Dear Colleagues,

I would like to take this opportunity to share with us all an important ongoing conversation among several ICID colleagues in response to a set of questions raised by a colleague, Dr. Lineu N. Rodrigues, from Brazil. The questions are (a) what are the three major challenges for the development of irrigated agriculture? and (b) what are the three most important topics for research in relation to irrigated agriculture? ICID VPH Dr. Laurie Tollefson from Canada has responded as below and we seek similar responses from the water sector professionals from around the world.

(a) (i) Adequate supply of good quality water. Increased competition for water (ii) Irrigation Infrastructure costs – who pays. These are expensive and in Canada are often viewed to benefit a smaller number of producers. Is this a federal responsibility, provincial or producer responsibility? Who bears the operation and maintenance costs when completed? (iii) Public perception of irrigation is not always favourable. Developing an irrigation project today is very difficult with the environmental assessment process. Regulatory issues including stream and environmental flow are very important and must be factored at the beginning of the project. (iv) Governance is an issue in Canada. Canada is a federation with a national government and provinces and territories. There are a number of federal ministries and agencies that deal with water management. In addition, the provinces have jurisdiction over allocation of water to the sectors. Co-ordination and governance is challenging. (v) Farm level economics. Producers must be economically sustainable.

(b) Research Challenges: (i) Climate change and drought mitigation, (ii) Water conservation i.e. improving water use efficiency through engineering, agronomic and institutional means, (iii) Improving water quality to and from agriculture, and (iv) Groundwater management.

If you would like to send your answers directly to the colleague from Brazil, you may do so using the following coordinates:

Dr. Lineu N. Rodrigues, PhD
Water Resources and Irrigation Researcher, International Partnerships Coordinator, Embrapa Cerrados, DF, Brazil, E-mail: lineu.rodrigues@embrapa.br

Similarly, President (Hon.) Gao Zhanyi from China has requested to collect information about the top 10 largest irrigation schemes in the World. He has shared brief information on the top 3 largest irrigation schemes in China in terms of irrigated area. We at ICID Central Office are now preparing a simple survey for the national committees to provide this information to us and PH Gao as well. His e-mail address is zhanyi_gao@126.com in case you would like to get in touch with him.

Colleagues, this issue of News Update covers many stories that ICID has been involved in recently, particularly ICID participation in ICOLD symposium, Geospatial Leadership Summit 2021, ICID Webinars and Online Course, Upcoming Events, Publications, and so on.

Happy Reading!

Ashwin Pandya
Secretary General

ICID Participation in ICOLD Symposium on Sustainable Development of Dams and River Basin

ICOLD, CWC and DRIP organized the ICOLD Symposium on “Sustainable Development of Dams and River Basins” under the aegis of ICOLD as a hybrid event (face-to-face and online) from 24th – 27th February 2021 at New Delhi, India. The Symposium was organized to provide an opportunity to Indian dam engineering professionals and agencies to share their experiences, ideas and latest developments in new materials and construction technologies, advancement in investigation techniques, best engineering practices, dam safety issue, and so on. The Symposium received 175 technical papers from the national and international dam experts, which were presented to exchange experiences and latest development related to design, performance, rehabilitation and environmental aspects of dams.

The International Commission on Large Dams (ICOLD) is a non-governmental international organization that provides a forum for the exchange of knowledge and experience in dam engineering. ICOLD is a leader in setting standards and guidelines to ensure that dams are built and operated safely, efficiently and economically, and are environmentally sustainable and socially equitable. Every
year, ICOLD holds an Annual Meeting and Symposium in a selected country. ICOLD membership consists of the National Committees of more than 101 countries. The Indian National Committee on Large Dams (INCOND) is the National Committee representing India. Technical Committees of ICOLD are the heart of the organization. Membership on each committee is determined by the needs of the Committee and the countries that choose to be represented. An important part of the annual ICOLD event is the opportunity for all delegates to observe the meetings and workshops of the Technical Committees and interact with experts from other countries.

