi.gov.tr,	on
4		Representative	Afghanistan	naseer.fayez@mail.gov.af,	
5	Mr.	Momir Vranes	Australia	momir.vranes@irrigation.org.au;	on
6	Mr.	Bryan Ward	Australia	bryan.ward@irrigation.org.au;	
7	Dr.	Robin Kumar Biswas	Bangladesh	biswasrobin@gmail.com, robin350in@yahoo.co.in,	
8	Dr.	Nazmun Nahar Karim	Bangladesh	nazmun.karim@barc.gov.bd,	
9	Mr.	Dang Ping	China	dangping@mwr.gov.cn,	on
10	Ms.	Li Ruoxi - Young Professional	China	liuoxi@iwhr.com, liuoxi@mwr.gov.cn,	on
11	Dr.	Ray-Shyan, Wu	Chinese Taipei Committee	raywu@ncu.edu.tw,	on
12	Mr.	Tony Chih-Sheng Chen	Chinese Taipei Committee	tonyc@triwra.org.tw,	on
13	Dr.	Gwo-Hsing Yu	Chinese Taipei Committee	e133@mail.tku.edu.tw,	
14		Representative	Fiji	svakaloloma@agriculture.gov.fj.,	
15	Mr.	Rajni Kant Agrawal, Direct Member, WAPCOS Limited	India	rkl@wapcos.co.in, mail@wapcos.co.in, cpd@wapcos.co.in,	on rep. by Mr. Amit Gupta
16	VP Dr.	Mochammad Amron	Indonesia	mochammad.amron@gmail.com,	on
17	VP Dr.	Karim Shiasi	Iran	karim.shiasi@yekom.com, k_shiasi@yahoo.com;	on rep. by Dr. Narges Zohrabi
18	Eng.	(Ms.) Shaimaa Shihab Ahmed	Iraq	engshaimaa2019@yahoo.com,	on rep. by Eng. Nisreen Sami
19	Eng.	(Ms.) Zainab Saleem	Iraq	zainab_zz51@yahoo.com,	on rep. VP Rafat Nael
20	Mr.	Toru Okuda	Japan	okuda06@n-renmei.jp,	on
21		Representative	Kazakhstan	consultants_astana@nursat.kz, ggme_shm2006@mail.ru,	
22	Ir.	Syed Abdul Hamid bin Syed Shuib	Malaysia	hamid@moa-gov.my,	on rep. by VP Nor Hisham Ghazali
23	Mr.	Mohamad Radzi Bin Abdul Talib	Malaysia	radzi@water.gov.my,	on
24	Dr.	(Ms.) Mu Mu Than	Myanmar	mt8190@gmail.com;	
25	Mr.	Bashu Dev Lohanee	Nepal	nencid@wlink.com.np, lohanibas@yaho.com,	
26	Mr.	Ahmed Kamal	Pakistan	pakfloodcommission@hotmail.com, ifmengineer@gmail.com, federalfloodcommission@gmail.com,	on rep. by VPH Waseem Nazir
27		Representative	Philippines	pncid@gmail.com,	
28		Representative	Saudi Arabia	baha@mewa.gov.sa, frel@mewa.gov.sa,	
29	Ms.	Jeong Min, Ryu - Young Professional	South Korea	agentryu3@ekr.or.kr;	
30	Prof. (Ms.)	Kyung Sook Choi	South Korea	ks.choi@knu.ac.kr, kcidkr@gmail.com,	

31	Eng.	W.B. Palugaswewa	Sri Lanka	wpalugaswewa@yahoo.com;	on rep. by Mr. Janaka Priyantha
32	Eng. (Ms.)	Janaki Meegastenna	Sri Lanka	janakimeega@hotmail.com,	on rep. by Mr. Janaka Priyantha
33		Representative	Tajikistan	gbahrom_75@mail.ru,	
34	Mr.	Arthon Suttigam	Thailand	asut1030@gmail.com; asut999@gmail.com,	on
35	Mr.	Ilkhom Juraev	Uzbekistan	i.u.jurayev@gmail.com,	
36	Dr.	Dao Trong Tu	Vietnam	tu.daotrong2013@gmail.com;	
<b>NEW NOMINATIONS</b>					
	Dr. (Mr.)	Arvind Kumar, Direct Member, IWF	India	drarvind@indiawaterfoundation.org	New nomination
	Mr. ?	Gürsoy Egemen	Turkey	egemen@dsi.gov.tr	New nomination

At the Adelaide Meeting, Dr. Wen Pen Shu was represented by Chun-Hung Chan (Chinese Taipei Committee) and was replaced by Mr. Tony Chih-Sheng Chen.



