ICID•CIID

MINUTES OF THE 7TH MEETING OF THE ICID YOUNG PROFESSIONAL'S E-FORUM (IYPeF)
11 September 2025: 11:15-13:00 hours
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Year of Establishment: 2014

Mandate: (i) Encourage and promote a high standard of professional development amongst the young professionals in the field of irrigation, drainage, and flood management; (ii) Provide an international platform for young irrigation and drainage professionals; (iii) Expose young professional to ICID's purpose, objectives, role and activities; (iv) Facilitate the wider dissemination of knowledge and information amongst the young professionals; and (v) Maintain and enhance links with national and international youth having interests in water related subjects or the activities, relevant to ICID objectives.

Members Present: (1) Ms. Siti Hawa Adila Binti Mohd Yusof (Malaysia), Joint Coordinator; (2) Mr. Dhanson Polus Masundang (Malaysia); (3) Dr. Nishanka Jayasiri (Sri Lanka); (4) Ir. Nooraida Binti Mokhtar (Malaysia); (5) Ir. Ts. Mohd Fadzil Bin Mat DESA (Malaysia); (6) Ir. Muhammad Bawirf Bin Ahmad (Malaysia); (7) Ir. Muhamad Banif Bin Abdulah Zawari (Malaysia); (8) Ir. Sanidhya Nika Purnomo (Indonesia); (9) Ir. Sharif Mahmudov (Tajikistan); (10) Ir. Majid Hamidov (Tajikistan); (11) Ir Wonho Nam (South Africa); (12) Mr. Paavan Kumar Reddy (India); (13) Ir. Jigyosha rai Yangkhnmy (Nepal); (14) Ir. Acharya Suchana (Nepal).

Office-Bearer: Dr. Bakhrom Gaforzoda (Tajikistan), Vice President, ICID.

Website: https://icid-ciid.org/wbody/IYPeF

Minutes Item 1: Introduction of ICID Young Professionals e-Forum (IYPeF)

1. In the absence of Mr. Muhandiramge Don Janaka Priyantha Wickramasooriya (Sri Lanka), Coordinator of IYPeF, Ms. Siti Hawa Adila Binti Mohd Yusof (Malaysia), Joint Coordinator, chaired the meeting and welcomed all participants. She informed that the establishment of the ICID Young Professionals e-Forum (IYPeF) was approved during the 65th International Executive Council (IEC) meeting held in September 2014 at Gwangju, Korea. The e-Forum was created as a dedicated LinkedIn Group (https://www.linkedin.com/groups/6990321), which now consists of more than 700 members. It aims to engage Young Professionals interested in Agricultural Water Management (AWM) issues, promote high standards of professional development, and facilitate networking among national and international youth involved in water-related activities aligned with ICID's objectives.

2. The tenure of Mr. Muhandiramge Don Janaka Priyantha Wickramasooriya (Sri Lanka), Coordinator, and Ir. (Ms.) Siti Hawa Adila Binti Mohd Yusof (Malaysia), Joint Coordinator, came to an end on 30 September 2025.

3. The Chinese National Committee of ICID (CNCID) nominated Ir. Wu Lipeng (China) for membership of the IYPeF. The Forum accepted the nomination of Ir. Wu Lipeng during the meeting.

Minutes Item 1.1: Sponsorship of YPs to ICID Events

4. Depending upon the fund availability 10 YPs will be sponsored every year to ICID Annual events. This year, IYPeF meeting held with Young Professionals Training Program scheduled on the same day i.e. 11 September 2025 at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

5. It was noted that the revised Concept Note of IYPeF, which outlines the objectives, membership, professional advantages, benefits for young professionals, broad rules and regulations, duties and responsibilities, etc., is available at https://www.icid.org/iypef_concept_note2020.pdf

Minutes Item 2: Meeting with ICID Central Office and Coordinator and Joint Coordinator

6. It was noted that during the previous meeting held in 2022, the Coordinator of IYPeF had briefed the participants about the first online meeting with the ICID Central Office.

Minutes Item 3: Future activities plan by Coordinator and Joint Coordinator

7. It was noted that the Joint Coordinator presented the activity plan of IYPeF for the years 2025 and 2026.

The details of the proposed future activity plan are as follows:

(a) Discussion on potential webinar topics to be organized between October 2025 and September 2026.

(b) Finalization of broad themes for e-discussions to be conducted through the IYPeF LinkedIn platform.

(c) Formulation of a strategy for strengthening Young Professional (YP) Forums and ensuring their representation at the National Committee level, and subsequently at the IYPeF global level.

(d) Development of a collaboration matrix with ICID Regional Working Groups to facilitate the establishment and support of Regional IYPeF Chapters.

(i) Meetings of the Young Professionals (YPs) should continue to be held separately from those of the Working Groups (WGs) to provide a dedicated platform for discussion, networking, and capacity building. At the same time, YPs should be encouraged and supported to actively participate in other WG sessions.

This dual approach will:

1. Preserve a safe and inclusive space for YPs to share ideas and build confidence.
2. Prevent YPs from becoming isolated from the wider ICID community.
3. Facilitate interaction and collaboration with senior professionals.
4. Strengthen knowledge exchange, mentorship, and succession planning within ICID.

(ii) Outline of Benefits for YPs Engaging with ICID: A concise two-page document should be developed, highlighting the benefits of YP engagement with ICID and incorporating testimonials from past YPs for wider circulation.

8. The IYPeF Work Plan includes a list of activities, key actions, timelines, and designated responsibilities as **Annex**.

