Dear Colleagues,

Greetings from ICID, New Delhi, India!

As you all are aware in two months’ time the 25th International Congress on Irrigation and Drainage and the 74th International Executive Council meeting is being organised on the theme ‘Tackling Water Scarcity in Agriculture’ from 1-8 November, 2023 at Radisson Blue Resort, Visakhapatnam (Vizag), Andhra Pradesh, India. We have received overwhelming response in contribution of papers on the different themes for the Congress, which have been reviewed by the experts and accepted for oral presentations. Totally we have finalized 150 full-length papers from Authors from different countries for the six Sub-questions under Congress Questions No. 64 & 65, which will be presented during the three-day Congress.

Apart from the proceedings of the Congress, ICID’s five technical Working Groups i.e. WG-WEF_N, WG-CLIMATE, WG-LDRG, WG-SDTA and WG-NCRWRI will organise International Workshops concurrently to the 25th ICID Congress. Leading International Organisations FAO, IWMI, ICARDA, GIZ, MSSRF Norway, IGS, JIICA, WASAG, CNCID are organising the side events along the Bay of Bengal blesses the city with a pleasing climate during the month of November. I am sure that all our national and international delegates are going to have a wonderful learning and networking opportunity during this event.

The website (https://icid25congress.in/) for the 25th ICID Congress & 74th IEC Meeting is being updated at regular interval to update the professionals and participants on the various developments.

At present, only Expressions of Interest (EOI) is being collected as part of the online registration process. Based on the invitation, the portal has recorded more than 160 participants for availing of the Early Bird Discount applicable till 15 August 2023. The online payment process for receiving the payment through website is under process of implementation and shall be ready. Collecting the payment through online process also attracting 18% GST plus standard credit card charges. The Organizing Committee is exploring all the options the get the exemption from taxes to reduce the burden on the participants. Hence, there is a delay in the collection of payments by implementing the payment gateway. All those who have expressed their participation through Expression of Interest till 15 August 2023 are eligible for the Early Bird Discount.

I encourage all the members of National Committees, Agriculture Water Management Professionals, policy makers to actively participate in large numbers. In the event to discuss and deliberate on the themes of the Questions, highlighted and the International Workshops being organized during the Congress. It is hoped to have fruitful interaction with industry experts from the Water and Agriculture Sectors. I am sure that all our national and international delegates are going to have a wonderful learning and networking opportunity during this event.

India has always been considered a culturally rich country with diverse food habits, traditions, beliefs, social customs, attire, language, festivals, etc. The event will also provide a gateway to India in general & Andhra Pradesh State in particular to exhibit rich cultural legacy and tourism avenues. The coastal city of Visakhapatnam is popular as a beautiful, clean and green city. The location along the Bay of Bengal blesses the city with a pleasing climate during the month of November. I extend a cordial invitation to all the prospective delegates & authors from different countries including India, exhibitors, volunteers, etc. being the part of this prestigious event and make it a grand success.

During the month, ICID had a meeting with IEWP (India-EU Water Program), GIZ for the collaboration opportunities at the 25th ICID Congress and it was decided that IEWP, GIZ will extend support to the 25th ICID Congress by organization a side event on IEWP and also expressed interest to sponsor young professionals. Further, ICID also expressed support from GIZ in promoting the inclusion of EU countries as members of ICID, aiming to enhance global collaboration in the field.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has organised an event on the launching of new software “Land Characterization System Software”. This software is based on ISO 19144-2 land cover meta language (LCML) and is developed in close collaboration between FAO and Institute of Intelligent Industrial Technologies and Systems for Advanced Manufacturing - National Research Council of Italy (STIIMA- CNR). This software aims at guiding land cover users in preparing classes based on international standards.

Moving forward, a brief on Global Water Policy Report 2023 is also given in this issue of News Update along with the details of other major ICID events, which are lined up for the upcoming years.

I look forward to welcoming the ICID Family in November 2023 at Vizag Andhra Pradesh, India.

With warm regards

A.B. Pandya
Secretary General
ICID Meeting with German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ) and Central Water Commission (CWC) on 14 July 2023

ICID in association with the Central Water Commission and German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ) organized a meeting on 14 July 2023. The meeting marks the participation of Secretary General Er. A.B Pandya; Er. H. K Varma (Executive Director, ICID), Mr Avanti Verma, IEWP-Convenor, CWC; Mr Sanjay Meena, DD (Remote Sensing), CWC; Ms Laura Sustersic, Project Manager-IEWP, GIZ and; Ms Vandana Yadav, Consultant-IEWP, GIZ.