## Annex 2

source: Minutes of the 73<sup>rd</sup> IEC – ASRWG

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

Goals/ Strategies	Activities	Outcomes/ Outputs	Milestone for Year 2021	Milestone for ear 2022	Milestone for Year 2023	Milestone for Year 2024	Responsibility
C3. <b>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	
	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	Collaborated Preparatory Works for the 9th Asian Regional Conference with IACID	Workshop and/or Session in 9th Asian Regional Conference, Sep. 2024, Australia.	
				Participation in 9th World Water Forum (WWF9), March 2022, Senegal			
				Participation in 4th Asia-Pacific Water Summit (APWS4), April 2022, Japan			
C4. <b>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 ("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. <b>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	
			Organizing multisectoral events /workshops	Organizing multisectoral events /workshops	Organizing multisectoral events /workshops	Organizing multisectoral events /workshops	



## Annex 3

**PROPOSED TECHNICAL REPORT OF ASRWG ON  
IRRIGATION AND DRAINAGE FOR ASIAN FOOD SECURITY – NAME OF COUNTRY/COMMITTEE**

**Why this report**

WE HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO – World Food Summit (1996) and Millennium Summit (2000) suggested cutting the number of under-nourished to half (by 2015) by bringing people out of poverty and enjoying a reasonable happy life with at least two square meals a day. But, unfortunately, the population of undernourished people is still about 768 million in the world (FAO, 2020).

The current world population of 7.8 billion is expected to reach 8.6 billion in 2030 and 9.7 billion in 2050, according to Population Reference Bureau (2021). Most of the addition will be in developing countries and we would need to double our food production to feed these people. Regionally, the population of Asia is 4.7 billion and is expected to reach 5.2 billion by 2050. The two populous countries in the world: China (1.41 billion) and India (1.39 billion) are here in Asia. To feed the future population, agricultural growth must increase many times. Many factors influence this agricultural growth vis-a-vis food grain production. Modernization of agricultural water management, among others, plays a crucial role in increasing food production thereby possibly reducing undernourishment and achieving the challenge of Zero Hunger by 2030.

In order to alleviate Asia from hunger and achieve Zero Hunger by 2030, country/committee strategies for food security have to be evolved, developed, and promoted. It is, therefore, proposed to invite country/committee case studies from member countries on food security in the following format:

**Structure of the Country/committee Case Studies (About 12 Pages)**

<b>Chapters</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>No. of pages</b>
1	Introduction (Geography, etc.)	1
2	Population (Status, Density/ in agricultural, etc.)	1
3	Climate and rainfall (Temp, snow, etc.)	1
4	Area under agriculture, irrigation, and drainage (Status, GCA/CCA, crop production land use, etc.)	2
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.)	3
6	Intercessions for food security (Food bank, infrastructure, etc.)	1
7	Role of research and development (Appropriate technology, Effective capacity development, database, Innovative crop management technologies, etc.)	1
8	Progress in Reducing Food Insecurity (Food stocks, goals, impact of COVID-19, etc.)	1
9	Way Forward: Country/committee strategy for food security	1
10	References	

These country/committee case studies will be assembled into a Technical Report of the ASRWG to be released at ARC9 in September 2024. To enrich the technical report, a few special papers from organizations such as FAO, IWMI, WB, etc. may be invited. The outcome of ARC9 / Declaration / Statement and/or recommendations may also be included.

The **Technical Report of ASRWG**, therefore, may have the following structure:

- **Part I** Introduction (Scope, purpose. Etc.) (4 pages)
- **Part II** International perspective on Asian food security (up to 3 invited papers, 10 pages each, from international organizations such as FAO, IWMI, WB, etc.) (30 pages)
- **Part III** Country/committee strategy for food security (up to 12 country/committee case studies, 12 pages each, from ASRWG/ICID members countries) (144 pages)
- **Part IV** Way Forward: Asian strategy for food security (4 pages), **(A total of about 182 pages)**



**9<sup>TH</sup> ASIAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE (ARC9)**  
**01-07 September 2024 at Sydney, Australia**

**INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON 'AGRICULTURAL WATER MANAGEMENT  
FOR FOOD SECURITY: MORE THAN MODERNIZATION':**

**Scope:** WE HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO – The World Food Summit (1996) and Millennium Summit (2000) suggested a target of cutting the number of under-nourished to half (by 2015) by bringing people out of poverty and enjoying a reasonably happy life with at least two healthy meals a day. Unfortunately, the population of undernourished people is still at least 768 million in the world (FAO, 2020), in spite of the modernization of agricultural water management in pursuit of improved productivity in recent decades.