Minutes Item 4: Any other business

9. **Capacity Development Training Program for YPs in September 2025 at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia:** It was noted that ICID in association with the Malaysian National Committee of ICID (MANCID) organized a one-day Young Professional Forum Training Program (YP-TP) on the topic '*NextGen Water Leaders: Innovating for Sustainable Irrigation Futures*' during the 4th WIF and 76thIEC meeting on 11 September 2025 at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Four sessions of the one-day YP Training Program were held such as *Session 1: Visioning the Future of Irrigation; Session 2: Smart Technologies and Innovation in Irrigation; Session 3: Community – Drive Irrigation & Nature based solution; and Session 4: Leadership and Policy Advocacy for the Next Generation*. Young Professionals (YPs) actively participated and contributed to the Forum Sessions as Rapporteurs etc. and attended one-day YP Training Program.

10. To further strengthen the capacity and visibility of the Young Professionals (YPs) within ICID, it is proposed that YPs undertake one pilot project under the YPs, helps to create meaningful connections with international agencies such as ADB, World Bank, WWC, FAO, and others.

11. Webinars: It was noted that for webinars organized under IYPeF, Young Professionals (YPs) are suggested to to attend and actively contribute to these activities in the coming year in order to further strengthen the initiatives of IYPeF.

12. YPs emphasized the importance of fostering intergenerational dialogue between senior and younger professionals. They noted that there is much to learn from their experience, which can guide a smoother and more meaningful transition of knowledge, values, and responsibilities.

Minutes Item 5: 6th African Regional Conference, 14-18 April 2025 in Abuja, Nigeria

13. It was noted that the 6th African Regional Conference on Irrigation and Drainage (ARCID) of ICID was held from 14-18 April 2025 at the Shehu Musa Yar'Adua Centre, Abuja, Nigeria. The theme of the Conference was "Tackling Irrigation Development and Water Management Crisis in Africa. The Conference focused on key issues such as (i) Adaptive strategies for climate-resilient irrigation systems; (ii) Sharing successful irrigation projects, schemes, and policies; (iii) Promoting regional and international cooperation; (iv) Identifying capacity-building needs for professionals; and (v) Exploring financing mechanisms and investment models for sustainable irrigation infrastructure. In addition, a two-day training workshop for Young Professionals (YPs) was held on 11–12 April 2025 alongside the Conference.

14. **ICID Members' Profile Section:** The IYPeF noted the information on ICID Members' Profile Section and invited the members to visit the Profile Section (https://icid.bmeurl.co/C&D4D2E) for updating their information.

15. **Register on World Irrigation and Drainage Projects (WI&DS):** It was noted that ICID has taken an initiative to document the development of irrigation projects in the world by establishing an online Register on "World Irrigation and Drainage Projects (WI&DS)". WI&DS will fulfil 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.

16. Members are requested to encourage all irrigation project owners, managers, and researchers across the world and especially in our 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.

❖❖❖❖❖

Annex (Item 3)

THE WORK PLAN OF IYPEF INCLUDES DETAILED ACTIVITIES, KEY ACTIONS, TIMELINES, AND ASSIGNED RESPONSIBILITIES

No	Activity	Key Actions	Timeline (Oct 2025–Sep 2026)	Responsibility / Lead
A	Webinars (4) on the theme: "Water & Agriculture in the Context of Climate Change."	Identify detailed sub-topics (e.g., Climate-smart irrigation; Nature-based drainage solutions; Digital water management; Youth-led innovations). Prepare annual webinar calendar. Mobilize speakers (mix of YPs and senior experts). Promote events through ICID & IYPeF channels.	Oct 2025 – Planning meeting. Dec 2025, Mar 2026, Jun 2026, and September 2026 – Host webinars (at least 4).	New Coordinator & Joint Coordinator
B	E-discussions on IYPeF LinkedIn (aligned with WIF4/France Congress theme).	**Shortlist 3–4 themes:** (1) Climate-resilient irrigation practices. (2) Water–energy–food nexus. (3) Gender & youth roles in drainage management. (4) Financing adaptation in agriculture. • Appoint moderators; set posting schedule; summarize outcomes quarterly.	Nov 2025 – Finalize themes & moderators. • Jan, Apr, July, Sept. 2026 – Run and wrap-up discussions.	New Coordinator & Joint Coordinator
C	Strengthen YP Forums and ensure representation.	Preparing a concept note on Youth engagement in I&D along with milestones	• Nov 2025 – Task Force inception. • Feb 2026 – Draft toolkit • May 2026 – Mid-year review. • Aug 2026 – Final progress report.	Paavan Kumar Reddy Gollapalli (India)
D	Collaboration matrix with ICID Regional Working Groups – establishing/supporting Regional IYPeF Chapters.	Review status: Africa (existing), Asia (to launch), and Europe (to launch). • Agree TOR for regional chapters. • Identify focal points within RWGs. • Facilitate virtual launch events.	• Dec 2025 – Draft matrix • Feb 2026 – Confirm RWG focal points. • Apr 2026 – Launch Asia Chapter. • Jul 2026 – Launch Europe Chapter.	New Coordinator & Joint Coordinator
E	Two-page document on benefits for YPs engaging with ICID (with testimonials).	• Gather testimonials from past YPs (gender-balanced, multiple regions). • Draft key benefits: learning, mentoring, visibility, career pathways, global network. • Circulate for comments & finalize layout. • Upload to website & circulate via NCs.	• Oct 2025 – Kick-off. • Jan 2026 – Draft. • Mar 2026 – Finalize & publish.	Ms. Suchana Acharya (Nepal)

❖❖❖❖❖