During the meeting Secretary General Er. A.B Pandya shared valuable insights regarding the upcoming 25th ICID Congress, scheduled to take place in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, from 1st to 8th November 2023. The upcoming congress focuses on ‘Tackling Water Scarcity in Agriculture’ and includes the following thematic areas/questions:

- **Thematic Area 01:** Exploring alternative water resources for irrigation agriculture, such as non-conventional sources like treated water reuse.
- **Thematic Area 02:**Identifying on-farm techniques that can enhance water productivity, specifically efficient application of irrigation water.
- **Seminar:**Addressing national policies for the safe re-use of wastewater in irrigation. This prestigious event, which occurs every three years, is expected to attract approximately 1,000 participants from relevant fields. It is worth noting that the previous congress held in Australia had 1,500 participants.

During the meeting Er. A.B Pandya highlighted various avenues for collaboration and support from IEWP through sponsorship arrangements. Furthermore, he also informed about the side events being organized by various organizations, including IWMI (International Water Management Institute), FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization), World Bank, etc. They also discussed opportunities for IEWP to collaborate within the ICID congress through the following means:

- Providing speakers for various events held during the congress
- Conducting a separate half-day side event focused on IEWP’s areas of expertise
- Exhibition opportunities with 128 stalls available, each measuring 3mx3m. Detailed information regarding exhibition stall charges can be found in the attached brochure. IEWP can utilize these stalls to showcase EU technologies and expertise relevant to the congress.
- ICID introduced the concept of young professional sponsorship, aiming to welcome young professionals (10-20) from different countries. This program facilitates the global exchange of knowledge and could include training programs or study tools. The young professionals would also serve as reporters for each technical session.

CWC officials expressed interest in organizing side events related to the following topics: “The Role of Women in Water” and “Safe Reuse of Treated Water.” ICID confirmed its support for these two proposed topics. However, the suggestion to include “Riverfront Urban Development” was not fitting well with the Congress theme, which primarily focuses on irrigation and agriculture. As an alternative, the idea of exploring a side event centred around asset management, specifically the nurturing and management of irrigation assets (controlled structures) or asset creation, was discussed. CWC officials also proposed additional 10 Young Professionals from India to be part of the Young Professional Training Programme mentioned by ICID.

ICID also informed about Africa’s representation in ICID, which currently consists of 16 members. Furthermore, ICID proposed the establishment of an Asia-regional group to facilitate collaboration within the region. Lastly, ICID expressed support from GIZ in promoting the inclusion of EU countries as members of ICID, aiming to enhance global collaboration in the field. Ms. Laura Sustersic, Project Manager-IEWP, GIZ, and CWC officials exhibited great enthusiasm for collaborating with ICID based on the discussed opportunities. They expressed their intention to explore the ideas further, refine a proposal, and contact ICID in the near future.

ICID forthcoming Events

14th International Drainage Workshop, Dushanbe, Tajikistan, May 30 - June 1 2024. Contact: Gbahrom_75@mal.ru

1st Middle East Regional Conference, 26-28 February 2024, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Contact: Saudi Arabian National Committee of ICID, Email: a.almajed@sio.gov.sa, ma.alomair@sio.gov.sa

76th International Executive Council Meeting and 4th World Irrigation Forum (WIF4), 7-13 September 2025, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia - Contact: mancidmalaysia@gmail.com
**Update on First Middle East Regional Conference**

The Saudi Irrigation Organization has launched a Website for the First Middle East Regional Conference which is scheduled from 26 – 28 February 2024, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. It is a conference that brings together experts, policy-makers, decision-makers and stakeholders from around the world to promote sustainable water resource management for the agricultural sector and innovative irrigation and drainage systems for arid regions. The event also aims to enhance international cooperation and share successful practices by creating a platform for exchanging knowledge to meet the challenges of water scarcity facing the region. This conference will play a major role in shaping the future of irrigation water management, food security and environmental sustainability in the Middle East. For registration and other information of the forum please visit: <https://sacid2024.sio.gov.sa/En>.