Mr. Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Hon’ble Minister for Water as the Chief Guest and Mr. R.K. Singh, Hon’ble Minister of State (IC) for Power an New & Renewable Energy gave opening addresses. Secretary General Er. Ashwin Pandya represented ICID and participated in the sessions in various capacities. As a keynote speaker during the first plenary session, he presented his views on “Sustainable Development of Dams and River Basin – Indian Scenario”. As the Chairman of Symposium Technical Committee, he presented his views on “River Basin Development & Management including Optimizations of Reservoirs Operations”. He also gave his views in the valedictory session in the overview of the Symposium and explained about ICID, its mission, and vision of a poverty-free world achieved through sustainable rural development.

India is 3rd in terms of the number of large dams in the world after the USA and China. In terms of irrigation, India ranks 2nd worldwide. The irrigated area in India is the largest, covering almost 160 million ha of cultivated land out of which 39 million ha are irrigated by groundwater and 22 million ha by canals. About two-third of cultivation in India is still dependent on the monsoon. India is the 7th largest producer of hydroelectric power in the world. As of 31.03.2019, India’s installed utility-scale hydroelectric capacity is 45,399 MW which is 13.10% of its total generation capacity. India’s state-of-art technology is being illustrated by constructing large dams like Bhakra, Tehri, Sardar Sarovar, and many more mega projects. Participation in ICOLD 2020 shall encourage the Indian experts as well as global experts from Dam industry to share their experiences among the dam community. This event provided an excellent opportunity to know recent trends in Dam engineering.

ICOLD Symposium served as an excellent platform for researchers, scientists, engineers, policymakers, and young professionals working in the field of energy and water resources management around the world. This event acted as the confluence of brilliant minds and provide an interactive platform to share path-breaking ideas on the theme ‘Sustainable Development of Dams and River Basins’ besides Special Workshops were organized by ICOLD experts.

For more information https://www.icold2020.org/

ICID Participated in India Geospatial Leadership Summit 2021

India is facing an acute water crisis, which is only getting worse with each passing year. In view of the challenges that pervade water resources and water utility services in our country, the Government of India has taken numerous steps to address the issue, while emphasizing the use of technology for the purpose. The present government has established the Ministry of Jal Shakti (Water) that encapsulates water-related work previously dealt with by 9 Ministries. Hon’ble Prime Minister has also set a revolutionary goal of bringing piped drinking water to all households. This initiative is integrated with ensuring source sustainability and grey water treatment.

On the technology adoption front, the government has undertaken a national aquifer mapping initiative of 10,00,000 sqm area. In coming times 3D contour surface mapping and underground aquifer mapping data will be provided to 256 stressed districts to plan aquifer recharge strategy. A web-based Water Resources Information System (India WRIS) was created with all unclassified data of the Central Water Commission and Central Ground Water Board.

India Geospatial Leadership Summit – 2021 brought together various stakeholders of the Geospatial and Water Ecosystem of the country under one umbrella to exchange ideas, vision, and good practices on geospatial applications for water resources and utilities. Through the theme, “Geospatial Technologies for Water Security” to delve into some of the key issues that can ensure the country’s water security.

Secretary General Er. Ashwin Pandya represented ICID and participated in the summit in various capacities. As a keynote speaker during the session, he presented a special address on “Learnings and Opportunities for Improving Geospatial Technology Adoption in the Water Sector” during India Geospatial Leadership Summit. The Summit was divided into various themes for vast discussion like Development and Management of Water Resources with Geospatial Technologies, Interlinking of Rivers and River Development, Innovation and Practices for Water Security, Water Availability and Access, Water-Related Disasters and Monetizing Water.

