



# NEWS UPDATE

A Water Secure World Free of Poverty and Hunger through Sustainable Rural

JANUARY 2023

## ICID Supporting Statement to the People of Turkey and Syria

ICID Family acknowledges with sadness and sorrow the disastrous impact of the earthquake that affected large parts of Turkey and Syria. Our thoughts and prayers are with the families who lost their loved ones. Although ICID is not able to contribute to the ongoing rescue and recovery mission, it can help the citizens of Turkey and Syria in other ways. The earthquake-impacted area of Turkey and Syria is home to large water resources and irrigation projects. Restoration of irrigation facilities quickly post-disaster will save long-term economic distress by restoring livelihoods, food and energy sources. The damage assessment will require a large number of professionals and expertise which may not be readily available as the affected person might have concerns about their own and their family's safety. This will be a time-consuming and technically challenging exercise. ICID can advise on issues related to the impact of the earthquake on water supply, reservoirs, dams, and agricultural water management.

Prof. Dr. Ragab Ragab  
President, ICID

Er. Ashwin Pandya  
Secretary General, ICID

### From Secretary-General's Desk...

Dear Colleagues,

Going into the new year, ICID is getting ready to prepare for its upcoming 25th Congress in November 2023. The Call for Paper has already been issued and we have started receiving submissions of abstracts for the Congress. I encourage you all to submit your papers and participate in the event to discuss and deliberate on the Questions highlighted in the Congress theme. As informed in the previous newsletter, the Fourth World Irrigation Forum (WIF4), by the Ministry of Water Resources of the People's Republic of China, and the Chinese National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (CNCID), has been rescheduled. Subsequently, other events planned by ICID have also been rescheduled, more details are covered in the newsletter.



In January 2023, The Moroccan National Committee (ANAFIDE) organized the 10th

Micro Irrigation Conference in Dakhla, Morocco on the theme Micro-irrigation in the Era of Technology Innovation and Digital Transformation. The event was a success with large global participation. During the event, an MoU was also signed between the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID) and the International Association for Agricultural Sustainability (IAAS). During the month, ICID also participated in the All-India Water and Land Management Institute (WALMI) meet and the International Conference on Water Management & Climate Change organized by the Water and Land Management Institute, Dharwad, Karnataka in joint association with Water Resources Department, Karnataka, India. More details are provided in the newsletter.

During the month, ICID also partook in various global events. President Prof. Dr. Ragab participated in a meeting on the 'Working cluster on Resilience and Climate Change' organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, FAO. VPH Dr. Hüseyin GÜNDOĞDU represented ICID in the workshop on "Climate, Science, Women" organized by the Akdeniz University and

The Union of Municipalities of Türkiye under "Local Administrations and Women Leaders, Environment and Culture Policies, Academy Meetings. Details of the deliberations are covered in the news update.

Moving forward, several other major ICID events are lined up for the upcoming year - The 25th Congress and the 74th IEC Meeting in Vizag city of Southern India in November 2023, hosted by the Indian National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (INCID), Ministry of Jal Shakti (MoWR), Gol and Government of Andhra Pradesh. Visit congress. icidevents.org to learn more.

I look forward to meeting you during the event and thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Ashwin B. Pandya  
Secretary General, ICID

## 10th International Micro Irrigation Conference; Dakhla, Morocco; 25-27 January 2023

The 10th International Micro Irrigation Conference was organised by the Moroccan National Committee of ICID (ANAFIDE) in collaboration with the Council of the Moroccan Community Abroad (CCME), in partnership with ICID and support of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Rural Development, Water and Forestry (MAPMDREF). The theme of the conference was 'Micro-irrigation in the Era of Technology Innovation and Digital Transformation,' which aimed to share experiences of using new technologies and best management practices in drip, micro-sprinkler and other localized irrigation systems. The sub-themes focused on (i) Public Policies and the Promotion of Micro Irrigation: Lessons Learned; (ii) Innovation in Micro-Irrigation Design and Technology to Improve Resilience towards Climate Change; (iii) Micro-Irrigation for Small-Scale Farming, Challenges, Opportunities and Initiatives; (iv) Micro Irrigation to Promote the Water-Energy-Food Nexus; (v) Digital Transformation for the Management of Micro-Irrigation; and (vi) International Cooperation for the Development of Micro Irrigation. The ICID was represented by President Prof. Dr. Ragab Ragab, Secretary General Er. A.B. Pandya and Executive Director Er. H.K. Verma and the National Committees were represented by the other ICID fraternity members. The event witnessed participation from several countries such as South Africa, Nigeria, Niger, Senegal, Egypt, Mauritania, the United Kingdom, France, Portugal, Italy, Spain, Lithuania, Australia, the United States, India, and Japan. In addition, the event attracted a good number of local participants from Morocco. The event was covered in three sessions including



a keynote session, various presentations and side events.

