

**MINUTES OF THE 8TH MEETING OF THE
WORKING GROUP ON ENVIRONMENT (WG-ENV)**

05 November 2023, 09:30-11:00 hours (Session I) and 11:30-13:00 hours (Session II)
Visakhapatnam (Vizag), Andhra Pradesh State, India

Strategy Theme: Basin

Presented by the Chair

Year of Establishment: 2015

Completion of the Mandate: 2022

Mandate: (a) To provide guidance to policy makers, planners, designers, and managers in the irrigation and drainage sector on the following environmental aspects of irrigation and drainage systems: (i) physical, (ii) chemical, (iii) ecological, (iv) socio-economic, and (v) cultural; (b) To address concerns to the effects on local, regional and global common goods, such as climate, biodiversity and human health; (c) To work towards the management of a sustainable environment, through adapted practices, adequate policies and institutions, maximizing positive and minimizing adverse effects of irrigation and drainage systems.

Members present: (1) Dr. Michael van der Laan, Vice Chair (South Africa), (2) Dr. Fuqiang Tian (China); (3) Dr. Ming-Kai Hsieh (Chinese Taipei Committee); (4) Dr. Hao-Che Ho (Chinese Taipei Committee); (5) Dr. Yutaka Matsuno (Japan); (6) Dr. Yury Anatolyevich Mozhaikii (Russia) represented by Dr. Mrs. Irena G. Bondarik; (7) Prof. (Ms.) Eunmi Hong (South Korea); (8) Dr. Kwang-Sik Yoon (South Korea).

Apologies: Dr. (Ms.) Seija Virtanen (Finland), and Dr. Giulio Castelli (Italy).

Member Honorary: Vice President Hon. Dr. Ding Kunlun (China) and Vice President Prof. Dr. Sylvester Mpandeli (South Africa)

Observers: (1) Dr. Khosro Morovati (China); (2) Mr. S. Santhos Kumar (India); (3) Mr. Katsuhiko Yamauchi (Japan); (4) Prof. Henry IGBADUN (Nigeria); (5) Ms. Florence Iwalanwo Oyakhirome (Nigeria); (6) Eng. Dr. Elijah Oluwaseun Adepoju Aderibigbe (Nigeria).

Website: http://icid-ciid.org/inner_page/108

WG-ENV Minutes Item 1: Action Taken Report by Vice Chair

1. The Vice Chair Dr. Michael van der Laan welcomed the members and presented the report on the actions taken on the decisions and proposals of the working group at its last meeting.
2. The working group reviewed and accepted the nomination of Mrs. Shweta Tyagi, Direct Member – India Water Foundation (India); Dr. Ragip Balatli (Turkey); and Mr. Melih Kayal (Turkey) as Provisional Members due to their non-attendance.
3. Mr. Mohammad Samiul Ahsan Talucder - Direct Member (Bangladesh); Dr. Ming-Kai Hsieh (Chinese Taipei Committee); Mr. Usamah Hashim Witwit (Iraq); Dr. Muhammad Basharat Chaudhry (Pakistan); Engr. Reynaldo L. Baloloy (Philippines); Dr. Kwang-Sik Yoon (South Korea); Dr. Choi, Joong-Dae (South Korea); Eng. (Ms.) P.M. Jayadeera (Sri Lanka); and Mr. Akhmadjonov Vokhidjon Mukhammedjonovich (Uzbekistan) had neither participated nor contributed to the activity of the WG for the last two years so the group decided to discontinue the membership as per ICID By-law 3.5 and requested the National Committee for new nominations. Membership status is given in **Annex 3, page 31**.

WG-ENV Minutes Item 2: Brief of the Virtual Meetings Organized in 2023

4. Vice Chair informed that with the initiative of Dr. (Ms.) Seija Virtanen, the group organized the second virtual meeting in September 2023. During the virtual meetings, the Vice Chair discussed various activities being undertaken by the WG as part of the Road Map to ICID Vision 2030, the progress of the work plan, etc. Minutes of the virtual meetings of all work bodies have been uploaded on a dedicated webpage – https://icid-ciid.org/inner_page/152.

