

**MINUTES OF THE 34<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE  
COMMITTEE ON CONGRESSES/CONFERENCES (C-CONGR)**

6 November 2023. 09:30-11:00 Hours (Session-I)  
6 November 2023, 11:30-13:00 Hours (Session-II)  
Visakhapatnam (Vizag), Andhra Pradesh State, India

**Presented by the Chairman**

**Year of Establishment: 1990**

**New Mandate of C-CONGR:**

- (a) Representatives from previous events are required to present a summary report to the first meeting of C-CONGR following their event that includes attendance, financial performance, and recommendations for future events. This requirement should be a condition of the LoA.
- (b) National Committees wishing to hold a future Congress/WIF/Regional Conference must make a report to C-CONGR outlining their plans including location, dates, expected attendance, financial budget, registration fees etc. C-CONGR will consider these reports and make a recommendation to PCSO whether to grant the event to the NC.

**New membership composition of C-CONGR:**

- (a) A Chair who is a representative from the Organising Committee (OC) of the next Congress.
- (b) Two further members from the National Committee for the next Congress and a YP representative if available.
- (c) A representative from each of the confirmed future ICID events (Congress/WIF/Regional Conferences).
- (d) A representative from the previous Congress.
- (e) A representative from ICID CO who will also provide secretarial services.

**Members Present:** (1) Vice President Mr. Kushvinder Vohra, Chairman; (2) Mr. Rishi Srivastava (India); (3) VPH Dr. Yella Reddy (India); (4) Dr. Bahrom Gaforzoda (Tajikistan); (5) VP Eng. Rafat Nael (Iraq); (6) Mr. Thayalam Sekran (Malaysian); (7) Eng. Bezzel Chitsungo (Zimbabwe); (8) VP Mr. Bruno Grawitz (France); (9) Dr. David Cameron (Australia); and (10) Mr. Li Ruoxi (China).

**Observers :** (i) Mr. Sharif Mahmudov (Tajikistan); (ii) Eng. Nisreen Sami (Iraq); (iii) (8) Mr. Barari Hafied (Indonesia); (iv) Mr. Irvan Atmaja (Indonesia); (v) Mr. Heriyana (Indonesia); (vi) President Hon. Keizrul Abdullah (Malaysia); (vii) Mr. Wan Noorul Hafifah (Malaysia); (viii) Dr. Azazi Zakaria (Malaysia); (ix) Ir. Ahmad ghandhari (Iran); (x) Ms. Celine Papin (France); (xi) Mr. Fugiang Tian (China); (xii) Mr. Khosro Morovati (China); (xiii) Mr. N.N. Rai (India); (xiv) Mr. Bhupinder Singh (India); (xv) Ms Isly Issac (India); (xvi) Mr Saurabh (India); (xvii) Mr. B. Sravankumar (India); and (xviii) Ms. Durga Kondeti (India).

**Website:** [http://icid-ciid.org/inner\\_page/107](http://icid-ciid.org/inner_page/107)

**C-CONGR Minutes Item 1: Action taken report by Chairman**

1. Mr. Kushvinder Vohra (India), Chairman, Central Water Commission and Ex-officio Secretary to Govt of India, Vice President ICID, and Chairman INCID presented a report on the actions taken on the various decisions / proposals of the Committee since 33rd meeting of C-CONGR at Adelaide, Australia in 2022.
2. It was intimated that all the follow-up actions with respect to various NCs have been taken and various NCs were provided necessary support.

**C-CONGR Minutes Item 2: Revised mandate and new Membership Composition of the Committee**

3. New mandate and new membership of C-Congress as approved by IEC in 2022 at Adelaide, Australia was noted.
4. As the 26<sup>th</sup> ICID Congress is scheduled to be held in Marseille France, the baton of Chairman of C-congress was proposed to be handed over to Mr Bruno Grawitz (VPH) AFEID, France. The tenure of the new Chair will be up to 2026.

5. The French National Committee of ICID (AFEID) has nominated Ms Céline PAPIN (France) for the membership of C-CONGR. Mr Bruno Grawitz informed that Ms Céline PAPIN will be the next Chair of the C-CONGR.