The three-day conference witnessed a large group of eminent international and national experts and local farmers sharing their experiences in the field of the latest development in micro irrigation technology to enhance crop production and water management for optimal use in agriculture, technical and sociological interventions for sustainable water, food and agriculture.

Prof. Dr. Ragab Ragab delivered his presentation on 'Misunderstanding and Misconceptions in Irrigation Water Management'. The presentation deliberated on the following issues (i) understanding the true meaning of deficit irrigation, which covered deficit irrigation, crop water requirement determination, evapotranspiration and soil moisture sensor, (ii) understanding the difference between water use efficiency and water productivity (iii) adding leaching requirement to each irrigation cycle is necessary, or a wrong practice (iv) understanding the reasons for possible

inaccuracy in water accounting, and (v) understanding the reasons for inaccuracy and uncertainty of the modelling results. The event also covered various workshops and technical sessions.

### Event Highlights

The event initiated a multi-disciplinary dialogue for discussions and deliberations through seminars, exhibitions and sessions and raised awareness regarding the large-scale use of micro-irrigation including new techniques in micro-irrigation for increased crop productivity, micro-irrigation in cluster-level farming and canal irrigation systems. Additionally, the event aimed to address the problems of developing as well as developed nations in the context of present-day challenges. A large number of delegates from 16 countries participated in the conference which provided a global platform for professionals and exhibitors to showcase their knowledge and technologies from around the world. For more information, please visit: [https://icid-ciid.org/inner\\_page/225](https://icid-ciid.org/inner_page/225)



## ICID participates in the International Conference on Water Management and Climate Change, 24-25 January, 2023. Dharwad, Karnataka

Water and Land Management Institute (WALMI), Dharwad, Karnataka in joint association with Water Resources Department, Karnataka organized the International Conference on Water Management & Climate Change from 24 – 25 January 2023. The ICID was represented by Director (Technical) Er. B.A Chivate and Knowledge Officer Ms. Prachi Sharma. The event was inaugurated by Mr. Rakesh Singh, Additional Chief Secretary, Water Resources Department, Government of Karnataka. The event also conducted an All-India WALMI meeting followed by technical sessions on 23 January 2023. In several sessions, the event covered the (i) challenges of water management including both supply and demand and (ii) the implication of climate change on water management. During the international conference, Er. B. A. Chivate (Director-Technical), discussed the role of ICID in mitigating the water crises and climate change. He talked about ICID's work, which covers more than 90% of irrigated areas of the world and how institutes such as WALMIs can benefit from its experience. He also talked about the ICID vision 2030, ICID activities and training programs in water conservation and other efforts in this direction.



The International Conference on Water Management and Climate Change attempted to construct relations between the implications of climate change and water management and their effect on farm productivity and rural livelihood. The conference analyzed these interconnections and the effect of each of them at different places and stages. The conference brainstormed deliberations among global experts in water management and climate change

impacts. It aimed to generate novel ideas and suggestions for sustainable, nature-based and farmer-friendly solutions. Global scientists, academicians, administrators, water resource managers, farmers, civil society actors, irrigation experts, and environmentalists shared their expertise and experiences to arrive at short and long-term policy suggestions.



## VPH Dr. Hüseyin GÜNDOĞDU Represented the ICID in a Workshop on the “Climate, Science, Women” from 21 - 22 January 2023

Dr. Huseyin Gundogdu, Vice President Honorary, from TUCID represented ICID in a workshop on the ‘Climate, Science, Women’ organized by the Akdeniz University and The Union of Municipalities of Türkiye under Local Administrations and Women Leaders, Environment and Culture Policies, Academy Meetings. The workshop was held in Antalya province of Türkiye on 21-22 January 2023. The Governor of Antalya Mr. Ersin Yazıcı, The Mayor of Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality and the President of the Union of Municipalities of Türkiye (TBB), Mrs. Fatma Şahin, and The Rector of Akdeniz University Prof Dr. Özlenen Özkan were among the esteemed participants who delivered speeches. More than 50 women leaders-mostly Rectors or Vice Rectors from different universities of Türkiye participated in the activities of the workshop. The Green



campus and cities, climate change mitigation and adaptation, agriculture and food security, energy efficiency and renewable energy were the major topics of discussion during the workshop. The Vice President Honorary Dr. Gundogdu

delivered a presentation on ‘Climate Change and Implications-Water and Food’.



