



**Year of Establishment: 2024**

**Completion of the Mandate: 2030**

**Mandate:** (a) To motivate ICID National Committees in various countries to set up their National Working Groups; (b) To provide guidance to compile, publish, update, and/or translate documents on the history of irrigation, drainage, flood management, and river engineering; (c) To promote interdisciplinary exchange of information, knowledge, and experience, as well as networking on the topic (agricultural, political, socio-economic, climatologically, and geographical, ... aspects for proper understanding of the technological developments in the subject); (d) To organize seminars at ICID Congresses and meetings to enhance awareness of the importance of Water history; (e) To prepare a paper on “Historical Water Sustainability” for publication in *Irrigation and Drainage (IRD)*; (f) To finalize a book on “Historical Water Sustainability”; (g) To encourage member countries to produce documentaries on Water History.

**Members present:** (1) Dr. Yutaka Matsuno, Chair (Japan); (2) Mr. Gao Lihui, Vice Chair (China); (3) Dr. Sinite Yu, Secretary (Chinese Taipei Committee); (4) Dr. Tsu-Chuan Lee (Chinese Taipei Committee); (5) Dr. Yawen Chiueh (Chinese Taipei Committee); (6) VPH Chaiwat Prechawit (Thailand); (7) VP Dr. Watchara Suiadee (Thailand).

**New nominees:** (1) Dr. Jing Liu (China); (2) Dr. Zhou Bo (China); (3) Dr. (Ms.) Shima Kabiri (Iran); (4) Dr. (Ms.) Naoko Koshiyama (Japan); (5) Dr. (Ms.) Mikiko Sugiura (Japan).

**Observers:** (i) Dr. Chung Feng Ding (Chinese Taipei Committee); (ii) Dr. Mohammad Hassanli (Iran); (iii) Mr. Atsushi Okayama (Japan); (iv) Dr. Michael van der Laan (South Africa); (v) Dr. Chanphit Kaprom (Thailand); (vi) Eng. Thubelihle Thebe (Zimbabwe).

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

#### **Minutes Item 1: Action taken report by the Chair**

1. At the outset, the Chair welcomed all the members and presented a brief report on the action taken on the decisions and proposals of the working group during its last meeting held in September 2024 in Australia.

2. The group reviewed the nominations of Dr. (Ms.) Naoko Koshiyama (Japan), Dr. (Ms.) Mikiko Sugiura (Japan), Dr. Jing Liu (China), Dr. Zhou Bo (China), Ir. Tesar Hidayat Musouwir (Indonesia), and Dr. (Ms.) Shima Kabiri (Iran) for the membership of the working group. The group also reviewed the nomination of Dr. S. Elamuhil and Dr. Thiagarajan – Direct Member of DHAN Foundation (India), for membership of the working group.

3. Dr. (Ms.) Naoko Koshiyama, Dr. (Ms.) Mikiko Sugiura, Dr. Jing Liu, Dr. Zhou Bo, and Dr. (Ms.) Shima Kabiri was accepted as a member as they attended the meeting, while Ir. Tesar Hidayat Musouwir (Indonesia), Dr. S. Elamuhil (India), and Dr. Thiagarajan (India) were accepted as ‘Provisional Members’ for one year, as they were not present at the meeting. The new nominee would be expected to contribute to the activities of the working group by actively participating in the WG meetings, by email or video-conferencing during the year, for regularizing the membership of the WG thereafter. Membership status is given in **Annex 3, page 21**.

#### **Minutes Item 2: Brief of the online meetings organized after the Sydney event**

4. Chair briefed the group members about the organization of virtual meetings in June 2025 and December 2024. During the virtual meetings, the Chair discussed various activities being carried out by the group as part of the Road Map to ICID Vision 2030, viz. WHIS, the International Seminar on WHIS, updating membership profile, 2025 ICOMOS ISC Water Scientific Symposium, etc. Minutes of all virtual meetings of the working groups have been uploaded to a dedicated webpage, which can be found at [https://icid-ciid.org/inner\\_page/152](https://icid-ciid.org/inner_page/152)

#### **Minutes Item 3: Road Map to ICID Vision 2030 - Status of activities on history of irrigation, drainage, and flood control**

5. The group discussed the action plan for the Road Map to ICID Vision 2030 and agreed that the chair will finalize the Road Map for the working group.

