

## MINUTES FOR THE 35<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COMMITTEE ON STRATEGY AND ORGANIZATION (PCSO)

05 September 2024, 14.00-17.30 hours

Sydney, Australia

**Mandate:** The Permanent Committee on Strategy and Organization (PCSO) shall be concerned with increasing the number of member countries and assisting the National Committees to become more active in their own countries to achieve the goals set for them from time to time by the Council. The Committee will also coordinate the activities of Vice Presidents (Resolution IEC-3/66)

**Members Present:** (1) Vice President Hon. Dr. Mochammad Amron (Indonesia, 2019); (2) Vice President Hon. Dr. Jin-Yong, Choi (South Korea, 2020); (3) Vice President Prof. Dr. Tsugihito Watanabe (Japan, 2021); (4) Vice President Er. Ali Reza Salamat (Iran, 2021); (5) Vice President Prof. Fuqiang Tian (China, 2023); (6) Vice President Dr. Watchara Suiadee (Thailand, 2023); and (7) Er. Ashwin B. Pandya, Secretary General, ICID.

**Observers Present:** (i) Dr. Noppadon Kowsuvon (Thailand); (ii) Dato' Paduka (Dr.) Ir. Hj. Keizrul Bin Abdullah (Malaysia); (iii) Ir. Yuslina Binti Hj. Mohd Sani (Malaysia); and (iv) VP Prof. Dr. Sylvester Mpandeli (South Africa).

**Ex-Officio Members Present:** Chairpersons of all Regional Working Groups and Working Groups/Committees.

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

### PCSO Minutes Item 1: ATR on the Minutes of the 34<sup>th</sup> Meeting of PCSO

1. The Committee noted the Action Taken Report (ATR) and approved the same.

### PCSO Minutes Item 2: Membership of PCSO and its Workbodies

2. Based on the recommendations of the various workbodies associated with it, PCSO reviewed the membership and recommended for acceptance by the Council. Consequent upon the acceptance by the Council, an updated consolidated membership of all workbodies, including those of PCSO and its workbodies, is given in **Annex 3** (Page 27) of 75<sup>th</sup> IEC minutes.

3. The Committee expressed its gratitude and appreciation to VPH Dr. Jin-Yong, Choi (South Korea); VPH Dato' Ir. Nor Hisham bin Mohd Ghazali (Malaysia), and VPH Eng. Rafat Nael Al-Intaki (Iraq) for the contributions made during their term of office as the member of PCSO.

4. The IEC In terms of ICID By-law 3.9.5 (c), the Committee considered and recommended the nomination of Vice President Dr. Vadim Sokolov (Uzbekistan) as Chairperson of PCSO, which was subsequently approved by the Council. The Committee expressed its gratitude and appreciation to VPH Dr. Mochammad Amron for the contributions made during his term of office.

### PCSO Minutes Item 3: Membership of ICID

#### PCSO Minutes Item 3.1: Status of ICID Memberships and Reactivation of Associate Members

5. The Committee appreciated the intensive membership drive that is being undertaken by the Central Office under the guidance of President Dr. Marco Arcieri and with the support of VPs, by approaching associate member countries as well as non-member countries to become active members of ICID through the concerned ministries and diplomatic consulates and embassies located in New Delhi and technocrat community approach.

6. The Committee was told that the letters for reactivation of membership of Associate Members as well as new members have been sent regularly to the Ministry of Water Resources/ Agriculture as well as Embassies/ High Commissions located in Delhi.

7. The Committee noted that vide Resolution IEC-1/74, the 74<sup>th</sup> IEC meeting held in Visakhapatnam, India in 2023, IEC has recommended to communicate National Committees of Ireland & Malawi to be declared as "Associate Members" from 1 January 2024 in case dues are not cleared by 1 January 2024 and apply By-law 13.2. However, on January 11, 2024, the Ireland National Committee settled their arrears for the years 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023. Similarly, Malawi cleared their arrears for the same years and made the payment on May 22, 2024. Accordingly, both Ireland and Malawi have been continued as active members. Poland has informed that they are willing to re-establish their membership in ICID and accordingly, necessary information has been provided to the Polish Government Authorities.

