MINUTE OF THE 8TH MEETING OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON THEMES, TOPICS, AND WORK PLANS OF FUTURE ICID EVENTS (SC-E-THEMES)
03 November 2023: 11.30 – 13.00 Hours
Visakhapatnam (Vizag), Andhra Pradesh State, India

Terms of Reference (ToR): (i) To deliberate and recommend the Themes, sub-themes of World Irrigation Forums and Theme and Questions of future Congresses, (ii) To set out format and technical contents of the Congress and WIFs, (iii) To review the technical outputs and outcomes and suggest follow ups, (iv) To work out the structure of meetings related to IEC, particularly the WGs at the ICID's Annual Events, to make them more effective and (v) To draw Guidelines to make the WG meetings/sessions technically richer and beneficial to the stakeholders and industries by exploring the ways of combining the meetings of workbodies with areas of common interest or holding webinars, etc.

Members Present: (1) VP Prof. Dr. Tszugihiro Watanabe, Chair, PCTA (Japan, 2021); (2) VPH Dr. Mohamed Wahba, Chair, WG-CDTE (Egypt, 2017); (3) Dr. Alok Sikka (IWMI Representative, 2021) and (4) Er. Ashwin B. Pandya, Secretary General, ICID.

Observers Present: (1) Vice President Mr. Bruno Grawitz (France, 2022); (2) Ir. Keizrul bin Abdullah (Malaysia); (3) Ir. Wan Noorul Hafifah Ariffin (Malaysia); (4) Dr. Mohamed Wahba, Chair, WG-CDTE (Egypt, 2007), VPH Mr. Franklin VPH Mr. Franklin Gao Zhanyi, Chair (China, 2017), VPH Dr. Mohamed Wahba, Chair, WG-CDTE (Egypt, 2017), VPH Mr. Mr. Mohd Azmi Bin Ismail (Malaysia); (6) Mr. Thayalam Sekaran (Malaysia); and (7) Ms. Céline PAPIN, AFEID (France).

Sub-Committee Minutes Item 1: ATR on the Minutes of the 8th Meeting of Sub-Committee

1. Last year SC-E-THEMES did not conduct the meeting virtually or physically. Hence no minutes and ATR thereon to consider.

Sub-Committee Minutes Item 2: To review the membership of the Sub-Committee

2. As per the notification No.15 of 2017 dated 24 November 2017, the Sub-Committee shall consist of the members as per the following composition:

(a) Technical Experts – one each drawn from ITAC for immediate past and future WIF and Congresses, within the span of six years.

(b) Two Experts nominated by PCTA.

(c) Three Experts drawn from Technical Workbodies of ICID

(d) Chairperson of SC will be nominated from amongst the members, by the President in consultation with Secretary General.

(e) The membership will be for a maximum of six years and the nominee of ITAC of past Event will be a member for two years after the conclusion of that particular event.

(f) The membership shall not exceed more than 10 members.

3. As per clause (e) of the membership composition, the membership of the nominee of ITAC for WIF3, Dr. K. Yella Reddy is for two years after the conclusion of WIF3 in Bali in 2019. The Committee desired to have the nominee of MANCID also as a member of the Committee, as and when ITAC for WIF5 is constituted. The Committee suggested that two representatives of international technical partners of ICID as its members and accordingly IWI should be invited to be a member of the Committee. IWI has nominated Dr. Alok Sikka as their representative. By the end of 74th IEC being held in India in November 2023, PH Dr. Gao Zhanyi, Chair (China, 2017), VPH Mr. Franklin E. Dimick, Chair, WG-MWSCD (USA, 2017), VPH Dr. Mohamed Wahba, Chair, WG-CDTE (Egypt, 2017), VPH Mr. Mr. Mohd Azmi Bin Ismail (Malaysia); (6) Mr. Thayalam Sekaran (Malaysia); and (7) Ms. Céline PAPIN, AFEID (France).

4. It may be noted that the present composition of the membership of the Sub-Committee stipulates 10 members only and for allowing extra members as proposed, the composition of the Committee as notified vide Notification No.15 of 2017 dated 24 November 2017 needs to be revisited and revised. The Committee may accordingly revise
the composition of its membership to accommodate more members in the Committee as indicated above. The Sub-
committee reviewed the membership based on the above guidelines.

5. The committee agreed to have new members from the France and Malaysia as they are the two NC’s who will
host the coming events (the Europe Regional conference and the World Irrigation Forum).