## MoU between the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID) and the International Association for Agricultural Sustainability (IAAS)

An MoU between the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID) and the International Association For Agricultural Sustainability (IAAS) was signed during the 10th International Micro Irrigation Conference in Dakhla, Morocco held on 24 - 25, January 2023.

The objective of this MoU was to formalize a non-exclusive framework of cooperation and facilitate collaboration among the parties to promote knowledge sharing, programs and projects that foster cooperation among them, including the possibility of co-financing projects related to capacity development activities, technical support etc. in their common member countries.

Under this agreement, through their joint efforts, the organization decided to provide coordinated and harmonized technical assistance to their common member countries in a cost-effective and efficient manner.

**Areas of Cooperation** - Following areas of activities were formalized for cooperation:

1. Active participation and collaboration in the following areas:
  - (a) Identification of knowledge sharing, co-financing and technical assistance opportunities between the Parties for programs and projects in their common member countries.
  - (b) Collaborate in each other's program related to capacity development, education and training in the field of mutual interest.
  - (c) Collaborate in organizing and delivering joint technical seminars, webinars and workshops.
  - (d) Inform and consult each other in cases where either of the Parties proposes to initiate a programme or activity on a subject in which the other Party has or may have a substantial interest, for possible



- (e) Recognize and invite the IAAS as an observer to the meetings of ICID to participate, without a vote, in deliberations of the Executive Council/International Executive Council, ICID Congress/ World Irrigation Forums and where appropriate, of its working groups, on issues of mutual interest.
  - (f) Coordination between the parties concerning programs and projects in their common member countries to achieve their common development objectives.
  - (g) Subject to the terms agreed upon, the exchange of information between the parties on their shared experiences and expertise in areas such as (i) agriculture water management, (ii) flood and drought management, (iii) capacity development programmes etc.
2. Exchange of information and consultation, as necessary and appropriate, in the interest of identifying additional areas in which, and the concrete activities for which, effective and practical cooperation may be possible within the framework of this MoU. Any exchange of collaboration.
    3. The Parties will, on an annual basis, jointly assess the results of their collaboration under this MoU to review its overall progress and achievements as well as to recommend necessary adjustments, where appropriate.
    4. To advance the implementation of this MoU, the Parties may agree to cooperate to develop an action plan (hereinafter referred to as the "Action Plan"). The Action Plan may contain the following information: (a) scope of activities and an estimated timeline for their completion; (b) financial and non-financial resources that may be committed subject to prior internal approval by each Party; and (c) targets or output indicators.
    5. Other related activities may also be agreed upon between the Parties from time to time, subject to each of the Parties' internal policies and procedures, including those policies for the hiring of consultants and other services.

### ICID Forthcoming Events

- **25th International Congress on Irrigation and Drainage & 74th IEC Meeting** with Theme: Tackling Water Scarcity in Agriculture, 1 - 8 November 2023, Visakhapatnam (Vizag), Andhra Pradesh, India. <https://icid25congress.in/index.html>
- **9th Asian Regional Conference and 75th International Executive Council Meeting**, 1 - 7, September 2024 in Sydney, Australia.
- **4th World Irrigation Forum (WIF4) and 76th International Executive Council Meeting**, 7-13, September 2025 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- **26th International Congress on Irrigation and Drainage and 77th International Executive Council Meeting**, 01 - 07 October 2026 in Marseille, France.