8. The Committee was informed that the Tajikistan National Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (TajNCID) has settled their membership subscription arrears for the years 2015 and 2016.

9. The Committee noted that vide Resolution IEC-1/71, the 71<sup>st</sup> IEC virtual meeting held in 2020, IEC approved the admission of Kenya as a member of ICID from 1 July 2021, subject to payment of subscription for six months for 2021. Vide their communication dated 1 September 2021, the Kenyan NC reaffirmed their commitment to reactivate its membership in ICID and assured that the Irrigation Department at the Ministry of Water, Sanitation and Irrigation would communicate the status of reactivation of their membership at the earliest to ICID Central Office. In response to an email dated 7 January 2022, ICID Central Office received a response from the Ministry of Water, Sanitation and Irrigation (Kenya) that they have put the file to National Treasury for budget allocation and were hopeful to renew the Kenya's membership by 1 July 2022. Subsequently, email dated 16 January 2023 sent for membership subscription for the year 2023 and e-mail dated 01 January 2024 membership subscription for the year 2024 has been sent. However, membership reactivation and subscription are still awaited.

10. The Committee was further informed that in order to strengthen the membership in the Americas, ICID Central Office has shared a list of 'Associate Members' and 'New Countries' in America with Dr. Marco Arcieri, President, ICID along with Vice Presidents Prof. Dr. Tsugihito Watanabe (Japan) & Dr. Ali Reza Salamat (Iran), Vice Presidents In-Charge of America to take up matter with 'Associate Members' in the assigned region to foster and encourage greater country participation in ICID activities. While a number of member countries in America are gradually decreasing due to one reason or other, it is extremely important to reactivate the countries who have become 'Associate Members' (*Inactive National Committees*) and bring them into ICID as well as liaising with new countries for becoming ICID members.

11. The Committee noted that ICID Central Office had communicated with the National Committees (*Associate Members*) in Americas e.g. Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Republic Dominican, Republic of Ecuador, Guyana, Republic of Honduras, Panama, Peru, Suriname, Uruguay, Venezuela and requested their *Ministry of Water Resources/ Agriculture* to join the membership of ICID. Further, ICID Central Office had contacted new countries of Anguilla, Bahamas, Barbados, Bermuda, Belize, Bolivia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guadeloupe, French Guiana, Haiti, Paraguay, Puerto Rico, Trinidad & Tobago, Martinique, Monserrat, Nicaragua, Saint Lucia & Suriname and requested their *Ministry of Water Resources/ Agriculture / Embassies* in India to join the membership of ICID. Responses are yet to be received. With the efforts of VP Watanabe and JNCID members, details of persons to be contacted for reviving/ establishing membership in Republic of Colombia, Bolivia and Republic Dominican have been received by ICID CO. The efforts for the membership generation will be taken up by the central office.

12. The Committee was informed that the ICID Central Office contacted the Mauritania, Togolese Republic, and Mozambique, for the reactivation of their country membership however, the response is still awaited. National Committees of Burkina Faso, Egypt, and Zambia have outstanding arrears of two years in addition to current year dues. Multiple requests have been issued by the ICID CO to these NCs to settle their subscription balances. Three National Committees (NCs) - Sudan, Ukraine (which has already received approval to become an associate member in the 73<sup>rd</sup> IEC), and USA - have arrears of three years or more, excluding the current year dues. Multiple requests have been made by ICID CO to these NCs to settle their outstanding subscription balances.