6. Two members from France
   (i) VP Mr. Bruno Grawitz (could be New Chair of the Sub-Committee)
   (ii) Mrs. Celine Papir

7. Two members from Malaysia
   (i) VPH Dr. Hj. Nor Hisham Bin Mohd Ghazali
   (ii) Mr. Mohamad Radzi Bin Abdul Talib

Sub-Committee Minutes Item 3: To work out the structure of meetings related to IEC, particularly the
WGs at the ICID’s Annual Events, to make them more effective

8. The Sub-Committee reviewed the progress made on the recommendations of the previous meetings and
recommended the following:
   (a) Organize online WebEx meetings prior to the main physical meeting to take care of all routine matters
       such as attendance, membership issues, publications etc.
   (b) Organize shortened separate physical (face to face) meetings of the WGs for 90 minutes each in place
       of earlier 180 minutes.
   (c) Organizing a series of internal workshops (90 minutes) on the specific items related to the mandate of the
       working group and combining the outcome of these workshops to produce WG output/Report/Document
       as appropriate.
   (d) Assign the time bound specific tasks emerging from the mandate of the WG to the members for effective
       results.
   (e) Restructure the Plenary Session of IEC to allow the chairs/WGs to disseminate the work of their WGs to
       all stakeholders.

9. ICID Central Office has been requesting Chairs/ Vice Chairs/ Secretaries of workbodies to make full use of
virtual platform for virtual meetings, so as to ensure regular contribution from the WG members as well as to discuss
and to initiate follow-up actions emerging from the minutes of the previous WG meeting and to review the progress
of the action points. In order to organize the virtual meetings, Webinars and e-Discussions, Chairs of the workbodies
have been requested to send the ‘Expression of Interest’ to the ICID Central Office to initiate the process.

10. While reviewing the existing structure of meetings related to IEC, particularly the WGs at the ICID’s annual
    events, to make them more effective, the Sub-Committee observed that the structure of the meetings related to IEC
    has been well organized effectively and efficiently and the virtual meetings are being organized in the past two
    years. The Council at its 72nd meeting approved the recommendation of the Sub-Committee to organize three virtual
    meetings in a year along with one physical (face-to-face) meeting during the annual meetings of ICID, limiting at
    least one meeting in a quarter of every year. Accordingly, the Chairs of the WBs have been requested to organize
    the virtual meetings, which resulted in the organization of 27 virtual meetings of ICID WBs (4 meetings of WG-
    NCWR; 3 meetings each of the WGs on LDRG, ERWG, CLIMATE; 2 meetings each of the WGs on WATS,
    ASRWG, M&R; one meeting each of the WGs ENV, CDTE, WWF10, WG-VE, WFE-N, SDTA, SON-FARM,
    MWSCD). Based on the discussions with the members and the Chairs of the WGs, the sum-committee based on
    evaluation of last years, recommended to organise at least one virtual meeting not three along with one physical
    (face-to-face) meeting during the annual meetings of ICID

11. As recommended by the Sub-Committee, the term of Chairpersons and members of WGs is regularly reviewed
    in order to refresh the members and make WGs more active and effective, as per the provisions in ICID By-laws
    and Constitution in this regard.

12. While discussing report of PCTA during 73rd IEC meeting held on 10 October 2023 held at Adelaide, Australia,
    on the recommendation of the PCTA the Council approved for setting up of the Task Force to review mandates and
    outcomes of the WGs and to recommend the new structure and mandates of the WGs in line with the demands of
    the sector and in consultation with the WG members and Chairs. Accordingly, President, ICID and PCTA Chair in
    consultation with the WG Chairs has undertaken exercise of reviewing mandate of the WGs, continuation of WGs
    after completion of the tenure of the WGs etc. and to suggest new structure of the WG. At 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 mandate.

13. VP Dr. Watanabe, PCTA Chair gave presentation about the recommendations of the task force and explained the tentative new structure which was developed. Among the existing 18 working groups, nine of them will complete their mandate in November 2023. The remaining working groups are proposed to be restructured into 11 new working groups under four themes: (1) Irrigation and Drainage (Long-term activities)- WG-IW&M&D, WG-NWREP & LDRG; 2. Natural Resources (Medium-term activities) RWH, WG-SCER, WFE-N & IDSTT; 3. Climate Change & water scarcity (Medium to long-term activities) - CLIMATE; 4. Sustainable Development (Long-term activities) WG-I&O MVE, HIST & CDTE. The new structure was approved by the 74th IEC which was earlier agreed by the 18 WG chairs and the 11 WG are proposed to continue after November 2023 with new r mandates, WG names and tasks to accommodate the amalgamated outgoing WGs.

