

**MINUTES FOR THE 31<sup>ST</sup> MEETING OF THE  
ICID JOURNAL EDITORIAL BOARD (EB-JOUR)**

5 September 2024, 08:30-10:00 Hours (Session-I)

5 September 2024, 10:30-12:00 Hours (Session-II)

Sydney, Australia

**Strategy Theme: Irrigation and Drainage**

**Presented by the Chairman**

**Year of Establishment: 1994**

**Mandate:** (i) To ensure with the (Joint) Editor(s) that the Journal is published in accordance with editorial policies; (ii) To select and recommend to IEC, through PCTA, the appointment of (Joint) Editor(s), Associate Editors and Members; (iii) To review and update editorial policies when required, to conform with the developing ICID objectives; (iv) To address and resolve issues pertaining to the Journal; and (v) To review guidelines for authors, manuscript reviewers and book reviewers and liaise and coordinate with ICID workbodies.

**Members Present:** (1) Prof. Jiusheng Li (China), Chairman; (2) Prof. Graziano Ghinassi (Italy), Joint Editor; (3) President Hon. Prof. em. Bart Schultz, Editor Emeritus (The Netherlands, by email); (4) Dr. Takanori Nagano (Japan); (5) Asst. Prof. Keigo Noda (Japan); (6) Dr. Vijay K Labhsetwar (India); (7) Dr. Mohammad Javad Monem (Iran, by email); (8) Prof. Jin-Yong Choi (Korea); (8) Prof. Wenyong Wu (China); (9) Prof. Tapas Kumar Biswas (Australia); (10) Prof. Dr. Risheng Ding (China, by email); (11) Prof. Dr. Hwa-Lung You (Chinese Taipei Committee); and (12) Dr. Zhen Wang (China, by email).

**Website:** [http://icid-ciid.org/inner\\_page/124](http://icid-ciid.org/inner_page/124)

**EB-JOUR Minutes Item 1: Action Taken Report by Chair (from Editor, Chairman)**

1. The Chairman's Report for 2023 has been disseminated to the members of the EB-JOUR before the meeting. Various points emerging from the report were presented and discussed during the meeting.
2. The impact factors were 1.424 in 2021, 1.9 in 2022, and 1.6 in 2023. The total number of citations in 2023 reached 2,258, an increase of 5% from the 2020 value of 2,126.

**EB-JOUR Minutes Item 1.1: Special Issues**

3. In 2023, a regular special issue, 72.5, for selected papers of the 24th ICID Congress on the theme 'Innovation and research in agriculture water management to achieve sustainable development goals' was published. The guest editors were Jiusheng Li, Bart Schultz and B.A. Chivate.
4. The following special issues are in preparation:
  - (a) Sponsored Special Issue with papers presented in the workshops of the Working Group on Sustainable Development of Tidal Areas is being prepared. Three papers have been accepted. The guest editors are Hsiao-Wen Wang, Bart Schultz, and Ruey-Chy Kao.
  - (b) Regular Special Issue with selected papers of the ICID Visakhapatnam Congress. 18 papers have been published online and 3 papers have been accepted in principle. One additional paper may be expected. It is expected that this special issue could be released as the final issue in 2024.

**EB-JOUR Minutes Item 1.2: Virtual Issues**

5. M/s. Wiley-Blackwell started with the publication of Virtual Issues (VIs). These are published only online, in which papers on a certain topic that have already been published are published together. The first virtual issue was published in May 2020. The 17 papers in this issue are based on the SALTMED model that was developed by Prof. Dr. Ragab Ragab.
6. A second virtual issue with selected papers by Prof. em. Bart Schultz was published in December 2020.
7. Two virtual issues with selected papers focusing on the modernization of irrigation systems and climate change were published in 2022.

8. The VIs are published much later than the papers themselves. During the business meeting with Wiley, the VI issue was discussed. One concern is that too frequent a VI might interfere with readers' attention to recently published articles. Wiley Journals Publishing Manager explained how VIs are not essential; however, they can be good marketing tools. Therefore, we do not need to force them, but if we get a good topic, it can be good to create a VI.

**EB-JOUR Minutes Item 1.3: French resués**

9. All articles in *Irrigation and Drainage* are published in English, with simultaneous French abstracts. This is a unique feature of our journal. Since 8th December 2021, the French text translation has been transferred to the ICID CO. Up to 22 August 2024, 305 papers have been sent to the ICID CO, and 302 papers have been returned to the Chairman with the complete translation of French texts. On behalf of the Chairman, the Editorial Board highly appreciate the efforts of ICID CO.

**EB-JOUR Minutes Item 1.4: Recognition to the reviewers**

10. As a convention, 321 guest editors and reviewers during 2023 were recognized in the First Issue of 2024. Some of the referees reviewed more than two manuscripts; some of them reviewed both the original and several revised versions of a manuscript. Reviews are also listed in PUBLONS when reviewers wish to do so.

**EB-JOUR Minutes Item 1.5: Review process**

11. The submission for 2023 was 400. In general, the submission for our journal shows an increasing trend. This is mainly caused by the greater interest of authors in publishing their papers in our journal.

12. As of 30 August 2024, 275 manuscripts were received this year. At the same date of 2023, there were 261 submissions. Therefore, a slight increase in the number of submissions may be expected for 2024.

13. In general, the review process proceeds normally. The goal is to control the duration from submission to the first decision within three months. This goal has been achieved with quite a few exceptions.