13. Due to the special circumstances in Ukraine and Sudan, IEC vide resolution No. 1/74 approved to defer the applicability of ICID Bye-law 13.2 for one year i.e. till December 2024. Accordingly, ICID CO has informed the same to Sudan and Ukraine NCs. Dr. Ahmed Mohamed Adam communicated via email dated June 20, 2024, that more than 8 million people in Sudan remain displaced or refugees from their homes. However, the response of Ukraine is still awaited.

14. Associate Members have been requested to reinstate the activities within the countries and at the same time renew their membership by paying the subscription fees due. Vice Presidents of the concerned regions have also been requested to use their good offices for reactivation of such NCs. With the active support of Central Office, the Vice Presidents have been in correspondence with countries in their region in order to reactivate or motivate the deemed inactive NCs to again become active members of ICID.

15. The Committee was apprised that the Netherlands National Committee of ICID (NETHCID) has informed that due to financial constraints, they will not continue their membership. As previously communicated on 12 June, 2020, 12 March, 2021, 10 June, 2022 and 6 March, 2023, they stated that their payment for 2021 would be their final contribution. However, the PFC recommended to extend NETHCID's membership in ICID until December 2024, in hopes that NETHCID will improve its financial situation by then. The Central Office has informed VPH Charlotte de Fraiture, via email dated 3 April, 2024, and invited NETHCID to participate in ICID's technical activities through events and working groups. This allows Netherlands to maintain its status within ICID and potentially resume full membership in the future once NETHCID is able to resume subscription payments.

16. The Committee was informed that the British National Committee of the ICID (IWF/ICID.UK) has expressed its intention to withdraw from ICID membership. As IWF has already paid the full subscription for 2024, it will be classified as an Associate Member.

17. Following the initiative to reactivate National Committees in the European region, the ICID Central Office has issued reminders to Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Germany, Greece, Lithuania, Macedonia, Poland, Serbia, and the Slovak Republic. They have been requested to renew their membership with ICID. Additionally, in efforts to expand ICID's reach in Europe, the Central Office has already approached Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Belarus, Belgium, Bolivia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Denmark, Iceland, Kosovo, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Norway, and San Marino. These countries' Ministries of Water Resources or Agriculture have been invited to consider joining ICID membership.

18. The Committee after deliberations recommended that efforts should be continued for persuading the Latin and Central American countries to join or re-join ICID

**PCSO Minutes Item 3.2: Vice Presidents' reports: Strengthening regional cooperation and activities of National Committees**

19. The Committee noted with satisfaction the role of Vice Presidents in strengthening the regional cooperation among NCs and coordinating the activities of NCs allocated to them. ICID Central Office has been supporting the regional cooperation amongst the NCs by organizing the training programs, workshops, research activities, webinars, seminars, etc. in irrigation and drainage.

20. The Committee was informed that the NCs are always encouraged to hold web conference with ICID Central Office or the Vice President in-charge on any issue that they may want to discuss or seek clarification and the Central Office is always facilitating such web meetings. Since last year, new countries approached under the membership drive have been made part of individual VP allocations, in addition to the members for further pursuance by the VPs-in-Charge at the regional level.

21. The Committee commended the efforts by ICID Central Office towards supporting the organisation of the 6<sup>th</sup> African Young Water Professional's Forum (Af-YWPF) which was organised (virtually) from 30 October to 1 November 2023 under the platform of Cairo Water Week (CWW 2023). The theme of the Forum was 'Actions on the climate change impacts and sustainability of irrigated agricultural'. The Forum was attended by 123 African young professionals from 35 countries. The African Young Water Professionals Forum (Af-YWPF) has become an important platform on the African continent for the capacity development of future leaders in water-related sectors. The objective of the Af-YWP is to bring together Africa's future leaders from the private sector, research, and government institutions around the central theme of water conservation for sustainable development. Through this Forum, the water professionals get an opportunity to showcase their knowledge and contribution to sustainable water management in an international setting, discuss what they learned from their experiences, and broaden the mind and thinking of new and experienced water professionals.