Sub-Committee Minutes Item 4: To draw Guidelines to make the WG meetings/sessions technically richer and beneficial to the stakeholders and industries by exploring the ways of combining the meetings of workbodies with areas of common interest or holding webinars, etc. – To finalize the recommendations

14. The Sub-Committee reviewed the following recommendations and effects made previously:

(a) Organize combined meetings of the WGs for the duration of time saved from shortening the separate WG meetings, say of 180 minutes. This combined meeting could be in the shape of workshop/seminar/panel discussion on the common issues emerging from the mandate of the concerned WGs.

(b) While ICID has four strategy themes i.e. Basin, Knowledge, On-farm and Schemes; ‘On-farm’ has only two WGs; namely, WG-SON-FARM and WG-NCWRI; which can perhaps come together on trial basis to understand the actual working of the concept and the benefits thereof.

(c) Webinars (on-line) on the topics/areas of common interest of the concerned WGs could be held during the year.

(d) A lot of on-line coordination prior to the annual meetings among the Chairs/members would be prerequisite for successful combined meetings (workshop/seminar/panel discussion) at the time of IEC.

15. Based on the observation and outcome of the joint sessions held at Saskatoon, Canada and Bali, Indonesia, during its last meeting in 2021, the Committee opined that it would be useful to organize the joint session of WGs under each strategy theme with the highlight of holistic consideration of WGs’ mandate and activities for achieving the objectives of the strategy theme, and to improve the performance of activities of WGs and identify the necessity to setup new WGs under the strategy theme.

16. Last year, the Sub-Committee reviewed and deliberated upon the ways of combining the meetings of workbodies with areas of common interest or holding webinars and prepare to draw Guidelines, based on the implementation and result of the recent activities on organizing the combined meetings of the WGs. The Committee felt that the idea of holding of the joint sessions of the WGs on strategy theme-wise was not a good idea as the mandates of the WGs under ST-ON-FARM, viz. WG-SON-FARM and WG-NCWRI were different. Hence, the Committee recommended that the joint sessions of the WGs shall be based on the topics/ issues of common interest rather than strategy-theme wise as of now the WGs under ST-ON-FARM. Therefore, the Committee suggested that in future the joint sessions may be organized by workbodies on topics of common interest like WG-SON-FARM, WG-M&R and WG-IDM.

17. The Committee’s recommendation of establishing new WGs on On-Farm Technology and Practices such as ‘On-Farm Irrigation Technology and Equipments’, ‘On-Farm Automation’, and ‘New Technologies in Construction Design’ under Strategy Theme ‘On-Farm’ is under active consideration in view of there are only two WGs under strategy theme ‘On-Farm’. The mandates of existing workbodies are also reviewed to include these aspects in their mandates, in case if it is not possible to establish new WGs on the suggested topics.16. Since WGs restructuring exercise is ongoing and restructuring proposal is being put up to the IEC for approval, the Sub-Committee opined that this issue may be deferred for the time being.

Sub-Committee Minutes Item 5: To consider the report of ITAC for 25th ICID Congress

18. The Sub-Committee discussed the report of ITAC for 25th ICID Congress.
Sub-Committee Minutes Item 6: To review the Theme and Sub-Themes for 4th World Irrigation Forum (WIF4, 2025)

19. The venue for the 5th World Irrigation Forum was fixed during the 71st IEC (virtual) meeting as Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia hosted by the Malaysian National Committee of ICID (MANCID) in September 2025. But due to the COVID-19 impact the 4th World Irrigation Forum to be held at Beijing, China, has been rescheduled as WIF5 to be held in 2027 to be held in China, and accordingly WIF5 to be held by MANCID at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 7-13 September, 2025 has been renamed as WIF4. During the meeting, MANCID has shared the following topics for Theme and Sub-Themes for WIF4.

**Theme: Is Irrigation a sunset industry?**

- **Sub-theme 1:** Challenges of irrigation and drainage for food security in the changing world
- **Sub-theme 2:** Technology and modernization in agricultural sector towards food security
- **Sub-theme 3:** Innovative policy, service delivery and financing mechanism to meet the challenges of the Future
- **Sub-theme 4:** Nature based solution in agriculture to foster ecological resilience

20. The 5th World Irrigation Forum will be organized by Chinese National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (CNCID) at Beijing, China in January 2027. The Sub-Committee have already approved the following topics for Theme and Sub-Themes for WIF5 to be held in China in 2027 as per rescheduled timeline.