On the occasion of the India Geospatial Leadership Summit – 2021, excellence awards were conferred to Government or private user organizations of Geospatial Technologies doing exemplary work in the field of Water Conservation, River Rejuvenation, Water Distribution, Watershed Development, and others.
ICID hosted a Webinar on “Irrigation and Drainage Developments in Canada to Expand Food Production and Achieve Water Security”

A webinar on “Irrigation and Drainage Developments in Canada to Expand Food Production and Achieve Water Security” was delivered on 3 March 2021 at 10:00 – 11:30 (ISD). Major trends in Canada include fewer but larger farms and greater demand for water supply. While non-irrigated agriculture is predominant in Canada, 80% of irrigation takes place in arid and semi-arid regions of the country. Improvements in water use efficiency have positively impacted not only agricultural outcomes but also the better management of resources and greater maintenance of the land. “Climate change and water are closely linked. Water availability is affected, with periods of scarcity and excess. Extreme weather events are expected to be more frequent. “Research, development, innovation and, technology transfer are keys to increase the water use efficiency, and tackle water scarcity”. The key speakers of the webinar included:

Dr. Jennifer Nitschelm is Director of the Irrigation Secretariat and the Basin Water Management Section, Alberta Department of Agriculture and Forestry. Her team works with irrigation districts on legislative and administrative aspects, and provides technical expertise on irrigation demand modeling and infrastructure conveyance, in support of sustainable, efficient, and productive irrigation in Alberta.

VPH Dr. Laurie Tollefson held several senior management positions in Agriculture and Agri-food Canada. These also included management of the Canada Saskatchewan Irrigation Diversification Centre, National Science Manager, Director of the National Water Quality and Availability Management project, and Director of International Partnerships. He served on the Canadian National Committee for Irrigation and Drainage (CANCID) as executive for many years. He is a Vice President Honoraire of the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID). He currently serves on the Governing Board of the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT).

PH Dr. Chandra Madramootoo is James McGill Professor of Irrigation and Drainage Engineering at McGill University. He is an active member of the Canadian National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (CANCID), and was elected President of the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID) in 2008 for a 3-year term. He is currently a member of the steering committee of the Global Framework on Water Scarcity in Agriculture (WASAG). He has undertaken extensive studies on irrigation and drainage across Canada, and also internationally. He is the recipient of the World Irrigation Prize in 2019. For more information: http://icid-ciid.org/

Vice President ICID (Hon.) Dr. Tollefson honoured with Outlook Street Naming in Canada

On October 28, Laurie, along with his wife Chris and son Eric were guests of Outlook’s town council for a ceremony that saw the road formerly known as Hall Avenue rechristened as ‘Tollefson Drive’. Hall Avenue is the stretch of road that starts just off Highway 15 south of the Esso station and goes east, known locally as the “bus road”. It also happens to run conveniently just beside the land that houses the impressive Canada-Saskatchewan Irrigation Diversification Centre (CSIDC) that has been Laurie’s place of employment. Outlook mayor Ross Derdall shared his thoughts on Dr. Tollefson’s efforts over the years and commended him on a career of which everyone should be proud. Following a photo session with the formal road sign and celebratory cake that he was gifted, Dr. Laurie shared a few words and spoke of the “tremendous honour” that the Town had bestowed upon him and the Tollefson family.

Dr. Laurie Tollefson, who among his many previous roles has served as Science Manager for Agricultural Water Management. He certainly has the professional background and experience of someone who knows what they are talking about when it comes to irrigation, whether it is at the provincial, national or even international level. In 1991, Dr. Tollefson was approached by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) to participate in a project mission to Egypt, and he was seen as an obvious candidate based on his previous achievements in irrigation research. The mission, a project between the governments of Canada and Egypt, was to develop a coordinated national system for sustainable water resource management, with a focus on using water more efficiently and monitoring its quality. If the deserts of Egypt were not enough, Dr. Laurie has also served a three-year term as Vice President of the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID), headquartered in New Delhi.