22. The Committee appreciated the efforts made in organisation of the one-day Young-Professional Training Program (YP-TP) during the 25th International Congress on 05 November 2023 in Visakhapatnam (Vizag), Andhra Pradesh, India jointly by Central Water Commission (CWC), India- European Union (EU) Water Partnership (IEWP) Action, Phase 2, and International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID). During the 25th Congress, Young Professionals (YPs) also actively participated and contributed to the IEWP-CWC Side Event and participated in other sessions from 02-04 November 2023. The focus was on the maximum participation of female YPs.

23. The Committee noted that VP Mr. Kushvinder Vohra established regular contacts with allocated National Committees and allocated Working Groups namely, Working Group on Sustainable On-Farm Irrigation Systems (WG-SON-FARM) and Working Group on Use of Non-Conventional Water Resources for Irrigation (WG-NCWRI). The allocated Working Group NCWRI held an International Workshop on "Non-conventional Water for Irrigated Agriculture - benefits of advanced technologies" during the 25<sup>th</sup> ICID Congress in November 2023 at Visakhapatnam, India. In addition, meetings of these two working groups were held during pre-IEC meetings at Visakhapatnam.

24. The Committee appreciated the efforts made by VP Mr. Kushvinder Vohra to establish the contact with the allocated national committees namely; Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, and Nepal and requesting them to nurture a proactive engagement, to foster and encourage greater participation at the NC level. To include more water related aspects, it was mentioned that although irrigation sector generally happens to be the largest user of water resources, but, other sectors are also equally (or even more) relevant, such as providing potable water supply, sanitation, hydropower, floods, river rejuvenation, water storage needs, conjunctive use of SW and GW etc. The emphasis was also laid on the need to work shoulder-to-shoulder to further various works going on through these NCs and endeavour to include some more works/studies that may be relevant in today's context, especially in view of the phenomena of climate change, population explosion, and natural disasters.

25. Indian National Committee (INCID) have made efforts towards gathering the requisite data for World Register of Irrigation Projects. The National Register of Major & Medium Irrigation Projects having data of about 1800 irrigation structures is on the verge of completion and the data from this publication is proposed to be directly dovetailed for World Register of Irrigation Projects.

26. The Committee appreciated the efforts made by VP Dr. Fuqiang Tian towards the ICID membership drive. For regions such as Macao and Hong Kong, the limited land under cultivation makes it difficult to envision them as member countries of ICID. Concerning North Korea, establishing connections and initiating dialogue has proven to be very challenging. VP Dr. Fuqiang Tian attempted to build connections with Mongolia through CNCID. Additionally, VP Dr. Fuqiang Tian has made efforts to communicate with officers from the water resources departments of Laos and Cambodia through the Lancang-Mekong Water Resources Cooperation Mechanism.

27. The Committee was pleased to note that the Vice President Prof. Dr Sylvester Mpandeli is engaging with various countries in Southern Africa on behalf of ICID, so that SADC member countries can join ICID. He is working with various Ministries in the Southern Africa. In Southern Africa region, there is Southern Africa Regional Irrigation Association (SARIA) with 15 member countries. Active SARIA member countries are South Africa, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Madagascar, these are already member countries of ICID. South African National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (SANCID) organised IRPID workshop in Pretoria, South Africa, to develop a ten-year framework plan based on the IRPID activities in the Southern Africa. Since then, there were several activities organised by Vice President Prof. Dr. Sylvester Mpandeli in Southern Africa. The Water Research Commission (WRC), SANCID and Partners held the Water – Energy – Food (WEF) Nexus Masterclass session on line from the 11-14 June 2022. The WEF Nexus Masterclass objective was to empower Young Professionals to address issues related to Water, Energy, Agriculture etc. The Vice President Prof. Dr Sylvester Mpandeli also organised WEF Nexus Summer School in Jordaan, Middle East (MENA) region in February 2024. As part of capacity building initiatives, the Water Research Commission (WRC) of South Africa with key strategic partners are organising the Water – Energy – Food Nexus Winter School from 13-17 August 2024 and the Water – Energy – Food Nexus Summit in Pretoria, South Africa from 19-20 August 2024.