## President Prof. Dr. Ragab Ragab participated in a meeting on “Working Cluster on Resilience and Climate Change” Organized by FAO; 11 January 2023

President Prof. Dr. Ragab Ragab participated in and represented ICID in a meeting of a Working Cluster on Resilience and Climate Change ahead of the UN-Water Conference. The meeting was organized by the Regional Collaborative Platform (RCP) of the FAO in collaboration with The Arab Center for the Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Lands (ACSAD), Syria and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, on 11 January 2023. The event covered the themes of migration, climate change and water nexus, water extremes and displacement, and achieving the SDGs in humanitarian settings with other UN agencies and other



partners. The event also covered the core issues and discussed the forthcoming agenda of the MENA - Region in an upcoming UN - Water Conference. The event covered four sessions (i) Opening remarks by the ESCWA/ACSAD (ii) Updates on the partner's preparation to participate in the UN Water Conference

(iii) Elaboration of a joint policy paper on issues related to water, climate change, and resilience based on the outcomes of past activities, events, and reports and, (iv) Other action items and closing. Prof. Dr. Ragab talked about regional collaboration in climate change adaptation, especially the adaptation measures in South Asia related to crop immunity from drought, flood control and drought resistance agricultural practices. He also talked about the importance of the statistical figures of a particular area like population growth, water demand, irrigational water figures, agriculture land etc.

## Secretary General Er. A.B. Pandya Visited Central Water Commission, New Delhi

Mr. Kushvinder Vohra, an officer of Central Water Engineering Service (1986 batch), has taken charge as Chairman of the Central Water Commission (CWC). The CWC is an apex organization in India in the field of Water Resources that came into existence in 1945. The CWC is charged with the general responsibility of initiating, coordinating and furthering in consultation with the State Governments concerned, schemes for the control, conservation and utilization of water resources in the respective state for flood management, irrigation, drinking water supply and water power generation.



Secretary General Er. A. B. Pandya, along with Executive Director Er. H. K. Verma visited the Central Water Commission, a stationary body under the Ministry of Jal Shakti (Water Resources), to congratulate the newly elected chairman of the Central Water Commission, Er. Kushvinder Vohra on 3 January 2023. During the meeting, they discussed the preparations, INCID's role and responsibilities and collaborations with ICID for the upcoming congress which will be organised by the INCID in India in November 2023.

## Postponement of World Irrigation Forum-4 (WIF4) to be Held in Beijing, China

The irrigation and drainage community was eagerly awaiting convening the World Irrigation Forum (WIF) in Beijing, China in its 4th edition. The vagaries of the pandemic and resulting uncertainties in international travel have put paid to our expectations. ICID and CNCID had to decide with a heavy heart to shift the convening of the forum to 2027 as our event calendars are still undergoing the aftereffects of the global pandemic.

With this change, the World Irrigation Forum scheduled in 2025 in Malaysia has now been renumbered as the Fourth World Irrigation Forum has its own themes and sub-

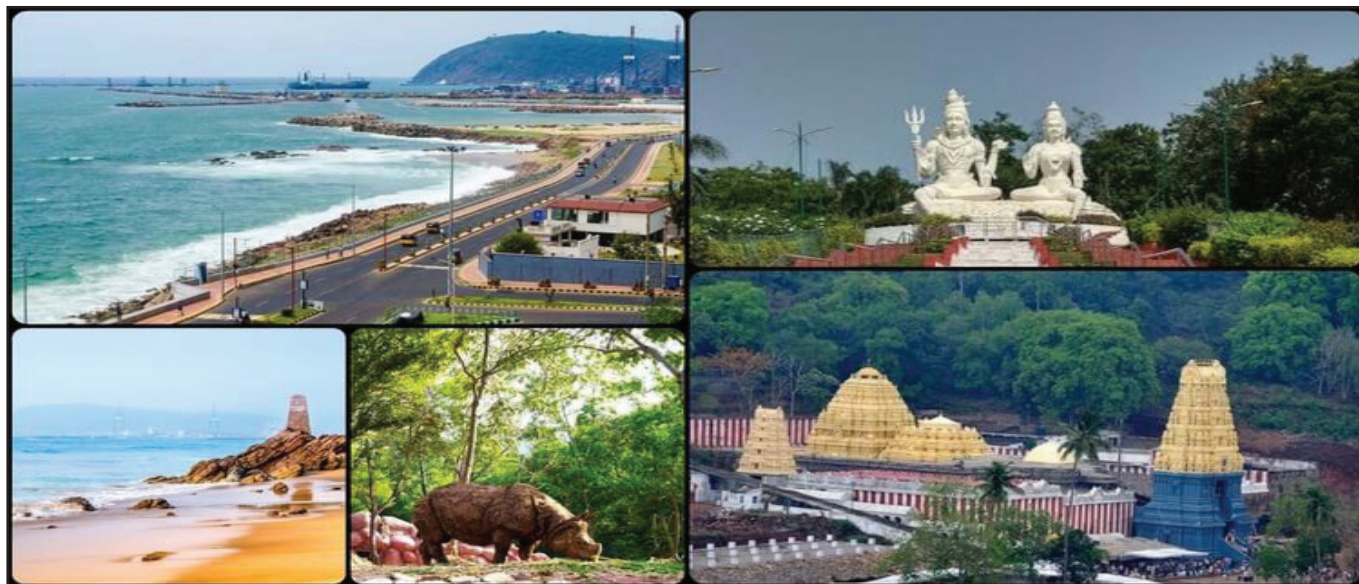
themes which will be finalized in due course of time. Consequent to the non-holding of the International Executive Council (IEC) meeting in Beijing the renumbering has also impacted the IECs as well and now the International Executive Council at the 25th Congress will be numbered as 74th IEC meetings and the subsequent IEC will continue with the serial numbers. All the schedules of the key events of ICID in 2023, 2024, 2025 and 2026 remain unaffected.