ICID eLearning Courses

International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID) in collaboration with the National Water Academy of India and two international industry leaders - Jain Irrigation Systems Limited and Netafim Irrigation Private Limited is organizing an online certificate course on Micro-Irrigation systems. The faculty team includes world renowned micro-irrigation experts and field research specialists on the adoption of drip and sprinkler systems by farming communities. A brief description of the course is given below:

Introduction

Global water scarcity and increased demand for food are two main drivers for the urgent efforts to improve food productivity in agriculture, the sector that consumes 70-80% of annual freshwater availability. Micro-irrigation Systems (MIS) are fundamentally designed and operated to economize water application in crop fields. As MIS is an evolving technology, the existing curricula on these systems are still not adequately covered in regular academic programs. Also, the professionals who are already working in the area of agricultural water management (AWM) have had limited exposure to MIS concepts and practices thus far. The proposed short duration certification course offers to fill such existing knowledge and skills gaps.

Course Structure

The course, based on a points-system, has an inherent flexibility to suit the learning needs of prospective trainee through 3 main modules on MIS, namely:

(a) Agronomic Aspects: Basic science of soil-water-crop interactions in various agro-climatic regimes; crop-specific cultural requirements; water and nutrient movements in micro-irrigation

(b) Engineering Aspects: MIS principles and practices; types of MIS currently used and their suitability in various scenarios; drip/sprinkler design and related processes; power and energy options for different water sources; and commercially available products and services for MIS in various parts of the world; and so on.

(c) Management Aspects: Field implementation challenges and solutions; potential financial support schemes in various countries; operational and maintenance requirements; capacities needed in the communities using MIS; and so on.

Prospective Beneficiaries

Prospective trainees will undergo an intensive learning exercise through 35 online sessions comprising audio-video lectures, webinars, assignments, quizzes, handson activities, and face-to-face online interactions with the course faculty to earn an international certificate that will add value to their professional credentials.

Course Requirements:

Prospective beneficiaries will have to undergo an online certificate course on Micro-Irrigation Systems (MIS) Online Certificate Course. The course is intended for those professionals who are working in the area of AWM and the current students in the academic programs oriented towards broader aspects of AWM. Course URL: https://icid.moodlecourse.com/

Course Fee

This year participation in the course for a limited number of qualified individuals is free. You will have access to course lectures/videos, international webinars, and reference material. If you require the International Certificate of successful completion of the course, you will need to pay a fee of US$100 to cover the cost of your personalized online evaluation through assignments and quizzes. The customized certificate will be mailed to you in PDF file. Instructions for secure online payment of the fee will be mailed to you. Currently, in the 1st batch 165 participants are enrolled from all over the world. For queries and expression of interest, please write to Dr. Sahdev Singh Director (Knowledge Management) at sahdevsingh@icid.org and icid@icid.org.

Online Certificate Course on Dam and Network Safety Assurance

Online Certificate Course on Dam and Network Safety Assurance International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID) in collaboration with the Aqua Foundation Academy is organizing an industry stalwarts who have witnessed situations and provides mentorship for requisite skill sets given the growing importance of an assured delivery of water to the beneficiaries and continued assurance of performance worthiness of the components involved. The course is meant for the professionals directly engaged in the works of maintaining and managing the irrigation and multipurpose projects having headworks in form of storage structures of various sizes and associated water distribution networks for providing water to the beneficiaries. The course aims at improving the skills of the professionals entrusted with the responsibility of directly managing the facilities and ensuring their safety as well as reporting the status to a higher level of management. After the success of the first batch with more than fifty international participants, the second batch is in process.

For detailed course structure, registration process, fee structure, and industry collaborations, please visit https://www.damsafety.co/

Contact Details: ICID: Mr. Harish Kumar Varma, Executive Director, ICID, Tel: +91-11-26115679, +91-11-26116837, E-mail: icid@icid.org, Website: https://www.icid-ciid.org

AF Academy: Ms. Praggya Sharma, Secretary-General, AF Academy, Email: info@aquafoundation.in; praggya@damsafety.co A new batch is being launched shortly!