28. The Committee noted that a partnership has been established between the South African National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (SANCID) and Nigerian Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (NINCID) regarding the 6th African Regional Conference which is scheduled to take place from 14th to 15th April 2025, Abuja, Nigeria. The theme for the Conference “Tackling Irrigation Development and Water Management Crisis in Africa.” VP Prof. Dr Sylvester Mpandeli attended the ICID Special session during the 10<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum in Bali, Indonesia. The SANCID Chairman presented two scientific papers titled Accelerating progress towards sustainable developments through water- energy – food nexus; and enhancing the resilience of water and agriculture sectors to climate change in Southern Africa.

29. The Committee was apprised that in support of ICID’s engagement at the 10th World Water Forum in Bali, Indonesia, from 18-25 May 2024, Vice President Mr. Alireza Salamat played a pivotal role in coordinating and moderating the Special Session titled “Water, Food, Energy Nexus Using Smart Water Technologies,” alongside ICID President Dr. Marco Arcieri. The session commenced with an opening address by President Dr. Arcieri, followed by VP Mr. Salamat providing an overview of the past year's efforts in organizing the event in collaboration with Task Force members. The session featured approximately 10 speakers from Iran, Italy, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Japan, China, Korea, Chinese Taipei, as well as international organizations such as FAO, Islamic Development Bank, and the World Bank. These presentations covered diverse perspectives on the Water, Food, Energy Nexus and Smart Water and Irrigation Management Technologies, all of which were well-received by the forum participants.

30. The Committee noted that Vice President Prof. Dr. Tsugihiko Watanabe oversees Associate Member countries, which currently include Brazil, Guyana, Mexico, and Uruguay. He is also responsible for liaising with potential member countries such as Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Dominican Republic, and Venezuela.

31. The Committee appreciated the efforts made by VP Prof. Dr. Watanabe in requesting the reinstatement of Mexico through a contact associated with the previous representative, but has not yet received a response. This year, VP Prof. Dr. Watanabe enlisted the help of an irrigation/drainage and land improvement engineer from Japan's Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, currently serving at the embassy of a relevant country as a secretary. The task assigned was to identify the responsible department in five countries—Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Paraguay, and the Dominican Republic and the contact details of Bolivia, Colombia, and the Dominican Republic was shared with ICID CO. VP Prof. Dr. Watanabe also communicated with a professor from the University of Buenos Aires, with whom he had established a positive rapport during a special session organized by the Japanese Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries at the GEWEX-OSC2024 in Sapporo, Japan. He conveyed his request for Argentina to “rejoin” ICID through the Embassy of Argentina in Japan. Follow-up actions are currently being prepared.

**PCSO Minutes Item 3.3: Recommendations of the Direct Membership Administering (DMA) – Sub Committee**

32. The Committee noted and supported the proposal for granting Direct Membership to new applicants as given below, as per recommendations of the DMA Sub-Committee:

Sl. No.	Name of Applicant	Country	Type of Membership Applied for
1.	Ir. Mukhlis Zainol Abdin	Malaysia	Individual (2024)
2.	Mr. Ralph Elsaesser	Germany	Individual (2024)

**PCSO Minutes Item 4: Road Map to ICID Vision 2030: Review of the Action Plan**

33. The Committee noted the activities identified by RWGs and WGs reporting to PCSO in the Action Plan at its last meeting in Vizag, India, as appended to the 'Road Map to ICID Vision 2030' ([http://www.icid.org/icid\\_vision2030.pdf](http://www.icid.org/icid_vision2030.pdf)), which are committed to be achieved over a period of five years.