Due to the long shifting of the WIF in Beijing to 2027, the theme and sub-themes for the forum may also undergo rethinking over time. Hence, there will be a new theme for the

5th World Irrigation Forum and the 78th meeting of the IEC in Beijing, China in 2027.

It will be very painful to the authors and researchers who have already provided their contributions if their works are not provided with an appropriate global platform. We have decided to hold a special session(s) at the 25th ICID Congress at Vishakhapatnam where the papers can be presented and all the papers will then be published as proceedings of the special event with an ISBN-registered publication.

## Call for Papers, 25th International Congress on Irrigation and Drainage 1–8 November 2023, Vizag (Visakhapatnam), Andhra Pradesh, India



The 25th International Congress on Irrigation and Drainage and the 74th International Executive Council meetings are being organised by the Indian National Committee of ICID (INCID) on the theme 'Tackling Water Scarcity in Agriculture' from 01-08 November 2023 in Vishakhapatnam (Vizag), Andhra Pradesh, India. ICID triennial Congresses focus on the upcoming issues that need to be addressed in irrigation, drainage, and flood management. The Congresses also provide a platform for reviewing a number of contentious issues concerning the future of irrigation water vis-à-vis increased demands for competitive uses. The Congress aims to provide a platform for irrigation and drainage professionals and a broad range of other stakeholders to share their knowledge and experience in sustainable agriculture water management focusing on irrigation management and its related/integrated aspects.

During the Congress, the papers will be presented and discussed, answering Questions 64 & 65. In addition, Special Sessions, Symposiums, Training, Workshops, and a large number of side events will also be held as part of this mega event. International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID) strives for a water-secure world free of poverty and hunger through its mission to facilitate prudent agriculture

water management. 'Enabling Higher Crop Productivity with Less Water Energy' is the most cherished goal of ICID Vision 2030. Through its tri-annual Congresses, ICID provides a forum to exchange knowledge, information and technology solutions for alternative water resources and increasing water productivity through on-farm interventions to tackle agricultural water scarcity.

### Question 64: What Alternative Water Resources could be Tapped for Irrigated Agriculture?

The spatial and temporal variabilities in precipitation and water availability call for harnessing the blue water component for different uses. Water use and management in agriculture cross many scales: crops, fields, farms, delivery systems, basins, and nations.

#### Sub-Questions:

- Q.64.1 *Developing and Reinforcing Conventional Sources of Irrigation Water*
- Q.64.2 *Tapping Non-Conventional Sources of Water*
- Q.64.3 *Empowerment of Farmers*

Question 65: What On-Farm Techniques can Increase Water Productivity?

There are several different approaches

by which farmers can improve water productivity. Options include those related to plant physiology, which focuses on making transpiration more efficient or productive, agronomic practices, which aim at reducing evaporation, and on-farm agricultural-engineering approaches, which aim at making water application more precise and more effective.

#### Sub-Questions:

- Q.65.1 *Improving Management of Existing Facilities*
- Q.65.2 *Improved Agronomic Practices and Research / Innovation*
- Q.65.3 *Efficient Application of Irrigation Water*

#### Schedule of Submission of Abstracts / Full Papers

The abstracts/ papers are invited from the policymakers, professionals, academicians, researchers, experts, and scientists from private and government sectors as per the following deadlines.