**Minutes Item 4: Review of ICID World Heritage Irrigation Structures (WHIS) - updates**

6. The group noted that in the year 2025, 23 nominations were received from the National Committees of - China (4), India (4), Italy (4), Japan (2), Malaysia (1), South Africa (4), Thailand (1), Turkey (1), and Uzbekistan (2) for the World Heritage Irrigation Structures (WHIS). All the approved structures of WHIS are available at – <https://icid-ciid.org/award/whis>

**Minutes Item 4a: Side event on “The 1st World Heritage Irrigation Structures Conference”, 10 September 2025, Malaysia**

7. Chair informed the group members that since the establishment of the ICID World Heritage Irrigation Structures (WHIS), a total of 200 sites from 21 countries worldwide have been included as of 2024. To facilitate the exchange of knowledge regarding the protection and utilization of these heritage structures, ICID, CNCID, and JNCID held the inaugural preparatory meeting for the World Heritage Irrigation Structures Alliance in October 2024 in Ganzhou, China. Representatives from participating countries have jointly signed the "Guangzhou Declaration" and launched the first World Heritage Irrigation Structures Congress during the 4th World Irrigation Forum (WIF4) on 10 September 2025 in Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia) by the National Committees of China, Japan, and Malaysia. The working group member from China briefly explained the event's outcome during the meeting.

**Minutes Item 4b: 2025 ICOMOS ISC Water Scientific Symposium and Annual General Meeting from 24-26 November 2025 in Florence, Italy**

8. Chair informed the members that the 2025 ICOMOS ISC Water Scientific Symposium and Annual General Meeting, in collaboration with the Fondazione Romualdo del Bianco and ICOMOS Italia, will be held from 24-26 November 2025 in Florence, Italy. Dr. Sinite Yu shared the draft Concept Note of the Symposium with the group members. The proposed partners for the event are - FAO (GIAHS), UNESCO (WWDP, IHP, IHE), ICID, ICCROM, OECD, UN Development Programme, WWC, WHP, ICOMOS (ISC Water, ISC Cultural Landscape, ISC Cultural Heritage, ISC Theophil, SDGWG), ISUWH, World Monuments Fund, WAMUNET, IWA, etc.

9. Dr. Sinite Yu provided an update regarding preparations for the UN Water Conference 2026, which will take place in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Dr. Yu shared further updates during the Malaysia meeting. He encouraged all the members to contribute to the conference.

**Minutes Item 5: Work plan and outputs of the group**

10. It was decided that members from China and Iran will prepare the guidelines for writing country cases, and the Chair will finalize the guidelines. The Chair encouraged all the members to submit papers related to the history of irrigation to relevant journals. If those papers are published, the authors should report it to the Chair. The Chair encouraged members to prepare proposals to organize and conduct research on the history of irrigation and drainage systems in their countries.

**Minutes Item 6: ICID Members' Profile Section update, if needed**

11. During the meeting, the Chair encouraged all the members to update their membership profile by submitting a self-introduction (200-300 words), and the list of the working group mandates that they are interested in contributing to.

**Minutes Item 7: World Irrigation and Drainage Schemes (WI&DS) - Updates**

12. Chair encouraged members to urge all irrigation and drainage scheme owners, managers, and researchers across the world, and especially in their respective countries, to contribute to the register. The review process and other details are outlined on the portal <[https://icid-ciid.org/inner\\_page/226](https://icid-ciid.org/inner_page/226)> in detail.

**Minutes Item 8: Any other business (with permission of Chair)**

13. Chair informed the members that a book titled “Aqua Vitae – Unraveling the Story of Water in Latin America,” authored by Gerald Augusto Corzo Perez, Laszlo G. Hayde, Rabindranath Romero-López, Arturo Jiménez Palacios, was published in 2024. The book unravels the integral role water has played in the cultural, technological, and socio-economic development of the region, providing a foundational reference for engineers, academics, and researchers (< <https://shorturl.at/RLfCk> >