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**24th Report of the ICID Congress on Irrigation and Drainage**

The 24th International Congress on Irrigation and Drainage which has been hosted by the ICID Australian counterpart Australian National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage, (IACID) on the theme ‘Innovation and Research in Agricultural Water Management to Achieve Sustainable Development Goals and 73rd International Executive Council (IEC) meeting, 3–10 October 2022, Adelaide, Australia. The event marked the presence of 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. In addition, an International Exhibition was organized with a participation of more than 110 companies. The report contains the Foreword by President Prof. Dr. Ragab Ragab, Preface by Secretary General Er. Ashwin B Pandya, Acknowledgements, Information on Opening Ceremony, 11th N.D. Gulhati Memorial Lecture, Questions, concluding comments, Additional sessions, International Workshops, Receptions hosted, and Presentation of awards and plaques. The report can be accessed or downloaded at: <https://icid-ciid.org/icid_data_web/24th-ICIDCongressReport2022.pdf>.

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**Working Group Meetings in July 2023**

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<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Working Group</th>
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<td>1</td>
<td>Asian Regional Working Group (ASRWG) Chairman: Prof. Dr. Tsugihiro WATANABE</td>
<td>10 July 2023</td>
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**Turkish National Committee, TUCID**

Mr. Mehmet Akif BALTA who is Director General of State Hydraulic Works (DSİ) has been appointed as a new President of the TUCID.

**Revised WatSave Award Scheme**

In the existing WatSave Award Scheme following changes were approved by the Managing Board to ensure larger participation and a fair competition among candidates:

1. In any particular category, a minimum of three nominations may be considered for evaluation purpose. In case of lesser entries, the nominations may be considered for the following year and updated information would be requested from the nominees in next year.
2. It may be under the PoJs purview not to award any nominations despite receiving multiple nominations in a specific category, if the nomination does not confirm to the innovation complying with the ICID Evaluation Criterion or are not up to the mark.
3. After deliberations, MB suggested to delete the words in Annexure I under point a. (iii) WatSave Young Professional Award “or part of the project”. The young professionals award is given for water-saving/ conservation work by young professionals (less than 40 years). The work carried out by the Young Professional should have been carried out individually or as a group.

From 2023 onwards the nominations can be considered and evaluated basis on the revised and approved WatSave Awards scheme. The revised WatSave Awards scheme can be accessed through <https://icid-ciid.org/award/watsave/43>.

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ICID News Update — July 2023
Launch of website for the 9th Asian Regional Conference

A dedicated portal regarding the information, registration and submission of the call for papers for the 9th Asian Regional Conference scheduled from 1st – 7th September, Sydney Australia. This important event will bring together leading experts, researchers, and practitioners worldwide to discuss and explore the latest advancements in irrigation and drainage systems. Australia is universally recognized for its leadership in irrigation practices, products and solutions which creates an ideal opportunity for knowledge exchange.

Conference Theme

Irrigation’s role in delivering economically viable food security and sustainable urban spaces in an increasingly unpredictable climate.

Conference Sub-Themes

1. Governance – identifying and addressing structural and policy impediments to the adoption of better irrigation practices.
2. Investment – fit-for-purpose and cost-effective technologies which support end users to implement sustainable irrigation practices (Environmental, Social, Governance and Triple Bottom Line).
3. Capacity development – ensuring that end users can access and adapt knowledge and systems to support sustainable irrigation practices.

Beyond the conference sessions, delegates will have the chance to explore the vibrant city of Sydney, with its breathtaking natural beauty and world-famous attractions. For more information please visit: <https://irrigationconference2024.com.au/>


Water Policy Group is committed to supporting efforts to improve water outcomes everywhere. The Water Policy Group is comprised of people who have been decision-makers and trusted advisers within governments and international bodies handling complex water policy and strategy. Water Policy Group members have the common goal that their knowledge, networks and practical experience can help and achieve the sustainable development of water resources.

In 2021, Water Policy Group released the first Global Water Policy Report reflecting the opinions and perspectives of national water leaders of 88 countries on risks and challenges they faced, how the COVID-19 pandemic was affecting their priorities, their experiences with implementing the water-related Sustainable Development Goals, their opinions on providing or receiving development assistance, and their experiences with the management of groundwater—as groundwater was the United Nations (UN) water theme for 2022. This project resulted in a Global Report and separate reports for Africa and the Asia-Pacific region.