Please register at: https://www.damsafety.co/register
21st Water Talk – 21st Water Talk held National Water Mission (NWM), India has initiated a lecture series called ‘WATER TALK’ to promote dialogue and information sharing among participants on a variety of water-related topics. Twenty-First (21st) Water Talk in this series was held on 15th January 2021 on a virtual platform- ‘CISCO WEBEX’. The aim of ‘WATER TALK’ is to stimulate awareness, build capacities of stakeholders, and encourage people to become active participants to sustain life by saving water on earth. Sharing ideas among participants enhances knowledge, ensures consistent dissemination of information, and builds capacities in better water management. The Program is intended to be a platform to transfer knowledge, solve problems, brainstorm, and promote teamwork among various participants. The Water talk Program also provides an opportunity of learning something new and ‘broadening our perspective through the sharing of knowledge and experience. NWM organized the Twentieth Water Talk virtually on 18th December 2020. ICID officials from the central office attended the session. Shri G. Asok Kumar, Additional Secretary, and Mission Director, NWM, and officials of NWM attended the Talk along with more than 650 participants from across the country logged on to the virtual platform and over 20,000 viewers live in the social media platforms of NWM and related organizations.

Important ICID Announcements

We have the pleasure to announce “Call for Nominations for 2021 WatSave Awards and Recognition of World Heritage Irrigation Structures (WHIS) for the upcoming ICID Events and 72nd IEC Meeting at Marrakesh, Morocco. Kindly note that the nomination submission deadline is 30 June 2021.

(a) WatSave Awards 2021

Nominations are invited from individuals/teams through National Committees/Committee (NC) for the ‘WatSave Awards 2021’. The entries are open to all professionals/teams from ICID member countries as well as non-member countries. In case of an application from a ‘non-member’ country, the nomination has to be routed through and validated by an active National Committee of ICID, who should be in touch with the nominee and must be aware of his/her work. The WatSave Awards are given in four categories: (i) Technology (ii) Innovative Water Management (iii) Young Professionals; and (iv) Farmer(s) to recognize outstanding contribution to water conservation or water saving for the benefit of all water users. Only one nomination in each category is allowed from a member NC.

More details about the award such as scope and objective, procedure for submitting nominations can be accessed at http://icid-ciid.org/view_page/9. Each of the above award carries an honorarium of US$ 2000 and a Citation/Plaque. In the event, the award is given to a team; the amount shall be paid to the nominated leader of the team for equally sharing among themselves later.

While screening the nominations, NCs may note that WatSave awards are not given to a person for variety of works done by him/her for water saving in his/her lifetime, but for a particular technology or innovation. As such the technology or innovation being nominated needs to be clearly highlighted in the submission.

(b) World Heritage Irrigation Structures (WHIS) 2021

Nominations are invited for selection of “World Heritage Irrigation Structures” (WHIS) that includes both old operational irrigation structures as well as those having an archival value. National Committee can nominate up to 4 structures in a given year, using separate nomination form for each. Associated Members and non-member countries can nominate their structures through the neighboring active national committees. The process for receiving WHIS nominations from National Committee is always continuous and open.

All NCs are invited to send nominations of World Heritage Irrigation Structures in the prescribed form available at http://icid-ciid.org/view_page/9. The nominations for WHIS 2021, if received before the deadline, will be considered by the Panel of Judges for inclusion in the ICID Register of Heritage Irrigation Structures. The successful nominee will be presented a “Plaque”, citing the salient features of the WHIS during the 72nd IEC meeting in Marrakesh, Morocco.

National Committees are requested to kindly circulate this announcement widely amongst professionals/teams within their country. NCs may submit to the Central Office electronically on or before the last date for receipt of the nominations, i.e., 30 June 2021.

For any difficulty in nominating and/or clarifications, please contact icid@icid.org. We look forward to receiving nominations from our esteemed National Committees.
ICID Activities

Formation of New Working Group In the 71st International Executive Council (IEC) meeting the highest decision making body of the ICID held on 7 & 8 December 2020 vide resolution IEC-2/71 for the establishment of the two new working groups on the topics under thematic are “Scheme” and “Basin”. The working groups are 1) Working Group on Land Drainage (WG-LDRG) 2) Working Group on Water Food Energy Nexus (WG-WFE_N).