34. Capacity development is one of the activities that has been progressing well under the Action Plan. A series of webinars and trainings and online courses have been organized as part of this activity. This has generated a very good response.

35. The Committee reviewed the updates on the identified activities in Action Plan by RWGs and workbodies and found that existing mechanism to monitor the Action Plan is adequate. In order to promote the activities of Capacity Development Training Programme, ICID in association with the Central Water Commission (CWC) and India – European Union (EU) Water Partnership (IEWP) organised a one-day Young-Professional Training Program (YP-TP) on the topic 'Managing Water Resources Towards Achieving Water Security for Improved Livelihood and Sustainable Development' during the 25<sup>th</sup> ICID Congress on 05 November 2023 at Vizag. The Young Professionals (YPs) actively participated and contributed to the 'IEWP-CWC Side Event' and Congress Sessions from 02-04 November 2023 during the 25<sup>th</sup> ICID Congress. Under the India-EU Water Partnership Action framework, YP-TP aimed particularly to encourage the engagement of young professional especially women YPs in the field of water, agriculture, and other allied subject, from EU Member States, Africa, and India towards joint learnings and exchanges. In the four-day training program, 30 young professionals from Europe (3), Africa (4) and India (23) attended the training programme.

36. As part of the capacity development programme of YPs, the WG supported the 6<sup>th</sup> African Young Water Professional's Forum (Af-YWPF) organized under the platform of Cairo Water Week (CWW) 2023 virtually from 30 October to 1 November 2023. The theme of the Forum was 'Actions on the climate change impacts and sustainability of irrigated agricultural'. The Forum focused on topics such as sustainable agricultural water management in Africa "Role of ICID"; gender today for the leader of tomorrow in sustainable water and agriculture management; climate change projection in Africa and Mashreq regions; sustainable management of land and water resources in Dry Areas for Climate-threatened Food security; the G-20 global land initiative; using the Aqua crop model for irrigation management; and innovative approaches to modernize irrigation; cases from Jordan and Egypt. A three-day event brought together 125 African Young Professionals, covering 35 countries (31 African, 3 Arab and 1 Europe).

37. The Committee noted the Action Plan, which is designed to be living and dynamic and rolling in nature and includes activities for converting vision to action, may be monitored annually and reviewed triennially, as envisaged in 'Road Map to ICID Vision 2030'. Accordingly, under the existing monitoring mechanism, PCSO may monitor the activities identified under Action Plan based on the progress achieved by RWGs and workbodies reporting to the Committee and suggest appropriate ways and means to achieve them.

**PCSO Minutes Item 5: Knowledge Management Strategy (KMS)**

38. The Committee was informed that in order to manage the knowledge processes within the ICID network the Knowledge Management Division (KMD) at the Central Office of ICID was set up in 2017 based on the recommendations emerging from consultations of the ICID Working Groups on Knowledge theme, and also from various ICID partners. The KMD is engaged in developing a distribution network for the knowledge base and ICID publications on agricultural water management. It is also working to develop an interactive Knowledge Portal for improved information flow within, and outside the ICID network. The development of online portals for managing technical contents of the flagship events of ICID has been developed fully in house and stabilized. The efforts for development of the world register of I&D schemes is also being pursued. KMD has already created special compendiums on WHIS, experiences collected as part of WatSave submissions and historical development of irrigation in the world which have been made available as e-publications.

39. The Committee appreciated that ICID is working with FAO for development of a framework for assessing existing and future needs of irrigation potential in various countries. Being a collaborative approach, the cooperation from the National Committees will also be sought.

40. PCSO noted the efforts being made for dissemination of the knowledge by ICID and desired to have consolidation of information available in various sources like journals and proceedings into a searchable database for faster access

#### **PCSO Minutes Item 6: Collaboration and Cooperation between ICID and other International Organizations**

41. The Committee appreciated the increasing cooperation with International Organizations and collaborative activities undertaken during the year 2023-24.