In 2022, Water Policy Group offered a second edition of the Global Water Policy Report, to collect the opinions and perspectives of national water leaders on issues to be considered at the United Nations 2023 Water Conference (22-24 March 2023). The offer was extended to UN member States at the Preparatory Meeting for the UN Water Conference in October 2022.

Following that meeting, invitations were sent by the President of the UN General Assembly (PGA) to all UN member States, through their UN New York-based Permanent Representatives, for Ministers responsible for water matters (or their top officials) to respond to the Water Policy Group survey. The invitations and the survey itself were provided in six languages: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, and Spanish. The project collected the opinions and perspectives of national water leaders drawn from their personal experience and aggregated these results at the global level, with the potential to break this down by region and by income group whilst maintaining the confidentiality of individual responses.

Outcomes were provided to Member States in presentations at the UN 2023 Water Conference and a brochure of key findings. This second edition of the Water Policy Report sets out the findings in full. The third edition of the Report was released on 6 July 2023 and was published in partnership with the University of New South Wales Sydney (UNSW) with contributions from the national water leaders of 92 countries, with three quarters of world’s population in all regions and all income categories, have contributed their experience and wisdom to this landmark report of the Water Policy Group. Through this ambitious project, their collective advice has been shared with everyone at the recent United Nations 2023 Water Conference. The Conference greatly benefited from the availability of this information and its echoes can be seen in the Conference outcomes. The contribution of the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID) is recognized in the acknowledgment.

The 25th International Congress on Irrigation and Drainage and the 74th International Executive Council meetings are being organized by the Indian National Committee of ICID (INCID) on the theme ‘Tackling Water Scarcity in Agriculture’ from 01-08 November 2023 in Vizag (Visakhapatnam), 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, papers will be presented and discussed, answering Questions 64 & 65. In addition, Special Sessions, Symposia, 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 triennial 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 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

**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. Contact at icid.25congress@gmail.com; Website: www.icid25congress.in

- **VPH Dr. Yella Reddy,** Expert, Andhra Pradesh Government. E-mail: yellark@gmail.com

- **ICID Central Office:** Er. Balasaheb Anantrao Chivate, Director (Technical), ICID Email: icid@icid.org
Congress website – An update

A full-fledged website of the 25th ICID Congress & 74th IEC Meeting is operational at https://icid25congress.in/. The website provides navigation through sections: About (ICID, INCID, Congress, India, and Andhra Pradesh); 25th ICID Congress (Messages, Themes and Questions, Special Session, Symposium, Seminar, Workshops, Side Events, Young Professionals Activities); Call for Papers; Programme; Logistics; Sponsorship options; Exhibition; Registration; News; and Contact. The respective sections are up-to-date with the latest available information.

At present, only Expressions of Interest is collected as part of the online registration process. Based on our invitation, the portal has recorded more than 160 interested participants for availing of the Early Bird Discount till 15 August 2023. The 25th IEC Congress & 74th IEC meeting is hosted by the Indian National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (INCID) - Central Water Commission (CWC) Government of India in cooperation with the Government of Andhra Pradesh are not authorized to receive foreign payments. Collecting the payment process through an event organizer is attracting 18% taxes plus standard credit card charges. The Organizing Committee is exploring all the options the get the exemption from taxes to reduce the burden on the participants. Accordingly, it was decided to collect the registration money using the Engineer-in-Chief Irrigation, Andhra Pradesh Government account; and applied for all the required permissions for receiving the money. Hence, the delay in the collection of payments by implementing the payment gateway. All those who have expressed their participation through Expression of Interest till 15 August 2023 are eligible for the Early Bird Discount.

Call for Papers Invited for International Workshops scheduled during the 25th ICID International Congress

A International Workshop on “The Water-Energy-Food-Nexus: Implementation and Examples of Applications”

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. Nine (out of 19) full length papers for the WG-Nexus workshop have been received. Central Office is being sent reminders and requesting them to share their paper for the WG workshop at the earliest.

B International Workshop on Innovated Agricultural Water Management under Climate Change

Objective: Based on the Sixth Assessment Report, the workshop aims to reduce the adverse impacts of extreme events of climate change by finding smarter water management and adaptation development.