- Submission of 'Extended Abstracts' (500-600 words): **28 February 2023**
- Notification of Acceptance of Extended Abstracts: **31 March 2023**
- Submission of Full papers: **30 April 2023**

- Notification to Authors (oral/poster/presentation): **31 May 2023**

**Online Paper Submission**

- Online ‘Extended Abstract’ submission is now open. New Users are expected to create their own accounts. The procedure for creating a new account is available at [https://congress.icidevents.org/Register\\_Modify.aspx](https://congress.icidevents.org/Register_Modify.aspx)
- Please note that only the ‘Extended Abstracts’ of the papers are required in the first stage of submission to enable peer review by an International Review Committee. **PLEASE DO NOT SUBMIT THE**

**FULL PAPERS AT THIS STAGE** as they would not be reviewed now.

- Upon receiving an acceptance letter from ICID Central Office, authors are required to provide/upload an electronic version of the full-length papers in Microsoft Word format (file size limited to 10 MB) by strictly following the guidelines available at <https://congress.icidevents.org/PaperSubmissionProcess.aspx>

**Contact Organizer:**

- Mr. R. Girdhar, Director, Indian National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (INCID), C/o Remote Sensing Directorate, Central Water

Commission, Department of Water Resources (RD and GR), Ministry of Jal Shakti, Govt. of India, 425(N), Sewa Bhawan, R.K. Puram, New Delhi 110066

- VPH Dr. Yella Reddy, Expert, Andhra Pradesh Government. E-mail: [yellark@gmail.com](mailto:yellark@gmail.com)
- ICID Central Office: Er. Balasaheb Anantrao Chivate, Director (Technical), ICID

**Email:** [icid.25congress@gmail.com](mailto:icid.25congress@gmail.com), [icid@icid.org](mailto:icid@icid.org)

**Website:** [www.icid25congress.in](http://www.icid25congress.in), <https://icid-ciid.org/event/detail/25>



## First Announcement & Call For Papers: International Workshop on “The Water-Energy-Food-Nexus: Implementation and Examples of Applications”, Vizag, India, November 2023

This Workshop is being organised under the auspices of the International Commission for Irrigation and Drainage (ICID) Work Group on ‘Water-Energy-Food (WEF) Nexus’. The workshop will be held in conjunction with ICID’s 25th ICID Congress and the 74th International Executive Council Meetings.

This Workshop will bring together experts from all over the world to share information, experience, and views on

how to implement the water-energy-food nexus in agriculture. The focus will be on the practical application of nexus. The papers should show examples of application and address the three elements of the Nexus: Water, Food and Energy. <https://icid-ciid.org/event/detail/25>

**Workshop Themes**

- Methods to calculate the WEF Nexus Index.

- WEF Nexus at field, regional and country scales. Examples of applications.
- The spatial distribution of the WEF Nexus and the trade-offs to improve the WEF Nexus at different scales.
- Institutional and Governance issues in implementing the WEF Nexus.
- WEF Nexus application and benefit at trans boundary scale

### Working Group Meetings in January 2023

Sl. No.	Working Group	Date
1	Working Group on Use of Non-Conventional Water Resources for Irrigation (WG-NCWRI) Chairman: Dr. Wenyong Wu	16 January 2023
2	Working Group on Climate Change and Agricultural Water Management (WG-CLIMATE) Chairman: Prof. Dr. Ray Shyan Wu	17 January 2023
3	Working Group on Land Drainage (WG-LDRG) Chairman: Dr. Willem F. Vlotman	19 January 2023
4	Working Group on Modernization and Revitalization of Irrigation Schemes (WG-M&R) Chairman: Mr. Ian William Makin	24 January 2023

### National Committee Section

**Chinese Taipei Committee Irrigation and Drainage (CTCID)**

Mr. Tony Chih-Sheng Chen has been appointed as the new Secretary Gen-

eral of CTCID. He is also a member of the working group ASRWG and WG-CDTE.

**Address:** BOX 8-65 Tamsui, New Taipei City 25199, Taiwan

E-mail - [tonyc@triwra.org.tw](mailto:tonyc@triwra.org.tw)



## Workshop on Dam and Network Safety Assurance and Dam Safety Awards 2023

The International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID) in collaboration with the Aqua Foundation Academy is organizing a 'Training Workshop on Latest Investigations, Repair & Rehabilitation Technologies for Dams & Dam Safety Awards 2023' on 2 and 3 March 2023 in New Delhi. The faculty team includes renowned industry stalwarts who have witnessed situations first-hand and provides mentorship for requisite skill sets because of 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.