14. The review of the manuscripts that were submitted until 2022 has been completed. For the 2023 submissions, 10 manuscripts are still in process. For the 275 submissions in 2024, 26 manuscripts have been accepted (in principle), 75 manuscripts have been rejected and 64 manuscripts are in process.

**EB-JOUR Minutes Item 1.6: Best Paper Award 2024**

15. In 2023, four regular issues and one regular special issue were published, resulting in a total of 105 papers. The 'Best Paper Award 2024' was selected by the Chairman in cooperation with the Joint Editors, Associate Editors, and Editor Emeritus of the Journal. The winners of the 'Best Paper Award 2024' were announced during the IEC Plenary meeting held on 3 September 2024. The winner paper titled 'Development of a Smart IoT-Based Drip Irrigation System for Precision Farming' (**Volume 72, Issue 1**) by Vinod Kumar S, Chandra Deep Singh, K.V. Ramana Rao, Mukesh Kumar, Yogesh Annand Rajwade from India. The Best Paper Award in the form of a citation plaque along with a cash prize of US\$ 500 has been awarded.

**EB-JOUR Minutes Item 1.7: Membership**

16. After consulting with the PCTA, the following two issues were identified:

- (a) Starting in 2024, the NCs only nominate members, and the Editorial Board determines the role of the nominee.
- (b) Associate editors/members who have been silent for more than two years will have their membership automatically terminated in consultation with the PCTA.

17. Based on these issues, the Chairman nominates the following two members, who were nominated as Editorial Board Members in 2023, as Associate Editor:

- (i). Professors and Dr Risheng Ding (China)
- (ii). Professors and Dr Hwa-Lung Yu (Chinese Taipei)

18. Er. B. A. Chivate, Director (Technical) has left the ICID Central Office. Therefore, he has withdrawn from membership of EB-JOUR. Er. Chivate has served as the coordinator between the Editorial Board and the ICID Central Office for several years. The EB expressed its appreciation for all the good work that he had done. The EB requests that the ICID Central Office nominates a new coordinator, if available.

19. The Japanese National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (JNC-ICID) has withdrawn the name of Dr. Takanori Nagano (Japan) from the EB-Journal in their email. The EB expressed its appreciation for the professional work that he had done.

**EB-JOUR Minutes Item 2: Road Map to ICID Vision 2030: Action Points of Editorial Board**

20. The implementation of the Action Points of the Editorial Board with respect to the Road Map to ICID Vision 2030 was presented (*refer to Annex 2 of the Agenda*) during the Adelaide meeting. In general, progress is better than commitment. Further, the milestone of the EB-JOUR for the years 2024 & 2025 to be updated as discussed with the members of the EB-Journal.

**EB-JOUR Minutes Item 3: Distribution of the Journal among the ICID membership**

21. A total number of copies 1067 were distributed to members in 2024 i.e. 911 'online only' subscriptions; 78 subscriptions as 'online + print'; and 78 as 'print only' subscriptions. The 'Direct Members' (DM) and Young Professionals (receiving ICID scholarship) have been added to the list receiving ICID Journal. In order to expand the accessibility (online only) to ICID Journal on Irrigation and Drainage, M/s. Wiley has already been created a new category – 'Individual member of the National Committees' for providing free copies of IRD to all individual member of the NCs).

**EB-JOUR Minutes Item 4: Issues related with M/s. Wiley-Blackwell**

**EB-JOUR Minutes Item 4.1: Agreement with Wiley**

22. The year 2024 is the sixth year under the 5<sup>th</sup> Agreement with M/s. Wiley-Blackwell, UK (2019-2025). To ensure seamless connection, the Chairman has requested M/s. Wiley to prepare the 6<sup>th</sup> Agreement (draft) for review and approval by the IEC/PCTA. As a first step, it was agreed that M/s. Wiley would be invited to submit a contract renewal proposal for *Irrigation and Drainage*. This proposal has been discussed with the Chairman and other relevant persons. It was agreed that M/s. Wiley would submit the draft Agreement to Secretary-General, ICID for final check, approval and signing. The draft Agreement was sent on 1 July 2024.

23. After discussion between M/s Wiley, ICID CO and EB-JOUR, it has been agreed that cost for the period 2026-2032 will remain same as for the year 2025. PCTA/IEC approved the Contract renewal proposal for *Irrigation and Drainage* between ICID & M/s. John Wiley & Sons, UK.

**EB-JOUR Minutes Item 4.2: Promotions from Wiley**

24. The publisher is constantly keeping up with the new developments. This implies, for example:

- (a) provide better information related to the submission of papers;
- (b) provision of a list of names of potential reviewers to the Joint or Associate Editors when they handle a certain paper;
- (c) possibility to make a video clip to promote a submitted paper;
- (d) better information on the Wiley web page of the Journal to handle the review process, to record progress on the submission of papers and to record the downloading of papers by readers.

**EB-JOUR Minutes Item 5: Any other business**

**5.1 ICID Members' Profile Section:** The EB-JOUR noted the information on ICID members' Profile Section and invited the members to visit the Profile Section for updating their information.

**5.2 Register on World Irrigation and Drainage Schemes (WI&DS):** This initiative is appreciated. The members of the Editorial Board are encouraged to share appropriate data in the context of 'Register on World Irrigation and Drainage Scheme (WI&DS).