The current world population of 7.8 billion is expected to reach 8.6 billion in 2030 and 9.7 billion in 2050, according to the Population Reference Bureau (2021). Most of the population increases will be in developing countries and we would need to double our food production to feed these people. Regionally, the population of Asia is 4.7 billion and is expected to reach 5.2 billion by 2050. The two most populous countries in the world: China (1.41 billion) and India (1.39 billion) are here in Asia. To feed the future population, the growth in agricultural production must increase many times, and at a faster rate than population growth. Many factors influence this agricultural growth vis-a-vis food grain production. Modernization of all aspects of agricultural water management, among other factors, plays a crucial role in increasing food production thereby hopefully reducing undernourishment and achieving the challenge of Zero Hunger by 2030. We need to be part of the 2023 UN Food Systems Stocktaking Moment – Transforming Food Systems in Asia and the Pacific.

In spite of all efforts, including modernization (partial so far), the world failed to cut the number of under-nourished to half by 2015, and given the current trends, it is likely that the world will again miss the challenge of Zero Hunger by 2030. If the target of Zero Hunger by 2030 is to be achieved, the world has to go beyond modernization. In other words, innovative food production solutions have to be considered, developed, and promoted. At both a regional and global level, the likelihood of serious food shortages in the Asia region in the next 10-15 years poses considerable strategic and political risk to governments, beyond that of just agriculture and its dependent communities.

There are challenges, many beyond the scope of ICID and its partners. A primary challenge for ICID is continuing low water use efficiency, but equitable water distribution, the high cost of modernization, fertilizers and pesticides, and the structure and functioning of agricultural produce markets are also factors. There is also evidence of missing skills and inadequate knowledge of sound irrigation practices by government officials and farmers, and weak overall governance. Politics, policy, social license, and other issues need to be considered if modernization gains are to be fully realized. Sound economic management is critical and solutions must take advantage of readily-available technologies, with strong farmer involvement and collaborative to share costs and risks.

**Theme: Agricultural Water Management for Food Security: More Than Modernization**

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|---|--|
| <b>Sub-theme 1:</b>                         | Improving water governance for food security, policy and investment through stakeholder partnerships   |
| <b>Sub-theme 2:</b>                         | Cost-effective, fit-for-purpose Modernization (infrastructure and management) at the farm level  |
| <b>Sub-theme 3:</b>                         | Ensuring that irrigation farmers reap the benefits of changed water governance and access to technologies for improved productivity and increases in food production |
| <b>Sub-theme 4:</b>                         | Water-Food-Energy Nexus for Asian food security  |
| <b>Sub-themes for beyond modernization:</b> |  |
| <b>Sub-theme 5:</b>                         | Enhancing skills and attitudes of government officials and farmers   |

**Themes for Internal workshops by ASRWG (part of annual meeting, 90 minutes)**

- 'Impacts of COVID-19 pandemic on Agricultural Water Management in Asia'. (2021) – current short papers need to be expanded to 10 pages each
- Asian strategy for food security – country case study presentations (2023)

**Themes for International workshops by ASRWG (1/2 day – 180 minutes)**

- Australian experiences on modernization and how they have contributed to improved productivity (2024)
- Towards a resilient Asia: Ensuring a sustainable and equitable future for food production (tbd)

[The 9th Asian Regional Conference (ARC9) will be held on 01-07 September 2024 at Sydney, Australia]

**Scope:** For each of these sub-themes and workshops, a 1-page scope needs to be developed to help ensure that the intent of the sub-theme is understood.

**Format:**

- Invited speakers
- Submitted papers (and posters)
- Targeted workshop

**Timeline:** (to be decided)

- Submission of abstracts (max. 300 words): tbd
- Notification of acceptance: tbd
- Submission of full papers (max. 10 pages): tbd
- Notification of acceptance: tbd

**Prepared by:** Dr. Vijay K Labhsetwar, Vice Chair, ICID ASRWG (e-mail: [vijaylabh@gmail.com](mailto:vijaylabh@gmail.com)); comments by IACID 24/4/23