42. The Committee noted that ICID and Working Group on Capacity Development, Training and Education (WG-CDTE) signed an MOU with National Research Institute for Rural Electrification (NRIRE) / Hangzhou Regional Center (Asia & Pacific) for Small Hydro Power (HRC), Ministry of Water Resources, People's Republic of China on 17 September, 2023. Similarly, another MOU was signed by WG-CDTE with Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research (IGSNRR), CAS, People's Republic of China on 25 February, 2024.

43. After deliberations, the Committee appreciated and valued the growing cooperation with international organizations and the collaborative activities carried out during the 2023-24 period

#### **PCSO Minutes Item 7: Review of reports of Regional Working Groups (RWGs)**

##### **PCSO Minutes Item 7.1: African Regional Working Group (AFRWG)**

44. VP Dr Sylvester Mpendeli, Vice Chair of AFRWG presented the report of the meeting of the RWG. The Chair informed the Council that a paper on Green Revolution in Africa has been published in the WWP Journal and a copy of the paper is available on the AFRWG webpage at [https://icid-ciid.org/icid\\_data\\_web/Researcharticle2023.pdf](https://icid-ciid.org/icid_data_web/Researcharticle2023.pdf).

45. The Committee was informed that Southern African IRPID node has been established with the Water Research Commission (WRC) of South Africa as its Secretariat. Currently four research projects were initiated by WRC of South Africa in partnership with the University of KwaZulu – Natal (UKZN), South Africa Weather Service, University of Zimbabwe, Water Research Council of Kenya. 7<sup>th</sup> African Young Professional Forum will be organized during the Cairo Water Week to be held from 13–17 October 2024 on the theme "Water and Climate: Building Resilient Communities"

##### **PCSO Minutes Item 7.2: American Regional Working Group (AMRWG)**

46. No meeting of AMRWG could take place.

##### **PCSO Minutes Item 7.3: Asian Regional Working Group (ASRWG)**

47. VP Prof. Dr. Tsugihiko Watanabe, Chair of ASRWG presented the report of the meeting of the RWG. Technical Report on 'Irrigation and Drainage for Asian Food Security' was released at the 9th Asian Regional Conference from 1-7 September 2024 in Sydney, Australia.

48. The Committee was informed that the International Workshop on 'Agricultural Water Management for Food Security: More than Modernization' was held and coordinated by IACID in cooperation with ASRWG. MANCID, TajNCID, and JNCID-CNCID reported their collaboration with some other NCs to take the collaborated work in the near future. The Tajikistan National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (TajNCID) organized the 14th International Drainage Workshop (IDW) on "Modernization of irrigation and drainage systems for adaptation to climate change and sustainable development"

##### **PCSO Minutes Item 7.4: European Regional Working Group (ERWG)**

49. President Dr. Marco Arcieri, Chair of ERWG presented the report of the meeting of the RWG.

50. The Committee was informed that VPH Ms. Irene Bondarik has proposed to serve as Vice Chair of the Group. Ms. Bondarik will represent ICID at COP 29 in Baku, Azerbaijan, in November 2024, where she will also explore the potential for Belarus's membership in ICID. Additionally, ICID and IDRA have been invited to participate in the Euro-Mediterranean conference on wastewater use. Ms. Bondarik has also proposed hosting a webinar in 2025

focused on the ecological management of groundwater. Furthermore, initial contacts have been established with the Estonia National Committee to organize a conference next year in collaboration with ICID.