**Theme - Modernization of Irrigation Systems**

- **Sub-Theme 1:** Policy and strategy for modernization of irrigation systems
- **Sub-Theme 2:** Technology for modernization of irrigation systems
- **Sub-Theme 3:** Financing for modernization of irrigation systems
- **Sub-Theme 4:** Performance assessment of Irrigation systems

21. Since, no none from Chinese NC attended the meeting, it was not discussed

22. The list of topics for Themes and Sub-Themes covered/decided, together with the Themes for World Water Forums (WWFs) up to 10th WWF are given at Annex.

Sub-Committee Minutes Item 7: To review the Theme and Topics for 26th ICID Congress, 2023

23. The 73rd IEC meeting has approved the venue for the 26th ICID Congress and 77th IEC as Marseille, France from 12 to 17 October 2026 hosted by AFEID. The following theme and topics have been proposed by AFEID for the 26th ICID Congress and the Sub-Committee approved the same.

**Theme: Agriculture and Climate Change: Stakes and Levers for Irrigation and Drainage**

**Question 66:** Facing the climate challenge, how can irrigation and drainage contribute to resilient agro-ecological and adaptive agriculture?

**Question 67:** Innovative technology and practices for increasing water use efficiency. Remote sensing, irrigation management and services, irrigation equipment, reuse …where do we stand?

Sub-Committee Minutes Item 8: Any Other Business

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**LIST OF TOPICS FOR THEMES & SUB-THEMES FOR WIFS UPTO WIF4 AND THEMES OF WWFS UPTO WWF10**

### A. WORLD WATER FORUMS

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>World Water Forum</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Theme</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Third World Water Forum</td>
<td>2003</td>
<td>Kyoto, Shiga &amp; Osaka, Japan</td>
<td>A Forum with a Difference</td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td>Fourth World Water Forum</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>Mexico City, Mexico</td>
<td>Local Actions for a Global Challenge</td>
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<td>5.</td>
<td>Fifth World Water Forum</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Istanbul, Turkey</td>
<td>Bridging divides for water</td>
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<td>6.</td>
<td>Sixth World Water Forum</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Marseille, France</td>
<td>Solutions for Water</td>
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<td>7.</td>
<td>Seventh World Water Forum</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Daegu and Gyeongju, Korea</td>
<td>Water for our Future</td>
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<td>8.</td>
<td>Eighth World Water Forum</td>
<td>2018</td>
<td>Brasilia, Brazil</td>
<td>Sharing Water</td>
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<td>10.</td>
<td>Tenth World Water Forum</td>
<td>2025</td>
<td>Bali, Indonesia</td>
<td>Water for Shared Prosperity</td>
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### B. WORLD IRRIGATION FORUMS

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>World Irrigation Forum</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Theme</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>First World Irrigation Forum</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Mardin, Turkey</td>
<td>Irrigation and Drainage in a Changing World: Challenges and Opportunities for Global Food Security</td>
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<td>Sub-Theme 1: Policy, Science and Society Interactions</td>
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<td>Sub-Theme 2: Challenges and Developments in Financing Irrigation and Drainage Sector</td>
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<td>Sub-Theme 3: Integrated Water Management Approaches for Sustainable Food Production</td>
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<td>Sub-theme 1: Key actors in balancing water, food, energy and ecology</td>
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<td>Sub-theme 2: Managing impacts of climatic extremes with focus on floods and droughts</td>
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<td>Sub-theme 3: Key and smart actions to alleviate hunger and poverty through irrigation and drainage</td>
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3. Third World Irrigation Forum, 2019, Bali, Indonesia
   Theme: Development for water, food and nutrition security in a competitive environment
   Sub-theme 1: Enabling policy environment for water, food and energy
   Sub-theme 2: Role of civil society and NGOs with focus on farmers and extension facilities
   Sub-theme 3: Improving agricultural water productivity with focus on rural transformation

   Email sent to MANCID to share the theme and sub-themes

5. Fifth World Irrigation Forum, 2027, Beijing, China
   Theme: Modernization of irrigation schemes
   Sub-theme 1: Policy and strategy for modernization of irrigation systems
   Sub-theme 2: Technology for modernization of irrigation systems
   Sub-theme 3: Financing for modernization of irrigation systems
   Sub-theme 4: Performance Assessment of Irrigation systems

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