Dam safety act 2021 has come into force, which will have a significant impact on dam safety mechanisms and how dams are maintained. The Act provides for surveillance, inspection, operation, and maintenance of the specified dam for the prevention of dam failure-related disasters and provides for an institutional mechanism to ensure their safe functioning and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. The provision of the act also lays the onus of dam safety on the dam owner and provides for penal provisions for the commission and omission of certain acts.

The purpose of this workshop is to make the participant aware of how various latest techniques are applied to solve various issues related to dams. The interactive workshop will focus on specific issues of participating organizations.

For detailed course structure, registration process, fee structure, and industry collaborations, please contact:

**Ms. Pragya Sharma**, Secretary General, Email: [info@aquafoundation.in](mailto:info@aquafoundation.in); [pragya@aquafoundation.in](mailto:pragya@aquafoundation.in), Website: [www.damsafety.co](http://www.damsafety.co)

## Obituary – Mr. Shaji Sebastian

We are extremely saddened to inform the sad news of the passing away of Mr. Shaji Sebastian, Assistant Program Officer (Executive), ICID on 4 Feb 2023. He joined the ICID Central Office on 26 October 1993. He was a valuable member of the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage's Central Office staff for over two decades and contributed to the Commission's activity. On behalf of the ICID fraternity, we express our deep sympathy and condolences to the bereaved family. We wish strength and peace to his near and dear ones at this time of grief.

May his soul rest in eternal peace.



## Other Events

**A. XVIII World Water Congress on Theme "Water for All: Harmony between Humans and Nature"**, hosted by International Water Resources Associations (IWRA) and Ministry of the Water Resources of the People's Republic of China, at Beijing, China, 11 - 15 September 2023. 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 five decades the World Water Congresses have been excellent events for the identification of major global themes concerning the water agenda, and the bringing together of a large cross-section of stakeholders for the development and implementation of decisions in the field of water. <https://www.worldwatercongress.com/>

**B. 3rd Global Soil Biodiversity Conference, Dublin, Ireland, 13 - 15 March 2023** - After a long delay due to the pandemic, the Global Soil Biodiversity Initiative is inviting the world's soil biodiversity researchers, educators, and policy supporters to join us in Dublin, Ireland on 13-15th March 2023 for the 3rd Global Soil Biodiversity Conference. Please explore the website for comprehensive information on attendance. The call for submissions is now open. Submissions are invited on any scientific topic relevant to the conference theme "Science as a basis for

the sustainable use and conservation of soil biodiversity." <https://ggsb2023.org/>

**C. 5th International Marine Protected Areas Congress (IMPAC5), 3-9 February 2023, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada** - The 5th International Marine Protected Areas Congress (IMPAC5) will bring together ocean conservation professionals to chart a course towards protecting 30% of the global ocean by 2030. IMPAC5 aims to provide an opportunity for the global community of marine conservation managers, practitioners and decision-makers to exchange knowledge, experience and best practices to strengthen the conservation of marine biodiversity and to protect the natural and cultural heritage of the ocean. <https://www.IMPAC5.ca/>

**D. International Conference on Innovations to Transform Drylands, 21-23 February 2023, ICRISAT, Hyderabad, India.** The conference plans to bring together global experts from research, academia, industry, MSMEs, food processing start-ups, policymakers and NGOs to coalesce new and innovative approaches and scientific innovations to capitalise on opportunities while addressing the challenges inherent in the drylands.

### Conference Themes

- Dryland Production Systems: Improving the Livelihoods of Smallholder Farmers

- Seed Systems: Elevating Public-Private Partnerships in Asia and Africa
- Regenerative/Natural Farming Systems for Drylands
- Managing Dryland Soil Health and Water Resources
- Strengthening Nutri - Sensitive Food Systems for the Drylands
- Improving Productivity, Climate Resilience and Nutrition in Drylands - Technologies and Approaches
- Inclusive Demand-Driven Value Chains for the Drylands
- Integrating Gender Youth and Social Inclusion in Dryland Agri-Food Systems

**E. Eighth International Conference and Exhibition on Water Resources and Renewable Energy Development in Asia; Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; Mar 14, 2023 - Mar 16, 2023**

**Theme:** ASIA 2023 will be a unique international gathering since the global pandemic: allowing planners, developers, consultants, researchers, contractors and other specialists to get together to focus specifically on hydropower, hybrid schemes, water resources management, dam engineering, climate, project finance, environment and cross-border collaboration. <https://www.hydropower-dams.com/asia-2023/>