### **C-CONGR Minutes Item 3 Overview of 25<sup>th</sup> ICID Congress & 74<sup>rd</sup> IEC, 1-8 November 2023 at Vishakhapatnam (Vizag.), Andhra Pradesh, India – Updates**

6. The 25<sup>th</sup> ICID Congress, based on the theme “**Tackling Water Scarcity in Agriculture**” was held from 02-04th November, 2023 at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh State, India. It was attended by more than 1300 delegates from 41 countries (35 member countries, 6 non-member countries) out of which, 360 were delegates from foreign countries.

#### **7. Opening Ceremony:**

- (a) The Opening Ceremony was graced by Mr. Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Hon'ble Minister of Jal Shakti, Govt of India and **Mr YS Jagan Mohan Reddy**, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh along with **Mr Ambati Rambabu**, Hon'ble Minister for Water Resources, Govt of Andhra Pradesh, **Ms Vidadala Rajini**, Hon'ble Minister for Health, Family Welfare, and Medical Education, Govt of Andhra Pradesh, **Mr Gudivada Amarnath**, Hon'ble Minister for Industries, Infrastructure, Investment & Commerce, Information Technology, Govt of Andhra Pradesh.
- (b) **Mr Kushvinder Vohra (India), Chairman, CWC/INCID and Vice President ICID** delivered the Welcome Address highlighting the relevance of the theme of this Congress in today's context were providing Water & Food Security assumes greater significance in the wake of Climate Change and rising population. He also expressed happiness that the Congress of ICID is being organized in India after a gap of 57 years.
- (c) **Prof. Dr Ragab Ragab (UK), President ICID** gave the opening remarks and lauded the efforts and arrangements made by INCID towards organizing the event.
- (d) **Mr YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, Hon'ble Chief Minister of the State of Andhra Pradesh** in his address highlighted the importance of irrigation management and the role of Inter-basin transfers towards providing Water & Food Security for India.
- (e) **Mr. Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Hon'ble Minister of Jal Shakti, Govt of India** delivered the N.D. Gulhati memorial lecture during the opening ceremony on 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov, 2023. He mentioned that the theme of This Congress “Tackling Water Scarcity in Agriculture” addresses the pressing concern which affects all of us and we are committed to address it through multi-faceted approach.
- (f) The Abstract volume and two publications of ICID namely (1) Historical Water Sustainability and (2) Compendium of World Heritage Irrigation Structures (2014-22) were released during the Opening Ceremony.
- (g) Four Irrigation Structures of India were recognized as World Heritage Irrigation Structures in 2023. The Plaque and the Certificate for the same were distributed during the Opening Ceremony to the concerned States / project authorities.

8. The Vote of Thanks was delivered by Er. Ashwin B. Pandya, Secretary General, ICID.

#### **Technical Sessions:**

- (a) There were in all 18 sessions conducted for Q 64 & Q 65. More than 250 abstracts and about 150 full length papers/posters were received.
- (b) In addition, five International Workshops (WG-CLIMATE, WG-LDRG, WG-NEXUS, WG-SDTA, WG-NCWRI) were held along with 14 side events (IWMI-WRC, INCID IndiaNPIM, FAO, MSSRF-Norway, INCID Women and Water, IWMI-India, INCID-IWRS, IGS, IWMI-Solar Irrigation, FAO-JIICA, CNCID-ICID, ICARDA, AFEID France, IEWP-GIZ), one International Symposium on “Pathways and Technologies for Modern Irrigation Services”, and 2 Plenary sessions (25<sup>th</sup> Congress and 74<sup>th</sup> IEC).
- (c) One Special Session was organized by INCID on Sustainable Solutions to Water Sector Challenges in India. The activities of Central Water Commission, NWA-CWC, R&D Division, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Central Ground Water Board, and various State Govts were presented during the session.
- (d) One Conclave was held under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister of Jal Shakti with about 15 CEOs (including a few young startups) along with the session on Role of Industry in Water Resources. Deliberations were held towards the important role the industries can play towards smart water saving technologies, recycle and reuse etc.
- (e) A Young-Professional Training Program was conducted on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2023 by INCID in association with Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and was widely participated by Indian and foreign Young Professionals.

**Study Tour and Cultural Evening:**

- (a) A study tour was held for the delegates to Borra Caves, Araku Valley, and Thatipudi reservoir in Andhra Pradesh, India on 5<sup>th</sup> Nov, 2023.
- (b) A cultural evening was organized to showcase the rich Indian music, dances, and culture on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2023. The faculty and students from Andhra University performed various music and dance items.