**PCSO Minutes Item 8: Review of reports of Working Groups/Committees**

**PCSO Minutes Item 8.1: ICID Young Professional's e-Forum (IYPeF)**

51. No meeting of the IYPeF could take place.

**PCSO Minutes Item 9: Organizational issues related to IEC, Congresses, Forums and Conferences**

**PCSO Agenda Item 9.1: Report of the Committee on Events (C-Events)**

52. The Chair of the Sub-Committee presented the report of the meeting of the Sub-Committee.

53. VPH Kaluvai Yella Reddy (India) elected as the Chair of the C-Event, Ms. Celine Papin (France) elected as the Vice Chair, and Dr. Lihui Gao (China) elected as the Secretary of C-Event. The revised mandate is given as:

**Mandate of C-Events:**

To review the summary report presented by the representatives from previous events, which includes attendance, financial performance, and recommendations for future events;

- (a) To deliberate and recommend the Themes, sub-themes of World Irrigation Forums and Theme and Questions of future Congresses;
- (b) To set out format and technical contents of the Congress and WIFs;
- (c) To review the technical outputs and outcomes and suggest follow ups;
- (d) To work out the structure of meetings related to IEC, particularly the WGs at the ICID's Annual Events, to make them more effective;
- (e) To draw Guidelines to make the WG meetings/sessions technically richer and beneficial to the stakeholders and industries in terms of technical output, holding joint webinars, etc. and
- (f) To review proposals from the National Committees wishing to hold a future Congress/WIF/Regional Conference that must make a report to Committee on Events (CEVENTS) outlining their plans including location, dates, expected attendance, financial budget, registration fees etc. Committee will consider these reports and make a recommendation to PCSO whether to grant the event to the NC.

**PCSO Minutes Item 10: Introduction of the revamped Work Groups' themes and new subjects**

54. The Committee was informed that during the 73<sup>rd</sup> International Executive Council (IEC) meeting in Adelaide, it was decided to look into the possibility of integrating WGs of similar/ close mandate. 9 working Groups were concluding their mandate at 74<sup>th</sup> IEC. The remaining working groups under the Strategy Themes have been restructured during the 74<sup>th</sup> IEC held in Visakhapatnam, India, into 11 new working groups under four themes: (1) Irrigation and Drainage (Long-term activities)- WG-IWM&D, WG-NWREP & LDRG; 2. Natural Resources (Medium-term activities) RWH, WG-SCER, WFE-N & IDSST; 3. Climate Change & Impacts (Medium to long-term activities) - CLIMATE; 4. Sustainable Development (Long-term activities) WG-I&O MVE, HIST & CDTE.

55. After deliberation the Committee urged that new areas of exploration in the field of irrigation and drainage are continually emerging and ICID needs to address these areas in order to maintain the leadership and also to provide pathways to the members. Concept notes on these aspects are invited which can be discussed during the oncoming year.

**PCSO Minutes Item 11: Any other business**

**PCSO Minutes Item 11.1: ICID Members' Profile Section**

56. The Committee urged members to update the profile section of ICID website for better coordination for technical activities, with the suggestion that adequate security of personal data submitted is ensured for maintaining privacy of the members. The Committee felt that building database of expertise available in ICID fold will go a long way towards improving the impact of organization across the Agricultural water management field.

**PCSO Minutes Item 11.2: Register on World Irrigation and Drainage Schemes (WI&DS)**

57. The Committee requested the member to provide inputs to the register and enrich the database. 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. Members were also requested 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

58. The Committee appreciated that FAO has awarded a study on developing a framework on assessing existing and future creation of irrigation potential in various countries. The register will be of immense value once such a study is taken up for a specific country. In this context, we urge the members to populate the register with the information available and provide a sound database for global outreach through FAO.

**PCSO Minutes Item 11.3: WWF 10 Activities**

59. The Committee observed that the tenure of TF-WWF10 has concluded. Preparations are now underway to establish the Task Force for World Water Forum 11 (TF-WWF11), scheduled to take place in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, in 2027. Based on experiences with WWF-10 and the Indonesian NC's role in organizing it, it is important to identify and discuss organizational issues that may need attention for the upcoming WWF-11. New Task Force for WWF-11 will have to be established for taking up coordination with the WWC secretariat right from the commencement of their activities.