In the Development of this series a notification dated 05 February is released for their approval to notifying the establishment of the WGs i.e. Working Group on Land Drainage (WG-LDRG) in place of WG-WATRE & CROP, giving its scope. The WG-LDR and WG-WFE_N will be holding their first meeting during the 72nd International Executive Council (IEC) meeting to be held in September 2021 at Marrakesh, Morocco.

ICID New Appointments

Appointment of new Chairman of BANCID - Mr. Engineer A K M Waheduddin Chowdhury who took over the charge of Director General of Bangladesh Water Development Board is also appointed as new Chairman of Bangladesh National Committee of Irrigation Drainage (BANCID). He obtained his B.Sc. Engg. in Civil Engineering from BUET in the year 1984. He joined BWDB as an Assistant Engineer (Civil) on 5th July 1986. In his 35 years career, he worked on river bank protection, irrigation, flood control & drainage projects at different field offices of BWDB, Bangladesh.

Appointment of new Chairman of ZwCID - Eng. Bezzel Chitsungo appoints as Director Department of Irrigation and the Chairperson of the Zimbabwe Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (ZwCID). Eng. Chitsungo was a very visionary leader who worked in various capacities in water resource development. ZwCID is a long-standing affiliate/member of ICID having been the second African country to join ICID in 1955. It was presently an associate member of ICID from 1 January 2018 as declared at the 68th IEC meeting.

Appointment of New General Secretary of NENCID - Mr. Niaz Waris has been appointed as the General Secretary of the Nepal National Committee (NENCID) of ICID.

Obituary

It is with utmost sadness to inform you that the Director of the Department of Irrigation and Chairperson of the Zimbabwe Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (ZwCID) Dr. Conrade Zawe passed away on the 25th of January 2021. He was 62 years of age. Dr. Zawe was a transformative visionary with the keenness to reform Zimbabwe’s irrigation for national economic development. He actively led and championed networking within the irrigation and drainage sectors in Zimbabwe and Southern Africa holding the position of the Southern Africa Regional Irrigation Association (SARIA) Chairperson from March 2014- March 2017. On behalf of the ICID fraternity, we express our deep sympathy and condolences to the bereaved family and the Zimbabwe Committee on Irrigation & Drainage. We wish strength and peace to her near and dear ones at this time of grief. May her soul rest in eternal peace!

ICID to host a Webinar on "Role of ICTs for Sustainable Irrigation Management and Scheduling (MENA Region-Case studies)"

Introduction

This year’s World Water Day focuses on what water means to people, its true value, and how we can better protect this vital resource. In the MENA region, it is a systemic crisis where the region faces extreme climate change mainly droughts with some fluctuations with floods, which exacerbate the water scarcity problem and lead to loss of biodiversity and land degradation, besides high population rate, malnutrition, and conflict and fragility. Given the high population growth, scarcity of arable land and water resources most MENA food production policies and strategies are increasingly providing efforts to increase production peruse of resources to achieve food security. Promoting and adopting Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) is one of the most effective and promoting means in the upgrading of land and water management and increasing food production and digitizing the agricultural sector.

This Webinar on 07 April 2021 at 17:30 (Indian Standard Time) will introduce various low-cost ICT, techniques and approaches and their use in irrigation management in the MENA Region. It will show examples from three countries in the region viz. Egypt, Jordan, and Lebanon bringing insights about:

- Information system applications in irrigation management and water-saving
- Low-cost irrigation technology and applications with a focus on phone applications
- Water-saving technologies and market system Development Approach
- The wide spectrum of stakeholders and partners engaged scales addressed and ICT tools use
- Financial, institutional and technical constraints to the expansion of ICT use