**Finances:**

- (a) The total anticipated revenue generation: INR 104.8 M (1.26 M US\$). The total anticipated revenue available for the event: INR 101 M (US\$ 1.21 M) [After 35% share of ICID from Registration Fee]. The total anticipated expenditure shall approximately equal the revenue.

**C-CONGR Minutes Item 4      Feedback from the organizer of the past events****C-CONGR Agenda Item 4.1:      Feedback from 24<sup>th</sup> ICID Congress and 73<sup>rd</sup> IEC, 3-10 October 2022, Adelaide, Australia**

9 Mr. David Cameron, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Irrigation Australia briefed the Committee about organization of 24<sup>th</sup> ICID Congress & 73<sup>rd</sup> IEC at Adelaide in October 2022. It was informed that the small surplus was achieved. However, there was drop in registration due to COVID. The report of the same has been submitted to ICID Central Office.

10. It was reported that registrations from 44 countries were received during the above event.

**C-CONGR Agenda Item 4.2:      Feedback from 10<sup>th</sup> International Micro Irrigation Conference, 25-27 January 2023 at Dakhla, Morocco**

11. The report from ANAFIDE, Morocco for organizing the 10<sup>th</sup> International Micro Irrigation Conference held during 25-27 January 2023 at Dakhla could not be presented as the representative from ANAFIDE, did not attend the India meeting. However, the emails along with annexes were received related to 10<sup>th</sup> International Micro Irrigation Conference. The detailed information of the 10<sup>th</sup> International Micro Irrigation Conference is available at: <[https://icid-ciid.org/inner\\_page/225](https://icid-ciid.org/inner_page/225)>.

**C-CONGR Minutes Item 5:      Preparations for the future events for the next 4 years****C-CONGR Minutes Item 5.1:      First Middle East Regional Conference, 26-28 February 2024 at Riyadh, Saudi Arabia**

12. As the representative from Saudi Arabia could not make it to the 25<sup>th</sup> Congress at Visakhapatnam, it was decided that the report from Saudi Arabia NC for 1<sup>st</sup> Middle East Regional Conference to be held during 26-28 February 2024 would be obtained separately.

**C-CONGR Minutes Item 5.2:      14<sup>th</sup> International Drainage Workshop, 30 May - 01 June 2024, Dushanbe, Tajikistan**

13. Dr. Bakhrom Gaforzoda and Mr. Sharif Mahmudov from Tajikistan National Committee apprised about the preparations for 14<sup>th</sup> International Drainage Workshop to be held during 30 May – 01 June 2024. He further informed that the website for the event has been established and the 1<sup>st</sup> Announcement has also been done. The last date for submission of Papers is on 30<sup>th</sup> Jan'2024.

14. There will be three Thematic Sessions i.e. (i) Modernization of Irrigation & Drainage, (ii) Young Professional, and (iii) Water-Food-Energy Nexus Approach in the Drainage workshop.

15. He also informed that the Central Asian Side Event has been planned for inviting other Central Asian countries and for creating awareness regarding ICID in the countries. He informed that there are only two Central Asian countries members, so far.

**C-CONGR Minutes Item 5.3:      75<sup>th</sup> IEC Meeting and 9<sup>th</sup> Asian Regional Conference, 1-7 September 2024, Sydney, Australia**

16. Mr. David Cameron, CEO, Irrigation Australia from Australia NC apprised about the preparations for 75<sup>th</sup> IEC meeting and 9<sup>th</sup> Asian Regional Conference to be held during 01-07 Sept' 2024 at Sydney. The theme of the conference is on Climate Change, Green Spaces, and Role of recreational spaces, gardens, parks, mental health, and well-being of people.

17. It was also informed that the Website of Conference (<https://irrigationconference2024.com.au/>) has been established and advertised. The sponsorship and exhibition prospectus released with spaces starting to be taken up at <https://irrigationconference2024.com.au/sponsors-exhibitions/>. The call for abstracts also made, it has been forwarded to ICID for distribution <<https://irrigationconference2024.com.au/call-for-abstracts/>> The portal is open now for those interested. The key date for closing of abstract submission is **26 January 2024**.

18. There have been three meetings with the Asian Regional Working Group (ASRWG). The Australian National Committee is meeting approximately monthly with the most recent being 20 October. Much effort has gone into organising review processes and the Committee is seeking representatives from other national committees to support the event, in terms of session chairs, reviewers and so on.