WG-ENV Minutes Item 3: Road Map to ICID Vision 2030 – Status of Future Activities of the Group

5. Members noted that WG-ENV has now completed two comprehensive work packages towards its mandate. The first was on the use of Life Cycle Assessment to determine the environmental impact of irrigation and drainage systems in a more holistic way. Case studies were completed on rice production in Japan and Thailand and sugarcane production

in South Africa. More recently, the WG-ENV has been finalizing a study and drafting a manuscript on the ecosystem services (in addition to food and fibre production) that irrigation and drainage systems can provide. A total of 12 case studies from Asia, Africa, Australia and Europe were submitted.

6. The above activities outlined that WG directly contributed to Road Map to ICID Vision 2030, most especially to Organizational Goals A – Enable Higher Crop Productivity with Less Water and Energy, and C – Facilitate Exchange of Information, Knowledge and Technology.

WG-ENV Minutes Item 3.1: Publication of the Working Group

7. The group discussed the manuscript titled ‘*Sustainable intensification of irrigated and controlled drainage agriculture: A contemporary global perspective*’. After discussion, Vice Chair informed that the manuscript is in an advanced stage and proposed that it would be submitted to the ICID Journal *Irrigation and Drainage* before the end of 2023.

WG-ENV Minutes Item 4: Updating Multilingual Technical Dictionary (MTD)

8. The Vice Chair informed that the WG could not complete the activities of updating the Multilingual Technical Dictionary (MTD).

WG-ENV Minutes Item 5: Dissemination - Sharing Documents on the website

9. The Vice Chair informed the members that the website of WG - https://icid-ciid.org/inner_page/108 comprises a new membership list, the agenda, and minutes of the meeting as well as presentations made during the meeting. The draft manuscript prepared by the WG-ENV should be uploaded to the webpage as soon as it is ready.

WG-ENV Minutes Item 6: ICID Members' Profile Section

10. The group noted that as a new initiative, ICID had launched a new website (<https://icid-ciid.org>) as part of ICID's 70th Anniversary Celebration to meet the new web technologies.

WG-ENV Minutes Item 7: World Irrigation and Drainage Schemes (WI&DS)

11. The Vice Chair shared a brief about ICID's initiative to document the development of irrigation and drainage schemes worldwide by establishing an online Register on “World Irrigation and Drainage Schemes (WI&DS)”. 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.

WG-ENV Minutes Item 8: Any other business

12. **Restructuring of the Working Group:** The Vice Chair discussed the restructuring of the WG with the members present. The restructuring was generally supported, and a consensus was reached that the word ‘environment’ should ideally be retained in the new WG's title. The group noted that previously the WG-ENV operated under the “Basin” Theme and the focus has been on the external impacts of irrigation and drainage on the environment. Suggestions included adding a focus on greenhouse gas emissions, and/or focusing on human and ecological health.

13. Also noted that this is a key opportunity to think about what contribution the new group can make, and this should be based on available capacity and expertise within the new group. A major strength of the WG-ENV has been a diverse membership representing various countries and experiences. In this context of representing diverse regions, a suggestion was to review and consolidate irrigation water quality guidelines.

14. The Vice Chair informed the group that during the 73rd International Executive Council (IEC) meeting in Adelaide, it was decided by the IEC to look into the possibility of integrating WGs of similar/ close mandates. With consultation of PCTA, PCSO, the 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 proposed to be structured into 11 new working groups under four themes: (1) Irrigation and Drainage; (2) Natural Resources; (3) Climate Change and impacts; and (4) Sustainable Development. The chair informed the members that the proposed restructuring and new structure of the WGs will be deliberated during PCTA and IEC meetings of the 74th IEC meetings. Under these four themes, the WG-ENV has been integrated with the newly amalgamated WG-NWREP and included in theme 1 (Irrigation and Drainage). A report on the restructuring of the working groups is given in **IEC Annex 4, page 44**.