About the Speaker

Dr. Amgad Elmahdi is a Water Systems and Solutions Specialist with over 25 years of experiences and expertise in Hydrology, Water Resources Assessment, Water Accounting, Water governance, Water information management, Digital technologies for water management, water policy, and planning, NEXUS assessment, and management, in operational, research, and academic settings. Dr. Elmahdi served as water system analysts, and water resources manager. Before joining IWMI, he was the Head of Water Resources Section and Chief Supervising Hydrologist at the Bureau of Meteorology-Australia. His experiences involved providing evidence-based science and low-cost solutions to sustainably manage water and land resources for water and food security, people’s livelihoods, and the environment. He is also a recognized International Water and Natural Resources Management Expert and the Australian representative for several international agencies- such as ICID- International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage. He is the Chair of Water Security Bureau – International Water Resources Association-IWRA. He has received several awards nationally and internationally for his Science Impact for Landscape Water modeling in Australia and Strategic Excellence Award for Partnership and Watsaving award-ICID.

Register Now: https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/5859419923431537933
Upcoming ICID and International Events

1st Baghdad International Water Conference under the slogan “planning and rational management of water resources to achieve sustainability” was scheduled b/w 13 – 14 March 2021 with the collaboration of the Iraqi Ministry of Water, IRO/CID, International Organizations, and other Arab bodies. Click for more information: https://www.baghdadiw.com/

72nd IEC Meeting and 5th African Regional Conference (AFRC) 72nd IEC Meeting and 5th African Regional Conference (AFRC) will be held during 24 - 30 November 2021 at Marrakesh, Morocco. More details and procedures will be released as and when finalized. The Young Professional’s Training Program (YP-TP) will also be organized during the 5th African Regional Conference.

73rd IEC Meeting and 24th ICID Congress 73rd IEC meeting and 24th ICID Congress will be rescheduled from 30 May to 6 June 2022 at Adelaide, Australia, hosted by Irrigation Australia Ltd., and Irrigation Australia’s Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (IACID). More details will be shared shortly.

74th IEC Meeting and 4th World Irrigation Forum (WIF4) 74th IEC Meeting and 4th World Irrigation Forum (WIF4) will be held during 16-22 April 2023 in Beijing, China.

75th IEC Meeting and 25th ICID Congress 75th IEC Meeting and 25th ICID Congress will be held in November 2023, Visakapatnam (Vizag), Andhra Pradesh State, India

76th IEC and 9th Asian Regional Conference (AsRC) will be held from 27 April-2 May 2024 in Sydney, Australia

A Webinar on the occasion of “World Water Day,” to be hosted by the Uzbekistan Minister of Water Resources and Vice President of the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage Sh. Khamrayev, is scheduled on March 23, 2021 at 10:30 – 13:00 (Indian Standard Time). The webinar link will be shared shortly on ICID website.

9th World Water Forum March 21 - 26, 2022, Diinnadlo (Dakar) – Senegal with the theme “Water security for peace and development.” The World Water Forum is the world’s largest event on the water. It has been organized every three years since 1997 by the World Water Council, in partnership with a host country. The 9th Forum will be the first of its kind to be hosted in sub-Saharan Africa. By bringing together participants from all levels and areas, including politics, multilateral institutions, academia, civil society, and the private sector, among others, the World Water Forum provides a unique platform where the international water community and key decision-makers can collaborate and make long-term progress on global water challenges. The Council encourages you to join the Forum’s efforts and strengthens the ability of the entire world to respond to water-related challenges of our times.

IUCN World Conservation Congress, 3-11 September 2021 in Marseille. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the French government have agreed to hold the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2020 from 3-11 September 2021 in Marseille. The event, originally scheduled for June 2020, was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Forum is a hub of public debate, bringing together people from all walks of life to discuss the world’s most pressing conservation and sustainability challenges. It includes many different types of events from high-level dialogues to training workshops that explore the depths of conservation and innovation.