19 Regarding Registration fee for 76<sup>th</sup> IEC Meeting and 9<sup>th</sup> Asian Regional Conference, 1-7 September 2024 at Sydney, Australia he informed that:

- (a) The Australian National Committee respectfully requests that an additional charge is allowed to registration fees for this event. The rate used to develop budgets for the event is the “Early Bird Member Countries” rate of USD\$825.
- (b) The requested amendment is simply to allow the conference dinner to be listed as a separate levy for the event. The proposed rate is USD\$180, reflecting the expected actual cost for the dinner.
- (c) There are many issues which have contributed to this requirement, but in summary, as event organizers we need to meet the basic variable cost (predominantly catering) for international delegates to avoid creating a situation where the event loses money. We are doing all we can to reduce costs, however since the first agreement was made with the ICC in Sydney prior to the global pandemic, they have grown significantly. We are yet to see final catering prices for 2024 but are told to expect a 7% increase on 2023.
- (d) Australian delegates attending the 3 days incorporating our national conference will pay the equivalent of USD\$1060 for registration fees including the dinner. International delegates will pay USD\$1005 for 7 days.
- (e) Fixed costs, per delegate, are in the order of USD\$952. For all delegates, these costs are effectively being met by exhibitors, sponsors, and some level of NSW government support provided we are able to achieve good attendance. The amount of subsidy is significantly larger for international delegates.
- (f) The agreement made with the venue in 2022 committed Irrigation Australia to significant room hiring costs for ICID meetings which we are advised are now no longer required, due to the reduction in the number of Working Groups. We will not be able to recover all of these costs.
- (g) The Irrigation Australia Board has directed me to ensure that the event delivers a fair surplus. The 2022 event in Adelaide did not meet financial targets.
- (h) We have engaged an exceptional Professional Conference Organiser and are confident that the process for obtaining visas and other support for delegates will be well-managed.
- (i) Assuming the proposal is accepted, we have projected 300 international registrations meaning that the financial return for ICID on the event should be in the order of US\$ 37,125 (15% of 300 x \$825). Our minimum target is 245 which we require to achieve maximum New South Wales government subsidies. We anticipate being able to meet the ICID agreement requirements for complimentary registrations etc. for dignitaries within the overall budget.
- (j) We have been advised that ICID is not in a financial position to financially support the Young Professionals program. While Irrigation Australia will attempt to seek additional external support, our Board has authorized that the event will contribute financially to ensure that a YP program happens. We believe this is very important for the future of our industry.

20. Finally, this is the last time Irrigation Australia will be in a position to support an event of this scale for the foreseeable future, until the model changes to be more cost-effective. The reality is that the risks for a relatively small industry Association with a fluctuating currency, and without assured government support, are too high.

**C-CONGR Minutes Item 5.4: 76<sup>th</sup> IEC meeting and 4<sup>th</sup> World Irrigation Forum, 7-13 September 2025, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**

21. Mr. NOR AZAZI BIN ZAKARIA from Malaysian NC apprised about the preparations for 76<sup>th</sup> IEC meeting and 4<sup>th</sup> World Irrigation Forum to be held during 07-13 Sept’ 2025 at Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre (KLCC). Most hotels are in the vicinity of KLCC within 10-15 minutes by Taxi.

22. The theme of the conference is “Is Irrigation a sunset industry?” There are three side events i.e. (i) Workshop on Irrigation Efficiency, (ii) Water Use group convention, and (iii) Youth Irrigation symposium. About 1000

participants are anticipated to participate in the conference. They informed that KLCC could accommodate up to 1500 participants in the event.

23. There are to be 50 exhibition booths and the First Announcement date is 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2024. The registration fee is kept slightly higher than in India (50 US\$ difference) but less than the Sydney event. The total estimated cost is approximately US\$ 818,000 with an estimated Revenue of approximately US\$ 1,037,500

**C-CONGR Minutes Item 5.5: 11<sup>th</sup> International Micro Irrigation Conference, 2025, Baghdad, Iraq**

24. VPH Rafat Nael & Ms. Nisreen Gburi Sami from Iraq apprised about the preparations for the 11<sup>th</sup> International Micro Irrigation Conference to be held in April 2025 at Baghdad. The Venue of the event is the Royal Tulip Al Rasheed, Baghdad. They also informed that there will be no Registration Fee, as the same would be borne by the Government of Iraq. He also informed that there would be post-conference technical tour to Hindiya Barrage that was built in 1911-13 and is more than 100 years old.