Scope of the Workshop

The scope of the workshop is to explore and analyze the implications of climate change and climate variability for agricultural water management including irrigation, drainage, and flood control. This workshop would promote archiving useful information and case studies on climate change for practical use in improved impact assessment and adaptation development. Through the case studies, the participants will be able to learn practical experiences, such as smart water management and innovative techniques from various countries. The workshop will help enhance discussion on climate change and water management at national and regional scales among the stakeholders including academicians, practitioners, decision-makers, media as well as farmers and water users in a region. This workshop could be a platform for integrating real-time practice and exchanging experiences. The Workshop is being organized by ICID’s Working Group on Climate Change and Agricultural Water Management (WG-CLIMATE) during the 25th ICID International Congress and 74th International Executive Council (IEC) meeting scheduled to be held from 1-8 November 2023 in Vizag, India.

Sub-topics of the workshop:

- Impacts of climate change on agricultural water management
- Adaptation to changing climate in agricultural water management
- Smart water management against climate change
- Case Studies

Sixteen abstracts for the WG-CLIMATE workshop have been received. Chair has informed the acceptance/rejection of the abstracts to the authors and requested them to submit their full-length papers. So far, fifteen full-length papers have been received from the authors for the workshop.
The Workshop is being organized by ICID’s Working Group on Land Drainage (WG-LDRG) during the 25th ICID International Congress and 74th International Executive Council (IEC) meeting scheduled to be held from 1-7 November 2023 in Vizag, India.

Sub-Themes
- Country information papers
- Drainage standards and guidelines
- Reports on drainage information on web-based platforms; YouTube, LinkedIn, etc.

Twelve abstracts have been received till 01 July 2023. The chair shared the list of reviewed abstracts with the ICID Central Office. As suggested by Chair, ICID Central Office has informed the acceptance/rejection of abstracts to the authors and requested them to submit their full-length papers. So far, two full-length papers have been received from the authors for the workshop.

Contact Coordinators:
- Workshop Chairman: Dr. Willem F. Vlotman, Chairman, WG-LDRG (vlotmanwf@gmail.com)
- Coordinator: Er. Harish Kumar Varma, Executive Director, ICID Central Office (icid@icid.org)
- Registration and travel information are available at (https://icid25congress.in/index.html)

D International Workshop on “Global Challenges of Land Subsidence in Tidal Areas and the Integrated Solutions”

Objectives
The tidal areas are coastal areas where the tidal processes are capable of affecting human activity or being influenced by human. Due to its dynamic processes and human activities in the past, there are many challenges in tidal areas, such as land subsidence, flood and storm surge risks, ecosystem degradation, coastal erosion, tidal intrusion into groundwater, among many others. The challenges are even more critical due to global climate change and sea level rise. The tidal areas provide critical resources and therefore, integrated solutions to address various challenges are urgently needed.

The objective of this workshop is to bring together practitioners, researchers and scientists, managers, and decision makers and obtain input from member countries of exploring practical problems, discussing the current state of knowledge and experiences, and exchanging solving strategies, to respond to such urgent need. To better disseminate the efforts in addressing the challenges and learn from each other, papers presented at the workshop will be considered for publication in a special issue of ICID’s International Journal Irrigation and Drainage.

Three (out of 11) full length papers for the WG-SDTA workshop have been received. Central Office is being sent reminders and requested them to share their paper for the WG workshop at the earliest.

Contact Coordinators:
- Workshop Chairman: Dr. Ruey-Chy Kao, Chairman of the Working Group on Sustainable Development of Tidal Areas (WG-SDTA) (Email: sdta-thl@thl.ncku.edu.tw; rckao@thl.ncku.edu.tw).
- Workshop Secretary: Mr. Paavan Kumar Reddy, Secretary of the Working Group on Sustainable Development of Tidal Areas (WG-SDTA) (E-mail: paavankrg@gmail.com)
- Workshop Coordinator: Er. B.A. Chivate, Director (Technical), International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID) (E-mail: icid@icid.org), New Delhi, India

E International Workshop on Smart Use of Non-Conventional Waters for Global Food Security under Changing Climates

International Workshop on Smart Use of Non-Conventional Waters for Global Food Security under Changing Climates will be held on 3 November 2023 from 1400-1730 hours in Vizag, India. During the virtual meeting on 09 August, WG members discussed the organization and responsibilities of the workshop.