IWRA World Water Congress 13-17 September 2021, Daegu, Korea. IWRA organizes and supports international water congresses and events related to advancing water resources knowledge, policy, and management around the world. Since 1973, IWRA has held a World Water Congress every three years in various locations around the world. The objective of the World Water Congress is to provide a meeting place to share experiences, promote discussion, and present new knowledge, research results, and new developments in the field of water sciences around the world. For almost four decades the World Water Congresses have been excellent events for the identification of major global themes concerning the water agenda, and for the bringing together of a large cross-section of stakeholders for the development and implementation of decisions in the field of water. Visit the XVII World Water Congress website for detailed information on a call for abstracts, special sessions, and side-events, the exhibition and sponsorship opportunities, as well as the early registration and much more. Website http://www.worldwatercongress.com/ Email office@iwra.org

Granada, Spain 39th IAHR World Congress, 2022 From Snow to Sea On behalf of the International Association for Hydro-environment Engineering and Research (IAHR) the 39th IAHR World Congress to be held in Granada, Spain, from June 19th to 24th, 2022. For more than seventy-five years, the biennial IAHR World congresses have brought together leading experts to help address the world’s pressing water environment engineering challenges. The event has traditionally provided researchers and decision-makers the opportunity to share recent advances and experiences, identify emerging technology trends, and engage in lively debates that have positively impacted our world. Following the last IAHR Congress held in 2019 in Panama City, Panama under the theme “Water – Connecting the World”, the main theme of the 39th IAHR World Congress will be “From Snow to Sea” focusing attention on the importance of considering the integral water cycle to address present and future challenges.

At the upcoming Congress IAHR will unleash its new Strategic Plan and present exciting knowledge platforms and prominent speakers on global water environment issues including climate-induced changes to water resources, adaptive management, artificial intelligence (AI), and smart water management, ecohydraulics, and policy forums. For more information click the link https://iahrworldcongress.org/welcome/

Call for proposals to host River Flow 2024. The deadline is 31 March 2021. The IAHR technical committee on the Fluvial Hydraulics leadership team invites proposals from the global community to serve as the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) for the 2024 International Conference on Fluvial Hydraulics (River Flow 2024). Aspiring LOCs should fill the template for proposals.

Submit your proposal to Prof. Sandra Soares-Frazão (sandra.soares-frazao@uclouvain.be), the TC Chair by 31 March 2021. Questions about the LOC selection process should be emailed to Prof. Sandra Soares-Frazão (sandra.soares-frazao@uclouvain.be). The decision will be made by the end of June 2021.

For more information click the link: https://iahr.org/index/detail/316
Mr. Ashwin B. Pandya
Secretary General of ICID
New Delhi, India

March 12, 2021

Dear Secretary General Pandya,

I am delighted to receive your warm letter and thank you for your congratulations on my inauguration. My sincere thanks, on behalf of the Ministry of Water Resources, People’s Republic of China (MWR), also go to you and ICID for your lasting interest in and support to the development of the Chinese water sector.

As the most basic resource, water is essential to sustainable economic, social and ecological development, making it important and urgent to achieve water-related SDGs. The current pandemic has highlighted the significant role of basic drinking water services in coping with epidemic diseases. Aiming at innovative, coordinated, green, open and shared development, China will in its water governance prioritize water conservation, balance development with geographical distribution of water resources, practice systematic governance and achieve government-market synergy. Meanwhile, it calls for enhanced international cooperation on water resources to improve water management and to jointly achieve the water-related goals set by UN in its 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

As our cooperative ties grow closer during your term as Secretary General, MWR and ICID, by jointly hosting a series of events, have effectively enhanced practical cooperation, shared China’s philosophy and best practice in water management in a New Era, and improved water governance capacities, laying solid foundation for future cooperation.

MWR will continue, as always, to support ICID in its endeavours. And your valuable comments and recommendations on the reform and development of the Chinese water sector are welcome and appreciated.

With best regards and highest consideration.

LI Guoying [Signed by]
Minister of Water Resources
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