**C-CONGR Minutes Item 5.6: 6<sup>th</sup> African Regional Conference, 14-18 April 2025, Abuja, Nigeria**

25. The representative from the Nigerian NC apprised about the preparations for 6<sup>th</sup> African Regional Conference to be held from 14-15 April 2025 at Abuja. The Theme for the regional conference is “Tackling Irrigation Development and Water Management Crisis in Africa”. About 260- participants (180 national and 80 international) are expected to attend the event.

**C-CONGR Minutes Item 5.7: 77<sup>th</sup> IEC meeting and 26<sup>th</sup> ICID Congress, 12-18 October 2026, Marseille, France**

26. VPH Bruno Grawitz and Ms Celine Papin representatives from the French NC apprised about preparations for 77<sup>th</sup> IEC meeting and 26<sup>th</sup> ICID Congress to be held from 12-17 October 2026 at Marseille Chanut Convention Centre. The Venue of the event is the Marseille Chanut Convention Center. The proposed Theme: “**Agriculture and climate change: stakes and levers for irrigation and drainage**”. The two questions proposed are: **Question 66:** Facing the climate challenge, how can irrigation and drainage contribute to resilient agro-ecological and adaptive agriculture? and **Question 67:** Innovative technology and practices for increasing water use efficiency. Remote sensing, irrigation management and services, irrigation equipment, reuse ...where do we stand?

27. It was informed that there will be a Congress, Exhibition and ICID meetings of three days duration along with side events, technical visits, trainings, and symposiums. The total duration of the event will be 6 days, after reducing it by a day.

**C-CONGR Minutes Item 5.8: 78<sup>th</sup> IEC meeting and 5<sup>th</sup> World Irrigation Forum (WIF-5), Beijing, China in 2027**

28. The representative of Chinese NC apprised about preparations for 78<sup>th</sup> IEC meeting and 5<sup>th</sup> World Irrigation Forum (WIF) to be held in 2027 at Beijing. An Agreement was signed with the ICID Central Office but the time and venue are susceptible to further change for various reasons, which will be updated to C-CONGR from time to time.

**C-CONGR Minutes Item 6: Website of the C-C-CONGR**

29. All NCs were requested to upload preparations, latest updates regarding events identified to be hosted by them on the website of C-Congress.

**C-CONGR Minutes Item 7: Any other business**

30. **ICID Members' Profile Section:** All members were requested to upload and update the information and to register on World Irrigation and Drainage Schemes (WI&DS) <https://icid.bmeurl.co/C7D4D2E>

31. **Register on World Irrigation and Drainage Schemes (WI&DS):** ICID has taken an initiative to document the development of irrigation projects in the world by establishing an online Register on “World Irrigation Projects (WIP)”. WIP will fulfill the need for a much-awaited global repository of information in systematic irrigation and agricultural water management. Irrigation projects having 5000 Hectares and above of Gross Command Area can submit their information for inclusion in the register. The irrigation projects approved by National Committee/ ICID Central Office for inclusion are entitled to Certification. Chair of the C-CONGR requested the members to encourage all irrigation project owners, managers, and researchers across the world and especially in member countries for contributing to the register. This facility is also extended to non-member countries, if the information is received from an authorized agency. The review process and other details are outlined on the portal <<https://wip.icidevents.org/>> in detail.

32. **Review of duration of IEC Annual meetings:** At the 73<sup>rd</sup> International Executive Council (IEC) meeting held in Adelaide (2022), it was decided by the IEC to look into the possibility of integrating technical working groups (VGs) of similar/ close mandate. With consultation of PCTA, PCSO, Secretary General of ICID and the ICID Central office, a tentative new structure was developed. Among the existing 18 groups, nine of them will complete their

mandate in November 2023. The remaining working groups are proposed to be structured into 11 new working groups under four themes: (1) Irrigation and Drainage Water Management (Long-term activities); 2. Natural Resources Management (Medium-term activities); 3. Water Management under Climate Change & Water Scarcity (Medium to long-term activities); 4. Sustainable Development and Management: Capacity Building, History, Institutional and Socio-Economical Aspects of Irrigation and Drainage Schemes. (Long-term activities). Proposed restructuring and new structure of the WGs was discussed and recommended for taking up at PCTA and 74<sup>th</sup> IEC scheduled on 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> November, 2023.

33. The 34<sup>th</sup> meeting of C-CONGR ended with vote of thanks to the Chair.

